




Newsletter for Landcare and Dunecare in the Byron Shire

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

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February 2015

- FEBRUARY** 18 Media Workshop for Landcarers (page 3)
- MARCH** 12 Sustainable Grazing Cattle Breed Workshop (page 4)
- 28 Mullum Music Festival Landcare planting (details in the March newsletter)
- A Social Evening—sharing Landcare Successes and the next 25 years (details in the March newsletter)

Helping Hands for Marshalls Creek

WetlandCare Australia and Campbell Page employment services are co-ordinating a Green Army works team to undertake much needed wetland restoration works across the Richmond and Brunswick River catchments. The team, funded by the Australian Government Department of Environment's Green Army Programme, and delivered by Nortec will be helping to rehabilitate local environments.

The Australian Government's Green Army programme provides opportunities for young Australians aged 17-24 years to gain training and experience in environmental and heritage conservation fields and explore careers in conservation management, while participating in projects that generate real benefits for the environment.



The local Green Army team of 9 young participants have recently been working at the Ocean Shores Country Club replanting parts of the golf course next to Marshalls Creek. The plants were purchased with a targeted grant from North Coast Local Land Services managed by Brunswick Valley Landcare. This grant has also enabled bush regenerators from Bushland Restoration Services to work in areas of native vegetation within the golf course. The team have been learning and working under close supervision of team leader Lorinda Wood, an experienced local bush regenerator. Lorinda said 'my team are great and we have really enjoyed our days working at the golf course'.

Shane Heaney, the course superintendant at the Ocean Shores Country Club said 'I was very impressed by the Green Armies enthusiasm for their work, and the quality of the finished product. Works carried out by Lorinda Wood and her team both helped to beautify the natural surrounds of our golf course and improve the stabilization of our riparian boundaries along Marshalls Creek.' (continued on page 6)



CAMPBELL PAGE



Local Land Services
North Coast

Ocean Shores
country club



Funding

Coles Junior Landcare Garden Grants

The Coles Junior Landcare Garden Grants program is offering 250 grants of up to \$1,000 to schools and youth groups to help create gardens in their grounds and communities.

Coles has sponsored the grants program since 2008, and has seen a broad range of projects come to fruition, including vegetable gardens, composting and worm farms, Indigenous bush tucker gardens and green walls.

These projects encourage students to learn about sustainability and caring for the environment in a hands-on manner. All primary schools, secondary schools, kindergartens, day care centres and youth groups are eligible to apply for a Coles Junior Landcare Garden grant.

Applications close on 27 March 2015

<http://www.juniorlandcare.com.au/news/archive/2015-coles-junior-landcare-garden-grants>



Foundation Grants

Are you planning a project that will help conserve Australia's native plants, animals or cultural heritage?

A grant from the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife can help you get your project off the ground.

The Foundation Grants program supports nature conservation projects in the field as well as environmental education programs and cultural heritage conservation. The Foundation supports projects that have a direct conservation outcome, protecting Australia's natural world.

While we appreciate the many ways in which individuals and organisations contribute to nature conservation in Australia and beyond, our funds are limited to non-controversial non-political on-ground projects only.

For more information visit the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife

Applications close on Friday 20 March 2015

<http://fnpw.org.au/foundation-grants>

If you would like any assistance with grant applications please feel free to contact **Alison Ratcliffe**, Landcare Community Support Officer, Brunswick Valley Landcare 02 6626 7028 (Tuesday & Wednesday)
alison.ratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au



Brunswick Valley Landcare invites you to a **FREE Workshop**

Media for Landcarers

Learn how to get your Landcare message out into the community

Trainer: Veda Dante

Date: 18th February 2015

Time: 10:00 am – 12.30 pm

Location: Conference Room Byron Shire Council Offices Station Street Mullumbimby

Bookings Essential: Please contact Alison Ratcliffe Phone 02 6626 7028 email:

alison.ratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au

Morning tea will be provided

This workshop will teach you:

The key ingredients for good media relations

- How to establish a newsworthy story angle
- Tips to writing an effective media release (headline, introduction and body copy)
- The importance of creating (and regularly updating) a media target list, and how to start one
- How deadlines work (and why it's always due yesterday)
- The value of quality photos and how to maximise their use

About Veda Dante

Based in the Byron Shire hinterland, Veda Dante is a media specialist with more than 25 years experience as a freelance photojournalist, copywriter, feature writer, magazine editor, publicist, and online content provider. Veda's work regularly appears in 10 NSW and Queensland regional papers including the Byron News and Northern Star, as well as specialist publications around the country.



