



Newsletter for Landcare and Dunecare in Byron Shire



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

February 2020

Recovery after the fires



Following the devastating fires across many parts of Australia, the Australian

Association of Bush Regenerators (AABR) has been receiving enquiries about how the public can help reinstate habitats on public land.



Our experience tells us that burnt bushland can usually recover from fires if it is not compromised by other factors. However, well-guided weeding during the recovery phase can make all the difference to help native plants, stimulated to regenerate by the fires, recover rather than be outcompeted by weed, which also regenerates. (See [article](#).)

We consider that post-fire weed management can be a great way for community volunteers to help after fires (see a good example [here](#)). To this end we assisted with the preparation of a short article published [today](#) in [The Conversation](#) about why weeding is the most important thing to do. This article links readers to agency volunteer sites as well as the AABR [website](#) where we have now a capacity to receive registrations of those wanting to help with post-fire weeding and those needing help.

The article may (or may not) trigger a small flurry of volunteers to local government, state government, AABR, Bushcare and CVA. So the main message of this email is to say that if your organisation is

interested in community-supported post-fire bush regeneration but does not have the capacity to respond to enquiries yourself, please feel free to direct them to the AABR web page

<http://www.aabr.org.au/do/post-fire-wildlife-habitat-recovery-response/> - or if your organization needs specialist help, please consider registering there or contacting AABR directly.

If you would like to volunteer you can also register through AABR <http://www.aabr.org.au/do/post-fire-wildlife-habitat-recovery-response/how-to-volunteer-time-and-expertise/> or CVA

<https://conservationvolunteers.com.au/bushfires/>



AABR has also set up a moderated Facebook group set up by AABR for sharing posts among people wishing to help with the 2019-20 post-wildfire vegetation recovery effort. Posts should be restricted to questions and answers relating to the strategies and techniques of weed removal, post-fire plant identification and any other notes relating to post fire weeding. Ways for bush regenerators to improve faunal habitat in our work are welcome but please no animal rescue posts - and note that this site is not a plant identification site per se as there are other sites for that. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2020475351431628/>



Understanding the impact of the 2019-20 fires

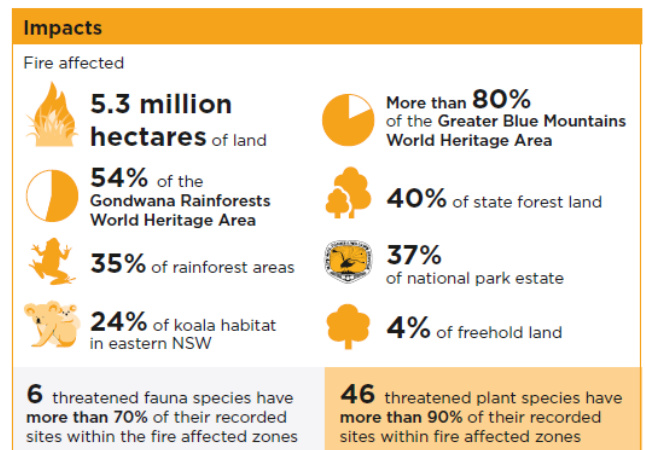
NSW Government scientists are working to provide the best available information and data to understand how the 2019-20 fires are impacting the New South Wales environment and communities.



The 2019-20 bushfires in New South Wales (NSW) have been unprecedented in their extent and intensity. Some fires remain active across NSW (as of 16 January 2020). We will not understand the full impact of the 2019-20 fires until we get all the fire-event data, which will not be for some time.

The period immediately after a fire is critical for the survival of injured animals and for threatened species.

Our priority is to support those involved in the recovery of our injured wildlife and burnt areas. Our scientists are collecting data on fire extent and severity to build up-to-date maps, ensuring that the best available information is provided to decision makers as quickly as possible.



This information is shared across emergency response agencies like NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) and with environmental organisations to support conservation decisions and on-ground actions.

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/wildlife-and-conservation-bushfire-recovery-immediate-response>

Bushfire inquiry

Public submissions for an inquiry into the intensity and frequency of bushfires have been extended. The House of Representatives Standing committee on the Environment has launched the inquiry that will assess the efficacy of past and current vegetation and land management policy, practice and legislation and their effect on the intensity and frequency of bushfires and subsequent risk to property, life and the environment. Submissions will be accepted until 31st March. The committee intends to hold public hearings at various locations, to announced. Visit

<https://www.aph.gov.au/vegetationandlandmanagement>

EPBC Act Review

The Environmental Defenders Office is putting out an urgent call for a range of experts and stakeholders and individuals to write a submission to the 10-year review of our national environment law – the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). "We have an Act that is over 1000 pages and yet does not effectively address the biggest environmental challenges we face: climate change and land clearing." <https://www.edo.org.au/2019/11/25/analysis-the-epbc-act-review-a-once-in-a-decade-opportunity/>



Citizen Science Project recording Bushfire Recovery

Casey Kirchoff's home was one of the thousands that were lost in the horrific summer of bushfires. For Casey, coming back to her place in Wingello - a few hours South of Sydney - was almost indescribable.



"Seeing it and knowing it's a place you loved...I can't find the word for it - it's shattering, really."

An ecologist and PHD candidate at the University of New South Wales, Casey has felt the devastation especially deeply, as studying Australian flora is her life's work.

