



Newsletter

Conserving and restoring from forest to foreshore

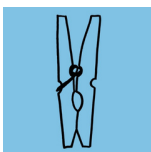
With the arrival of cooler weather, we now get into the busy time of year where we weed, plant and tend landcare sites and properties. We hope the articles in this newsletter inspire you to get on out there!



Spoon-leaved sundew (*Drosera spatulata*) was observed at Byron Wetlands recently during the Native Seed workshop. Photo: Harry Hackett



BRUNSWICK VALLEY LANDCARE IS A REGISTERED CHARITY ON PEGS AND PUBLINC



Local Pegs app allows businesses to offer discounted prices to locals. You can opt to keep the discount, tip the business, or donate to a local charity



As a Publinc member, not only do you get discounts on food and drinks at Hotel Brunswick, but you can donate your points to a local charity



This initiative is made possible by the NSW Landcare Program. A collaboration of Local Land Services and Landcare NSW supported by the NSW Government.

BVL NEWS



YOU'RE INVITED

Community Tree Planting

From 8.30am Saturday 13th April

Picnic area at Devines Hill, Ocean Shores

Morning tea provided

Please wear a hat, sturdy shoes
and bring a water bottle

MORE INFO

Call David 0427 650 861



BVL at Mullum Plant Fair

Brunswick Valley Landcare was at the Mullum Plant Fair on Sunday 17th March, held at the Mullumbimby Community Gardens.

It was a great day of talking about plants. John Tann delighted in giving away about 100 free trees on the day! Thanks to other committee helpers on the day.



BVL NEWS

New Volunteer Information

Thank you to those volunteers that attended our planning and information workshop on 19th March. We presented a new Volunteers Handbook and related information and received excellent feedback.

We also had input into our planning for 2024 of workshops and activities. If you have a need or idea of a workshop you would like to see us offer, we'd love to hear from you!



Left: a line of experience with landcare in the Byron Shire. Right: working hard.

BVL Want More Volunteers

By far the most effective way we can engage MORE volunteers, is through our current volunteer network. That is true for all ages, including young people.

As you may know, BVL, like many volunteer organisations, lost a few volunteers during the years of COVID-19 restrictions and then following recent natural disasters.

A few of our groups would love to have more volunteers to help and join the 'landcare family'. Have you asked your friends if they might like to contribute to restoring environmental habitat and areas in our region?

Volunteering is associated with better life satisfaction, happiness, self-esteem, and perceived mental health, and volunteering can play a strong role in mental health recovery.

Our locality groups that have regular working bees are listed on this page on our website <https://brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/join-a-locality-group/>

People can contact the locality group coordinator listed or Joanne to discuss (contact details at the end of this newsletter).

Perhaps you don't want to work with a locality group but have other skills we may find useful? We're looking for people that can be BVL Volunteer Ambassadors and help us with our landcare information stall at events and with workshops. Again, contact Joanne to discuss. We'd love to hear from you!



Byron Bird Buddy News

Date & Time Where Why April 2024		
Birds in Backyard – Autumn Survey begins March 1st & ends April 30th - check out the website https://www.birdsinbackyards.net/		
Wed. 3 rd 08.00 -13.00	Ballina Heights Sporting Facility on Power Drive, <u>Cumbalum</u> . (also known as 'Ballina Heights') Contact bruzamcnaughton@gmail.com	RBB – outing - decided at the end of previous survey.
Saturday 6 th	Wardell -	BLNR – private property
Monday 8 th 08.00 Start	<u>Seapeace</u> - Private property - Meet at <u>Seapeace</u> gate – (12-20 people are required). Must Register	BBB – Full site survey – Contact byronbirdbuddy@gmail.com
Tuesday 9 th 08.00 start	Settlement Rd - Must Register for address & details	BBB – private property survey.
Sunday 14 th 08.00 start	North Head Rd – for details go to https://birdlife.org.au/news/nsw-northern-riversoutings-for-2024/	BLNR survey & outing. Must Register madzufi@gmail.com
Tuesday 16 th 08.00 start	Byron Wetlands Meet at gate contact Vicki – Contact Vicki - davvix1@gmail.com	BBB – Morning survey – for BSC reporting – Must Register for more details
Wed. 17 th 08.00 -13.00	To be advised richmondbrunswickbirdwatchers@gmail.com	RBB – outing - decided at the end of previous survey.
Tuesday 19 th - 8am	Middle Ridge Rd – Meet at Main Arm Store and car pool if necessary. Advised to register	BBB – Survey of KBA area
Tuesday 23 rd 07.00-0900	Byron Wetlands – AWC – short survey (only 2 people required) Contact Vicki - davvix1@gmail.com	BBB – Morning survey – for AWC reporting - Must Register for more details
Tuesday 23 rd 10 am	U3A Brunswick - Gondwana Rainforest bird Part 11.	BBB – Presentation –
Wednesday 24 th 10 am	Byron Wetlands – Cockatoos & Curlews – <u>meeting</u> .- Anyone interested please contact byronbirdbuddy@gmail.com	BBB, BSC & TSC – Meeting regarding the <u>Bush Stonecurlew</u> .
Friday 26 th 08.00 start	<u>The Wallum</u> – Crown land at Brunswick Heads Meet at end of Omega Court. Contact byronbirdbuddy@gmail.com	BBB – Monthly survey
Tuesday 30 th 08.00 start	<u>Goonengerry NP</u> – meet in the carpark at the end of <u>Garrong Rd</u> . Bring morning tea & lunch Contact Vicki - davvix1@gmail.com	BBB – KBA survey – both <u>S&part of North boundary trails</u> (4 hours) Must Register

Interested in a bird survey on your locality group site?