Veda Dante

This project is supported by Brunswick Valley Landcare through funding from the Australian Government.



Brunswick Valley Landcare invites you to a **FREE**

Farm Tour Field Day



- Date:** Thursday 12th March 2015
Time: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Location: We will be catching a bus from Gordon Street Mullumbimby and visiting farms in Myocum.
Please wear: Covered Shoes, a hat and sun-safe clothes i.e. long sleeves and long pants.

For more information and bookings contact

Wendy Gibney ph 02 6684 1805 or 0409 813 330 email: wendy.gibney@byron.nsw.gov.au

Lunch and morning tea will be provided

Everyone is welcome to attend this free field day. We will be visiting seven local farms each with a different breed of cattle. You will have the opportunity to talk to the farmers about their breed of cattle and any other farm issues. We will also have lots of free brochures and information about a variety of topics including cattle health, weeds, soil and pest animal control.

This project is supported by Brunswick Valley Landcare through funding from the Australian Government.



FREE Wild Dog Information Workshop

Presenter: Neil Hing, Senior Biosecurity Officer, Local Land Services North Coast

Date: Thursday 26th February 2015

Time: 5.00 pm

Location: Alstonville RSL Sub Branch, Bugden Avenue, Alstonville

Refreshments Supplied

This workshop is co-sponsored by Tuckombil Landcare and Richmond Landcare with support from Local Land Services North Coast.

Neil has decades of experience with wild dog control. He will talk about the impact on wild life, livestock and domestic pets. Also about the potential danger to any of us walking our pet dog, enjoying a quiet bush walk or working on our farms.

The session will describe the various methods of wild dog control, the successes we have had locally and how we can all contribute to the control of a problem that has never been as severe as it is today on the Far North Coast of NSW.



FREE Weeds Mini-Forum

Date: Thursday 25th March 2015

Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Location: South Tweed Sports Club, 4 Minjungbal Drive, Tweed Heads South NSW 2486

Bookings essential: as places are limited RSVP to Kim Curtis FNCW Control Officer on 02 6623 3847 or kim.curtis@fncw.nsw.gov.au by **Wednesday 11th March**

Want to know what's happening in weeds management?

Come along to our mini-forum, which will feature a number of speakers from local weed management authorities, state agencies and research organisations in both NSW and Queensland.

Topics include:

- strategic policy and planning for biosecurity,
- current research projects, new tools and techniques
- high priority species and key on-ground projects in the region



International Year of Soils
Understanding Soil and Soil Test Results
with David Forrest and Graham Lancaster
Ground and Cover Crops for Soil Health
with David Forrest at Steve Paddon's Farm Cudgen

Date: Thursday 26th February 2015
Time & Location: 8.45 am Morning session at Kingscliff TAFE Cudgen Road, Kingscliff
12.30 pm Lunch and afternoon session at Steve Paddon's Farm, Cudgen
Bookings Essential: Sue Beckinsale Mobile: 0422 887 428 Email: suebeckinsale@gmail.com
TROPO Northern Branch Secretary

Don't miss this opportunity to hear Graham Lancaster discuss soil analysis reports and explain what those numbers mean for the health of your soil and plants. David Forrest will provide invaluable information about rectifying deficiencies and building strong healthy soils.

This project is supported by: Tweed Richmond Organic Producers Organisation, through funding from the Australian Government. We are fortunate to have been sponsored by SoilCare Inc and Richmond Landcare Inc with funding from the North Coast Local Land Services.



