

GREETINGS LANDCARERS

Hoping you find something of interest in this months newsletter.

Did you know that April is Citizen Science month? Saving Our Species say that citizen scientists make such an important contribution to many Saving our Species (SoS) projects across NSW. "The valuable data collected through citizen science programs supports our capacity to make evidence-based decisions around protecting threatened species."

From the BVL team



How lifelike does this horse sculpture look? The very clever Tasmanian artist Matt Sloane crafted it out of farm metal scraps! He took it to the Royal Easter Show in Sydney this year. (ABC Rural facebook)

Did you Know?

Apologies to those that picked up in the last newsletter that Blue ginger – *Dichorisandra thrysiflorais* - is not actually Australia's native ginger. Julie said: Be careful with this plant as the smallest piece of this plant will grow when conditions are right. The text book 'garden escapee'. I keep one contained in my garden just for the native bees.

WILDLIFE HABITAT

WILD BNB NEWS

The endangered Greater Glider has been recorded near Byron Bay, NSW for the first time in over 20 years. A female and joey were spotted by the Wildbnb Wildlife Habitat team while working on a project for Brunswick Valley Landcare and Landcare Australia.

In exciting news more Greater Gliders have been found using nestboxes. We hope to be able to bring you more news about this after more monitoring of nestboxes soon.

The extinction risk for Greater Gliders in NSW and Victoria is Endangered (EPBC Act). Habitat loss from logging, land clearing for agriculture, intensifying bushfires and rising temperatures have combined as major threats and finding the largest gliding possum in eastern Australia has become a rarity.

Greater Gliders need big trees with large hollows and are the original real-estate moguls, using up to 20 hollows to shelter and reproduce.

'The Central Greater Glider is now listed as endangered, which means the species is at high risk of extinction in the short-term'. 'There's a real sense of urgency to this important work, and the Wildbnb team is motivated more-than-ever to identify ways to protect habitat for Greater Gliders and to better understand, and respond-to, the local challenges impacting their survival'. For more information on the project see <https://wildbnb.com.au/saving-the-acrobats>



Watch the project video (web link above) which includes the story of the juvenile Greater Glider find, called Aerie, and info from WIRES Northern Rivers and Dr Bree from the Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital about how you can help these special animals.

BRUNSWICK VALLEY LANDCARE INC NEWS



Put it in your diaries - Mothers Day Planting Sunday 14th May.

This month BVL are focused on preparing for Mothers Day planting and we welcome Harry Hackett who will be pulling this together for us.

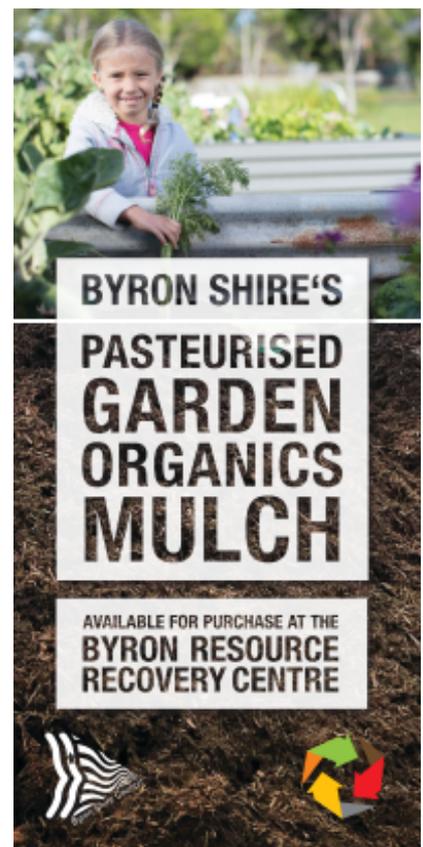
Byron Bird Buddies always have a busy program, but a special treat coming up on Sunday 7th May 9.00 – 12.30 is a guided walk and presentations on Gondwana Rainforest Birds.

Registration necessary. Contact to book byronbirdbuddy@gmail.com or Mobile 0428864378

Byron Wetlands – meet at the gate if you don't have a key – otherwise drive to inner carpark.

Byron Recovery Centre pasteurised mulch available @ \$35 per cube (brochure price is wrong) please call Resource recovery Centre 1300 652 625 to arrange for collection.

Byron Resource Recovery Centre have closed the loop on garden waste taken in with our Mobile Aerated Floor Composting Facility (MAF). Garden waste is processed into a high quality pasteurised garden organics mulch that is used by local farmers and gardeners to improve soil quality.



MAIN ARM CAUSEWAY NUMBER 2 TO BE REPLACED

The causeway near the intersection of Main Arm Road and Palmwoods Road is being replaced.

Main Arm causeway number 2 is in poor condition and Council will be building a new crossing over Stoney Creek that is slightly higher. It will be upgraded to take two lanes of traffic.

The \$805,538 project also includes the reconstruction of road approaches and improvements to drainage.

“This project has been on our radar for some time, and I know local residents will be pleased to see it replaced,” Phil Holloway, Director Infrastructure Services, said.

