

Seasons Greetings Landcarers

What a year it has been!

Brunswick Valley Landcare has had a challenging yet energetic and proactive year with successful grant applications, new members, obtaining DGR status, revamping our old website and continued improvements to our land and biodiversity.

A different box this Christmas.

Why not donate to Brunswick Valley Landcare this Christmas; your donation will go towards our nest box roll out in 2021. We are planning on widespread installation of nest boxes throughout the shire to help our wild friends find a safe and warm place to raise their young.

BVL plans on installing a variety of different fauna nest boxes, including birds, owls, possums, gliders and micro bats. The boxes will be installed on private and public land as well as schools. The boxes will be monitored regularly and all information added to the nest-box information database.

Wildlife Safe Havens project has been a huge success with 28 of 30 nest boxes being installed on properties neighbouring fire affected areas, adjacent to National Parks or Land for Wildlife members.

Many thanks to local bush regenerator Dave Rawlins and David Brooke from Wild BnB who both provided an abundance of knowledge and expertise.

We wish all of you a safe and fun Christmas and New Year.

Look after yourselves and remember to leave out clean water for the critters!

Thank you for being amazing Landcarers.



Other Christmas gift ideas

Not sure what to get? Here's some inspiration:

Reduce Your Carbon Footprint with Some Great Zero Waste Gifts!



<https://www.wildlifecarers.com/donation-gift-cards>

OP Shop Christmas gifts

Go second hand! Amazing treasures can be found at our local op shops, the perfect recycled gift helps reduce waste, supports a local charity and you get a bargain!

Reusable shopping bag

Did you know plastic can take up to 1,000 years to decompose? Reusable shopping bags make the perfect stocking filler. There are some really cute designs that can be folded and kept in handbags, so you always have one with you whenever you pop to the shop.

A Keep Cup or Water bottle

If you know someone that loves to have a hot drink on the go, then why not get them a KeepCup. Whether they take this to be filled at their local coffee shop or fill it up themselves before leaving home, it can be used over and over again to reduce waste. Alternatively, a stainless-steel bottle can not only be used to keep water cold for 24 hours and avoid the need to buy more plastic, they also keep hot drinks warm for 12 hours.

Gift vouchers

A gift can't go to waste when the recipient chooses it for themselves. Guarantee they get something they need or want – with zero waste this Christmas. You could also get the voucher for an eco-friendly brand.

Plants

Explanation not needed

An experience

Rather than creating any waste, this gift will create memories that last a lifetime

A digital subscription

A digital subscription is a great gift and creates zero waste.

Spotify Premium, alternatively, Netflix or Disney+. You could do this for a year and if they love it, then you could always renew it for their Christmas present the following year too.

Adopt an animal

This gift allows you to do a good deed and is something all animal lovers will absolutely adore. You can do this various ways – it could be adopting a wild animal through the WWF such as an elephant or you might sponsor a guide dog.



Council is currently looking at ways to upgrade the coastal protection structure (also known as the Jonson Street Protections Works) that runs along the foreshore between the Main Beach

Surf Lifesaving Club and the First Sun Holiday Park, and is next to Apex Park, playgrounds, the Memorial Pool and the beach car park. The structure is degraded and not to a contemporary or conventional coastal engineering standard. It also doesn't provide suitable public amenity and aesthetics, public safety and access.

<https://www.yoursaybyronshire.com.au/mbsp>



NSW Environmental Trust Strategic Plan 2020–24

The Trust's recent strategic review resulted in a new strategic plan for 2020-24. This outlines new immediate priorities of climate change, increasing national park estate and increasing and stabilising threatened species populations, as well as new longer-term priorities. <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/environmental-trust-strategic-plan-2020-24>

STORIES to inspire and give you hope

Nest boxes give bushfire-affected birds, marsupials a safe, low-toxic place to call home

ABC North Coast By Elloise Farrow-Smith

Sustainable timber is the key to construction of the nest boxes — no animal had to lose its home in order to make the nesting boxes.

Made from hoop pine grown in South-East Queensland, Mr Brook said no volatile organic compounds (VOCs) or glues were involved in the process.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-12-12/non-toxic-nest-boxes-give-homes-bushfire-affected-wildlife/12833618>

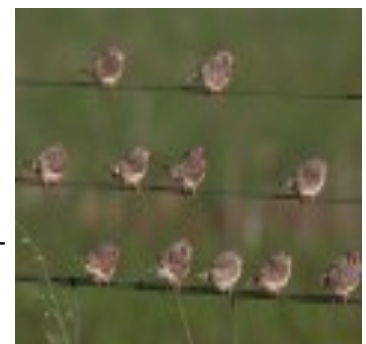


Zebra finches' ingenious 'vocal panting' cools them down and signals hot weather to embryos

ABC Central Victoria By Alice Walker and Beth Gibson

The team's latest study, published last month, found the heat call was not only designed to signal hot weather to embryos, it also helped keep the parent birds cool.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-12-04/zebra-finch-vocal-panting-in-hot-weather-helps-survival/12945962>