Sunday March 1st from 8am – 12pm

Meet at Brunswick Heads Fishermens Co-op, 1 Old Pacific Highway Brunswick Heads NSW 2483
Byron Bay Eco Cruises and Kayaks are again organizing a Brunswick River cleanup as part of Clean Up Australia Day. If you would be interested in joining in please contact Simon & Lorraine Freeden at Byron Bay Eco Cruises & Kayaks. Mobile: 0410 016 926 email: fun@byronbaycruises.com.au

Green Army continued

Community information sessions on the Green Army Programme will be held in each state and territory during February 2015. Attendees will have the opportunity to talk with representatives from the Australian Government Department of the Environment about the Programme. Those interested in becoming a project sponsor or participants are welcome to attend. Our closest session will be held on Monday 16th February from 9:00 am – 11:00 am in Brisbane at the Mercure, 85-87 North Quay, Brisbane Please register your attendance by sending an RSVP to: GreenArmy@environment.gov.au
For more information about Green Army <http://www.environment.gov.au/land/green-army>

Photo-monitoring App

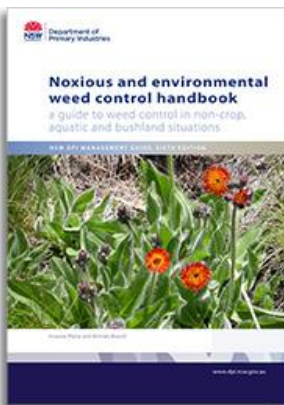


Photomon is a new smartphone application that has been designed to improve the quality of data collected by environmental photo-monitoring programs. The app has been developed by the [Northern Agricultural Catchments Council \(NACC\)](http://www.nacc.com.au) with funding from [Coastwest](http://www.coastwest.com.au).



One of the simplest and unambiguous ways to detect environmental change is by taking regular photos of exactly the same place over time. Photo-monitoring can be used to document change for a wide range of studies; from seasonal growth of algae in a rock pool to the effects of grazing on vegetation over a broad, sweeping landscape. For more information please visit <http://www.nacc.com.au/photo-monitoring>

Watch this space for a workshop in the near future on monitoring.



DPI Noxious and Environmental weed control handbook

The 6th edition of this handbook is now available on the DPI website. It has been compiled as a guide for noxious and environmental weed control in non-crop, aquatic and bushland situations.

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds/weeds/publications/noxious-enviro-weed-control>

Help record changes

Earthwatch, BoM and the University of Melbourne have developed a ClimateWatch app to better understand how temperature and rainfall changes affect the seasonal behaviour of Australia's plants and animals. Anyone can register to use the app, choose a species to watch and record its behaviour.

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



NRM on Farms is a monthly newsletter that summarises recent information about climate and natural resource management relevant to agriculture to keep farmers and agricultural and NRM advisors and researchers up to date. It is freely available to anyone interested or involved in agriculture or NRM.

To subscribe, email Rebecca Lines-Kelly at rebecca.lines-kelly@dpi.nsw.gov.au.



Biological Farming

The secret to better farming ...biological farmers work with nature, feeding the soil, balancing soil minerals, and tilling soils with a purpose. A safe and sustainable system designed to obtain optimum production. 'Gary Zimmer, farmer and author of 'The Biological Farmer'.

Wollongbar TAFE Biological Farming Courses are starting this week.

Visit the SoilCare website for more information <http://www.soilcare.org/>

To book please email info@soilcare.org or call Bonnie Walker on 0448 026 230.

Northern SEL Collaborator

The new year brings a change in staffing at the North Coast Local Land Services (NCLLS), with Melinda Cox moving from her position as Northern Socio Ecological Landscape Collaborator into an Investment Planning position with the Strategic Unit of the NCLLS. Replacing Melinda is Claire Hewitt, who has taken over as Senior Land Services Officer. We look forward to working with her in this new capacity.