Jan Olley from Byron Bird Buddies has put the call out. If any locality groups are interested in bird monitoring or a bird survey on their site she is most happy to oblige. Contact Jan on 0428 864 378.



Australian Wood Duck. Photo: Bruce McNaughton

Feature Volunteer: David Kemp

The Lighthouse Keepers left Cape Byron Lighthouse in 1989. Soon after, the National Parks & Wildlife Service sought volunteers to tackle the growing weed problem as the resident goat herd was being culled. I put my hand up and thus began my "career" in bush regeneration.

The training by Parks' staff was on the job and, as I recall it, my first day was spent weeding Senna and Lantana amongst the majestic *Livistona's* of Palm Valley. Not a bad gig you must admit! Later we moved to work below the cottage outhouses and tackled the tangles of madeira vine amongst the vegetation which was laboriously removed by hand and bagged. The back-drop was always the ocean, of course, and many times our attention was diverted to the passing whales and dolphins below.

The next newspaper notice I responded to was placed by the Byron Environment Centre calling for volunteers to weed along the Belongil estuary after Club Med had moved on. During the course of our work there, I photographed the many examples of poor management by the previous owners of the resort. This included spraying herbicide onto the trunks of mature trees that had previous bark damage from brushcutters. The result was the demise of those trees along the perimeter of the wetlands (and an increase in the size of their camping grounds!). We arranged a meeting with Council and the new owners to bring these practices to their attention and from then on we worked with their approval and support.

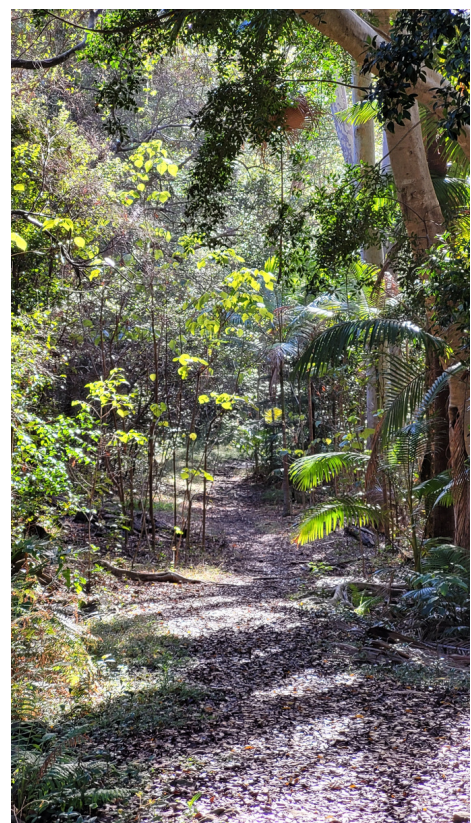
In 2002 I moved from Sunrise Beach to Ocean Shores and soon after heard a crashing sound coming from the nearby Council Reserve. When I wandered over to check I found a 4WD tractor and slasher with a blade on the front pushing a path through the regenerating rainforest around the perimeter of the reserve. Again, I contacted the Council to see if there could be a better way and they, in due course, arranged a meeting to gauge the community's interest. From this meeting the Yallakool Locality Group was established under the umbrella of Brunswick Valley Landcare. With BVL's support we received Commonwealth grants to build 2 bridges and open a walkway along the watercourse through the reserve.

In recent years, after the Lions Club involvement ceased, we have extended our work into the adjacent Devines Hill Reserve.

Regenerating sub-tropical rainforest is rewarding work in itself but more than that, it is the ideal antidote to the wider distractions of our modern world. To any one overwhelmed by the latest bad news I say, give it a try!

Photo: Yalla Kool Reserve, by David Kemp

Note: we would love to feature a volunteer each newsletter. If you have a story to tell, we'd love to hear from you (contact Joanne)



Mother's Day Community Tree Planting

We're excited to announce the 13th Annual Mother's Day Tree Planting details!

The Mother's Day Tree Planting is an important event in the BVL calendar of events. With the support of partners and volunteers its a high profile event that enables everyone to get involved in environmental restoration.

Call out to BVL volunteers and members who might like to put on their baking apron to bake something for us to feed people and raise funds on the day. (Please note down the ingredients for any food donations on the day.)