“Like we have done at the other causeways we have replaced, this one will be fish friendly, allowing fish to move freely from one side of the causeway to the other,” Mr Holloway said.

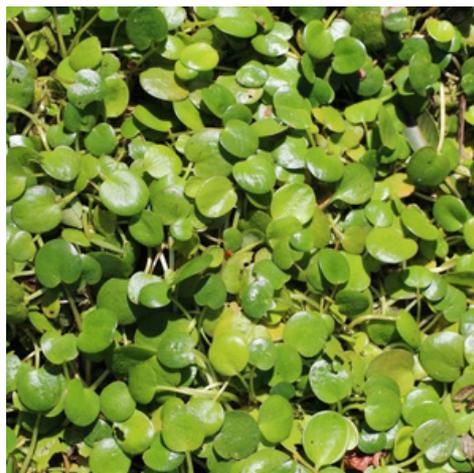
The project is jointly funded by the Australian Government’s Bridges Renewal Program, which is contributing \$402,679, and Council.

Work will start in April and take approximately three months.

The road will remain open during construction but there may be traffic delays.

More information about this [causeway replacement](#) is on Council’s website.

Rous County Council have issued a **biosecurity alert** about Frogbit (*Limnobium laevigatum*), which was recently found in a stretch of waterway in the Byron Shire. Frogbit is Prohibited Matter under the Biosecurity Act 2015 and Rous County Council are asking members of the public to report any suspected sightings to Rous County Council’s weed biosecurity team on (02) 6623 3800 or www.rous.nsw.gov.au/report-a-weed



1200KGS OF RUBBISH PICKED UP IN BYRON SHIRE ON CLEAN UP DAY

Volunteers, school students, community groups and Council staff picked up more than 1,200kgs of rubbish across the Shire on the first weekend in March as part of Clean-Up Australia Day.

At Byron Bay, 90 volunteers turned out to help Council and Positive Change for Marine Life tackle the Main Beach area.

“We had backpackers, families, Byron Bay Surf Club nippers, Byron Scouts, and so many people in the community, all picking up rubbish,” Zoe White, Resource Recovery Education and Compliance Officer, said.

“We covered a stretch of one kilometre and in 45 minutes we collected 80kgs of waste. “What was really interesting for volunteers was that this equated to more than 3,200 items, most of which was micro-litter,” she said.

This included:

- 451 cigarette butts
- 422 metal bottle caps
- 306 drink containers (including coffee cups)
- 86 pieces of single use cutlery and straws
- 1,662 plastic items.



“Some people were very surprised at the amount of rubbish that was collected, and I think it will prompt them to rethink getting that next takeaway coffee, or buying that plastic bottle of water,” Ms White said.

At Brunswick Heads 21 volunteers collected almost 900kg.

In Mullumbimby, volunteers collected seven wheelie bins of street litter and the Byron Bird Buddies removed an extra 80kg from along the Brunswick River.

“What a massive effort on behalf of the Byron Shire community – thank you to the 400-plus volunteers for caring for the environment,” Ms White said.

Staff will be looking at the data surrounding the clean-up and use this to develop proactive and targeted anti-litter campaigns.

“Thanks again to everyone who took part in Clean Up Australia Day and people can find more tips to reduce waste at @byronbinfluencer,” Ms White said.

Information about waste services and campaigns is on Council's [website](#).

LARGEST LAND ACQUISITION IN NSW NATIONAL PARKS HISTORY

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)
(part of the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE))

National Park NSW recently secured Thurloo Downs, a massive 437,394 hectares of land in far north-west NSW, making it the largest acquisition of land for national parks in NSW history. Thurloo Downs fills essential gaps in the national park estate and will help protect important habitat for around 50 threatened species. On the traditional lands of the Karengappa and Parundji people, they'll work closely with Aboriginal custodians to protect Thurloo's cultural heritage values. "We look forward to welcoming visitors to the park in mid-2025."

Further information: <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/establishing-new-parks-and-protected-areas/new-parks-and-changes-to-parks/thurloo-downs>

Celebrate Washpool National Park's 40th anniversary

Join us for a special guided walk on Sunday 16 April to celebrate 40 years of beautiful Washpool National Park. Located north-west of Grafton in the New England region, this spectacular national park is home to rich biodiversity and fascinating history. Walk with a ranger through beautiful World Heritage rainforest, arriving at picturesque Coombadjha creek, with an option to continue on for a further 1km with the ranger for a more adventurous loop.

<https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/events/washpool-40th-anniversary-walk-talk>

Kermit-ment to secure NSW's threatened frogs

With over 240 species of frog described in Australia, we're lucky to have such a diverse range of frogs with their own looks and calls. Frogs play an important role in maintaining healthy ecosystems (and are excellent at pest control), so it's vital that we make sure our amphibian friends are hoppy (that's not a typo!)

Take a look - and have a listen - to 5 of the threatened frog species SoS is working to protect.