But while the bush around her home is burnt and blackened, Casey has managed to focus on looking forward - and finding solace in the bright green life already sprouting through the ash at her feet.

"Coming out and seeing every single blade of grass, it's like - oh my gosh, it's coming back.

"As an ecologist, I know what happens with bushfires, I know how it looks, but to actually see it recovering, it's really great."

What to document in fire-affected areas

- Plants (native and weeds): Seedling or resprout
- Animals (natives and ferals): Alive or dead, tracks and scats
- Fungi and Lichen
- Landscapes: Scorch height (how high the fires went) and the amount of leaves burnt in the canopy, shrubs, and ground cover.

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/environment-recovery-project-australian-bushfires-2019-2020>

Psychological preparation and recovery

The Australian Psychological Society has compiled a range of resources to help Australians to prepare and recover from the threat of bushfire.



Preparing for bushfires and disasters bushfires

Preparing for bushfires [View information sheet](#)

Preparing children for the threat of bushfires [View information sheet](#)

Psychological First Aid

APS and Australian Red Cross guide to supporting people affected by disaster [View information sheet](#)

Recovering from bushfires and disasters

Looking after children who have been affected by bushfires [View information sheet](#)

Useful skills for disaster recovery

Helpful thinking [View information sheet](#)

The importance of social connections [View information sheet](#)

Taking time for pleasurable activities [View information sheet](#)

Managing emotional distress [View information sheet](#)

Problem solving [View information sheet](#)

More info can be found here <https://www.psychology.org.au/Australian-bushfires-2020>

How scientists are coping with 'ecological grief' by The Observer

Scientists reveal how they are dealing with a profound sense of loss as the climate emergency worsens.

https://www.theguardian.com/science/2020/jan/12/how-scientists-are-coping-with-environmental-grief?CMP=fb_qu&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook#Echobox=1578842337

Far North Coast Safety Week

Total College delivers accredited training at your doorstep to improve farm safety. Training is fully funded to eligible participants.

Courses

Chainsaw – Trim and Cut	17-18 February 2020
License to Operate a Forklift	17-19 February 2020
WHS for Supervisors and Managers	20 February 2020
SMARTtrain Chemical Application – Level 3	20-21 February 2020
Quad Bike Safety – Coffs Harbour	18 February 2020
Quad Bike Safety – Grafton	19 February 2020
Quad Bike Safety – Wollongbar	20 February 2020
Side by Side Vehicles – Wollongbar	21 February 2020
Working Safely at Heights – Wollongbar	19 February 2020
Enter and Work in Confined Space – Wollongbar	20 February 2020

17-21 Feb 2020

Interested in participating?

Contact:

Jayne Wood,
Total College, Tamworth
Phone: 02 6763 1285
Email: jayne.wood@dpi.nsw.gov.au



Total College is a Registered Training Organisation (RTO 91166) and a leading Australian provider of specialised training to rural industries. It delivers nationally recognised training through the CB Alexander Campus at Paterson, the Yanco Campus in the Riverina, and branches at Tamworth, Trangie and Wagga Wagga.

Staff of Total College will work with you to tailor a program to meet the training and skills needs that you, your workers and your business require.

AgSkilled
INDUSTRY LED WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Supported by the NSW Government

NSW Drought Assistance Package

Skills training for drought-affected farmers and businesses

NSW

GET QUAL SAFE

FREE HELMET with training

A joint program between SafeWork NSW and NSW Department of Primary Industries

SCIENCE IN THE PUB

AUSTRALIAN RAINFOREST SEEDS

Official
Book
Launch

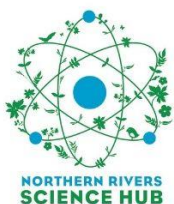
A Guide to Collecting, Processing and Propagation



WITH MARK DUNPHY STEVE MCALPIN
MICHELLE CHAPMAN HUGH NICHOLSON

THURS 20 FEBRUARY 2020 | 5:30PM FOR 6PM START

ELTHAM HOTEL, ELTHAM | FREE FINGER FOOD



<https://www.facebook.com/events/1030418397329651/>



**KOALA TREE PLANTING
WORKING BEE
SATURDAY 22ND FEB 2020**

NO Weeding, NO Digging, NO Whipper Snipping, just planting trees in pre-dug holes and mulching – **EASY!**

There are 1,200 koala and rainforest trees to plant so Bangalow Koalas is having another Working Bee. If you want to volunteer an hour or so of your time then please see below for details. **PLUS** as a thank you for your time and hard work there is a sausage sizzle thanks to Bangalow Lions and sandwiches thanks to Julie Frankham.

What you need to bring and wear:

- Trowels, drinking water, sunscreen.
- Long sleeves, long pants, gloves, fully enclosed footwear, hat.

Planting 1,200 Koala and Rainforest Trees

Date Sat 22nd February 2020, 9am start

Where 870 Eltham Road, Booyong

RSVP: Linda Sparrow on
twodogsmedia@optusnet.com.au

Thank you for the help and support of:



By March/April next year we will have been supplied with 27,000 koala trees from the Forestry Corporation, IFAW and OEH Saving our Species.

