

Newsletter for Landcare and Dunecare in Byron Shire

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





February 2019

Upgraded Walking Track in Ocean Shores

The work on the walking track in Yalla Kool Reserve in Ocean Shores is complete! There is now all weather access through the reserve with a number of drainage issues being rectified and the construction of a short raised board walk over a boggy section.

To celebrate there will be an official opening including a FREE sunrise bird walk and BBQ breakfast on Saturday 30th March. Byron Bird Buddies will be running the bird walk. Check out their brochure "Birds of Byron Shire" which contains information on 25 hot spots for birding around the Byron Shire and a tick list of over 300 birds you may be likely to see! Yalla Kool is one of the place to visit. http://www.byronbirdbuddies.com.au/2017/02/04/birds-of-byron-shire-a-bird-watchers-guide/

See page 4 for more details of the opening. Also read on page 8 why these small patches of bush are so important to many species survival.

This project is possible through funding from the Australian Governments National Landcare Program



Koala Tree Planting

Saturday, February 23, 2019 at 9 AM – 11 AM

990 Friday Hut Road, Binna Burra

960 koala and rainforest trees to plant as part of our Koala Wildlife Corridor. Please come along and join us.



https://www.facebook.com/events/500229097168350/





Brunswick River Clean Up for Clean Up Australia Day

Would you like to help us with this years annual Clean Up Australia Day. We are doing a Brunswick River Cleanup from

8-11am on Sunday 3rd March.

Give us a call on 0410016926 or join as a volunteer online.

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

Meeting at the Brunswick Heads BoatHarbour at the wharf

Site Coordinator Details: Lorraine Freeden

email: fun@byronbaycruises.com.au



https://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/fundraisers/lorrainefreeden/brunswick-river-cleanup

Would You Like to See Organic, Nutrient Dense Food Become More Affordable and More Available to Everybody?

Friday 22nd
March 2019
9:00 am –
Saturday 23rd
March 2019
5:00 pm at The
Farm Byron Bay



https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/sustainable-food-business-innovation-summit-tickets-52806619019?aff=YoungFarmers&afu=179452629351

Do you want chocolate with your Regenerative Agriculture?

CAN CHOCOLATE PROVIDE THE MISSING LINK TO MAKING REGENERATIVE **AGRICULTURE** DIGESTIBLE TO THE BROADER PUBLIC? "

HE INAUGURAL CHOCOLATEY BREAKFAST LAUNCH OF THE FIRST NATIONAL REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE AWARENESS DAY. FARMERS, FOODIES & FRIENDS HOPING YOUR HEARTS THIS VALENTINE'S DAY & UNITE THE REAL SOLUTIONS TO END THE DROUGHT

Panel incl: Charlie Arnott, Geoff Lawton, Jody Brown and Helen & Mike McCosker

Come hijack Valentine's Day with us!

Join farmers and foodies to share how we can, and already are, transitioning to regenerative agriculture.

TICKETS INCLUDE: • 5 farmers, a vet, an ABC journo



- Panel discussion: "What does chocolate have to do with taking carbon out of the air and getting it into the soil?"
- Choc taste test: conventional vs regenerative farming
- Breakfast and morning tea

7am - 12pm Thurs 14 Feb

The Farm Byron Bay

\$75pp or \$65pp conc / Landcare member

https://www.nationalregenerativeagricultureday.com/choc-breaky



Walking Track Opening Sunrise bird walk, BBQ breakfast and guided walks

The walking track through Yalla Kool Reserve in Ocean Shores has been upgraded. Join us to celebrate the track opening and enjoy a sunrise bird walk, BBQ breakfast and guided walks through the reserve.









Saturday 30th March 2019 7.00 am - 11.00 am Ocean Shores

Over the last 15 years Landcare volunteers have regenerated this community reserve into a thriving rainforest.

PROGRAM AND GUEST SPEAKERS:

- 7.00 Sunrise Bird walk by Byron Bird Buddies
- 9.00 BBQ breakfast and walking track opening
- 9.30 guided walks though the reserve

BOOKINGS for the bird walk are essential as numbers are limited.

Please contact Alison: aratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au or 02 6626 7028 to book. For the breakfast, opening and 9.30am guided walks please meet at the end of Inderwong Avenue, Ocean Shores.