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/news/hip-hop-hooray-its-world-frog-day>

PLANTS CAN 'TALK' AND SCIENTISTS HAVE RECORDED THE SOUND THEY MAKE AS THEY DIE OF THIRST

You might be familiar with the growing body of work that provides evidence for plants being able to sense sounds around them. Now, new research suggests they can also generate airborne sounds in response to stress (such as from drought, or being cut).

A team led by experts at Tel Aviv University has shown tomato and tobacco plants, among others, not only make sounds, but do so loudly enough for other creatures to hear. Their findings, published in the journal *Cell*, are helping us tune into the rich acoustic world of plants — one that plays out all round us, yet never quite within human earshot.

Read more <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-03-31/plants-talk-die-of-thirst-popping-sound/102167028>

HOW PLANTS CAN HELP REJUVENATE PEOPLE

<https://www.naturefix.life/>

DRIVEN BY A MISSION TO DELIVER POSITIVE CHANGE

NatureFix are a social enterprise, a business driven by planetary purpose. "Our mission is to help rejuvenate communities one moment at a time by creating nature experiences that refresh mood, energy and focus; while increasing care and wellbeing for self, community and the natural environment. Our business model reflects the belief that everyone should have access to nature and its many health benefits. We keep our operation costs down to scale up our nature-inspired solutions. We re-invest revenue back into research and community-based programs so we can continue to find the best possible outcomes for people and planet."

Science suggests that nature connection can fix some of the growing disease burden caused by modern lifestyles. NatureFix combines nature connection routines and geolocation technology to improve human health and transform green spaces into wellness places.

.... and there is some very interesting things on their website. Here's a taste:

Costa from Gardening Australia visits a NatureFix Trail

Our Cooper Park NatureFix trail as featured on a Gardening Australia. Follow the link below to join Costa from Gardening Australia and Waminda Parker from NatureFix on this episode as they walk a trail that ties together ecological and mental health to learn about the benefits of nature for wellbeing.

<https://www.naturefix.life/post/gardening-australia>



The therapeutic look up: Stress reduction and attention restoration vary according to the sky-leaf-trunk (SLT) ratio in canopy landscapes

People often enjoy relaxing in forests, and the canopy landscape of these forests has important therapeutic potential. However, previous studies have focused on horizontal perspectives and treated plants in these green spaces as a single element. This study explores how looking up at the canopy can improve therapeutic outcomes. [Read more](#)

The benefits of citizen science and nature-noticing activities for well-being, nature connectedness and pro-nature conservation behaviours.

This paper provides evidence on an important area of nature engagement through Citizen Science. Showing the benefits it brings, especially when the type of Citizen Science engagement is enhanced by including emotion and joy through the noticing of the good things in nature. [Read more](#)

Feel the Flow NatureFix routine

Please enjoy one our favourite nature connection routines, Feel the Flow. You can do anytime and anywhere on your phone or computer. Our routines may feel simple, but they are not simplistic as this activity demonstrates! Learn more about all the health-giving benefits of water in this virtual activity. Thankfully, not as good for you as real nature, but still a great range of health benefits!

[Enjoy via this link](#)

If you enjoyed these stories, you can sign up to their [newsletter](#).

FIVE FEMALE FISHOS ANNOUNCED AS OZFISH'S LATEST BRAND AMBASSADORS

Courtesy Ozfish.org.au

OzFish is excited to announce five female recreational fishers to its brand ambassador program, including former Olympian Emma George, Victoria Harrington, Mel Spikes, Charlotte Klose and Channel 7 TV presenter Olivia Degn.

These women have been picked for, their passion for recreational fishing and their desire to support its advancement across Australia. OzFish is proud to be championing these ambassadors and providing them with the platform to share knowledge and empower more women to get involved. Cassie Price, Director of Habitat Programs for OzFish, believes that it's important to showcase the diverse range of female anglers and share their passion for nature and fishing. In the recent National Recreational Fishing Survey that's changing, and I am proud that OzFish will play a large part in in elevating the voice and profile of women in recreational fishing.

These new ambassadors join Scott Hillier, Al McGlashan, Michael Guest, Steve Starling and Sammy Hitzke in lending their talents and voices to the work of OzFish in supporting environmental conservation and fish habitat restoration across Australia. They will help OzFish in its work to connect, inspire and empower rec fishers to improve their local waterways for generations to come.

Further information:

<https://ozfish.org.au/2023/02/five-female-fishos-announced-as-ozfishs-latest-brand-ambassadors/>

Rec Fishing: Culturally, Economically And Environmentally Significant To Australians



The National Social and Economic Survey of Recreational Fishers jointly carried out by ABARES, the University of Canberra, FRDC and the Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation is the first national survey in more than 20 years. The survey found:

- 4.2 million Aussies fish each year, which is the equivalent of one in five adults – that's a lot of fishos!
- It is great for the economy contributing more than \$11.5 billion to GDP per annum and supporting over 100,000 jobs each year
- Rec fishers contribute to waterway conservation with 75% participating in stewardship activities like litter cleanups or habitat restoration projects
- Fishing improves your health, with people who fish found to have, on average, higher levels of wellbeing than non-fishers
- Fishing is perceived positively by non-fishers
- Fishing helps nurture family bonding and positive social connections

Another finding worth celebrating is that most recreational fishers are up to date in correct fishing practices and will share that information with their peers. The full survey can be found [here](#)

SNIPPETS

CSIRO launches CarbonLock to tackle climate change CSIRO, Australia's national science agency, has announced the launch of its \$20 million research program, CarbonLock, to develop new and innovative ways to remove carbon from the atmosphere and permanently lock it away.