As a result we're looking for a nursery co-ordinator to help assist Mark from Lismore's Native Nursery, as they are getting access to an unused nursery in Byron Bay to store all these trees, but need some help looking after them. If anyone would like to volunteer to help out please let us know.

Planned 2020 Plantings

I've been busy working on the planting timetable for the funded properties to date, so please lock in the following dates with more to come. Additional trees will be planted during the week, dates to be finalised, by our bush regeneration team to ensure we manage to get as many trees in the ground as possible:

Lock in these dates:

February 22nd 2020 – Eltham Rd, Booyong

March 14th 2020 – Coopers Shoot Rd, Coopers Shoot

March 28th 2020 – Friday Hut Rd, Binna Burra

April 18th 2020 – Keys Rd, Coorabell

May 2nd 2020 – Booyong Rd, Clunes

May 30th 2020 – Tristania St, Bangalow

Get The Latest Buzz On Native Bees

Two free field days

Avocado Field Day - 5 March 2020

Macadamia Field Day - 6 March 2020

Time: 9am - 2pm,

Where: Two farms near Alstonville and Lindendale (addresses provided on registration)

What: Presentations and farm walks & talks, refreshments and lunch provided

Details on the [Lismore Council website](#).

Register for the Avocado event via Eventbrite <https://avocadosnativebeesfieldday.eventbrite.com>

Register for the Macadamia event by **phoning Lismore City Council on 1300 87 83 87**





Presentation by Dr Robert Kooyman

**Fire in the
Gondwana Rainforest
Wednesday 4th March 2020**

**7.00 pm
at Federal Hall**



Could millions of years of evolution vanish in a cloud of smoke?

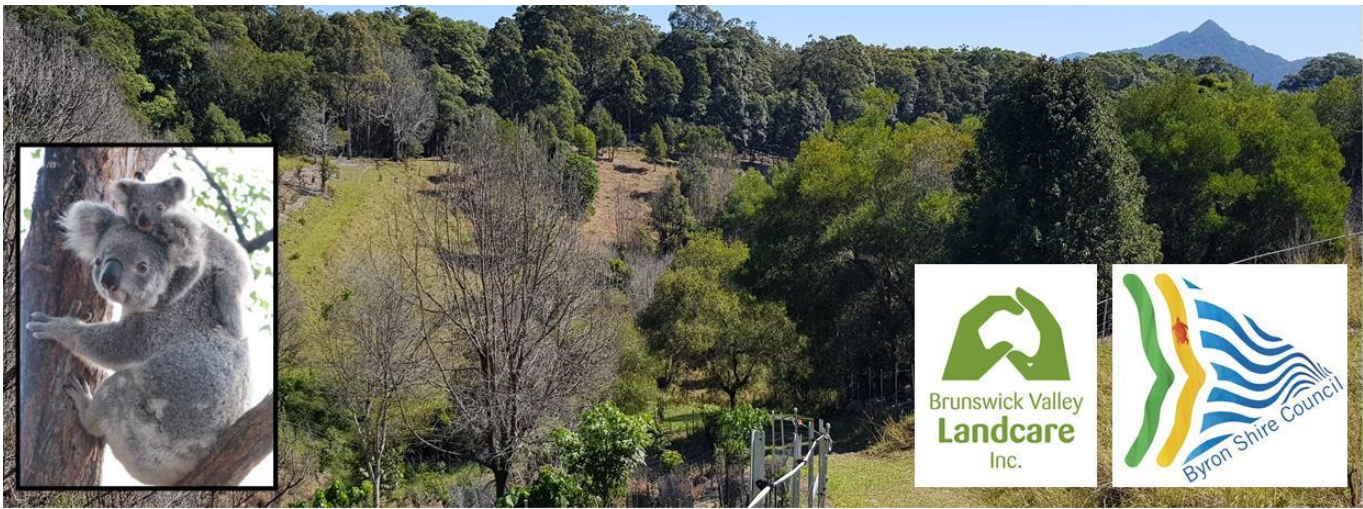
Find out from a conservation scientist with decades of experience on the ground and in the lab in local and global rainforest.

FREE ENTRY Tea, coffee and cake will be available for purchase.

Enquiries 0421 244 640 or wccbushconnect@gmail.com

*This project has been assisted by the New South Wales
Government through its Environmental Trust.*





Koala Field Day

Would you like to know more about which trees koalas eat?

Find out how to identify if koalas are using your land, if you have breeding females, and if they are healthy?

Join us to visit a private property with different stages of koala plantings and propagation techniques.

Wednesday 11th March 2020 10.00 - 1.00 pm Mullumbimby

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Property owner - discuss propagation techniques of koala food trees, tour koala tree planting with possibility of seeing a wild koala

Friends of the Koala - discuss koala health, food species, koala habits, I Spy Koala App

Byron Shire Council - project organiser



This project has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust.





SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND Fire and Biodiversity CONSORTIUM

2020 Fire Science Forum: Facing Fire in a Changing Climate



Image courtesy of David Churchwood

Date: Tuesday 17 March, 2020
Time: 8:00am for registration (9:00am start)
NEW VENUE: State Library of Qld, Cultural Precinct, Sth Brisbane

- ◆ Keynote Presentation: *Managing forest fuels & smoke, now & into the future* - Dr Owen Price (University of Wollongong)
- ◆ Keynote Presentation: *Climate change & prescribed burning – What do we know?* - Dr Hamish Clarke (University of Wollongong)
- ◆ Keynote Presentation: *Making fire ecology useful in the climate crisis* - Dr Annabel Smith (University of Qld)
- ◆ Keynote Presentation: *Changing fire regimes in the subtropics & the potential ecological responses* - Dr Garry Cook (Post Retirement Fellow, CSIRO) and Dr Anna Richards (CSIRO Land & Water)
- ◆ QFES Overview of the Qld 2019/20 Bushfire Emergency - Superintendent James Haig & Inspector Francis Hines (Qld Fire & Emergency Services - QFES)
- ◆ *Changes to Fire Weather in Qld* - Dr David Jones (Bureau of Meteorology - BOM) & QFES Predictive Services
- ◆ *Powerlink/BOM Strategic Partnership in a Changing Climate* - Steve Hadley (BOM) & Stephen Martin (Powerlink)
- ◆ *Managing for a molecule: The potential market for carbon abatement and fire management* - Dr Cuong Tran (Ten Rivers)
- ◆ *Rapid ecological assessment—How did SEQ fare in the 2019 bushfire season?* - Shannon Mooney (Healthy Land & Water)
- ◆ *Saving an endangered bettong with fire* - Chris Pocknee (University of Qld)

Ticket Prices:

Concession 1: \$85.00* incl. GST. (SEQFBC partners)

Concession 2: \$110.00* incl. GST (students & Traditional Owners)

Full Ticket: \$195.00* incl. GST (non-partners)
* excludes Eventbrite & credit card fees



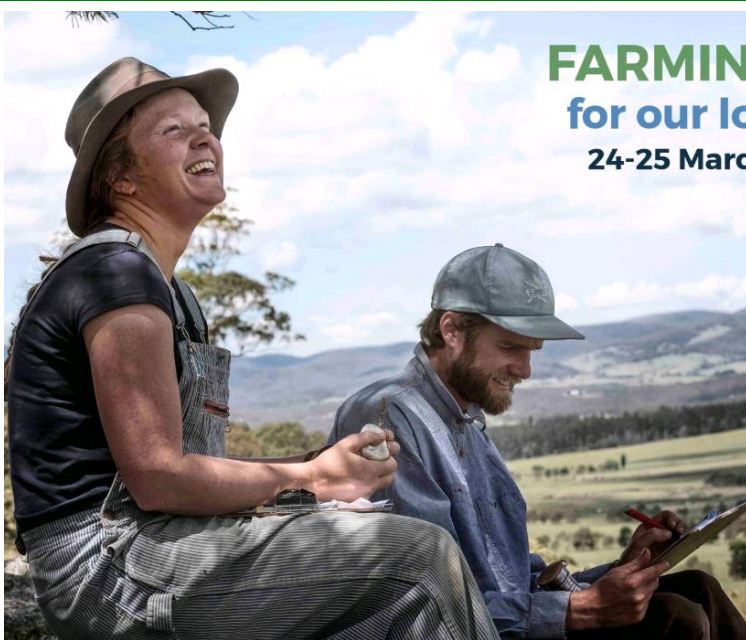
NRMjobs - SEQFBC 2020 Fire Science Forum Media Sponsor.
<https://nrmjobs.com.au/>

Register at: <https://seqfbcfirescienceforum2020.eventbrite.com.au>

visit us at www.fireandbiodiversity.org.au



<https://seqfbcfirescienceforum2020.eventbrite.com.au>



FARMING MATTERS for our love of the land

24-25 March 2020 Albury NSW

australian
holistic
management
co-operative

SAVE THE DATES FOR
THIS IMPORTANT MEETING
OF REGENERATIVE PRODUCERS

SAVORY
GLOBAL NETWORK
GATHERING

26-28 March 2020 Albury NSW



<http://landtomarket.com.au/2020conference.php>

North Coast Community College is pleased to announce that we will be running the second Pathway to Indigenous Land Management and Production Horticulture program this semester.

We are now able to take enrolments for March intake.

This program has been developed with a strong focus on practical, hands-on, work based training; combining units from the Indigenous Land Management, Production Horticulture and Foundation Skills training package.

It is designed as an introductory and pre-employment training program with a view to engaging students in further studies and a supported pathway towards completion of full Certificates III in either Indigenous Land Management or Production Horticulture. More info on the Facebook Event

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1092288077818524/>



Wetland biodiversity matters



For the climate
30% of land-based carbon is stored in peatlands



For clean water
Swamps and marshes remove pollutants



For jobs
One billion people depend on wetlands for their livelihoods



For economies
Wetlands provide USD 47 trillion in essential services annually

Loss of wetlands = Loss of biodiversity



87% of the world's wetlands have been lost globally in the last 300 years

Key drivers of wetland loss

- Pollution
- Drainage
- Land conversion

One million animal and plant species threatened with extinction

Wetland species threatened with extinction

- Reptiles
- Amphibians
- Water birds
- Mammals

End biodiversity loss, restore wetlands



Learn more: WorldWetlandsDay.org #WetlandsBiodiversityMatters



World Wetlands Day, February 2 2020

The theme for World Wetlands Day (WWD) 2020 is *Wetlands and Biodiversity*. This year's theme is an opportunity to highlight the crucial role of wetlands in preserving and maintaining the biodiversity that underpins both wildlife and human populations around the world. Visit the World Wetlands Day website to download materials and resources,

<https://www.worldwetlandsday.org/>



The February issue of Village Eco News is now available. <http://brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Village-Eco-News-Issue-39-February-2020.pdf>

Trails for Tails: Restoring Pathways for Albert's Lyrebird and Marbled Frogmouth

Thanks to the NSW Environmental Trust's Saving Our Species Program and the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife, \$200,000 is being put to work in the Northern Rivers to help save Albert's Lyrebird and Marbled Frogmouth.