See our event page for more information, with further updates to be added as more details are finalised. <https://brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/eventbrite-event/mothers-day-community-tree-planting/>

The 13th Annual Brunswick Valley Landcare
**MOTHER'S DAY
TREE PLANTING**

**SUNDAY MAY 12TH
9AM - 12PM**

**215 MAIN ARM ROAD
MULLUMBIMBY
BUNDJALUNG COUNTRY**

**FOOD
PLANTING
LOCAL LIVE
MUSIC**

*Please wear sturdy shoes, hat and sunscreen
Bring a water bottle, keep cup and a raincoat*

NRCF **LITTLE VALLEY** **MULLUMBIMBY** **BYRON** **Echo** **wanganui** **STONE**
we help you help others DISTRIBUTION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SHIRE COUNCIL GREEN WOOD

Fundraiser - Stone and Wood

\$1:1L - fundraiser for Brunswick Valley Landcare during the month of May

In the Stone & Wood tasting rooms, they donate \$1 from every litre of beer sold to a local community cause every month. This means that every visitor to a Stone & Wood tasting room inherently becomes a part of the community story, just by buying a beer. In 2023 they supported 23 local causes through their venue's charity of the month program.



BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL NEWS

Byron Shire gets cleaned up

Volunteers, school students, community groups and Council staff picked up more than 950 kilograms of litter across the Shire on the first weekend in March as part of Clean-Up Australia Day.

Sarah Child, Council's Resource Recovery Strategy and Engagement Officer, said that participants removed an outstanding amount of waste from clean-up events across this Shire.

"Council partnered with Positive Change for Marine Life to host a clean in Brunswick Heads this year. Together with volunteers we removed 80 kilograms of waste near Torakina and Brunswick Heads beach," she said.

"At the other end of Brunswick Heads volunteers collected 750 kilograms of items and the Byron Bird Buddies removed an extra 120 kilograms of litter from along the Brunswick River!" she exclaimed.

"We were pleased to see over 16 clean-up events across the Shire this year. This included community, school, and business clean-up events.

"It was great to see so many people involved in not only the clean-up events, but also helping us with the audit process, where we sort through the waste," she said.

The audit from the Council clean-up event uncovered:

- 280 cigarette butts
- 101 confectionary wrappers
- 99 pieces of clothing
- 967 plastic items
- 70 takeaway packages.



BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL NEWS

5000 native plants to restore banks of the Brunswick River

New life is being breathed into the banks of the Brunswick River in Mullumbimby this month with Council planting more than 5000 native plants along a 2km stretch of Riverside Drive - from Pine Ave to the Mullumbimby Showgrounds.

Made possible thanks to \$220,000 from North Coast Local Land Services for addressing priority river erosion sites from Flood 2022 NSW Government funding, the massive planting project will help strengthen the flood affected riverbanks and slow erosion while also boosting flora, fauna and biodiversity for the area.

"Last year we completed 800 hours of regeneration works on this section of the Brunswick River it has resulted in prolific natural regeneration of native species since the weeds were cleared," Council's Team Leader Bush Regeneration, Dave Filipczyk, said.

"Despite being in the middle of Mullumbimby, this section of the Brunswick River held 139 native species, and 79 weed species, within a 2km stretch of river.

"Our works last year included Camphor laurel removal, bush regeneration and habitat enhancement.

"We are very excited be planting 5000 new natives into this section of the riverbank. By rebuilding a robust riparian zone, we're creating food and habitat so that local flora and fauna can thrive, while also improving water quality for our aquatic friends," Mr Filipczyk said. This new work is also part of Council's [Bringing Back the Bruns](#) project - a much larger bush regeneration program along the Brunswick River and its tributaries being undertaken by Council's Bush Regeneration Team.



Aboriginal names added to Byron icons

(from The Echo)

Two well-known locations in the Byron Bay area now have Aboriginal dual names, says the NSW Labor government. It follows 'requests from local communities and in a nod to the cultural significance of these sites'.

The NSW Geographical Names Board (GNB) has approved the submission from the National Parks and Wildlife Service to officially dual-name Cape Byron as Walgun, and Julian Rocks as Nguthungulli, while a park reserve in Bangalow has been named Piccabeen Park'.

Nguthungulli/Julian Rocks

'Nguthungulli/Julian Rocks is a significant and sacred Aboriginal site associated with several dreaming stories of the Bundjalung of Byron Bay (Arakwal) people and other Bundjalung people. Nguthungulli, said to be the Father of the World, is the traditional name used by the Arakwal people.

Walgun/Cape Byron

'Walgun/Cape Byron maintains significance to the Arakwal and other Bundjalung people, with the area being used for important gatherings and ceremonial practices. 'Cape Byron is known by the local Aboriginal community as Walgun, which means 'shoulder' in the Bundjalung Language. The dual names are supported by the Bundjalung of Byron Bay Aboriginal Corporation and the Cape Byron Trust.

Piccabeen Park

'The GNB and Byron Shire Council have also worked together to formally name a reserve in the suburb of Bangalow as Piccabeen Park, which is located at 27 Deacon Street, Bangalow. 'Piccabeen is a Bundjalung word used to describe the Bangalow palm and/or baskets made from its palm frond. The reserve is home to many Bangalow palms. The name is supported by the Bundjalung of Byron Bay Aboriginal Corporation.

'Since June 2001, the NSW government has supported a dual-naming policy for geographical features and cultural sites, with 45 geographical features having been dual-named so far. The policy aims to recognise traditional Aboriginal place names alongside existing European names'.

Minister for Heritage and the Environment, Penny Sharp, said she looked forward to the names being used 'so we can tell more of the stories of these important areas'.



