



Newsletter for Landcare and Dunecare in Byron Shire

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

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FEBRUARY 16 Weed Identification workshop
MARCH 2 Land for Wildlife field day
4 Brunswick River Clean Up

February 2018

Clean Up Working Bee at New Brighton by Alison Ratcliffe



A very productive day was had on Monday 5th February clearing rubbish and garden waste which had been dumped in the dunes along The Esplanade at New Brighton. The fence line was also trimmed so that hopefully the fence can be fixed in the near future. Now the area is clear the Dunecare group will carry out weeding and planting to help stabilise the dunes. A great effort by 12 local volunteers beautifully supported by Byron Shire Council (particularly Todd, David, Kate and Chloe) and myself on behalf of Brunswick Valley Landcare. This photo shows only 1 of the 4 piles removed!



DUMPING GARDEN WASTE



What is Garden Waste?

Garden waste is any material from your garden including:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| • Cuttings or prunings | • Leaves |
| • Lawn clippings | • Branches |
| • Weeds | • Palm fronds |
| • Other unwanted plant materials | |



Why is garden waste a problem?

- Many garden plants become bushland weeds.
- Weeds compete with local native plants.
- It can contain undesirable seeds and cuttings that can take over bushland.
- This affects native animals who rely on native plants for food and/or shelter.
- It can introduce disease and other pests into bushland.
- Dry vegetation such as palm fronds, grass clippings and dead branches add to the fuel load and increase fire risk.
- It looks unsightly and can even affect land values.



Many people live in Byron Shire because they enjoy the natural beauty of the region. Dumping garden waste in natural areas degrades this natural beauty. Would you prefer to see this, on the left a pristine creek, or this, to the right a creek choked with weeds?



What YOU can do.....

- ✓ Compost your garden waste
- ✓ Use leaf litter, lawn clippings and compost to mulch your garden
- ✓ Take advantage of your green organics bin to dispose of your waste
- ✓ Take your large garden waste to the tip
- ✓ Use a commercial green waste removal service
- ✓ Grow low maintenance native plants in your garden

DON'T THROW GARDEN WASTE OVER YOUR BACK FENCE OR INTO BUSHLAND

Legalities of dumping garden waste

Discarding green waste on public lands is illegal and penalties apply under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*.

For more information on Landcare or weeds please contact **Alison Ratcliffe**, Landcare Support Officer, on **6626 7028** alison.ratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au



Free Workshop

Weed Identification

This practical, in the field workshop with a qualified local Bush Regenerator, will help you to identify environmental and garden weeds. Resources will also be provided to help identify and control weeds. We will talk about the threats weeds pose to native flora and fauna and what you can do to help.



Friday 16th February 2018 9.30 am – 12.00 pm
Mullumbimby

A light morning tea will be provided

Bring along any weed samples you would like identified and a plastic bag to take home plant samples.

Bookings are essential : please contact Alison Ratcliffe 6626 7028
alison.ratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au

This event is support by the Community Capacity Support program which is supported by North Coast Local Land Services, through funding from the National Landcare Programme and from the NSW Government's Catchment Action NSW.



Local Land Services



Our Koalas Need Koala Watchers

Friends of the Koala is calling for Byron Shire locals to become Koala Watchers, and will be holding a free workshop on **Saturday 10th March 9.30am-12.30pm** at the Broken Head Hall, Broken Head Road, Broken Head. Susannah Keogh, Koala Care Coordinator, who will be delivering the workshop said “early reporting koalas in need of care can improve chances of successful treatment, rehabilitation, and release back into their natural habitat”. The workshop will provide information on:

- becoming a koala watcher
- recognising the signs of healthy, sick, injured and distressed koalas
- situations where koalas may need koala watchers
- what you can do to help support a healthy koala population in your local community



Photo by Susan Weidemann

Refreshments provided. Koala Watch is a NSW Environmental Trust Project. If you would like more information or to register for the workshop contact Maria Matthes, Koala Watch Project Officer, on 0467 855 990 or maria@healinghistory.com.au or Friends of the Koala on 6621 4664.