The Trails for Tails Project, delivered by the Border Ranges Alliance, aims to improve the fauna record for both species on private property and restore critical pathways used for foraging, breeding and dispersal of juveniles.



We're calling all landholders and conservation enthusiasts located within the species geographical range, from Uralba Nature Reserve to the Border Ranges National Park, to participate in our two-year project.

Activities include observational bird surveys and wildlife motion camera and song meter detection work. Deployed at the beginning of each breeding season, cameras and meters will be regularly checked by our team with the help of participating landholders.

If you don't know how to do this, don't fret! We will be conducting mentoring sessions and workshops targeting field-based monitoring techniques and an in-depth guide to make you the pro bird observer you've always dreamed to be.

If you don't have Albert's Lyrebird or Marbled Frogmouth on your property, no worries, you can still participate. Our citizen science program invites everyone to learn how to identify each species and upload sightings online wherever you are using 'iNaturalist'. Random contributions will help build a more-accurate picture of where these threatened species currently exist. Plus, it's free!

Once core populations are identified, funding will be available to help 10 properties manage key threats including weed invasion and loss of habitat connectivity.

By working with these properties, we want to show other landholders how to restore the structure and integrity of connecting corridors between core areas of Albert's Lyrebird and Marbled Frogmouth habitat. By securing these important pathways, we hope to secure the future of these threatened species outside of our national park estate.

Can you help our trails for tails mission?

Join our project mailing list to hear about upcoming workshops or contact us if you have either Albert's Lyrebird and Marbled Frogmouth on your property and would like to participate in the project.

Email – ashley@kingfisherco.com.au Phone – 02 6662 7150

STORIES to inspire and give you hope

99 good news stories you probably didn't hear about in 2019 by TechCrunch

If you need to read some good news stories <https://futurecrun.ch/99-good-news-2019>

'Solitary' lyrebirds band together to save themselves in 'incredible' show of unity under bushfire threat by ABC

Newcastle

PJ Wallis captured 11 lyrebirds crowding together around a dam to escape bushfires and says there were closer to 20 birds there at one point. One expert says that he has never seen more than six or seven of the birds together at once and says the photograph is 'unique' and 'remarkable' [https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-01-30/lyrebirds-band-together-to-avoid-approaching-](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-01-30/lyrebirds-band-together-to-avoid-approaching-bushfire/11910666?fbclid=IwAR2T3wWjd2H4pyr6q1BVZ0hioeeZ5gtAbx9jh_XHHHtfAdkXVkJYhgzKr1Lg)



[bushfire/11910666?fbclid=IwAR2T3wWjd2H4pyr6q1BVZ0hioeeZ5gtAbx9jh_XHHHtfAdkXVkJYhgzKr1Lg](https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-01-30/lyrebirds-band-together-to-avoid-approaching-bushfire/11910666?fbclid=IwAR2T3wWjd2H4pyr6q1BVZ0hioeeZ5gtAbx9jh_XHHHtfAdkXVkJYhgzKr1Lg)

Every sixpack of beer contributes to climate change. Brewers hope algae is the solution by ABC Radio Sydney

In an Australian first, a 400-litre bag of algae has been installed at a Sydney brewery to reduce carbon emissions and produce food, pharmaceuticals and even bio-plastic.

Key points:

- Algae is up to five times more effective at absorbing carbon than trees
- The 400-litre bag of algae produces as much oxygen as a hectare of Australian bush
- Scientists believe an expansion of this project could positively impact climate change



<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-01-15/growing-algae-to-brew-greener-beer/11720484>

State's largest conservation act rescues endangered island bird

By [Peter Hannam](#), Sydney Morning Herald

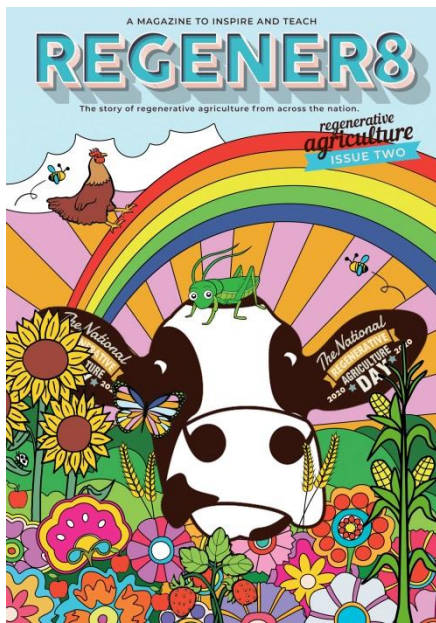
Conservation workers have released the last of captured Lord Howe Island woodhens back to lowlands they once roamed freely in what the Berejiklian government calls "the largest single conservation act" in NSW history.