This event is possible through funding from the Australian Governments National Landcare Program





The February issue of Village Eco News is now available. http://brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Village-Eco-News-Issue-28-Feb-2019.pdf

Interested In A Career In Natural Area Restoration?

CONSERVATION LAND MANAGEMENT - NATURAL AREA RESTORATION



The Conservation Land Management section at TAFE NSW Wollongbar has a well-earned reputation for providing quality courses that meet the needs of people in local land management industries.

These courses are designed to give students the skills to be highly employable or to go on to further study. The part-time course is for twelve months, attending one day per week Certificate III (Wollongbar, Mondays or Kingscliff, Fridays), Certificate IV (Kingscliff Friday).

Course: Certificate III Natural Area Restoration Location: TAFE NSW Kingscliff and Wollongbar

Course: Certificate IV Conservation Land Management

Location: TAFE NSW Kingscliff

Pre-requisite: Certificate III Natural Area Restoration or Certificate III Conservation Land Management

Course Fees: Call the Customer Contact Centre on 131 601 Fully Government Subsidised Student

training programs available

CONTACT Call 131 601 or call into TAFE NSW Wollongbar or Kingscliff

Private Native Forestry Review



Submissions now open until Friday 15th February 2019.

The government is currently undertaking a major reform of the regulatory and policy frameworks governing native forestry in NSW. This includes a comprehensive review of Private Native Forestry.

All members of the community are encouraged to have their say about the way private native forests are managed by responding to the <u>Private Native Forestry Review</u> Terms of Reference. In particular they are seeking feedback on how to improve the:

- Private Native Forestry Codes of Practice
- Rules and regulations that govern Private Native Forestry
- Private Native Forestry authorisation process
- Private Native Forestry training and advice services.

Have your say by making a submission. To make a submission you can;

Fill out the submission form Online Email your submission to: pnf.info@lls.nsw.gov.au

NSW Department of Primary Industries prevent new pest animals!

If you see something unusual, please give your local authorities a call so that they can take steps to stop new and exotic pest animals taking hold.

In NSW the hotline number is 1800 680 244.

Find out more on the Non-native animals page of the NSW DPI website.

Interestingly the Asian House Gecko is on this list!





Asian house gecko

https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-

<u>livestock/nia?utm_medium=NSW%20DPI%20Biosecurity&utm_source=facebook_page&utm_campaign=</u>coschedule

Tweed Byron Hinterland Trails

New ways to experience nature in the north.

This project will deliver world class recreational facilities in the Tweed, Byron and Lismore region to boost both the NSW visitor economy and community wellbeing.



What the project involves

We plan to develop a network of a tracks and trails offering short to medium walks and cycling opportunities supported by visitor hubs offering facilities for day use and overnight stays including campgrounds, picnic areas, car park and toilets.

The 4-day walk from near Uki to Minyon Falls will be purpose-designed to provide the walker with the ultimate rainforest experience. A minimal impact approach, allowing the natural elements to determine the route will reduce the need for extensive trail construction. The walk will be able to be undertaken as self-guided, or through commercial tour operators offering various levels of assistance to individuals or groups, with NPWS fostering these partnership opportunities.

The Minyon Falls visitor precinct will have a major upgrade, enhancing the walking track at Minyon Falls and providing a signature loop walk to the base of the falls with lookouts and additional seating. A new day use area will also be developed at Unicorn Falls in Mount Jerusalem National Park.

Proposed works on the Wollumbin Summit track will seek to minimise visitor impacts on this recognised place of Aboriginal significance and manage sustainable visitor numbers.

You can register to be kept informed about the project here:

https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/park-management/community-engagement/walking-tracks-and-trails-in-national-parks/tweed-byron-hinterland-trails?fbclid=lwAR07lshJNn1UwgmhfolYOsvSl9DkBq8A4C9emqnEThCk-DxZloS8jjbFTfM

STORIES to inspire and give you hope

99 Good News Stories You Probably Didn't Hear About in 2018 by Future Crunch

Some great news stories from around our planet. Well worth a read. Here are just 5 of my favourite conservation wins.