CarbonLock is one of a number of programs in CSIRO called Future Science Platforms (FSPs*) aimed at discovering future breakthroughs in new and emerging areas of science. It will focus on how Australia can create negative emissions technologies (NETs) to remove and store carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. They are an essential part of the toolkit for addressing climate change and reducing global greenhouse gas emissions. More at <https://www.csiro.au/news/News-releases/2023/CSIRO-launches-CarbonLock-to-tackle-climate-change>

New biological control released against invasive cabomba weed. Australia's national science agency, CSIRO, and one of the nation's largest water companies Seqwater, are using a tiny defender – a weevil smaller than a grain of rice – to help stop an exotic weed spreading through Australia's waterways. Cabomba (*Cabomba caroliniana*) is a fast-spreading aquatic weed from South America and unless addressed, could take over many of Australia's waterways. After years of rigorous research in South America and Australia, scientists have released cabomba's ancient enemy, the cabomba weevil (*Hydrotimetes natans*), into Lake Kurwongbah, a water asset managed by Seqwater, north of Brisbane. This is the first release of a biocontrol agent against cabomba anywhere in the world. Further information <https://www.csiro.au/en/news/News-releases/2023/New-biological-control-released-against-invasive-cabomba-weed>

Images reveal the scale of catastrophic flooding in the Gulf of Carpentaria. Since December, widespread rain and strong weather systems like ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie had saturated the gulf's north-flowing Nicholson, Gregory, Leichhardt and Flinders rivers. The rivers began to flood, covering roads and isolating communities for about three months — a weather cycle and way of life that residents were well accustomed to. But in March, when the wet season has usually wound down, the rain only intensified. Click here to view images <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-03-15/gulf-of-carpentaria-flooding-photography-aerial-footage/>

CSIRO embarks on mission to create a 'weather service' for water quality CSIRO, Australia's national science agency, today launched AquaWatch Australia, a mission to deliver a world first ground-to-space water quality monitoring system for Australia and the globe. AquaWatch will provide near real-time updates and predictive forecasting – a weather service for water quality – once fully operational. Using an extensive network of Earth observation satellites and ground-based water sensors, it will support better water quality management, with early warning of harmful events such as toxic algal blooms, blackwater and runoff contamination. Further information <https://www.csiro.au/en/news/News-releases/2023/CSIRO-embarks-on-mission-to-create-a-weather-service-for-water-quality>

Bill to pay land managers to protect wildlife and boost biodiversity introduced to federal parliament

Farmers, Indigenous rangers and local councils are a step closer to being paid to protect nature, with the federal government introducing legislation that would establish a biodiversity trading scheme. The Nature Repair Market Bill seeks to establish a market for biodiversity certificates that would be regulated by the Clean Energy Regulator and traded similar to Australian Carbon Credit Units. In what the government claims is a world first, land managers could earn credits for projects such as planting native species, removing feral cats and weeds or fencing livestock out of waterways.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-03-29/farmers-land-management-paid-protect-wildlife-proposal/>

CALLING ALL CITIZEN SCIENTISTS: HUNT FOR SHARK EGG CASES LAUNCHES IN AUSTRALIA

CSIRO, Australia's national science agency, is calling on citizen scientists to find and record egg cases washing up on Australian coasts, so researchers can better-understand oviparous chondrichthyans: egg-laying sharks, skates and chimaeras.

The Great Eggcase Hunt, an initiative of United Kingdom-based charity The Shark Trust, has launched in Australia in partnership with CSIRO to help provide new data for scientists studying the taxonomy and distribution of oviparous chondrichthyans.

Helen O'Neill, CSIRO Australian National Fish Collection biologist, said recording sightings of egg cases on beaches and coastlines would help scientists discover what the egg cases of different chondrichthyans look like, with some species still unknown. Further information <https://www.csiro.au/en/news/News-releases/2023/Calling-all-citizen-scientists-hunt-for-shark-egg-cases-launches-in-Australia>



A Draughtboard Shark (*Cephaloscyllium laticeps*) egg case washed up on a beach near Hobart.



A Crested Hornshark (*Heterodontus galeatus*) egg case in the Australian National Fish Collection.

CULTURAL BURNING IS SAFER FOR KOALAS AND BETTER FOR PEOPLE TOO

The Conversation

Koalas are an iconic endangered species living in a fire-prone environment. This makes them an ideal subject when investigating solutions to wildfires.

We explored how koalas fared before and after cultural burns on Minjerribah island (also known as North Stradbroke Island), near Brisbane on Quandamooka Country. We used heat-seeking drones to assess population density and collected koala droppings to check hormone levels. We found cultural burns had no detectable effect on these parameters.