Claire is based in Lismore, and will be organising the quarterly Northern socio-ecological landscape Landcare Network meetings and acting as the LLS contact for partnerships and collaboration. Should you wish to contact her, see the details below:

Claire Hewitt

Senior Land Services Officer , North Coast Local Land Services

Phone: (02) 6623 3924 | Fax: (02) 6621 2928

Address: 79 Conway Street (PO Box 16), Lismore, NSW 2480

claire.hewitt@lls.nsw.gov.au

New Tweed CSO

Jude Mason has taken over the role of Tweed Community Support Officer from Amalia who has gone on maternity leave. Jude can be contacted on:

phone: (02) 6670 2199 email: csotweed@tweed.nsw.gov.au

Landcare in the curriculum

Landcare Australia and the Primary Industries Education Foundation have produced learning materials linked with the primary school curriculum. Landcare in the Curriculum teaching and learning sequences include building a worm farm, making a frog pond, growing food, enhancing and restoring natural habitats, and making your own pesticides. <http://www.juniorlandcare.com.au/curriculumresources>



Grassy Pathways Project

The Northern Rivers Fire and Biodiversity Consortium (NRFABCON) is pleased to announce that it has recently received funding from the Office of Environment and Heritage to work with researchers, ecologists and indigenous partners on scoping a project to investigate linkages between historical cultural burning practices of grassy pathways/islands and the ecological requirements of grassy island specialist threatened species. Tara Patel from the NRFABCON said “This project will involve research, the use of fire and will have significant cultural as well as positive biodiversity outcomes for endangered species such as the Eastern Bristlebird and Hastings River Mouse”.

The NRFABCON is a network of land managers and other community, indigenous and industry stakeholders delivering a coordinated, landscape scale approach to appropriate fire management for the maintenance and improvement of biodiversity outcomes across the region. It was established as a key action of the *Northern Rivers Regional Biodiversity Management Plan* in regard to addressing the landscape scale threat of inappropriate fire regimes on the regions biodiversity (DECCW NSW 2010). The NRFABCON covers seven local government areas in northern NSW encompassing an area of approximately 21,000km², from the Queensland Border to just south of Woolli and inland to the Tablelands.

While many of the regions species and vegetation communities have developed ways of coping, adapting and thriving with fire, the inappropriate use or occurrence of fire has been identified as a major threat to the biodiversity of the region (DECCW 2010).

Inappropriate fire can be too frequent, too hot or not frequent enough and in the Northern Rivers inappropriate fire has been identified as contributing to the loss of some habitats and its associated species.

Tara said “Well planned and managed Ecological burns may also be useful to address weed infestation and promote the regeneration of native vegetation and improve the habitat for native animals including some threatened species”. For more information about this and other ecological fire management projects in the Northern Rivers go to www.nrfabcon.org.au.

For more information contact: Tara Patel, NRFABCON Coordinator
Phone: 0428270123 / 66323722 Email: tara@nlss.com.au



Ecological Burn at Drake
Photo taken by Tara Patel



Office of
Environment
& Heritage

Bountiful Bunya's



As a follow up to Rita's interesting post on BVL's Facebook page about our local Bunya trees, I thought I'd share with you some other interesting information about these bountiful trees.

The **Bunya Pine *Araucaria bidwillii*** (*Araucaria* = Araucanos named after a Chilean tribe where the Bunya's relative the Monkey Puzzle Pine was first identified by non-indigenous people, *bidwillii* named in honour of horticultural botanist John Carne Bidwill) are an amazing tree and were used extensively as bush tucker. Aboriginals used to bake the starchy seed (that have a potato, chestnut taste) to provide an important carbohydrate staple. The young seeds were eaten raw, tasting similar to coconut, but I don't fancy climbing the trees to collect the young nuts! The seeds were also ground into flour then made into damper to cook on

coals. Sometimes the seeds were buried in mud allowing a type of yeast or fungus to grow through the nuts. This may have been a *Rhysopus sp.* similar to the one used to make Tempeh from soybeans. Bunya's treated in this way acquired a very distinctive taste and smell.

Every three years bunya trees produce an enormous crop. Aboriginal people trekked great distances to the Bunya Mountains to meet and feast on the nuts, sometimes for up to three months! During this time they would perform ceremonies, songs and dances, exchange stories and barter goods. The last great bunya feast took place in 1876.