- 1. The Kofan people of Sinangoe, in the Ecuadorian Amazon, won a landmark legal battle to protect the headwaters of the Aguarico River, nullifying 52 mining concessions and freeing up more than 32,000 hectares of primary rainforest. <u>Amazon Frontlines</u>
- 4. Deforestation in Indonesia fell by 60%, as a result of a ban on clearing peatlands, new educational campaigns and better law enforcement. <u>Ecowatch</u>
- 6. \$10 billion (the largest amount ever for ocean conservation) was committed in Bali this year for the protection of 14 million square kilometres of the world's oceans. MongaBay
- 9. Niger revealed that thousands of local farmers have planted more than 200 million trees in the last three decades, the largest positive transformation of the environment in African history. <u>Guardian</u>
- 11. Following 'visionary' steps by Belize, UNESCO removed the Belize Barrier Reef, the second largest in the world, from its list of endangered World Heritage Sites. BBC

https://medium.com/future-crunch/99-good-news-stories-you-probably-didnt-hear-about-in-2018-cc3c65f8ebd0

Regenerative Agriculture Alliance

The Regenerative Agriculture Alliance (RAA) is a collaboration of Australia's leading researchers and practitioners in regenerative agriculture.



My name is Lorraine Gordon. I am a beef farmer and Director of Strategic Projects at Southern Cross University. My team and I delivered the ground-breaking Farming Together program to 28,500 Australian farmers seeking better farmgate returns. From those farmers we learned that collaboration creates strength, so we established the Regenerative Agricultural Alliance (RAA) and now launch this free monthly update. Please enjoy it and share it. Like you, we believe in leaving the land better than we found it. info@farmingtogether.com.au or www.facebook.com/regener8ag

FREE SOIL C TESTS

Register for two free Southern Cross University soil carbon tests . Email 8am-5pm (EST) February 14 info@farmingtogether.com.au Be prompt - registrations will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis and limited to 200 farms. Participants will be required to pay postage. The tests are offered by the Regenerative Agriculture Alliance (RAA) celebrating the first National Regenerative Agriculture Day https://www.nationalregenerativeagricultureday.com/

The day will also see a new project, Carbon8, which is investing in farmers increasing the carbon levels of their soil.

Land for Wildlife

The small patch of bush over your back fence might be key to a species' survival by The Conversation



The critically endangered Western Ringtail Possum lives mainly in small habitat patches in or around urban areas near Perth and is under intense pressure from housing development, foxes, cats and dogs. Yokochi K.,

It may not look like a pristine expanse of Amazon rainforest or an African savannah, but the patch of bush at the end of the street could be one of the only places on the planet that harbour a particular species of endangered animal or plant.

Our <u>newly published global study</u> of the conservation value of landscapes in 27 countries across four continents has found these small patches of habitat are critical to the long-term survival of many rare and endangered species.

In Australia, our cities are home to, on average, three times as many threatened species per unit area as rural environments. This means urbanisation is one of the most destructive processes for biodiversity.

It tends to be the smaller patches of vegetation that go first, making way for a housing development, a freeway extension, or power lines. Despite <u>government commitments</u> to enhance the vegetation cover of urban areas and halt species extinctions, the loss of vegetation in Australian cities continues.

This story plays out all over the world day after day. Of course, it's not just an urban story. Patches of rural vegetation are continually making way for, say, a new pivot irrigation system or a new mine to provide local jobs.

Mostly, policymakers and scientists do not consider these losses to be, on their own, a fatal blow to the biodiversity of a region or country. Small, often isolated patches of vegetation are considered expendable, tradeable, of limited ecological value due to their small size and relatively large amount of "edgy" habitat. Wrong.

Research forces a rethink

<u>Our study</u> analysed the relationship between conservation value of vegetation patches and their size and isolation in landscapes across Europe, Australia, North America and Africa. The findings prompt a rethink of long-held views about the relative importance of small, isolated habitat patches for biodiversity conservation. We show that these patches often have unique ecological and environmental characteristics.

That's because they are the last patches left over from extensive clearing of flat, fertile land for agriculture or urban growth close to rivers and bays. They often contain habitats for rare or endangered species that have disappeared from the rest of the landscape. This makes these small, isolated patches of habitat disproportionately important for the survival of many species.