The project also found the benefits of cultural burns extended far beyond landscape management. We hope this research further highlights the practice of cultural burning as a strategy to help us manage the risk of wildfire in a warming world. Further reading <https://theconversation.com/cultural-burning-is-safer-for-koalas-and-better-for-people-too-200997>



AUSTRALIA



Leave a lasting legacy for future generations

PROTECTING KOALA HABITAT IN THE NORTHERN RIVERS THROUGH PRIVATE LAND CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS

East coast koalas have recently been listed as Endangered - one step closer to extinction due to the massive decline in populations.

Your support to restore and protect their habitat will help reverse their decline.

To the Landholder,

Seeking Expressions of Interest: Protecting koalas in the Northern Rivers

Are you interested in helping to maintain the local koala population and increase the quality of their habitat?

WWF-Australia, the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, the Biodiversity Conservation Trust and Envite Environment have partnered to invest funds and further incentivise permanent conservation agreements for private landholders to protect, restore and manage koala habitat on their land in the Northern Rivers region of NSW. The Northern Rivers supports key koala populations that are of statewide significance. This project will contribute towards securing these populations for future generations through private conservation agreements developed with the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT).

What is a Conservation Agreement?

A Conservation Agreement is an in-perpetuity voluntary agreement between the landholder and BCT to conserve and manage biodiversity on an area of your land. These agreements are registered on the land title and are binding on subsequent landholders. This option may suit you if you have areas on your land that contain high quality koala habitat and you wish to ensure those values are protected into the future.

Eligibility Criteria

- Privately owned land within the Northern Rivers shires or Councils - Lismore, Tweed, Byron, Ballina, Kyogle, Richmond Valley and Clarence Valley
- Minimum 20 hectares of moderate to good condition high quality koala habitat (koala sightings/records, mapped koala habitat and or presence of preferred koala food trees)
- Be willing to enter into an on-going conservation agreement with BCT

Funds Available

Funding of up to \$45,000 over three years is available for eligible activities within the conservation area, delivered through Envite Environment, with on-going support options thereafter. You may also be eligible for discounts on Council Rates and Land Tax.

Activities Eligible for Funding

Qualified contractors will undertake works, which may include:

- Weed control
- Fencing
- Pest animal control
- Revegetation
- Fire management
- Habitat restoration (nest box installation)
 - Repairs to existing features such as tracks to maintain the conservation area
- Native vegetation restoration planning
- Project or grant management support

Fiona Dawson | Koala Habitat Restoration Ecologist

Envite Environment

0427 957 277 | fionad@envite.org.au

Report sick, injured, or orphaned koalas to Friends of the Koala on 6622 1233 and sightings online at friendsofthekoala.org. For Clarence Valley, phone WIRES on 1300 094 737 and report sightings via the Clarence Valley Council Koala Register. An additional sightings tool is the NSW Government "I Spy Koala" app.



REGENERATE
AUSTRALIA



DEBATE OVER AFRICAN TULIP TREE RISKS

According to an article in the Coffs Coast News of the Area (10 February 2023 edition), the introduced African tulip tree seen in our area should be eradicated. A concerned resident of Coffs Harbour cites toxicity in the flowers which kills Australian native bees as the reason.

:"African Tulip trees are giant piles of poison. They attract bees in the same way a blue light attracts mosquitoes, and it then kills them with its toxins. I encourage everyone to remove these trees from the local environment." says the concerned local resident.

The Queensland Government lists the African Tulip tree as a category 3 restricted invasive plant under the biosecurity Act 2014. In Queensland the tree must not be given away, sold or release into the environment.

The African tulip tree is native to tropical Africa. It is popular as an ornamental garden tree or street tree in tropical and subtropical parts of Queensland due to its showy, red tulip-shaped flowers. African tulip trees are a serious environmental weed in Coastal Queensland, where they are highly invasive and form dense stands in gullies and along streams, crowding out native vegetation.

African tulip trees are extremely harmful to native stingless bees and a public safety hazard (when these trees are planted along footpaths, their dropped flowers can create a slippery walking surface). The tree will reproduce via seeds and suckers and is very capable of spreading from a single planting. Areas most at risk include gullies, areas of vegetation around waterways and disturbed rainforest. Removal of African tulip trees is highly recommended, particularly when they are in close proximity to natural areas.

A Fact Sheet on African Tulip trees can be found [here](#). (Courtesy Queensland Government)

NEW CSIRO PROJECT TO CRACK THE CODES OF AUSTRALIA'S MOST INVASIVE SPECIES

CSIRO, Australia's national science agency, has embarked on an ambitious new project to unravel the genetic blueprints of Australia's top pest and invasive species to better enable their management or eradication.

The Australian Pest Genome Partnership (APGP) will generate the genomic data of hundreds of pests and weeds and make it freely available, along with digital solutions to help analyse the data. The data will assist researchers working on pest and weed species and underpin next generation species-specific solutions.