Most Australians are unaware of the immense value bunyas nuts have nutritionally. Bunya nuts are very high in protein ~11%, high in complex carbohydrates, and low in oil ~1%. One mature bunya tree can provide all the carbohydrate needs for a family of six for one entire year. Each tree can produce 1500kg of seed each season. When the 10kg football sized cones are ripe they plummet to the

ground at speeds of up to 177km/h causing considerable damage to anything underneath! Each cone can hold up to 150 nuts. **Warning:** If the nuts are not split or pierced before they are roasted they will explode!

The family Araucariaceae are a relic from Gondwana times. Although not native to this area, many were planted in parks and by farmers which means we have many beautiful mature specimens in the local area. The nuts can be stored in the fridge which sweetens their taste and they can also be frozen. The 'white-fella' way to enjoy them is to boil them in salted water or bake them in the oven for an hour – just remember to piece them before hand! More information on how to break up the cones and actually get to the nuts can be found at <http://www.happyearth.com.au/home/2012/2/13/bunya-nuts-enjoying-this-wonderful-bushtucker.html>

Why not make use of this bountiful bush food?

Information taken from 'Wild Sense, on the Tukka Trail: A Field Guide to the Edible, Medicinal and Useful Plants of Australia' by Johnnie McCarthy and Alison Ratcliffe. Photos by Alison Ratcliffe



West Byron STP powers up on renewable energy

The West Byron Sewage Treatment Plant has stepped up its environmental credentials by installing a 50kW solar system.

The new solar panels went 'live' this week at the Byron Shire Council facility.

"Already an environmentally awarded STP and wetlands, the addition of solar power has just raised the bar again," Mayor Simon Richardson said.

The roof mounted system is split over four buildings and maximises all available roof space.

Council's sustainability officer, Kim Mallee, said the system will meet approximately 20% of the daylight energy demands and whilst the energy supply is modest the reduction in peak demand charges are anticipated to be significant.

The projected 83 MWh of energy to be generated per annum from the system equates to 71.4 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions saved per year.

This represents approximately 60% of Council's annual emissions reduction (123 tonnes) needed for this financial year to progress towards Council's 30% reduction target by 2020.

"It's a good start on reaching our emissions target and Council is committed to renewable energy sources on community buildings," Mayor Richardson said.

The system has a payback period of less than 8 years and will save approximately \$324,000 over the life of the system based on current energy price projections.

Other Byron Shire Council facilities includes 5kW at Brunswick Valley Community Centre and 10kW at Myocum Landfill.

Find out more about the West Byron STP at www.byron.nsw.gov.au/sewerage-upgrades.



Mayor Simon Richardson, Kim Mallee (BSC Sustainability Officer) and Bryan Green (BSC Co-ordinator Recycling and Environmental Systems)

Feral Animals

Byron Shire Council and Koala Connections will soon re-commence control and trapping programs for feral animals, primarily dogs and foxes. If you have problems from feral animals and would like more information or to register to be part of the program please Jo Green, Koala Connections Project Officer at joanne.green@byron.nsw.gov.au

SYMPOSIUM: Weed Management for Conservation

18th NSW Weeds Conference, Cooma – 12th to 15th October 2015
Weeds - The Future, Innovation & Adaptation

Call for abstracts!

This symposium, sponsored by NSW National Parks and Wildlife (NPWS) will highlight new, innovative and successful methods to manage weeds for biodiversity and conservation outcomes. It will consist of nine sessions on day one of the 18th NSW Weeds Conference.

The conference is calling for contributions from land managers, community groups, researchers and others involved in weed management that highlight new, innovative and successful methods to manage weeds for biodiversity and conservation outcomes.