Walgun



Nguthungulli

North Coast Regional Seedbank Initiative

On March 7 a workshop was held at Byron Wetlands introducing the The North Coast Region Native Seed Bank Project to the Byron Shire. Tweed Landcare is at the forefront this exciting project that aims to support environmental restoration efforts into the future. North Coast Local Land Services, Friends of the Coffs Harbour Regional Botanic Garden and the North Coast Regional Landcare Network are all partners.

The pilot project will deliver activities to enhance the capacity of key organisations and increase the number of individuals involved in collecting, storing, exchanging, and supplying native plant seeds. This initiative aims to improve the supply of native plant stock, meeting the demands of environmental and landscape restoration projects.

Landcare volunteers and Indigenous groups from across the North Coast have been busy collecting seeds to go into the seed bank. Collectors are being asked to record information about the seed they are collecting to ensure that the seed can be matched to the right revegetation projects.

Tweed Landcare is actively collaborating with the restoration community in Tweed, Byron, and Ballina Council areas to establish a northeastern hub for the seed bank. To date, care group volunteers, council staff, and native plant nurseries within our hub area have been engaged, identifying those collecting native seeds and involving them in the co-design of the project.

There was an enthusiastic turn out for the Byron Wetlands workshop, led by Amalia Pahlow of Tweed Landcare, supported by BVL. Also on hand for botanical ID and collection technique were Jo Green & members of BSC Biodiversity & Regen Teams.

It was a lovely morning touring the wetlands with attendees sharing knowledge, learning from each other. And plenty of seed was collected – the Broad-leaved paperbark *Melaleuca quinquenervia* being a standout in its seasonal glory.

While the project is ambitious, there is a wealth of goodwill and a willingness to collaborate to make it a success.

Are you interested in getting involved? There are various roles, including seed collection, indoor seed processing, organising and delivering training, and developing resources.

Keep your eyes peeled for several upcoming events, both partially funded by Koala Conservations:

- 23 May Seed processing
- 30 May iNaturalist for seed collecting

If you'd like to get involved in this exciting project, please contact Amalia Pahlow at Tweed Landcare via amalia.pahlow@tweedlandcare.org.au or 02 6670 2199 (Tuesday to Thursday).



WORLD FROG DAY - 20 MARCH

Did you know that close to 20 per cent of the 240+ Australian frog species are threatened, and 6 species have been listed as extinct over the last 25 years?

More than one-third of the world's 7,500 frog species are in danger of extinction, which is an alarming statistic. World Frog Day, observed on 20 March, is dedicated to raising awareness of the plight of threatened frog species and how we can help conserve them.

Frogs play an important role in maintaining healthy ecosystems, so a threat to these species means a threat to biodiversity.

Every species that disappears is a sign of biodiversity decline. Many threatened frog species are unlikely to survive without help.

Saving our Species are committed to securing the future of New South Wales's threatened frogs and currently have conservation projects in place for 16 of the most threatened frog species.

Their conservation projects include actions like establishing insurance populations, breeding and release programs, the delivery of water for the environment to wetlands, habitat protection, scientific research and monitoring.

One of the Saving our Species projects is for the **Gondwana Rainforest mountain frogs**. A group of incredibly rare and special mountain frogs in the genus *Phyllorhina*, are surviving within the Gondwana World Heritage-listed rainforests of northern New South Wales and south-east Queensland.

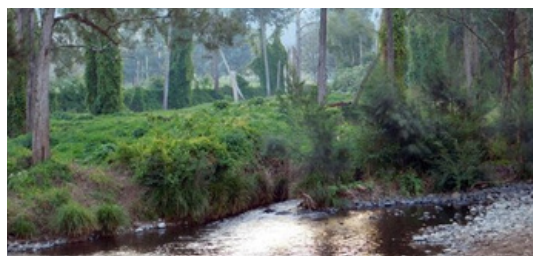
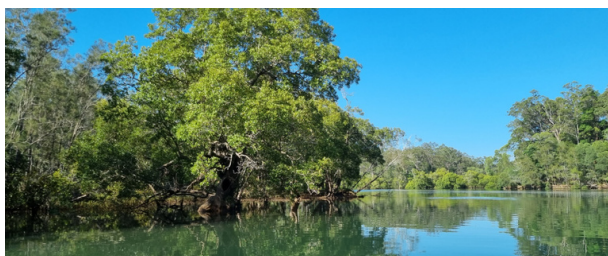
These frogs are an ancient species and have evolved alongside the rainforests they have inhabited over millions of years, but they are under threat and face extinction.

- [Richmond Range mountain frog \(*P. richmondensis*\)](#)
- [Red and yellow mountain frog \(*P. kundagungan*\)](#)
- [Loveridge's mountain frog \(*P. loveridgei*\)](#)
- [Pugh's mountain frog \(*P. pughii*\)](#)
- [Sphagnum frog \(*P. sphagnicola*\)](#)

The Mount Ballow mountain frog (*P. knowlesi*) was only discovered in 2022, and its threatened species status is still being assessed.

Threats to these species include disease caused by the amphibian chytrid fungus and habitat destruction caused by feral pigs. Saving our Species is working with a number of partners to safeguard populations and prevent these frogs from extinction.