Invasive species have cost Australia \$390 billion over the past six decades, with weeds costing the agriculture sector at least \$5 billion a year. This presents a significant burden to Australia's agriculture and livestock industries, as well as the significant and ongoing environmental impacts created by these invasive species.

<https://www.csiro.au/en/news/News-releases/2023/New-CSIRO-project-to-crack-the-codes-of-Australias-most-invasive-species>

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURAL ALLIANCE

News

On-farm changes through mentoring program

Participants in our Regenerative Agriculture Mentoring Program (RAMP) have been inspired and motivated to make changes, with more than 80 per cent taking at least one step towards regenerative agriculture. The mentees said they enjoyed many aspects of RAMP, such as the opportunity to network with likeminded farmers, collaborating with their mentors and other participants, and accessing professional and relevant information. They also welcomed guest lectures, on-farm visits and field days. Further reading <https://farmingtogether.com.au/on-farm-changes-through-regenerative-agriculture-mentoring-program/>

The Carbon Panel with Lorraine Gordon, Norman Marshall, Dr. Greg Bender and Ignatius Verbeek

In February, in the concurrent Regenerative Ag Mentor Program, a Carbon panel presented to mentees. Some great info from industry professionals and farmers who are heavily involved in Carbon Credit programs can be found by watching the video: <https://farmingtogether.com.au/ramp-guest-lecture-presentation-carbon-panel>

Paving the way for the future of biochar

Biochar can revolutionise the future of the agriculture sector as we look to reduce emissions.

That's why the Regenerative Agriculture Alliance is proud to support the Biochar 2030 Roadmap, and you can be part of this momentous occasion. Further information https://anzbig.org/biochar-2030-roadmap-canberra-launch/biochar_tickets

The nine discourses of regenerative agriculture

A new paper by social scientist Ethan Gordon proposes that there are nine regenerative agricultural discourses. He describes and examines these discourses and discusses tensions that may make regenerative agriculture vulnerable to co-optation and greenwashing, diluting its transformative potential. Read the full paper here <https://www.ethangordon.com.au/publications/regenerative-agriculture-a-potentially-transformative-storyline-shared-by-nine-discourses>

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **April 22: Earth Day: Invest in our planet, invest in our soils.** Special event for Regenerative Agriculture students, graduates, lecturers, farmers and key stakeholders at Southern Cross University's Lismore campus
- **May 1-2: Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia Conference**
- **May 3 & 4, also online from May 10: Regenerative Agriculture Professional Learning for Educators workshops.**
- **May 11-13: Primex Field Days**
- **May 20-30: Casino Beef Week**
- **June 16: Farming for Climate Resilience and Productivity: Field day at Banyula, Clunes.**

EVENTS AND SEMINARS

Soil Biology and Compost workshop

A great day of learning with local Soil Biology Champion John Bond on the very important soil biology building to give your soils more life, helping building soil carbon, improve water holding and productivity in your soils, especially after such damage like we had last year with flooding and consistent rainfall. This is a great chance to do this course while it is subsidised under flood recovery funding. Learn how to build good compost extract biology and use it on your farm.

WHEN: Saturday 22nd April 10am – 3pm

WHERE The Paddock Mullumbimby

COST: \$45 Lunch included

Spaces limited be sure not to miss out:

[Soil Biology & Compost Workshop Tickets, Sat 22/04/2023 at 10:00 am | Eventbrite](#)



RCS – Regenerative Grazing Day

RCS builds profitable businesses linking Biodiversity to healthy soils healthy animals and healthy people, This full day workshop will cover some of the most important principles related to our context here in the Northern Rivers for building a healthier, more productive and resilient farm.

WHEN : Saturday 29th April 9.30am – 4pm

WHERE: The Farm Byron Bay, Ewingsdale

COST \$75 Morning teat and lunch provided

To register - <https://events.rcsaustralia.com.au/en/5g5Ua2H7/g/SJKCmeaf65/field-day-byron-bay-nsw-4a1p985Kjb/overview>

Our friends at Tweed Landcare are pleased to announce that we will be hosting a screening of the award-winning **film The Message of the Lyrebird** at the Regent Cinema in Murwillumbah on the evening of Wednesday May 3 2023.

Lyrebirds hold the history of the forest in their song... but are they now singing the sad story of human encroachment? Set in a natural wonderland where an exquisite forest faery has been performing astonishing song and dance routines for 18 million years, The Message of the Lyrebird takes the audience on a journey of self-reflection, connection and a call to remember to live without destroying the things we love.

Come on a magical journey through Australia's native forests to understand the sophistication and complex artistry of the lyrebird, leading humanity to a deeper understanding of the natural world.

There will also be a talk or two about our local species Albert's Lyrebird (*Menura alberti*). Ticket sales <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=1031937&>

Free Dung beetle Workshop.

WHEN: Wednesday April 12th

WHERE: The Farm Byron Bay Ewingsdale 11 Ewingsdale Rd

Registration is essential. RSVP farm@woodlandvalley.com.au or call 0403 322 205

MORE EVENTS AND SEMINARS



Upper Richmond RiverFest 2023

WHEN : April / May 2023

WHERE : various locations across Border Ranges and Richmond Valley

Richmond Riverkeeper is proud to partner with the Border Ranges Richmond Valley Landcare Network for the first ever Upper Richmond Riverfest!