BBB Program Update for February 2018

Friday 9th – 6.30pm – BBB Survey – Private Property on Left Bank Road – by request only

Wednesday 14th - 08.00 – 13.00 (end time can be variable) - BBB & BVBW - Monitoring – Seapeace - Private Property at Ewingsdale

Meet at the end of Balraith Lane, Ewingsdale. Wait at entrance gate just past the Steiner School for instructions before proceeding onto property please.

Saturday 17th – 8am – BBB - Exploring Byron Shire Bird Trails – Discover & learn about our birds.

Brunswick Heads Sportsfield – Simpsons Creek

Birds of Byron Shire Birding Brochure **Site No 11**

Meet - in car park at the sportsfield.

Access – south of Brunswick Heads turn east off Tweed Street at the sportsfield and skateboard park after/before the Bowling club. Carpark is on the left.

For full program and more information download the PDF from our Facebook page or BBB website www.byronbirdbuddies.com.au

What To Bring - Always wear covered shoes and bring water, hat, sunscreen and insect repellent.

Except for presentation days, always bring something to eat for morning or afternoon tea and lunch if it's over the lunch period. For presentation days bring a plate to share for morning or afternoon tea

Contact - for all BBB & BVBW Activities - Jan -02 66803279 or Mobile 0428864378
byronbirdbuddy@gmail.com

Note: For surveys, experience is not necessary. Beginners are welcomed at all outings which will provide an opportunity to learn about our birds and their habitat.



Chestnut-breasted Mannikin - Bruce McNaughton



Brunswick River Clean Up for Clean Up Australia Day

Join us to help clean up, fix up and conserve the environment...because when the rubbish is gone, nature can carry on.

March 4th 2018 8:30 - 10:30 AM

Site Address : Brunswick Heads Bat Harbour
1 Old Pacific Highway, Brunswick Heads,
NSW 2483

Meeting at the Brunswick Heads Boat Harbour at the wharf

Site Coordinator Details: Lorraine Freeden
email: fun@byronbaycruises.com.au

<https://www.cleanupaaustraliaday.org.au/Brunswick+River+Cleanup>



Come along and.....

Plant a Tree

at the

Bush Tucker Living Classroom

Sunday 18th February
9am-12pm

It's time to plant the next generation of bush tucker trees!
And to do some tender loving hand weeding and mulching!
Bring a smile, some gloves, a hat digging tools if you have them and some water to drink.

To access the Bush Tucker Living Classroom, park and walk behind the Federal Community Children's Centre.

We acknowledge the Widjabul Wiyabul tribe, in full garamah (respect) the traditional custodians of the land, elders past and present and the youth of the future

Aboriginal Cultural Landscapes of Wollumbin/Mt Warning and surrounding area

A FREE Training Field Day

Saturday 17 February
9.30am to midday

Speakers from Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council:

Des Williams, Chairperson

Maurice Gannon, Conservation Planning Officer

Warren Phillips, Cultural Heritage Sites Officer

- **Visit private land adjoining Wollumbin National Park**
- **Learn about Aboriginal cultural heritage**
- **Join a guided walk in the rainforest with bush regenerator, Hamish Cobbett**
- **See results of bush regeneration projects restoring wildlife corridor connectivity**

Morning tea provided. Numbers are limited.

Register at <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=347318>



This project has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust and North Coast Local Land Services.



The January issue of Village Eco News is now available. Bangalow Land and Rivercare have been going for 20 years and have made an amazing difference to the riverbank in and around town. Thanks you everyone for your hard work!

<http://brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Village-Eco-News-Issue-18-Feb-2018.pdf>

Brunswick Valley Landcare office days

Don't forget that Alison will be working Monday, Thursday and Friday this year.

Biodiversity and Conservation Strategy open for comment

The draft strategy "*Australia's Strategy for Nature 2018-2030: Australia's biodiversity conservation strategy and action inventory*", is available online and open for public comment until **16 March 2018**. Unlike the current strategy there are no references to Landcare in this long term national plan. You can provide your feedback via an online survey and you can also provide a written submission.