Great Barrier Reef heading for the biggest spawning event on the planet

ABC Science By environment reporter Nick Kilvert

Every year just after the full moon in late spring or early summer, the corals of the Great Barrier Reef release trillions of eggs and sperm into the water, usually over the course of about three or four nights.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2020-12-03/great-barrier-reef-coral-spawning-ready/12933880>

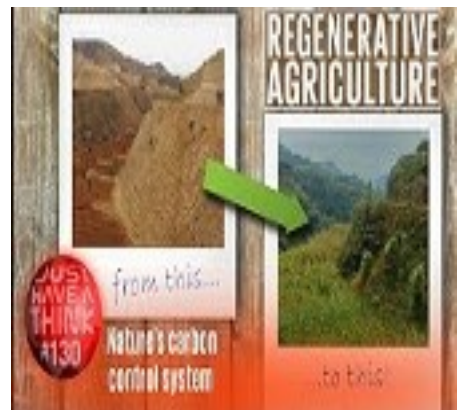


REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

Regenerative Agriculture - The fastest way to climate safety?
Brought to you by: justhaveathink.com

Renewable technologies are moving us towards a low carbon future, but sadly we've ignored scientists' warnings for so long that just reducing our carbon dioxide emissions will no longer be enough to prevent dangerous levels of planetary warming. The only way to do that is to draw CO₂ back out of the atmosphere, and a growing number of ecologists and land managers are turning to regenerative agriculture as the fastest way to achieve that goal.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZopUOb_7wA



Living soil

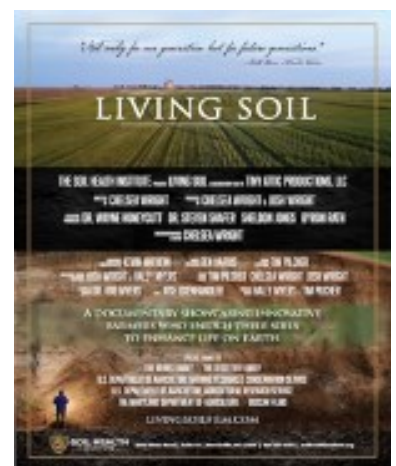
The world's soils are depleting from erosion, loss of fertility, and acidification from over-use of synthetic chemical additives.

Things need to change, as soils are not replenishing at anywhere near the rate of loss or decline.

The Living soil video is a short course on why productive, healthy soils are so important.

The short trailer is 1.2 minutes long, the full version just over an hour.

Settle back with a cuppa and watch both!



Love your soils!

Living Soil Trailer (1.5 min) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fd467Li6HUw>

Full video (1.0 Hr) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ntJouJhLM48>

The Living Soil: How Unseen Microbes Affect the Food We Eat
A billion bacteria can be present in a teaspoon of soil! This 3 minute video had great graphics demonstrating the role of microbes and bacteria in soil health.

By 2050, 2 Billion more people will inhabit the Earth. Healthy, productive soils will be vital to feeding the world's population.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-dhdUoK7s2s>



FIRE STUFF

HOTSPOTS FIRE PROJECT

MANAGING FIRE ON YOUR PROPERTY

The interaction between fire and weeds:

A booklet for NSW landholders (2017)

Maintaining the biodiversity of New South Wales through appropriately managing fire is a key aim of the Hotspots Fire Project. This publication is designed to further this aim by raising awareness of noxious and environmental weeds across the State and how fire might be used to manage these weeds and improve the health and viability of native vegetation. <http://hotspotsfireproject.org.au/>
<https://nrmregionsaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/fire-and-weeds-landholders-bookletfinalr.pdf>

Protecting Our Hollows

Look out for the presence of hollow-bearing trees and note the locations as points or areas on your fire management plan. Where possible, record the location of dead trees and those with large ground level fire scars or entry points as they are more susceptible to collapse from fire.

Where possible, rake back litter 1-2m (Smith et al, 2017) from around the base of at-risk trees and logs, this is an effective mechanical method for reducing the impact of fire.

Wetting down the base of as many at risk trees and logs as possible in preparation for a prescribed fire can offer short-term protection to hollow-bearing trees.

Girringun Aboriginal rangers conduct first women-only controlled burn to protect mahogany glider

ABC Far North By Sharnie Kim and Adam Stephen

Five female rangers from the Girringun Aboriginal Corporation in north Queensland conducted a cool burn at Cardwell last month to reduce fuel loads and help conserve the endangered mahogany glider.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-09-02/girringun-aboriginal-ranger-women-cool-burn-help-mahogany-glider/12612930>

Off-grid dream becomes reality as bushfire threat creates new era for power networks

7.30 Consumer Affairs Reporter Amy Bainbridge and the Specialist Reporting Team's Lucy Kent

Energy companies are increasingly looking to replace power lines with standalone solar systems

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-12-15/stand-alone-solar-systems-replacing-powerlines-after-bushfires/12905296>



LAND FOR WILDLIFE

NSW Feral Cat project update with Dr Guy Ballard

It has been 15 months since this \$30 million project began - find out what's happening.