The final batch of 159 of the endangered flightless birds are being released on the island, following the successful eradication of rats and other invasive predators.

https://www.smh.com.au/environment/conservation/state-s-largest-conservation-act-rescues-endangered-island-bird-20200110-p53qiv.html?fbclid=IwAR3EFwtnAcEZx7VF7R_O-6fOgB5eTszdj4iUGS2U0c-33P-3TtOCQS2xu7Q

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE



REGENER8

To celebrate the national regenerative agriculture day 2020 (14th feb), we are sending you a free copy of regener8.

A magazine carved out lovingly by your NRAD Founders and presented today as a colourful jive & dive into Regenerative Agriculture Australia. We really hope you enjoy. Follow the links. Buy the books. Watch the docos. And remember; "Take Hope, For The Earth's Ability To Restore And Regenerate Has Been Vastly Underestimated" Happy NRAD 2020!

<https://issuu.com/regener8/docs/dec2019edition>

How regenerative agroforestry could solve the climate crisis

By World Economic Forum

Global farming has reached a crisis point. Intensified land use and inefficient human systems threaten food security and drive biodiversity loss and climate change. Half the world's fertile soil is already lost and, with an estimated 60 years of topsoil left, we need a farming strategy that restores soil and secures food production.



It is possible to put global agriculture into a climate-smart future and the solution already exists. Practised around the world, it's known as regenerative agroforestry.

Regenerative agroforestry is an agricultural method that mimics natural ecosystems. Through holistic management and smart design, various components like crops, trees, plants and livestock combine to form a diverse, self-sustaining production system.

This method puts agriculture back into the landscape and improves the resilience of food production against the impacts of climate change. Its systems can withstand droughts, pests and floods much better than conventional systems.

https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/12/what-is-agroforestry-climate-change/?utm_source=sfmc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2709001_Agenda_weekly-FinalTemplate-3January2020-20200101_090548&utm_term=&emailType=Newsletter

2020 SoilCare member discount from EAL

The Environmental Analysis Lab at Southern Cross University is offering a discount for 2020 to Soilcare members. To join Soilcare visit : <https://www.soilcare.org/>



Regenerative agriculture a contentious trend still stirring emotions in Australia's farming industry by

By Bec Whetham, ABC South East SA

For some, regenerative farming practices go hand in hand with good farming, while for others, they are an exciting new concept seen as a way out in a time of hardship. So why do the words "regen ag" cause so much controversy? Here's all you need to know <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-01-31/regenerative-agriculture-solution-or-sellout/11897176>

Vertical farming, micro-algae and bio-reactors — the new frontier of sustainable food

By [Antony Funnell](#) for [Future Tense](#), [ABC Radio National](#)

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-11-09/controlled-environmental-agriculture-urban-farming/11672818>

Restoring soil can help address climate change

By [The Conversation](#)

<https://theconversation.com/restoring-soil-can-help-address-climate-change-121733>

Can Soil Solve the Climate Crisis?

By [Leapsmag](#)

Comparing carbon in forested and cultivated soils around the globe, researchers have calculated that about 100 billion tons has vanished into the air since the dawn of agriculture 10,000 years ago. The culprits were common practices-including plowing, overgrazing, and keeping fallow fields bare-that exposed soil carbon to oxygen, transforming it into carbon dioxide. Yet the process could also be reversed. Although there was a limit to the amount of carbon that soil could hold, it is theorized that it would be possible to sequester several billion tons of global CO2 emissions each year for decades before reaching maximum capacity. <https://leapsmag.com/can-soil-solve-the-climate-crisis/>

Climate change slashes more than \$1 billion from farm production value over past 20 years: ABARES

By [Kath Sullivan](#), [ABC Rural](#)

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2019-12-18/abares-climate-change-slashes-1-billion-farm-incomes-20-years/11809500>

Landscape rehydration 'better than dams' in improving farm production, reducing fire risk

By [Tom Major](#), [ABC Rural](#)

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2020-01-07/landscape-rehydration-better-than-dams-in-improving-production/11834394>

Back to production after devastating fires

by [The Land](#)

Fires can be detrimental to farming systems but many pastures are resilient and can recover.

The extent of the damage to a pasture depends on how hot the fire burnt, the pasture type, soil fertility and seasonal conditions before and following the fire. Sarah Baker, pastures development officer with DPI said a number of steps can be undertaken to regain pasture productivity after a fire event.

https://www.theland.com.au/story/6545890/back-from-the-brink/?src=rss&utm_email=576cb324b7

Land for Wildlife



Tales of wombat bushfire 'heroes' have gone viral. They're not entirely accurate

By [Dale](#)

Nimmo, Charles Sturt University

Wombats aren't benevolent. They're accidental heroes.

If you've been following the bushfire crisis on social media and elsewhere, you may have seen reports of benevolent wombats herding other animals to shelter into their fire-proof burrows. These stories went quickly viral – probably reflecting the appetite for good news after the horrors of the bushfire crisis. However the accounts are not entirely accurate.

Wombats do not heroically round up helpless animals during a bushfire and lead them to safety. But wombats do help other animals in a different way – even if it's not their intention.