<https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/conservation/strategy/draft-revision>

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Legislation open for comment

The consultation period has been extended for a new legal framework for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW. To find out more about the draft legislation and a series of workshops being held across the state in 2018. <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/aboriginal-cultural-heritage/legislation/draft-aboriginal-cultural-heritage-legislation-2017-consultation>

No more Single-use plastic bags for free

As you know, from July 1 this year, the big supermarkets will not provide single-use plastic bags for free.

The North East Waste group and it's seven member Council's, including BSC, have put together the below community and businesses surveys.

The purpose of these surveys are to determine the community's current use of single use plastic bags and what barriers exist that make it difficult or challenging to use reusable bags.

The outcomes of the survey will be used to design a regional program to assist and support the community to reduce their use of plastic bags in preparation of the removal of plastic bags from large chain supermarkets.

All survey respondents will go in the draw to win a Live with Less Plastic Pack which includes Reusable bags, reuse containers, a Keep Cup and various other environmental goodies.

Are you a community member? Please fill out the community survey:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/plastic_bag_survey

Are you a business? Please fill out the business survey:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/business_plastic_bag



STORIES to inspire and give you hope

Wild Wellbeing by Intrepid Landcare



Have you ever considered that being involved in Landcare and conservation work, giving something back to others, your community and the earth could also be good for *you*?

We know being immersed in nature gives us good vibes and many of our volunteers repeatedly report back on how good they feel after a weekend with Intrepid Landcare. And research heavily supports the notion that connection to the environment and healthy ecosystems makes a significant contribution to our wellbeing.

But with an increasingly hectic world around us, we thought we'd take it up a notch and bring in some expertise to help others develop a diversity of practices for improved health and wellbeing, showing that Landcare can also be an integral part of the mix.

WILD WELLBEING : RETHINKING THE WAY WE CONNECT WITH NATURE, OURSELVES, AND LANDCARE

It's an exciting time to be Gen Y. There are more opportunities than ever before; we have global reach and communication technologies which, not that long ago, were only part of our dreams. We have information and knowledge at our fingertips and a diversity of career and lifestyle choices which, on a good day, make anything seem possible.

But being a tech-savvy generation living in a high-paced, exciting world can come with a price. Gen Y is also one of the generations suffering from high levels of social isolation, stress and mental health issues. Millennials have been called the 'anxious generation' for whom fleeting – or constant - moments of despair, panic or paranoia have become normal.

The suicide rate for young women is the highest it's been for 20-years, a new study has found. According to Beyond Blue, around one in five Australian women will experience depression and one in three women will experience anxiety during their lifetime. And then there's loneliness, which is experienced by 60% of young Australians, according to a new study.

But the good news is, there are ways to protect yourself. We don't have to accept stress, busyness and exhaustion as unavoidable side-effects of being born into this century. There is growing awareness of the benefits of taking time to invest in yourself, slow down, reconnect and check in on your wellbeing.

The happiest people in our generation don't just wake up like that. They consciously create a self-care kit of tools and rituals that enable them to find peace and contentment, even in the craziest life circumstances. Which is exactly why we are launching our *Wild Wellbeing Workshop* in 2018 - a very special Landcare Workshop in collaboration with Amy Molloy, editor of *Collective Hub* and author of the Hay House book, *The World is a Nice Place; how to overcome adversity, joyfully*.

Nature has been shown as an antidote to many mental health issues. And, anyone who has attended an Intrepid Landcare Project knows there's nothing as mood-boosting as the blend of fresh air, team work and the knowledge you're giving back to the planet. But, we want to take Landcare to an even deeper level.

By combining conservation work with honest conversations, self-exploration and self-care techniques, we hope our volunteers appreciate the importance of giving back to the earth - whilst also nurturing their inner world.

The workshop will be held at Govinda Valley Retreat on Sunday the 11th of March, 2018.

Interested participants can get the full lowdown about the event here, and book a spot on the workshop here. Access our web blog here.

Saving Threatened Species with Human Burials

Completing the circle of life in death by Matthew Holden (University of Queensland)

All of us will die – now imagine how beautiful it would be if our friends could visit our grave, hear the song of a critically endangered bird, and know that in death, we saved this bird from going extinct? I'm talking about a conservation burial in which burial fees are used to fund the acquisition and management of land for conservation.