Our study calls for a rethink of urban planning and vegetation management regulations and policies that allow small patches of vegetation to be destroyed with lower (and often zero) scrutiny. We argue that the environment is suffering a death by a thousand cuts. The existence of large conservation reserves doesn't compensate for the small patches of habitat being destroyed or degraded because those reserves tend to contain different species to the ones being lost.

The combined impact of the loss of many small patches is massive. It's a significant contributor to our current extinction crisis.

Why are small patches seen as dispensable?

A key variable used in decisions on vegetation-clearing applications is the size of patch being destroyed. Authorities that regulate vegetation management and approve applications are more permissive of destruction of small patches of vegetation.

This is partly due to a large body of ecological theory known as <u>island biogeography theory</u> and subordinate theories from metapopulation ecology and landscape ecology. These theories suggest that species richness and individual species' population sizes depend on the degree of isolation of the patch, its size and the quality of the habitat it contains.

While it is crucial that we conserve large, intact landscapes and <u>wilderness</u>, the problem with conserving only large and well-connected patches of high-quality vegetation is that not all species will be conserved. This is because some species exist only in small, isolated and partially degraded habitats, such as those characteristic of urban bushlands or remnant bush in agricultural areas.

For this reason, we highlight the importance of protecting and restoring habitats in these small isolated patches. And these areas do tend to be more vulnerable to <u>invasion by weeds or feral animals</u>. If the impacts of invasive species are not managed, they will eventually lead to the destruction of the habitat values and the loss of the species those habitats support.

Small and isolated patches of vegetation on the urban fringe are under enormous pressure from human use, pets, escaped seed of <u>Agapanthus</u> and the many other invasive species we plant in our gardens. These plants spread into local bushland, where they outcompete the native plants.

Communities can make a difference

As well as these perils, being on the urban fringe also brings opportunity. If a remnant patch of vegetation at the end of the street is seen to be of national environmental importance, that presents a great opportunity to channel the energies of community groups into conserving and restoring these patches.

A patch that is actively cared for by the community will provide better habitat for species. It's also less likely to fall foul of development aspirations or infrastructure projects. The vicious cycle of degradation and neglect of small patches of habitat can be converted into a virtuous cycle when their



Volunteer community groups can play a vital role in preserving and enhancing small habitat patches. Robin Clarey, Friends of Edithvale Seaford Wetlands, Author provided

value is communicated and local communities get behind preserving and managing them.

Urban planners and developers can get on board too. Rather than policies that enable the loss of vegetation in urban areas, we should be looking at restoring habitats in places that have lost or are losing them. This is key to designing healthy, liveable cities as well as protecting threatened species.

<u>Biodiversity-sensitive urban design</u> makes more of local vegetation by complementing the natural remnant patches with similar habitat features in the built environment, while delivering health and well-being benefits to residents. Urban development should be seen as an opportunity to enhance biodiversity through restoration, instead of an inevitable driver of species loss.

http://theconversation.com/the-small-patch-of-bush-over-your-back-fence-might-be-key-to-a-species-survival-108672?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=facebookbutton

National Waterbug Blitz | Get Involved!

Australia's waterways need your help!

You can help us learn a lot about the state of Australia's rivers, streams, wetlands, ponds, oxbows and dams by completing a Waterbug Blitz!

Waterbug

How to get involved:

All you'll need are some nets, a bucket, white trays, spoons, pipettes and a smartphone with The Waterbug App.

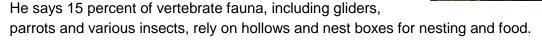
Visit our website to learn more about how you can get involved and help collect data on Australian waterways: bit.ly/WaterbugBlitz

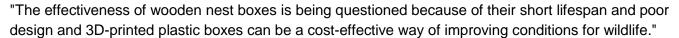
3D-Printed Plastic Nest Boxes Being Trialed by ABC Rural

The traditional wooden nest boxes and tree hollows may have had their day.

Charles Sturt University is trialing using newly developed plastic nest boxes in an attempt to provide better conditions for native species. They can be adapted to suit variable climate conditions and are made using 3D printers.

CSU Honours student Mick Callan says land clearing has caused widespread habitat loss as large trees and tree hollows have disappeared.





