



Newsletter for Landcare and Dunecare in Byron Shire



<http://www.brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/>

August 2020

Simpsons Creek Koala Corridors

BVL is proud to announce the completion of Simpsons Creek Koala Corridors ET R&R 2016/RR/0014.

Thank you to Jason Rawnsley from Wanganui Green Bush Regeneration and his team for all the hard work in making this 3 year project so successful.

The project includes enhancement of 9ha of koala habitat including planting 600 koala food trees, including restoration of 3ha of threatened Swamp Sclerophyll forest and protecting 1.2km of a tributary of Simpsons Creek and increasing the biodiversity of properties involved in the project.

Our final field day on fire management and koala habitats was a great success with thanks to dynamic speakers Andy Baker Wildsite Ecology and Oliver Costello Firesticks Alliance Indigenous Corporation. Unfortunately due to COVID19 restrictions we could not open this field day to the wider community so Paul Daley from A Lush Forest Media filmed the day. Watch this space for when the video is available on the website.

This project has been assisted by the NSW Government through it's Environmental Trust.



Two successful Environmental Trust Grants

Federal and Goonengerry Landcare groups have secured \$200,000 in grants to improve, restore and protect the Byron Shire hinterland's biodiversity values.

The grants are part of the NSW Environmental Trust's Restoration and Rehabilitation program and will run for three years starting in September 2020.

"Goonengerry Landcare has had enormous success over decades of work with a multitude of grants, whilst Federal Landcare is a newly formed entity, and this will be their first major grant in its own right," says Federal Landcare Group President James Mayson.

The main aim of both projects will be to use best practice bush regeneration to convert bushland dominated by noxious and environmental weeds to biodiverse, lowland subtropical rainforests.

"A large part of Federal Landcare's project involves tree plantings to enhance and increase critical koala habitat in and around Federal village, whilst also working to protect other threatened species in 1



nearby corridors and waterways,” Mayson explains. “Some of the properties included in the Goonengerry Landcare project are cattle farms which we are working with the owners to reduce the negative impacts of livestock in our fragile ecosystems and encourage regenerative agriculture”, explains Alan Goldstein, Grants Project Manager for Goonengerry Landcare.

“Both grants will work with local landholders and community properties over the term of the project and beyond and include partnering with Byron Shire Council and its North East Hinterland Restoration Project for further tree planting and awareness raising events,” says James.

The grants include a series of workshops to engage and support the community in restoration projects.

For further information please contact:

James Mayson – jamesmayson@icloud.com

Alan Goldstein – goonengerrylandcare@gmail.com

This project has been assisted by the NSW Government through it's Environmental Trust.



Australian Bushfire & Climate Plan

The Australian Bushfire and Climate Plan provides a broad plan and practical ideas for governments, fire and land management agencies and communities to help us mitigate and adapt to worsening fire conditions. The plan's 165 recommendations include many measures that can be implemented right now, to ensure communities are better protected.

The experts agree: We must tackle climate change and worsening extreme weather by urgently phasing out fossil fuels.

Developed with more than 150 experts and affected community members at the National Bushfire and Climate Summit 2020, the Australian Bushfire and Climate Plan will help keep Australians as safe as possible from worsening bushfires, and support communities to build resilience and lead recovery efforts

<https://emergencyleadersforclimateaction.org.au/australian-bushfire-climate-plan/>

Youth Leadership Training

Are you ready for change?

Are you 16-25 & living in Northern NSW?

Join our empowering (and free) training to:

Grow your connections & strategies for positive action

Support your friends & community & build climate resilience together.

Join our youth leader training 6 evening sessions & 1 day workshop – September - October

For more info contact Shamila Millard of The Joyality Project on:

0438 713 888 or email shamila.millard@gmail.com

www.joyality.org/youth

How On Earth



*Youth Leader Training
in Climate Resilience*

The Joyality Project & Byron Youth Theatre

Wherefore art thou Fontainea?

My name is Aaron Brunton. I'm a PhD student from the University of the Sunshine Coast working with a team of researchers on a rare rainforest plant called southern Fontainea (*Fontainea australis*). Currently, only several populations are known to occur mostly in National Parks and reserves. However, a new discovery of southern Fontainea in the Huonbrook area as reported in a previous Landcare article, is an important finding in the ongoing conservation of the endangered plant. This recent finding highlights how landholders in the Brunswick Valley Landcare catchment may prove crucial to our research in locating more populations

Our aim is to survey areas from historical records and locate new "undiscovered" populations. Finding plants from the historical records and new populations is proving quite a challenge and for this threatened plant it is an 'every plant counts' approach for conservation. While most southern Fontainea records are in protected areas, it's likely there are more undiscovered populations on private property.