It works like this: Instead of spending vast amounts of money on fancy coffins and tombstones we instead put these resources towards the purchase and restoration of habitat. Within this habitat, the burial process employs natural principles – that is, your corporeal remains decompose in the ground alongside only biodegradable materials (bypassing the embalming process).

But conservation burials go a step further than natural burials. Natural burials are about avoiding environmental damage caused by conventional burial and cremation. Conservation burials not only eliminate this damage but improve the environment.

How much life might we save going down this deathly route? Quite a lot. We recently demonstrated that the nearly four billion dollars per year spent on coffins and embalming, in the USA alone, could be enough to save every threatened species on the planet (listed by the IUCN) from going extinct (Holden & McDonald-Madden 2017).

Examples of conservation burials exist in the USA, UK and Canada, where bodies are buried within the nature reserves they protect. And, if managed appropriately, human remains in a national park can add an additional sacred value to the land that people may be less inclined to violate.

However, guarding the environment in death isn't the only way to do conservation burials. Perhaps, we could achieve better conservation outcomes if burials not only funded the protection of ecosystems above human remains, but also in distant areas of high biodiversity. A small commemorative natural burial ground in or near a city could be used to create urban greenspace for the community – and then leftover money could fund other conservation projects. At the entrance of the city's burial ground we could erect a commemorative monument listing all of the conservation projects each individual funded in their death.

The Earth Funerals project in Armidale, Australia, aims to take a similar approach. This new project will use burial fees and donated farm land to build and restore a wildlife corridor. This corridor will extend well beyond the area allocated to human remains.

The conservation burial industry is in its infancy, and at this time mostly unregulated. Establishing appropriate governance and regulation around the burial business will be key to ensuring well intentioned participants will be prepared to invest.

A conservation burial is a no brainer. Who doesn't want to return to the bushland when their time comes? Who wouldn't prefer their corpse provide a lasting legacy to the protection of endangered wildlife (as opposed to having formaldehyde shot through their dead body)? So, if you want to contribute to nature in death – start now by planning your own conservation burial.

More info: Matthew Holden m.holden1@uq.edu.au

<http://decision-point.com.au/article/saving-threatened-species-with-human-burials/>



Conservation burial cemetery in the United States, White Eagle Memorial Preserve. (Photo by Jodie Buller)

Land for Wildlife

Platypus by Backyard Buddies



The Platypus is brown in colour and quite small. An adult Platypus can be from 45 cm up to 60 cm in length and can weigh up to 2.7 kg.

Male Platypuses have a poisonous spur on the inside of their hind legs. The spur

contains a poison that the Platypus uses to defend his territory from other males and enemies.

Platypuses dig two burrows; a nesting and a resting burrow. Burrows can be up to 20 m long. Burrows can be hard to find as the entrances are often underwater or covered by overhanging stream bank vegetation.

Platypuses eat yabbies, fish, worms, water bugs and sometimes small frogs that live in the creeks and streams. Occasionally Platypuses eat insects that fall into the water. They feed early in the morning or late in the afternoon, foraging in the creek-bed for their food.

Platypuses are intriguing animals. They might live right under your nose in a creek or stream near you. If you sit quietly on a creek bank early in the morning or late afternoon you might just see one.

The Platypus is also known as the duck billed Platypus or *Ornithorhynchus anatinus*. This name comes from the Greek words *platys* meaning 'broad' and *pous* meaning 'foot'.

Platypuses are one of two animals in the world that are known as monotremes. The other is the echidna. Monotremes are mammals that lay eggs.

You can help look after Platypuses

- Platypuses are shy creatures and this is how you can protect them in your very own neighbourhood:
- Don't use yabby traps to catch yabbies in freshwater streams.
- Don't disturb Platypuses if you see them.
- Plant native plants along the stream bank, it will protect the banks and provide areas to live.
- Clean up streams by removing broken bottles and rubbish.
- Keep your dogs on a leash if walking them near Platypus habitat.
- Simple things that you do can make a huge difference to Australia's animals. That's why the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife is running Backyard Buddies — to give you tips to help.