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/tales-of-wombat-bushfire-heroes-have-gone-viral-they-re-not-entirely-accurate>



Feeding Native Animals by [Debby Cox, Lee Newton, Ronda Green](#)

Under normal conditions, the rule of thumb is that you don't feed wildlife. Feeding can cause problems including; familiarity which is contrary to natural wariness and independence; disruption of natural hunting or foraging behaviour; spread of disease when too many animals are congregating in one place, causing an increase in one or more species to the detriment of others; and inappropriate food which can have many negative effects on wildlife. So, while feeding wildlife would not normally be recommended, the current situation calls for different action. Extreme drought and catastrophic fires are putting unusually high pressures on our wildlife.



There are two major problems facing our wildlife;

1. Animals that have survived a fire cannot find enough food and are vulnerable to predators because of the lack of shelter. Many of them are wounded or orphaned adding to their vulnerability.
2. The remaining wildlife numbers and habitat is critically low. If the fire is fierce and widespread, especially in patchy habitat, bush fires can eliminate local populations entirely, either by mortality during the fire or by destroying the resources they need to survive in the long term, including opportunities to repopulate.

In a practical sense, how can we help?

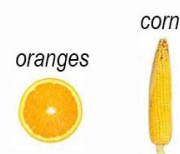
Rest assured, there is a lot you can do to help even in a small suburban yard. Here is some advice on what to do, and what to avoid when looking after our wildlife. Without proper guidance and care, feeding wildlife can do more harm than good, so please take the advice below seriously.

The Do's:

- ✓ It is always best to contact [your local wildlife rescue group](#) for advice. Work in a team if you can, and take a coordinated approach.
- ✓ Ensure you are mimicking their natural diet as much as possible (details below).
- ✓ All animals great and small need water. If there are no natural water sources you may need to set up drinking troughs. Use shallow bowls for birds, insects and reptiles. Place rocks in the bowls so small reptiles and insects can get out. For larger animals do not use buckets as they easily tip; solid dog bowls or pot plant bases are ideal. Please check regularly to ensure there is plenty of CLEAN water in the containers—ideally rain or spring water. **Put water bowls in the shade at different levels**, on and off the ground, so that different species can benefit. See our article on [water for wildlife](#).
- ✓ Scatter food amongst leaf litter or under logs or dense plants for ground-foraging forest species to avoid attracting predator species like currawongs. Currawongs are notorious for preying on the nestlings of other species, and are powerful flyers so can easily seek food elsewhere. For foliage-gleaning birds and possums, food can be placed higher in trees or elevated feeders.
- ✓ Keep cats indoors/contained during this time when more birds are coming into the suburbs to escape fires. Going forward, **if you have cats that normally free range outdoors, it might be worth thinking about a long term containment system**. It really will make a big difference for the survival of our wildlife who are now more vulnerable than ever.



**Everyday foods
you can
share with
Aussie Wildlife**



more advice at perfectpets.com.au blog

- ✓ Cover your pool if there's a chance of wildlife falling in and drowning. Stressed and distressed animals that are fleeing fires, or pushed into residential areas due to the drought are looking for water. Backyard pools can pose a significant threat from drowning. Also [see this article](#) on different types of floatation devices that can be used to help wildlife escape pools.

The Don'ts:

- ✗ Be careful not to place water or food close to the roadside. Drawing wildlife into areas where they need to cross roads will cause an increase in fatalities.
- ✗ Do not place food on the ground for possums or birds (except scattered loosely amongst leaf litter as described for ground-foraging birds, lizards and small mammals). This will make them vulnerable to predators.
- ✗ **Do not feed carrots:** some government departments use carrots for baiting so we don't want our wildlife getting accustomed to carrots as food.
- ✗ Do not feed parrots sunflower seed. It is too high in oil and unhealthy in large quantities.
- ✗ If you have pets, think carefully about if and where you should put food and water out. Cats will quickly learn where birds and other small animals are congregating.



There is list of animals that really need a helping hand here and how you can help them further <https://perfectpets.com.au/best-pet-blog/post/what-you-should-feed-wildlife-during-drought-and-bushfires?fbclid=IwAR02rr3nYfQG9Hc9BvA9ay52jZSv0mVyb3hBeQPnqhDpnMnSc-05iwwqu8>

The Flattened Echidna by Science Alert

Echidnas are one of Australia's cutest and weirdest animals. The spiky creatures lay eggs even though they're mammals, they eat termites but they're not related to anteaters, and they evolved from an ancestor shared with the duck-billed platypus.

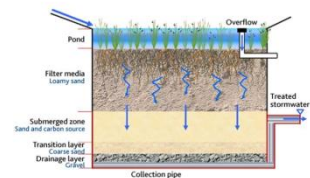


https://www.sciencealert.com/this-echidna-got-its-spikes-burnt-off-in-a-bushfire-and-we-can-t-stop-staring?fbclid=IwAR2DwmVmrSbUMq-R02uSr4_LGxIDeiiLVzD-NreeSF1MQftk0_QKNCvTIAE

Rain Gardens by ABC

Have you heard of a rain garden? Experts say it could add thousands to your property value

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-01-15/rain-gardens-green-roofs-solutions-for-stormwater-problem/11843114>

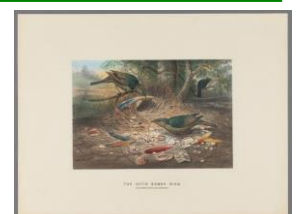


You can read more in the My Local Native Garden Guide Chapter 9

<http://brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/native-plants/>

150,000 Botanical and Animal Illustrations Available for Free Download from Biodiversity Heritage Library

<https://www.thisiscolossal.com/2020/01/biodiversity-heritage-library-free-download/>





BirdLife Australia is coordinating the response for threatened birds nationally and our fire mapping has identified the species most impacted by the inferno. Now is the time for us all to take urgent action.