Abstracts are due by **27th February 2015** and should be submitted through the conference website <http://www.weedscooma.com.au>

For more information on this symposium, please contact Hillary Cherry on 02-9585-6587
hillary.cherry@environment.nsw.gov.au



Local Land
Services
North Coast



Casino beef producers field day

Date: Friday 27th February 2015
Time: 8:45am for a 9:00am start – 2:30pm (Morning Tea & Lunch provided)
Location: 165 Ranns Road, Greenridge NSW (Grant Sheddons Property)
Cost: **FREE**
RSVP: by Thursday 26th February to
Nathan Jennings, Senior Land Services Officer - Livestock North Coast LLS
6623 3926, 0457 989 946, nathan.jennings@lls.nsw.gov.au
Or Bruce Lyle, Norco Field Services, Norco Rural Casino, 0419 984 544

Outline of the day:

- *Beef Production & Profitability on the North Coast.... How can we improve?*
- *Pestivirus on the North Coast*
- *Pestigard vaccination for control of Pestivirus- what program for the North Coast?*
- *Poll Gene test, an option to increase the number of polled cattle in your herd; What's involved? What's it cost? And How to do it?*
- *Future for Veal on the Northern Rivers*
- *Giant Parramatta Grass and Giant Rats tail Grass control*
- *Low cost Rye grass, Oats and Companions for winter*



Landcare NSW Membership – free to join

To help ensure that, Landcare NSW represents all landcare groups across the state, it needs to increase its membership base.

To join go to <https://adobeformscentral.com/?f=KRPS97iS8vCVgKo86z9vHw#>

Landcare NSW Resources

Landcare NSW has produced a number of resources, funded by the State Government Landcare Support Program:

- [Introduction to Landcare](#)
- [Factsheets for Landcare Groups](#)
- [Landcare Policy Templates](#)
- [Insurance](#)
- [Sharing Our Successes](#)
- [External Sourced Resources](#)



New NSW Native Vegetation Codes

The NSW Government is reforming native vegetation management in NSW. Three new self-assessable codes have been released.

The three codes cover low-risk clearing activities for:

1. [Clearing of paddock trees in a cultivation area, PDF 81KB](#)
2. [Thinning of native vegetation, PDF 102KB](#)
3. [Clearing of invasive native species, PDF 202KB.](#)

Landholders can get help with the codes from their Local Land Services: <http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/>

NSW Government submissions on proposals

Public comment is sought on the proposed directions, socio-economic considerations and community involvement in creating new National Parks and Reserves in NSW.

<https://engage.environment.nsw.gov.au/establishing-national-parks>

Coopers Creek Water Sharing Plan is open for comment.

<http://www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/consultations/coopers-creek-water-sharing-plan/?date=2015-01-19>

Adding your group to the NSW Landcare Gateway Website

If your Landcare group isn't on the gateway yet, you are still welcome to join at any time. If you'd like to know more there is a page of helpful hints <http://www.landcare.nsw.gov.au/>

If you need any help registering or logging onto the gateway please contact:

John Perrott john.perrott@dpi.nsw.gov.au

LINKS

- Arakwal <http://arakwal.com.au/>
- Border Rangers Alliance <http://www.greasternranges.org.au/border-ranges/overview/overview>
- 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>
- Ewingsdale Locality Group (BVL) <http://ewingsdale.org.au/#/landcare/4532495308>
- Far North Coast Weeds <http://fncw.nsw.gov.au/>
- Friends of the Koala www.friendsofthekoala.org
- Green and Clean Awareness Team www.greenclean.org.au
- North Coast Local Land Services <http://northcoast.lls.nsw.gov.au/>
- Northern Landcare Support Services <http://www.nlss.com.au/>
- Mullumbimby Community Gardens <http://mullumcommunitygarden.wordpress.com/>
- North Coast nature <http://www.northcoastnature.org.au/>
- Richmond Landcare Inc. <http://www.richmondlandcare.org/>
- Soilcare <http://www.soilcare.org>
- Suffolk Park Locality Group (BVL) www.landcare.nsw.gov.au/groups/suffolk-park-dunecare-group
- Tweed Landcare Inc. <http://www.tweedlandcare.org.au/>
- Wilson's Creek Huonbrook Landcare <http://wilsonscreeklandcare.mullum.com.au/>
- Wetlandcare Australia <http://www.wetlandcare.com.au/index.php>

For information about Landcare or other natural resource issues in
Byron shire please contact
Landcare Community Support Officer
Alison Ratcliffe 66267028 (Tuesday and Wednesday)
email: alison.ratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au



This newsletter is funded by North Coast Local Land Services and supported by Byron Shire Council.



Local Land
Services