Platypus love:

- Slow flowing water — such as in a series of pools and riffles. A bit of depth — including pools up to 1 to 2m deep, but no deeper than 5 m, with little sand accumulation.
- Vegetation — such as plenty of water plants and plants overhanging the stream banks.
- Cleanliness — in the form of good water quality.
- Somewhere to hide — such as around large woody debris like logs.

But they don't like:

- Predators — including foxes, cats and dogs.
- Poor habitats — where stream banks have been eroded and degraded, particularly by live stock.
- Pollution — including detergents, fertilizers, pesticides and rubbish in their water.

Photo: Matt Chan <http://www.backyardbuddies.org.au/fact-sheets/platypus?A=SearchResult&SearchID=2733235&ObjectID=6416736&ObjectType=35>

Rethinking our fencing focus – small streams crucially important

by Rivers of Carbon

Carbon

New Zealand scientists are calling for a change to the current waterway fencing requirements that only require streams wider than 1 metre and deeper than 30cm to be fenced to exclude stock.

Research by Dr Richard McDowell published in the International Journal of Environmental Quality has found that smaller, exempt streams actually account for the majority (77%) of the contamination load in a catchment. His research questions the current guidelines as not requiring smaller streams to be fenced may be undermining efforts to stop declining water quality.



Bryce Johnson, chief of New Zealand *Fish and Game* says protecting small streams needs to be an urgent priority: *“These smaller streams are vital to the environment – they flow into the bigger streams and rivers, and Dr McDowell’s research shows that by the time they join up with bigger streams, much of the pollution has already occurred. These smaller waterways are the capillaries of our lakes and rivers and provide essential habitat and breeding areas for a range of species.”*

Johnson says urgent, decisive action on the issue makes economic sense: *“New Zealand’s wealth relies heavily on clean fresh water. The country’s two biggest income earners – tourism and agriculture – cannot survive without it. This latest research shows that urgent action is required to protect New Zealand’s internationally unique point of difference and fencing all streams will play a significant role in preserving that heritage.”*

It is important that we share this research as we know that focusing all our efforts on our big rivers is not the best way to protect and restore water quality. It is the myriad of streams, creeks, wetlands and billabongs that feed into our larger rivers that need to be taken care of. These are the parts of the landscape [Rivers of Carbon focus on and you can find out more about our projects here.](#)

McDowell’s research paper is available [here](#). <http://riversofcarbon.org.au/research/rethinking-fencing-focus-small-streams-crucially-important/>

Bigger and better 'Blinky Drinkers'

by Saving our Species

Here’s some water cooler gossip that even a lone koala won’t resist!

Six new improved 'Blinky Drinkers' were set up in December to give Gunnedah’s threatened koalas a hand with hydration. The latest 'Blinky Drinkers', named after the popular koala character 'Blinky Bill', have been funded by Saving our Species through a collaboration with University of Sydney, local landholders and a landcare group.

The koala is one of six **iconic threatened species** under the NSW *Saving our Species* (SoS) program. The Southern Corroboree Frog, the Malleefowl, the Wollemi Pine, Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby and the Plains Wanderer are also recognised as iconic.

The new koala water stations are each capable of holding up to 200 litres and include infra-red night vision cameras.

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/news/bigger-and-better-blinky-drinkers-to-quench-koalas-thirst-this-summer>



FUNDING

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

You can find more information on available grants on the Brunswick Valley Landcare website including a calendar of all grants expected to be available during 2018. There are also some handy tips on how to be successful with grant applications. Below is a summary of grants which are currently accepting applications and ones that are anticipated to open within the next month.

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

Restoration and Rehabilitation grants - now open for applications

The NSW Environmental Trust is now inviting applications to the 2018 round of its Restoration and Rehabilitation Grants Program.

A total of \$4 million is available to the following organisations for projects that assist in the ongoing sustainable management and stewardship of significant environmental assets and services in NSW:



- \$2 million for projects by community organisations
- \$2 million for projects by government entities

Grants of between \$5,000 and \$100,000 are available. Applications close **3pm Monday 26 March 2018**. Guidelines, application forms and a range of resources are available on the [Trust's website](#).