How can you help?

If the border conditions return to allow travel between NSW and QLD, we are planning on doing field trips across northern NSW to collect samples. However, we understand that accessing private property may not always be possible. If you suspect you have Fontainea on your property, we first ask that you contact us so we may be able to verify the discovery via a photo or description. If we find it's likely southern Fontainea, we can then send leaf sample bags and a small list of site conditions to fill out which can then be sent back to our research team.

How to spot southern Fontainea

Southern Fontainea is a rainforest plant usually growing in the understorey, to a height of between 5-9 metres. It has red fleshy fruit, broadly egg-shaped, 2-3 cm in diameter, with three grooves near the tip and small white flowers. In the absence of fruit and flowers, another identifying feature are two oil glands located near the narrow, wedge shaped base of the leaf where it joins a prominent, long leaf stalk (petiole). I've included a few images below that may assist in identification. Leaves can be widely variable in shape in length but generally leaves are 6 – 9 cm long and elliptical, sometimes broader towards the tips, sometimes with an undulating leaf margin which may have a long point.

If you would like to assist with my project or have any questions, please contact me on email: Aaron.Brunton@research.usc.edu.au or phone: 0447 631 241. Happy hunting, Aaron Brunton



Join AABR

The Australian Association of Bush Regenerators (AABR) is lobbying governments and philanthropic organisations to increase funding to employ skilled regenerators on fire-affected sites before the weeds redoubled their presence.

Please join AABR <https://www.aabr.org.au/about-aabr/joining-aabr/> to help us advocate for this cause - and if you have your Cert III CLM (delivered in the regen industry context) plus at least 500 hours experience (gained over 2 years) under a recognised bush regen supervisor you should be considering applying for AABR bush regeneration practitioner accreditation here: <https://www.aabr.org.au/about-aabr/accreditation/Accreditation> plus membership is only \$60 / yr and AABR accreditation is the standard we are promoting for post-fire employment. Please help us to help promote the timely and skilled practice of bush regeneration. (Tein, Pres AABR)



SAVING OUR SPECIES

Gordon's wattle *Acacia gordonii* (B. Collier/OEH)

173 of our most beautiful and unique native species are known only by their scientific names, which are hard to pronounce and even trickier to remember.

That's why we want you to suggest catchy names for 8 unnamed, but not unloved, threatened species found in NSW, from orchids to wattle.

Submissions are open now and will close on Friday 28 August.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/nameourspecies>

STORIES to inspire and give you hope

Planet's oldest-known organisms 'woken up' after millions of years by ABC News

Scientists have revived bacteria which survived more than 100 million years lying dormant on the seafloor. The microbes, spanning 10 major and numerous minor groups of bacteria, may be the planet's oldest-known organisms.

Up to 99 per cent of the microbes, dating back to the age of dinosaurs, were found encased in the sediment and survived despite having essentially no nutrients for all that time.

The microbes were present in clay samples about 74.5 metres under the seafloor, below 5.7 km of water

The microbes were aerobic — requiring oxygen to live — and oxygen was present in the sediment samples

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-07-29/scientists-revive-100-million-year-old-bacteria-under-seafloor/12501526>

A genetic helping hand for our native trees by SMH

It was the second bout of fierce summer heat, and days of temperatures well above 40 degrees, that really did it for the trees. The caretakers at Nardoo Hills, a 1000-hectare grassy woodland conservation reserve in northern Victoria, noticed the grey box and yellow box eucalyptus trees were losing their canopies and dying.

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/a-genetic-helping-hand-for-our-native-trees-20200808-p55jsk.html>



Cannon-Brookes lobbies Government by ABCNews

Tech billionaire and climate warrior Mike Cannon-Brookes says there has never been a more compelling time for Australia to adopt clean energy and he believes Canberra is starting to listen.