Further reading <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/news/lets-talk-about-frogs>



Complete the Landcare Australia Survey and WIN!

In 2024, Landcare Australia and landcare as a national movement celebrates a 35-year anniversary. They are creating a strategy to further support the individuals, groups and organisations involved in landcare.

Landcare Australia invites you to participate in this survey to provide insights on the awareness and perception of Landcare Australia. These insights will help us understand how Landcare Australia is perceived within the community, guiding our future community engagement.

We greatly appreciate your time and contribution to this important project for our organisation so that we can continue to support the efforts of the landcare movement.

By completing the survey, you'll also get a chance to enter into the draw for a \$1000 environmental grant.

The survey should take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete and will remain open until Wednesday 10 April 2024. Please click [here to start the survey](#).

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School holiday activities with Junior Landcare

Landcare Australia send out regular Junior Landcare newsletters - you can sign up from their website. The link below takes you to the latest Junior Landcare newsletter full of school holiday ideas for you to do with the kids! <https://landcareaustralia.activehosted.com/>

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Poem - Sabbaths (excerpt)

Michael was moved by the following excerpt of a Wendell Berry poem:

I go from the woods into the cleared field:
A place no human made, a place unmade
By human greed, and to be made again.
Where centuries of leaves once built by dying
A deathless potency of light and stone
And mold of all that grew and fell, the timeless
Fell into time. The earth fled with the rain,
The growth of fifty thousand years undone
In a few careless seasons, stripped to rock
And clay - a 'new land', truly, that no race
Was ever native to, but hungry mice
And sparrows and the circling hawks, dry thorns
And thistles sent by generosity
Of new beginning. No Eden, this was
A garden once, a good and perfect gift;
Its possible abundance stood in it
As it then stood. But now what it might be
Must be foreseen, darkly, through many lives
Thousands of years to make it what it was,
Beginning now, in our few troubled days.

Wendell Berry: The Peace of Wild Things, Penguin Books, 2018. This particular poem was first published in: A Small Porch: Sabbath Poems 2014 (Berkeley: Counterpoint, 2016)

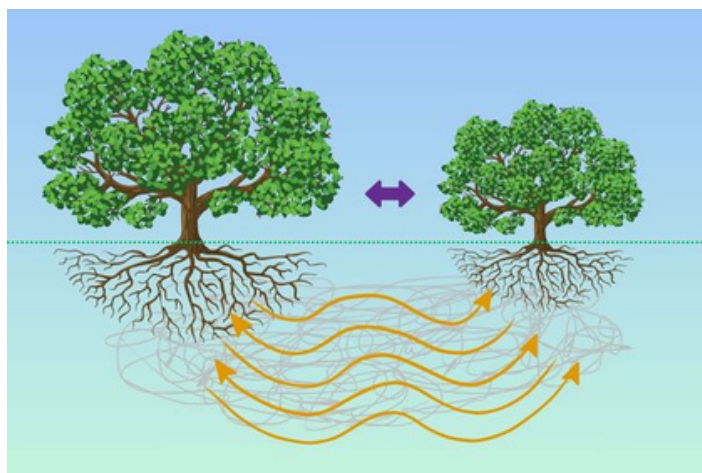
Exploring the secret world of trees and their communication networks

Did you know that forests are not just collections of passive plants but complex and dynamic communities of living beings that communicate, cooperate and care for each other?

In recent years, scientists have discovered that trees have a hidden life that is much more fascinating than we ever imagined. Trees can sense their environment, respond to threats, share resources and information, and even recognise their relatives. They do this through various means, such as releasing chemical signals into the air and forming underground fungal networks that connect their roots.

Trees communicate through fungal networks

Trees communicate through an underground network of fungi known as mycorrhizal networks. These intricate systems consist of tiny threads called mycelium that intertwine with tree roots. Mycorrhizal networks serve as an information highway, allowing trees to share resources and vital information.



[Fig 1.] Trees communicate via underground mycorrhizal networks.

These fungal connections can transmit nutrients, water, and defence signals between trees. This cooperative behaviour challenges the traditional view of nature as a constant competition for survival. The communication network has been aptly dubbed the “wood-wide web,” emphasising the interconnectedness of forest ecosystems.

Chemical signals warn neighbouring trees

When a tree faces danger from an invasive predator or disease, it can release chemical signals through the mycorrhizal network or into the air. Surrounding trees pick up these cues and respond by releasing hormones or chemicals to deter threats.

For example, when a giraffe begins munching on acacia leaves, the tree detects the injury and emits a distress signal in the form of ethylene gas. Neighbouring acacias respond by pumping tannins into their leaves as a defence mechanism. As high tannins negatively impact the taste and nutritional value of the plant, giraffes actively avoid those plants.

continued overleaf.....

Matriarchal trees hold the forest together

Mother trees are the biggest, oldest trees in the forest. These matriarchal trees are at the heart of this communication system, nurturing and sustaining the surrounding flora and fauna. These ancient guardians facilitate the transfer of nutrients and information through their expansive root systems, enabling younger trees to thrive and warning neighbouring plants of impending threats like pests or disease.