Public Reserves Management Fund Program

The NSW Government will make \$17 million available in funding and loans to crown reserve managers for repair and maintenance projects, pest and weed control, new recreational infrastructure or environmental initiatives. Read more [about the program](#) below. **Closing date 5pm, Friday 9 March 2018**.

Who can apply: Managers of any NSW Crown reserve, as well as freehold showgrounds, may be eligible to apply for funding. Third-party organisations can also apply for funding, but must obtain a letter of authority from the reserve manager supporting their application.

How to apply: Applications must be submitted online through the [Crown Reserves Reporting System](#) (CRRS).

The objectives of the PRMFP are to:

- maintain and develop recreational and tourism facilities on public reserves for community use and enjoyment
- facilitate improved management of community facilities on public reserves, including community halls, showgrounds and parks
- manage and renovate infrastructure and other assets on public reserves to optimise value to the community and comply with regulatory obligations, in particular to ensure public safety and work health and safety is maintained on Crown reserves
- enhance environmental assets by supporting conservation initiatives, bushfire management and weed and pest control on public reserves
- support business opportunities that realise the potential of the Crown land estate, support regional economies and promote greater financial sustainability
- support the important role that volunteers play in the ongoing management of the Crown reserve system
- ensure the PRMFP is self-sustaining and managed in a contemporary and efficient manner, with appropriate planning and administrative processes. The PRMFP application, assessment, payments and reporting processes are described in detail on the following page.

There is no set limit for a funding application. In previous rounds, the funding requests have ranged from \$500 to \$2 million. Each application (regardless of the amount requested) is assessed against eligibility and the assessable criteria, which is detailed in the Information guide.

Environment small grants

The Government is providing \$5 million in small grants to community, landcare, environment and other natural resource management groups to deliver natural resource management activities that improve the quality of the local environment. The small grants will be allocated through a one-off grant round in the 2017-18 financial year. This website will continue to be updated as more information becomes available.

<http://www.nrm.gov.au/national-landcare-program>

Potter Foundation Funds

Expressions of interest for funding from the Ian Potter Foundation are now open. This round will consider applications for international learning and development, conferences and travel. Next round opens on the 26th March More? <http://www.ianpotter.org.au/funding-rounds/>



Fisheries Research and Development Corporation

The Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) is calling for Expressions of Interest that address research, development & extension priorities nominated by the FRDC's Advisory Groups: Research Advisory Committees, Industry Partnership Agreements and FRDC Subprograms.



Applications must be finalised by the 15th of February 2018. Find out more [here](#).

Wettenhal Environment Trust Small Grants Scheme

The Small Environmental Grant Scheme provides support for people undertaking projects that will make a positive difference to the natural living environment, in land, sea or air, rural or urban.



There are only opening dates, no closing dates - they close the round when satisfied that there are a suitable number and spread of applications. So it's best to get in as soon as you can when the round opens.

20th March 2018 (funding in May 2018)

19th June 2018 (funding in August 2018)

18th September (funding in November 2018)

11th December 2018 (Funding in February 2019) [Find out more or apply here.](#)

Womens Environmental Leadership Australia

The leadership program for women environmentalists

Women's Environmental Leadership Australia is a program designed by and for women environmentalists. WELA is collaborative and experiential with a focus on:



- Addressing barriers to women's leadership – including personal limiting beliefs, organisational and movement dynamics, and broader societal forces
- Developing skills and capacity to undertake personal change, organisational and movement change, and social change
- Building a supportive community of women in the environment movement

... so that women can exercise even more powerful leadership for the environment. For more information visit the [website](#). To apply complete this [online application form](#) by Wed 21 February. If you have any queries email welaprogram@gmail.com.

Weed of the Month

This month's weed of the month is Morning Glory *Ipomoea indica*. A perennial vine that climbs by twining is originally from Tropical America.

Leaves are variable in shape, sometimes divided into three lobes, sometimes heart shaped, 4-17 cm long, 3-15 cm wide. The leaf surfaces are hairy.