He says the coronavirus pandemic is the best opportunity Australia has for large-scale job creation in renewable energy. He labelled an energy technology plan by Energy Minister Angus Taylor as "a strategy without a destination" . <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-07-08/atlassian-mike-cannon-brookes-renewable-energy-best-opportunity/12432484>



A New Use for Wheatgrass and Wheat by Technology networks

Researchers have demonstrated the high capacity of wheatgrass and wheat to absorb heavy metals in contaminated soils. <https://www.technologynetworks.com/applied-sciences/news/toxic-metals-extracted-from-contaminated-soils-by-wheat-and-wheatgrass-338442>

SA breweries' expired beer to generate renewable energy for sewage plant by ABC News

Expired beer is helping power SA Water's Wastewater Treatment Plant in Glenelg. Around 150,000 litres of beer is received by the treatment plant every week and is enough to power 1,200 homes.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-07-31/expired-beer-powering-south-australian-wastewater-plant/12511042>



Remote NT community has found a solution to fresh food shortage by ABC News

Food security and affordability is a problem in remote communities around Australia but one community in Arnhem Land has come up with a solution by developing a community garden while also passing on traditional practices.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-07-23/nt-food-security-fixed-at-milingimbi/12475930>



Native Honey Health Claims Affirmed by Science by The University of QLD

Science has once again validated Indigenous wisdom by identifying a rare, healthy sugar in native stingless bee honey that is not found in any other food. University of Queensland organic chemist Associate Professor Mary Fletcher said Indigenous peoples had long known that native stingless bee honey had special health properties.

<https://www.technologynetworks.com/applied-sciences/news/native-honey-health-claims-affirmed-by-science-337782>



REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

QLD fish and chip shop owner on a mission to convince Australians to eat more salad by ABC News

How simple aquaponics are producing fresh fish AND salads into a fish and chip operation and an outback pub menu.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2020-07-28/chef-uses-aquaponics-for-fresh-organic-spray-free-food/12478504>



Regenerative biological pasture improvement trial gives sceptical dairy farmer hope

by ABC News



As poor profit margins force Australian dairy farmers out of the industry, a trial of biological pasture improvement at Maleny Dairies is being watched with interest.

In four months, Keith Hopper said it had significantly reduced feed costs while increasing production by one to two litres of milk per cow a day.

A combination of multi-species pasture seed was sown at the end of the March, including legumes, grasses, cereals, and brassicas like the large daikon radish.

Conventional chemical fertilisers were replaced with liquid applications of composted chicken manure and microbes on the 3.2-hectare irrigated trial block.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2020-07-27/dairy-pasture-profit-chemical-biological/12483270>

Farmers Reward: Paying farmers for supporting biodiversity

by ABC Landline

Australia has more animal and plant species than any other country. It also has a high extinction rate. Conservation and agriculture groups believe farmers could help to slow that rate while being rewarded for restoring biodiversity. See Landline story below.

<https://www.abc.net.au/landline/farmers-reward:-paying-farmers-for-supporting/12492682>

Land for Wildlife



Nestboxes workshop videos

Here are a couple of videos that were recorded for the Upper Shoalhaven Landcare group. This was planned to be a workshop, but then Covid-19 came along and we ran it as an in-field webinar.



The first video is on nest box designs and materials to use, hollow using species (Canberra and surrounds species), and bedding to add inside the nest boxes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NFOZTcPC2ZE>

The second video is about how to install a nest box that has the Habisure tree attachment mechanism.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=63JpkEzpAWk&t=366s>

Here is a link also on how to make the Habisure tree attachment mechanism - by Hollow Log Homes, just so all these videos/links are in the one post.

<https://www.hollowloghomes.com/habisure-system-demonstration>

Video on How to deal with weeds post bushfire

Weed affected bushland will need help to recover after fire, but resources are usually limited, and it's difficult to predict exactly what will happen over time. How can you make the most of your time and effort? This is an overview of post-fire site assessment. It's a complex topic, particularly considering the extreme drought and fire situation that we have experienced, but we hope this will give you some ideas. If you know some of the basics, your efforts can make a big difference. This video was made with the assistance of South East Local Land Services.



5 key questions which can really be applied to all sites, not just post fire:

- What is the plant community?
- Where are the native regenerating? Are vines smothering
- What are the native plants on your site? Especially special priority species such as threatened species or pioneers in a rainforest
- What are the priority weeds? What can be left for a while before they flower and fruit, or are short lived – what are your ecosystem changers?
- What are the priority areas?
- What resources are available?