Furthermore, research suggests that forests with more matriarchal trees exhibit greater biodiversity and resilience to environmental stressors. These ancient sentinels not only support a rich plant and animal life but also play a crucial role in mitigating climate change. Their longevity and resilience help maintain the delicate balance of ecosystems.

Removing a matriarchal tree from a forest has detrimental consequences for the surrounding trees. When felled, the tree's established root system vanishes, disrupting nutrient sharing and communication. Neighbouring trees suffer as they lose access to vital resources and protective signals. This disturbs the intricate balance within the forest ecosystem, impacting regeneration and overall resilience.

For full article: https://wildlife.org.au/exploring-the-secret-world-of-trees-and-their-communication-networks/?mc_cid=c8d3e4faa4&mc_eid=620612f8fb

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Yellow-bellied gliders: A closer look at their unique feeding habits

Threatened yellow-bellied gliders have unique feeding habits, particularly in tapping tree sap. Recognising their feed trees can be a valuable tool for monitoring populations and understanding their behaviour.

Yellow-bellied gliders are listed as endangered (*Petaurus australis* — Wet Tropics subspecies) and vulnerable (*Petaurus australis australis* — southern subspecies), both nationally and in Queensland. The species has a patchy distribution across a wide range of forest habitats throughout eastern Australia.

To assess yellow-bellied glider populations, researchers use various monitoring techniques. Due to the glider's unique call, acoustic monitoring is frequently preferred over trapping techniques. This approach uses compact acoustic recording devices in potential yellow-bellied glider habitats to continuously monitor wildlife sounds.

Incisions created by yellow-bellied gliders while tapping tree sap have been identified as another valuable method of population monitoring, helping us understand their dietary preferences as well.

Different tree characteristics cause selective sap feeding

The yellow-bellied glider is quite specific in the resources it requires for survival, including the distribution of suitable-sized tree hollows, winter flowering eucalypts to provide nectar and pollen and eucalypt trees suitable for tapping sap. The species also requires trees with loose, shedding bark to forage for a range of insect prey.

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While they may consume a variety of foods, like insects and nectar, what intrigues scientists most are their habits for tapping tree sap.

Tapping tree sap is a crucial component of the yellow-bellied glider's diet. They use their lower teeth to make incisions in the bark of several species of eucalypt trees and then lick up the sweet-tasting sap. The southern subspecies prefer various smooth-barked eucalypt trees, whereas the Wet Tropics subspecies feed exclusively on *Eucalyptus resinifera*.

These arboreal gliding mammals are highly selective of the trees used for sap feeding. Studies show they prefer trees that are larger, have wider crowns and occupy dominant canopy positions.

In addition, the characteristics of an individual tree, such as its sap flow or sap chemistry, influence whether gliders will be attracted to it for sap.

Additionally, yellow-bellied gliders will only use a single tree within a group of similar trees to tap sap, self-limiting their food supply. Tree selection may change over seasons and time, although an individual tree may be used for ten years or more.

To read more, including how to recognise a feed tree, see https://wildlife.org.au/yellow-bellied-gliders-a-closer-look-at-their-unique-feeding-habits/?mc_cid=c8d3e4faa4&mc_eid=620612f8fb

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Back Yard Beasties - Discover the world of our wildlife weenies: Hoppers

Meet some of Australia's tiny wildlife wonders in Wildlife Queensland's new online picture book: [Here come the hoppers!](#) Read how these intriguing insects get 'milked' by ants for food.

Check out our other Backyard Beasties picture books [here](#).

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Nominate for award - Council

Nominations for the 2024 Byron Shire Community Awards Ceremony are open! Council are looking for nominations for outstanding individuals, groups, businesses, and organisations that make the Byron Shire such a great place to live.

Winners will be celebrated for their achievements and contributions to the community.

Nominations close 1 June 2024. The Awards Ceremony will be held in the first week of August 2024.

Nominate someone for an award using the online form. For information about the award categories and application see <https://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Residential-Services/My-Community/Citizenship-Community-Awards/Community-Awards>

If you know someone that deserves a nomination but don't want to manage the nomination process yourself, BVL would be happy to hear from you - particularly in the 'Caring for Country' category. Contact Joanne!

REGENERATIVE FARMING

Small Farms Count!

Help [Young Farmers Connect](#) gain a better understanding of the small scale farming sector in Australia by completing a short survey (via the link). The results will provide vital information to assist our farming communities and businesses into the future.

The Small Farms Count National Survey is LIVE and we're looking for input from all corners of the small-scale sector. We all need to be part of the conversation for the future of food. To do that we need delicious data that explores the diversity of the way we engage in ag.

Whether you're already farming, just starting out, have moved on from farming, or are dreaming up your farm plans, your insights are needed.

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Australia's first 'agrihood' aims to merge homes, farming

They are all the rage in the United States and they could soon be coming to a neighbourhood near you. Agrihoods — agricultural neighbourhoods where food production and housing come together — are booming in the United States, and Australia's very first is in the works.

Arkadian Developments founder Steve Grist has big plans for a new agricultural community in Far North Queensland. "Most people understand what an eco-village is — they focus on sustainable living, solar power, recycled materials in the building," Mr Grist said. "But they don't have as much of a focus on food production, whereas an agrihood does have a focus on food production."