Flowers in clusters of two to many, crowded on the ends of the stems. They are bell-shaped, and violet-blue with paler markings and darker throat. It flowers mainly in spring-autumn.

The fruit is a slightly flattened round capsule about 10 mm in diameter. It rarely sets seed in Australia.

It impacts by smothering native vegetation and loves moist areas, rainforest edges and disturbed areas. It is very fast-growing, quickly producing dense smothering blankets of foliage that can reach into the canopy. It quickly becomes the dominant vine wherever it occurs.

It reproduces and disperses by rooting from stem fragments which are commonly spread by machinery.

It's paler cousin, Coastal Morning Glory is found more on the coast while this one is found inland.

For more information and other weed info please visit <http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/weed-profiles>



Tropical Soda Apple - the holiday is over



Seasonal conditions through December and January have created a prime opportunity for the increased germination of Tropical Soda Apple, and landholders are asked to be vigilant in ensuring that their land is free of the plant.

Tropical Soda Apple, a high risk weed for the north coast area, is an aggressive, prickly shrub that readily invades riverside and pasture areas.

While many land managers may have undertaken weed control prior to Christmas, the

rate and amount of germination brought on by our warm summer conditions mean that places where the weed has occurred before and new areas where it might spread will need to be inspected as a priority.

The plant fruits quickly following rain and produces a large number of viable seeds which have the potential to spread and germinate rapidly. This is why Soda Apple is a high priority for control across the state and particularly in the North Coast region. Infestations impact agricultural land, forest, riparian zones, roadsides and parks, displacing native or existing plants. Seed is spread through cattle movement and baled grass, by flood, as well as by other animals that eat the fruit such as deer, pigs and birds.

The importance of controlling this weed is highlighted in last year's release of stringent control requirement for all land managers under the *Biosecurity (Tropical Soda Apple) Control Order 2017* and the listing of this species as an eradication target for the North Coast region in the [North Coast Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017 - 2022](#).

Landholders are asked to be aware that allowing this plant to go to seed, or controlling it and not removing the fruit is a breach of the control order, as is the movement of stock, machinery or fodder off infested properties without suitable quarantine actions in place. Landholders should hold stock in Tropical Soda Apple free paddocks for seven days prior to sale and movement off infested properties.

Restricting livestock from grazing and moving through areas with Tropical Soda Apple will help reduce spread, as will regularly checking cattle handling facilities, cattle camps and yards for seedlings and new infestations.

The Control Order also specifies that individuals must report occurrences of this weed within 24 hours of detection. If you believe you may have Tropical Soda Apple on your property, please notify Kim Curtis at Rous County Council on 66233847, who can arrange for an officer to correctly identify the plants and provide further advice on the best methods of control.

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!**

Brunswick Heads Dunecare

WHEN: 4th Sunday of the month 8:00am – 11:00am
WHERE: Meet in North Beach Car Park
CONTACT: Jordan Moore brunswickheadsdunecare@gmail.com 0413 962 468 txt mess pls

Yallakool Reserve Landcare, Ocean Shores

WHEN: each Friday at 8.30 am
WHERE: corner of Yallakool Drive and Warrambool Road, Ocean Shores
CONTACT: Felicity Watson 0467 650 140
or David Kemp dnkemp77@gmail.com 0427 650 861

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

Lower Mullum Creek Landcare, Mullumbimby

WHEN: 2nd Sunday of the month
WHERE: find out from Rita de Heer
CONTACT: Rita de Heer 02 6684 1495 rdeheer1@bigpond.com

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@australis.net 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

LINKS

- Arakwal <http://arakwal.com.au/>
- Border Rangers Alliance <http://www.greateasterranges.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>
- Friends of the Koala www.friendsofthekoala.org
- Local Land Services www.northcoast.lls.nsw.gov.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/>
- Rous County Council (formerly Far North Coast Weeds) <http://rous.nsw.gov.au/>
- 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://www.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 Support Officer

Alison Ratcliffe 6626 7028 0421 244 640 (Monday, Thursday and Friday)

email: alison@brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au



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Local Land
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North Coast