With feral cats killing 1.4 billion native animals each year University of New England, NSW Department of Primary Industries and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service are working together across 9 sites in north-east, south-east and western NSW to find solutions.

Developing strategies for effective feral cat management began with an Environmental Trust Major projects grant of \$14,683,125 to the University of New England.



Heat stressed wildlife

Putting Water out for Wildlife can Help Save Lives

Provide containers of water around your yard, ideally in the shade. Keep the containers clean, refresh with cooler water frequently, change water daily.

Containers of different depths and heights placed under a tree for cover and protection from predators; with a stick or stone to act as a ramp for exhausted smaller animals if they fall in. Place containers around the perimeter of your property on the fence line to provide water for reptiles, this helps deter reptiles from approaching houses to access water.

If you have found an animal in distress, offer it water in a shallow dish and allow the animal to approach and lap itself. For koalas if they are too weak to approach a container themselves, syringe small amounts of water slowly into side of mouth using a 3ml syringe, with it's head in the normal position, not tipped back. **Do not ever force an animal to drink.**

Birds may pant by opening their beaks', hold their wings out and away from their body.

Heat stressed animals may appear confused and lethargic.

Flying-foxes, possums, gliders, koalas may come to the ground or low to the ground during daylight hours. **Kangaroos and wallabies** may be lying down and not move away quickly if startled. They may also be seen salivating. **NEVER APPROACH** a macropod that is lying down.

Severely impacted animals may suffer convulsions or lose consciousness.

Some animals may also suffer burns on their paws from hot roof and road surfaces. If you find an animal (not a flying-fox, a bat, a macropod, wombat or reptile) that is showing signs of heat stress but is conscious and appears uninjured, mist distressed animals with a light spray of water or place a sprinkler nearby **Keeping your cats and dogs indoors.**

If a flying-fox is on the ground or entangled in netting on very hot days you can provide shade and gently mist

Call 1300 094 737 immediately for help.



FUNDING

Australian Heritage Grants 2020-21

Between \$25,000 and \$400,000

Closes 7 January 2021

The program aims to improve recognition, conservation, preservation, community engagement and access to the heritage values of National Heritage Listed places.

<https://www.business.gov.au/grants-and-programs/australian-heritage-grants>

RAS Foundation VET Scholarships

Scholarships of up to \$6,000 for full-time study or up to \$3,000 for part-time study are available.

Closes 8 February 2021

VET (Vocational Education and Training) Scholarships are available to support individuals in NSW who demonstrate a passion for rural life and commitment for any career that will ensure the future success of rural and regional NSW.

There is no limit on the types of courses that qualify or the age of the applicant.

<http://www.rasnsw.com.au/foundation/scholarships/ras-foundation-vet-scholarships>

RASF Community Futures Grant

Up to \$25,000

Closes 1 March 2021

The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW Foundation (RASf) is offering an opportunity for community-minded people to be awarded up to \$25,000 in funding for drought and bushfire recovery community projects in their local area.

<http://www.rasnsw.com.au/foundation/scholarships/ras-foundation-vet-scholarships/>

Weed of the month

Rhizomatous bamboo (*Phyllostachys* species)

Rhizomatous bamboo is extremely invasive in a range of climates. It has been used as an ornamental plant in Australia, but easily escapes cultivation and spreads to form an impenetrable network of roots and heavy leaf litter. There are around 30 species of *Phyllostachys*, all of Asian origin.

How does it spread?

Rhizomatous bamboo spreads rapidly. It can produce erect shoots from the entire length of its rhizomes (underground stems), resulting in many loosely clumped shoots over large areas. It can be spread through rhizome fragments in dumped garden waste.

Treatment

Foliar spray

Glyphosate 360 g/L (Roundup®)

Rate: 200 mL per 10 L of water

Comments: Spot spray application.

Withholding period: Nil.

Herbicide group: M, Inhibitors of EPSP synthase

Resistance risk: Moderate

Cut and paint

Glyphosate 360 g/L (Roundup®)

Rate: 1 part per 1.5 parts of water

Comments: Cut stump application.

Withholding period: Nil.

Herbicide group: M, Inhibitors of EPSP synthase

Resistance risk: Moderate



Weed resource links:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Community-Service/North-Coast-Weeds-Action-Group-102121837869704/>

https://rous.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/default/page.asp?p=DOC-OBY-34-28-00

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 coordinators 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/envtrust.htm>
- Friends of the Koala www.friendsofthekoala.org
- 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 Support Officer, Alison Ratcliffe 6626 7028 (Mon, Tues, Wed) aratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au
Project Officer, Rochelle Merdith 6626 7201 rmerdith@byron.nsw.gov.au

This newsletter is supported by Byron Shire Council.