There is no agreed definition of an agrihood, but the research not-for-profit Urban Land Institute (ULI) describes them as mixed-use communities built with a working farm or community garden as a focus.

"This is basically redesigning human settlements and reintegrating farms and agriculture back into human living systems."



Natural Sequence Farming Workshop

Tarwyn Park Training are running a one-day event to introduce you to Natural Sequence Farming and help you build an understanding of how our landscape functions, learn the principles of landscape hydration and managing the flow of water to improve rural productivity AND environmental outcomes.

When: 13th April 10am-4pm

Where: Goolmangar Hall

For more info and to register: [Natural Sequence Farming Field Day \(tarwynparktraining.com.au\)](http://tarwynparktraining.com.au)

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Curse of the Missing Vegetables

Join Conscious Ground for an exciting morning where kids become detectives in an interactive storytelling experience, uncovering clues scattered throughout our farm to crack the “curse of the missing vegetables”. Designed for children aged 5-10 in mind but adventurers of all ages are welcome! Parents can join the fun at no extra cost.

When: 18th April 9am-10.30am

Where: Conscious Ground 625A Myocum Rd, Myocum

For more info + booking: [Veggie Detectives, A Farm Adventure for Kids! | Humanitix](#)

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Beef Fundamentals Course

Local Land Services in partnership with NSW Department of Primary Industries have launched their new [Beef Fundamentals course](#) which has a focus on upskilling landholders in animal husbandry, land/grazing management and disaster preparedness.

The course includes:

- 6 x 40-minute online learning modules to be completed at your own pace.
- Face-to-face workshops comprising of multi-day, on-ground learning sessions with practical demonstrations and hands-on experience.

If you're looking to improve your skills and knowledge in small herd cattle management, this course is for you. (Click on link for more info)

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Cover Cropping

With the change in season, now is a good time to think about cover crops to sow.

<https://regenfarming.news/articles/829-how-to-guide-set-up-your-own-cover-crop-strategy>

explains the reasoning behind cover cropping and provides guidance on setting up your own cover crop strategy. More information and some great cover crop charts that might prove useful when deciding what crops to plant are available from Byron Shire Council's Agricultural Extension Officer. When buying seed, make sure it's bare (uncoated). Soaking the seed in water, compost tea or seaweed solution will help give it a good striking chance! Any questions, feel free to give Andrew a call on 02 6626 7223.

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Also, in case you missed the [ABC news video](#) that aired a few weeks back featuring some of our local food producers we thought we'd share it with you. The video touches on the tension between residential development and the need to preserve prime agricultural land in the Byron Shire. Give it a watch!

SNIPPETS

Ocean floor a 'reservoir' for plastic pollution, world-first study finds

New research from CSIRO, Australia's national science agency, and the University of Toronto in Canada, estimates up to 11 million tonnes of plastic pollution is sitting on the ocean floor.

Every minute, a garbage truck's worth of plastic enters the ocean. With plastic use expected to double by 2040, understanding how and where it travels is crucial to protecting marine ecosystems and wildlife.

Dr Denise Hardesty, Senior Research Scientist with CSIRO, said this is the first estimate of how much plastic waste ends up on the ocean floor, where it accumulates before being broken down into smaller pieces and mixed into ocean sediment.

Further reading <https://www.csiro.au/en/news/All/News/2024/April/Ocean-floor-a-reservoir-for-plastic-pollution-world-first-study-finds>

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Dingo wee could help non-lethal management of the native species, research finds

The newest tool for managing dingoes in Australia may come from the species' own wee. Research from the University of New South Wales has shown dingoes are deterred by the urine of male dingoes in their prime.

UNSW PhD student Ben Walker lead the research in conjunction with Taronga Conservation Society and the Dingo Society research centre.

Mr Walker said they tested urine from young, prime and old dingoes and it was the prime samples that scared other dingoes away.

Further reading: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-03-25/dingo-wee-could-be-key-to-native-species-management>

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Better climate science, greater First Nations participation flagged in national water policy overhaul

The federal government has released details of a plan that will readjust Australia's outdated overarching water policy, to better prepare for climate change and boost participation of First Nations peoples in water management.

Now 20 years old, the National Water Initiative (NWI) aligns state, territory and federal water policies by setting objectives for how water is shared and managed, and ensuring they are in harmony with other areas of policy, international treaties and commitments.

In a 2021 review of the NWI, the [Productivity Commission concluded](#) that it was outdated and would struggle to meet population and climate challenges without a major overhaul. It also said the NWI had failed to consider the rights and aspirations of First Nations people to manage, own and control water for their own economic and cultural purposes.

Read more <https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2024-03-28/federal-government-opens-debate-on-national-water-initiative/>

EVENTS & WORKSHOPS



Native bees in schools conference

Are you looking for an exciting topic to engage your students interest, whilst covering multiple key elements of student learning areas?

This conference provides knowledge and resources for teachers to best utilise native bees, to stimulate student interest and enhance sustainability, biodiversity and conservation.

Date 1st May

Time 8:30-3:30pm

Limited spaces available

Trenayr Research Centre

Exepriment Farm Rd, Trenayr

Early Bird \$299, Regular \$350+GST

The day will include of a series of workshops:

- Native Bee Biology
- Planting guides for schools
- Bee box design/solitary hive construction
- Cultural significance of Native bees
- How to best utilise native bees in schools (examples provided for preschool, primary school, high school and STEM).