The trial is taking place in Bathurst in the NSW central west during 2019. https://www.facebook.com/ABCRural/

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 2019. 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://brunswickyalleylandcare.org.au/funding/

Agrifutures Horizon Scholarship



The AgriFutures™ Horizon Scholarship is awarded to students
studying an agriculture-related undergraduate degree or a Science,
Technology, Engineering, Maths/Finance (STEM) degree with relevant majors which align to agriculture.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 5.00pm AEDT Friday, 1 March 2019

For more information, https://www.agrifutures.com.au/people-leadership/horizon-scholarship/?fbclid=lwAR0EbFv_3fPJCSOf-AD1KA_iBHtweW4moD5TYuZp50H26F9KTgfFaZ3Dq0s



Weed of the Month x 2!

This month's first weed of the month is Pink Cedar *Acrocarpus fraxinifolius* – Native to India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Laos and Thailand. A pioneer tree in its place of origin. Can grow 3 metres in 1 year!! Has a huge root system and can grow from <u>30-60</u> metres! Not generally known to be weedy but we've recently found it popping up in a very weedy habit through a community reserve in Ocean Shores and also in Burringbar. Looks similar to a juvenile Pencil Cedar at first glance, but the compound leaves are much larger.







https://uses.plantnet-

<u>project.org/en/Acrocarpus fraxinifolius (PROTA)?fbclid=IwAR3ue8rTCVkU4Bm-WSvOZ5N32-W1-2usCHF7QjQ2tLUK2ldStw2PmUsDz1I</u>

This month's second weed of the month is Praxelis *Praxelis clematidea*. A short lived herb. It is a close relative of Siam weed. It spreads into new areas very quickly.

At first glance it can look very similar to Blue Billy Goat Weed but when the leaves are crushed they emit a pungent odour similar to cat's urine.

Praxelis is an invader of both disturbed and relatively undisturbed ecosystems, praxelis could threaten, and significantly increase the costs of managing, such crops as bananas, other fruits and sugar cane. It could infest pastoral grasslands and conservation areas, particularly open eucalypt woodlands.

Praxelis mainly spreads by seeds. It can produce large numbers of seeds in as little as three or four months after germinating. The seeds possess a 'pappus', a tuft of barbed bristles that can help them spread by wind or water, or by attaching themselves to animal fur and feathers, clothing or machinery. Long distance dispersal is mainly attributed to seed attached to vehicles or carried as accidental contaminants of building supplies and landscaping materials. Praxelis is also capable of vegetative growth, in which roots and new plantlets form along branches in contact with the soil.

Because there are relatively few praxelis infestations, and it can potentially be eradicated before it becomes established, **any new outbreaks should be**

reported immediately to your local council weed officer. Do not try to control praxelis without expert assistance. Control effort that is poorly performed or not followed up can actually help spread the weed and worsen the problem.

 $\frac{https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/Details/223?fbclid=IwAR1WXK2lqxKqyOeEumWZw_9MbepscL7Q}{h1xwAzSsgdCzYtHtzY8sZ3iBa6l}$



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 <u>bangalowlandcare@gmail.com</u> 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 <u>bromspot@gmail.com</u>

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 Rita de Heer

CONTACT: Rita de Heer 02 6684 1495 ritadeheer7@gmail.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 <u>robyn.bolden@optusnet.com.au</u> 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 <u>bela_allen@yahoo.com</u> 6684 7113

Yallakool Reserve Landcare, Ocean Shores

WHEN: each Wednesday and Friday at 8.30 – 11.00 am

WHERE: corner of Yallakool Drive and Warrambool Road, Ocean Shores

CONTACT: David Kemp dnkemp77@gmail.com 0427 650 861

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.greateasternranges.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/
- Border Ranges Richmond Valley Landcare www.brrvln.org.au
- Mullumbimby Community Gardens http://mullumcommunitygarden.wordpress.com/
- North Coast Nature http://www.northcoastnature.org.au/
- Richmond Landcare Inc. http://www.richmondlandcare.org/
- Rous County Council (formerly Far North Coast Weeds) http://rous.nsw.gov.au/
- Soilcare http://www.soilcare.org
- Tweed Landcare Inc. http://www.tweedlandcare.org.au/
- Wilson's Creek Huonbrook Landcare http://www.wilsonscreeklandcare.mullum.com.au/

For information about Landcare or other natural resource issues in Byron shire please contact

Landcare Support Officer

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

email: alison.ratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au



This newsletter is supported by Byron Shire Council.