A program packed with a wide range of river focused WORKSHOPS and FIELD DAYS across April and May. River restoration planning, guided walks, river bank planting, rivers stories, a Ridge to River Regen Campout, workshops and a film night are some of the activities.

There is something for everyone. For a list of events, see <https://www.brrvln.org.au/events>



FUNDING

Energy Efficiency Grants for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises

Grants from \$10K to \$25K for small to medium businesses to replace or upgrade existing equipment to improve energy efficiency and reduce Costs.

Closing Date Wednesday 19 April 2023

[Energy Efficiency Grants for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises Round 1 | business.gov.au](#)

Critical Producer Grant

Up to \$100,000

Closes 30 June 2023

The objective of the program is to help primary producers and primary production enterprises impacted by the February and March 2022 NSW Severe Weather and Flooding events to rebuild and recover in the medium to longer term with the aim of supporting job security, future resilience and enabling future production.

Further information: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/critical-producer-grant>

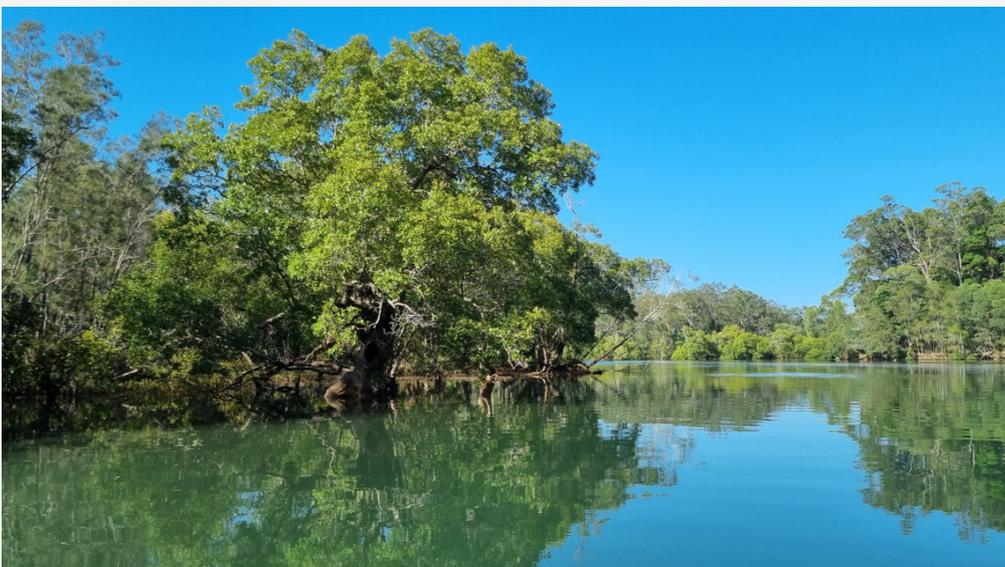
Gallagher Landcare Electric Fencing Grants

Up to \$8,000 per project

Closes 15 June 2023

A total pool of \$176,000 (ex-GST) of support is available for up to 22 groups or individuals for use on conservation and biodiversity protection projects aligned with the priority areas of **conservation exclusion/inclusion fencing, riparian protection and farm dam restoration**. Each grant is valued at up to \$8,000 (ex-GST) and must be used on permanent electric fencing materials that are determined in consultation with your local Gallagher Territory Manager.

Further information: <https://landcareaustralia.org.au/gallaghergrants>



WEED OF THE MONTH

Awabuki Sweet Viburnum - *Viburnum odoratissimum*

This shrub or small tree usually grows 1-4 m tall, but may occasionally reach up to 6 m in height at maturity. It develops brownish-grey bark on its older stems while its younger stems are green or reddish-tinged and hairless. It has become popular as a garden ornamental in recent years, with a cultivar known as 'Emerald Lustre'™ the most common in cultivation. It is different from typical Sweet Viburnum (*Viburnum odoratissimum* var. *odoratissimum*), which has been grown for many years in Australia and does not seem to be invasive.

Awabuki Sweet Viburnum has quickly spread from gardens into the understorey of rainforest, riparian and swamp forest communities in the Sunshine Coast, Brisbane, Port Macquarie and Coffs Harbour areas in recent years. As it is fast-growing and readily spread by animals that eat its fruit, it has the potential to become a serious environmental weed in these habitats.

Awabuki Sweet Viburnum is a potential weed of rainforest gaps and margins, riparian vegetation, disturbed bushland and forestry plantations in subtropical, tropical and warmer temperate regions.



Thank you to Ian Parer for contacting us about the Weed of the Month in the March newsletter. Ian sent the following information: "I sent a specimen from the Heritage Park in about 2005 to the Botanic Gardens in Sydney and they identified it as *Stephanophysum longifolium* and this is the name we should use in NSW. Web links for more information about this weed:

<https://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Stephanophysum~longifolium>

<https://bie.ala.org.au/species/https://id.biodiversity.org.au/node/apni/2889757>

<http://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/species.php?sc=1332>

WORKING BEES

-Why not get out and get involved in one of our local groups?