Lunch, afternoon tea and tea and coffee provided on the day.

Completing Australian Native bees in Education 2024 will contribute 5 hours of NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) Accredited PD in the priority area of Delivery and Assessment of NSW Curriculum/EYLF addressing Standard Descriptor(s) 2.1.2 from the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers towards maintaining Proficient Teacher Accreditation in NSW.



Tickets: australiannativebeeco.com/workshops
0404 831 659 | info@australiannativebeeco.com

EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

Follow the Rain Movie

If you missed the launch of this movie recently at Bangalow Film Festival, another opportunity to see this fascinating insight into the world of fungi is coming up.

Pearces Creek Talks present - Planet Fungi: Follow the Rain

Friday April 12th 6pm to 8.15pm

Book: <https://events.humanitix.com/pearcescreektalks-planetfungi-followtherain>

Join Pearces Creek film makers Catherine Marciniak and Stephen Axford for a screening of their recently released film 'Follow the Rain'.

Pearces Creek Talks are hosting the event, which starts with a supper plate at 6pm, Film screening at 6.30pm, followed by Q&A with Cath and Steve, and will conclude by 8.15pm. Children 12 and under are free.



RAINFOREST CONNECTIONS CONFERENCE - BALLINA

Conservation, restoration, innovation are the themes for this exciting local conference from 4 - 7 June 2024.

Rainforest Connections 2024 is the first conference in over two decades that is dedicated to the restoration, rehabilitation, and management of Australia's unique rainforest habitats. This event will connect more than 200 delegates from a wide range of backgrounds including scientists, program managers, on-ground practitioners, community members and specialists implementing projects in the field.



Early bird registrations close 12 April <https://rainforestconnections.com.au/>

FUNDING

Byron Shire Council Community Initiatives Grants

Each year, Council invest in community projects that deliver positive social, cultural and environmental outcomes. These projects also promote community participation, inclusion and cohesion.

The Community Initiatives Program awards grants for community projects that:

- Address a specific need.
- Build a sense of community.
- Align with Council priorities.

Incorporated not-for-profit community organisations and community groups auspiced by an incorporated organisation are eligible to apply for grants of up to \$5000.

If you are a BVL locality group, talk to Joanne about submitting an application.

Applications are now open and close on 30 June 2024.

For more information see <https://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Council/About-Byron-Shire/Grants/Community-Initiatives-Grant>



WEED OF THE MONTH

Madeira Vine (*Anredera cordifolia*)

Thanks to Federal Landcare for providing a great fact sheet on our weed of the month. For further information about Madeira Vine see the DPI Weeds website

<https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/MadeiraVine>



WEED ALERT

MADEIRA VINE

*CREAM FLOWER SPIKES-SUMMER TO EARLY AUTUMN. WAXY, GREEN, HEART SHAPED LEAVES. AERIAL TUBERS

*VERY INVASIVE CLIMBER THAT WILL SMOTHER AND KILL NATIVE PLANTS

*CAN GROW FROM AERIAL TUBERS AND TUBERS UNDER THE GROUND

*CAN TAKE 15 YEARS TO ERADICATE

WHAT YOU CAN DO

PHYSICAL REMOVAL BY HAND

- * DIG UP TUBERS AND DISPOSE OF
- * IF POSSIBLE PLACE A TARP UNDER VINE TO COLLECT TUBERS AS THEY DROP
- * COLLECT ALL TUBERS, STEMS AND LEAVES AND DISPOSE OF

CHEMICAL CONTROL

- * SCRAPE STEM DOWN TO WHITE FIBROUS LAYER ALONG STEM ON BOTH SIDES IN 10-20CM SECTIONS. REPEAT ALONG STEM
- * PAINT EXPOSED AREA WITH CONCENTRATED HERBICIDE WITHIN 15 SECONDS
- * SPOT SPRAY REGROWTH AND SEEDLINGS WITH HERBICIDE

DISPOSAL

- * PLACE TUBERS, STEMS AND LEAVES IN A BAG, SEAL AND LEAVE IN SUN FOR MONTHS UNTIL DECOMPOSED
- * OR PLACE IN BUCKET OF WATER, SEAL AND LEAVE FOR MONTHS UNTIL DECOMPOSED
- * BE STRATEGIC AND MARK IN YOUR DIARY TO REVISIT THE SITE EVERY COUPLE OF MONTHS TO REPEAT THE PROCESS

federalandcare@gmail.com

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

Suffolk Park Dunecare

WHEN: 8.30 - 10.30 every fourth Sunday of the month

WHERE: find out from:

CONTACT: Rebekah O'Flaherty rebekahoflaherty@gmail.com 0428 942 903

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

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

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.ils.nsw.gov.au
- North Coast Local Land Services <http://northcoast.ils.nsw.gov.au/>
- Border Ranges Richmond Valley Landcare www.brrvln.org.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 0421 244 640**

info@brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au

Community Liaison Officer, Joanne McMurtry 0409 925 330

jmcmurtry@brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au

www.brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au