We believe millions of birds were incinerated in the blaze. Millions more have lost habitat and face starvation right now. I fear many birds, like the Rufous Scrub-bird, will soon join the list of threatened species. Their future is in our hands.

We urgently need generous and compassionate people like you to donate today, so we can get our experts into fire zones to assess what's left, find the survivors, and take action to protect them.

<https://support.birdlife.org.au/donate?erid=19316442&trid=f5e55c58-3c10-4a8d-8952-10f7546b87ed>

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. 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/>

Climate Change Community Grants Scheme



AdaptNSW

Understanding and adapting to climate change in New South Wales

\$600,000 in 1 round of grants, with grants between \$10,000 and \$30,000 available for individual projects. **Applications are open from now until 28 February 2020.**

<https://climatechange.environment.nsw.gov.au/Adapting-to-climate-change/Community-Grants>

Our Marine Parks Round Two

This grant round is dedicated to groups and sectors that have an interest in how parks are managed and the capability and capacity to assist the Director of National Parks with this task. Up to \$6 million is available from 2020-21 to 2021-22. The minimum grant amount is \$30,000 and the maximum grant amount is \$500,000. Applications close **28 February 2020.**

<https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/grants/our-marine-parks-round-two>



The Southern Cross Credit Union are providing 3 x \$5,000 grants to help support local organisations, community groups and teams.

No closing date advertised. For more information visit - <https://www.sccu.com.au/community/community-grants/>



SOUTHERN CROSS CREDIT UNION

Weeds of the Month

This month's weed of the month is Lantana (*Lantana camara*). Managing weeds after fire is currently a high priority at many sites. At the edges of the World Heritage Gondwana rainforests, there is a window to more effectively control lantana. There has also been anecdotal evidence that lantana gullies have carried fire from the sclerophyll forest into the rainforest.

Lantana (*Lantana camara*) is a large flowering shrub native to Central and South America that readily grows into thickets. After being brought to Australia as an ornamental garden plant in about 1841, the weed quickly escaped domestic cultivation and within 20 years was established in the wild. Lantana was first declared noxious around 1920 and by the 1950s it had spread over more than 1600 kilometres of the eastern Australian coastline.

In 2006, **the invasion, establishment and spread of lantana was listed as a key threatening process (KTP)** by the NSW Scientific Committee. It thrives in warm environments with high rainfall where the weed grows along forest edges, penetrates disturbed rainforest and invades open eucalypt woodlands and pastures. Within Australia, it has invaded more than 4 million hectares throughout most coastal and hinterland areas of Australia, from north Queensland to southern New South Wales and including the Northern Territory and Western Australia.

Description

- Heavily branched shrub growing in clumps, thickets or vines.
- Stems are square with small, recurved prickles.
- Leaves are bright green, about 6cm long, with roundtoothed edges, grow opposite one another along stem.
- Flowers vary in colour from pale cream to yellow, white, pink, orange, red, lilac and purple, about 2.5cm in diameter.
- Fruits are glossy, rounded, fleshy, purplish-black when ripe.

Why is lantana a problem?

Lantana forms dense thickets that exclude native species, leading to its complete dominance of the understorey and eventually the canopy. It has also been estimated that graziers spend \$17.1 million a year on lantana control and lose more than \$104 million in production due to lantana invasion. It is spread mainly by birds. Seed banks remain viable for at least 4 years.



WORKING BEES - why not get out and get involved in one of our local groups?

For all Landcare Working Bees please wear protective clothing - long pants, long-sleeved shirt, closed-in shoes, hat, gloves and bring water, sunscreen, and insect repellent. **Please always contact the groups co-ordinators before attending a working bee as plans do change!**

Bangalow Land and Rivercare, Bangalow

WHEN: every Saturday 8:30am
WHERE: find out from Liz Gander
CONTACT: Liz Gander bangalowlandcare@gmail.com 66871309

Green and Clean Awareness Team, Byron Bay

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

Heritage Park Landcare, Mullumbimby

WHEN: alternate Saturdays 9:00am – 11:00 am
WHERE: Heritage Park, Mullumbimby
CONTACT: Diana Hughes bromspot@gmail.com

Jinangong Landcare, Ocean Shores

WHEN: 1st Sunday of the month
WHERE: The Tunnel Road, Ocean Shores
CONTACT: Ian Parer ianparer@hotmail.com

Mullum Town Landcare, Mullumbimby

WHEN: last Sunday of the month
WHERE: find out from Rita de Heer
CONTACT: Rita de Heer 02 6684 1495 ritadeheer7@gmail.com

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

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

Landcare Support Officer, Alison Ratcliffe

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

Project Officer, Rochelle Merdith

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



This newsletter is supported by Byron Shire Council.