For all Landcare Working Bees please wear protective clothing - long pants, long-sleeved shirt, closed-in shoes, hat, gloves and bring water, sunscreen, and insect repellent. Please always contact the group co-ordinators before attending a working bee as plans do change!

Bangalow Land and Rivercare, Bangalow

WHEN: every Saturday 8:30am

WHERE: find out from

CONTACT: Noelene Plummer bangalowlandcare@gmail.com 0431 20 0638 6687 4470

Friends of Lilli Pilli (Byron Bay)

WHEN: 1st Saturday of the month 3:30pm - 5:00pm

WHERE: At entrance to Lilli Pilli (contact Deb).

CONTACT: Deb Jorgensen deborah.jorgensen60@gmail.com 0434 254 802

Green and Clean Awareness Team, Byron Bay

WHEN: 3rd Sunday of the month 9:00am

WHERE: Meet Main Beach, Byron Bay

CONTACT: Peter Farmakis peter.farmakis@gmail.com 0488 715 565

Heritage Park Landcare, Mullumbimby

WHEN: Saturdays 9:00am – 11:00 am

WHERE: Heritage Park, Mullumbimby

CONTACT: Diana Hughes bromspot@gmail.com

Jinangong Landcare, Ocean Shores

WHEN: 1st Sunday of the month

WHERE: The Tunnel Road, Ocean Shores

CONTACT: Ian Parer ianparer@hotmail.com

Mullum Town Landcare, Mullumbimby

WHEN: Morning of last Sunday of the month

WHERE: find out from John Tann

CONTACT: John Tann johntann99@gmail.com

Ocean Shores Landcare, Ocean Shores

WHEN: each Thursday at 8.30 – 11.00 am (8.00am DST)

WHERE: corner of Yallakool Drive and Warrambool Road, Ocean Shores

CONTACT: David Kemp dnkemp77@gmail.com 0427 650 861

Tallowood Ridge Locality Landcare, Tallowood Ridge Mullumbimby

WHEN: Second Saturday of the month from 3pm (winter), 4pm (summer).

WHERE: Gathering Tree Pocket Park, Cockatoo Cres Tallowood Ridge Estate

CONTACT: Joanne McMurtry jmcmurtry@bigpond.com

Suffolk Park Dunecare

WHEN: 1st Saturday of the month

CONTACT: Helen Brown hellyh@bigpond.com 6685 4964

Tyagarah Landcare

WHEN: Each Thursday 9:00am – 11:00am

WHERE: 23 Prestons Lane, Tyagarah

CONTACT: Bela Allen bela_allen@yahoo.com 6684 7113

Can't find a group near you? We have many other groups who meet on an ad hoc basis (contact us for more details) or if there isn't an existing group in your neighbourhood or you are interested in looking after a particular area, BVL can help you to form a locality group under the BVL umbrella.

LINKS

- Arakwal <http://arakwal.com.au/>
- Australian Association of Bush Regenerators <http://aabr.org.au>
- Border Rangers Alliance http://www.greasternranges.org.au/border_ranges/overview/overview
- Bangalow Koalas <http://www.bangalowkoalas.com.au/>
- Bangalow River and Landcare <http://www.bangalowlandcare.org.au/>
- Big Scrub Landcare <https://www.bigscrubrainforest.org.au/>
- Brunswick Valley Landcare <http://www.brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/>
- Byron Bird Buddies <http://www.byronbirdbuddies.com.au/>
- Byron Community College <http://www.byroncollege.org.au/>
- Byron Shire Council <http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/>
- EnviTE www.envite.org.au
- Environmental Trust <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/envtrust.htm>
- Friends of the Koala www.friendsofthekoala.org
- Federal Landcare Inc federalandcare@gmail.com
- Local Land Services www.northcoast.lls.nsw.gov.au
- North Coast Local Land Services <http://northcoast.lls.nsw.gov.au/>
- Border Ranges Richmond Valley Landcare www.brrvl.nsw.gov.au
- Mullumbimby Community Gardens <http://mullumcommunitygarden.wordpress.com/>
- North Coast Nature <http://www.northcoastnature.org.au/>
- Richmond Landcare Inc. <http://www.richmondlandcare.org/>
- Rous County Council (formerly Far North Coast Weeds) <http://rous.nsw.gov.au/>
- Soilcare http://www.soilcare.org_
- Tweed Landcare Inc. <http://www.tweedlandcare.org.au/>
- Wilson's Creek Huonbrook Landcare <http://www.wilsonscreeklandcare.mullum.com.au/>

**For information about Landcare or other natural resource issues in Byron shire please contact
Landcare Coordinator, Alison Ratcliffe 6626 7028**

(Mon, Tues, Wed)

info@brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au

Community Liaison Officer, Joanne McMurtry 0409 925 330

jmcmurtry@brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au

www.brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au