<https://youtu.be/p3qcmRup0iQ>

Sugar glider is actually three species by The

Conversation

Most Australians are familiar with the cute, nectar-loving sugar glider (*Petaurus breviceps*), [our new study](#) shows the sugar glider is actually three genetically and physically distinct species: *Petaurus breviceps* and two new species, Krefft's glider (*Petaurus notatus*) and the savanna glider (*Petaurus ariel*). This discovery has meant the distribution of the sugar glider has substantially reduced, and it's now limited only to coastal regions in southeastern Australia. <https://theconversation.com/a-rare-discovery-we-found-the-sugar-glider-is-actually-three-species-but-one-is-disappearing-fast-142807>



FUNDING

Do you have a great project and need funds to make it happen?

On the Brunswick Valley Landcare website there are some handy tips on how to be successful with grant applications. Below is a summary of grants which are currently accepting applications.

Fish Habitat Action Grants

The Habitat Action Grants are funded from the Recreational Fishing Trusts which direct funding generated by the NSW Recreational Fishing Fee towards onground actions to improve fish habitat and recreational fishing in NSW.



Angling clubs, individuals, community groups, local councils and organisations interested in rehabilitating fish habitats in freshwater and saltwater areas throughout NSW can apply for small grants of \$2,000 or large grants of up to \$40,000.

- Habitat rehabilitation projects which may be funded include:
- removal or modification of barriers to fish passage
- rehabilitation of riparian lands (river banks, wetlands, mangrove forests, saltmarsh)
- re-snagging waterways with timber structure
- removal of exotic vegetation from waterways and replace with native species
- bank stabilisation works
- reinstatement of natural flow regimes

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/habitat/rehabilitating/ahr-grants-program>

Strengthening Rural Communities

Small & Vital - up to \$10,000 grants available. Communities in non-metropolitan areas with fewer than 15,000 people are prioritised.

2. Bushfire Recovery – up to \$25,000 grants available. Projects that enhance the recovery of communities affected by the Sept 2019 to Feb 2020 bushfires are eligible. Closing: 5pm AEST, 25 August 2020 https://www.frrr.org.au/grants/Strengthening_Rural_Communities



Pest research funding

Attention all researchers!

Do you have an innovative solution for managing and controlling some of Australia's most invasive established pest animal and weed species?

How about a control that is close to ready, but just requires a bit more investment? The federal government wants to know!

The \$13 million Advancing Pest Animal and Weed Control Solutions competitive grant round is now open for applications.

The grant round is an opportunity for eligible organisations to advance nationally important research to develop innovative control solutions for established pest animals and weeds.

The closing date for applications is 25 September 2020, so get in quick!

For more information, or to submit an application, visit the Grant Connect website: <https://bit.ly/3k629Zb>



Weed of the Month

Chinese celtis

Celtis sinensis

Description: Deciduous to 20 m tall, flowers in spring. Leaves glossy, paler underside and pronounced veins. Thousands of small, orange berries are produced and are dispersed when eaten by birds.

It is an invader of riparian habitats and seems particularly successful in areas where the original vegetation has been disturbed or fenced off from grazing stock.

Prevention is the key and Chinese Celtis should be removed before fruiting.

Small seedlings can be hand-pulled or dug out.

<https://rous.nsw.gov.au/page.asp?f=RES-XPU-57-41-13>



UQ have come up with an innovative way to deal with large Chinese Celtis

<https://www.uq.edu.au/news/node/126822>

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 groups 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 Liz Gander
CONTACT: Liz Gander bangalowlandcare@gmail.com 66871309

Green and Clean Awareness Team, Byron Bay

WHEN: 3rd Sunday of the month 9:00am
WHERE: Meet Main Beach, Byron Bay
CONTACT: Veda Turner vedaturner@gmail.com 0427 857 991

Heritage Park Landcare, Mullumbimby

WHEN: alternate 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: last Sunday of the month
WHERE: find out from Jude Alcorn
CONTACT: Jude Alcorn 0411 298 356 judealcorn@yahoo.com.au

Ocean Shores Landcare, Ocean Shores

WHEN: each Friday 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

South New Brighton Dunecare

WHEN: 1st Friday of the month 1:30pm - 4:30pm
WHERE: Meet at southern end of the Esplanade at the Strand beach access point.
CONTACT: Robyn Bolden robyn.bolden@optusnet.com.au 6680 1970

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/>
- 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/envitrust.htm>
- Friends of the Koala www.friendsofthekoala.org
- 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.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 Support Officer, Alison Ratcliffe

6626 7028 0421 244 640 (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday) aratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au

Project Officer, Rochelle Merdith

6626 7201 (Friday) rmerdith@byron.nsw.gov.au



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