

February 2021

ewslette

Conserving and restoring from forest to foreshore

Greetings Landcarers!

2021 is already exciting and promising.

BVL is preparing to launch <u>"WILDLIFE SAFE HAVENS"</u> project a locally focussed nest box project for wildlife in response to the critical shortage of tree hollows for much of our wildlife; up to 50% of species need tree hollows to breed and survive. Tree hollows take between 50-200 years to naturally form and are becoming increasingly scarce as a result of land clearing and the disastrous 2019, 2020 fires. This additional loss of habitat has forced animals to the Northern Rivers to seek refuge.

THE MESSAGE

Brunswick Valley Landcare is working with Wildbnb to roll out the Wildlife Safe Havens project, aiming to raise funds to make and install 200 nest boxes in the Northern Rivers area.

Wildbnb is in partnership with farmers, landowners, businesses and communities to establish habitat and support wildlife in agricultural and urban environments. The Art-Meets-Habitat component that involves 8 artists will contribute greatly to raising awareness of the need for nest boxes. Wildbnb has been perfecting these nest boxes for over 5 years ensuring zero waste whilst using the highest grade sustainable Australian Hoop pine, hot dipped in local beeswax. Alongside the BVL Wildlife Safe Havens Campaign, other current projects include nest box monitoring with Southern Cross University, the NSW Government's Saving our Species Program and also the WWF which is assisting to identify ways to best support Australia's precious wildlife.

Installation of nest boxes at Cape Byron Distillery.

We had a day in the field with Wildbnb wildlife habitat team! 11 nest boxes were installed at the Cape Byron Distillery – the boxes can house up to 40 different species of birds and wildlife, 8 of which are critically endangered.



80 trees for Rhonda's 80th birthday

Rhonda's 80th birthday wish was to plant 80 native trees including Koala trees! Rhonda's sons Mark and Kerry approached BVL for a suitable site. Thanks to Tina Sweeney for hosting the planting at her farm in Myocum, President Pete Ryan and Deja Ryan for generously donating their time to help organise and plant the trees; all for a very worthy and special birthday for Rhonda Norton.

Hip Hip Hooray!



Byron Shire Council News

Free SMS program launched to tackle surge in mosquito-borne diseases

A Dermick Wile Landcare

Byron Shire Council has joined with Northern Rivers councils and the North Coast Public Health Unit to launch the Tackling Mosquitoes Together campaign and free text message program aimed at reducing the disease risks and nuisance of mosquitoes.

"A whopping 429 cases of Ross River Virus were reported by the Northern NSW Local Health District in 2020 which is the second highest number of cases on record, up from an average of 135 cases a year over the last 30 years," Council's Team Leader Environmental Health, Enzo Picerni said.

"Our free SMS text message program, which I strongly urge all residents to join, provides the tips and tools needed to protect ourselves from mosquitoes and the growing risk of mosquito-borne disease.

"We know that cases of Ross River virus disease are most commonly reported in last Summer and early Autumn, so it's important residents get on board now and know what they can do to protect themselves and the community," he said.

The most common mosquito-borne diseases in the Northern Rivers are Ross River Virus and Barmah Forrest Virus.

They are not fatal, but they can cause serious illness and have long-term health impacts.

The new text message program encourages households to take action by reducing backyard mosquito breeding habitats, and through personal protection.

The text messages include videos, images and common mozzie myth busters and will be sent based on seasonal and weather factors, including tides and rain fall events to help remind us to take the actions to reduce risks at the most effective time.

To join up, simply go to the Tackling Mosquitoes Together website and click on the SMS Program sign up: <u>www.tacklingmosquitoestogether.com.au</u>



"Glyphosate - Working through the politics, the law, the science and the practicalities"

AABR's AGM will be held on Saturday 27th February 2021 by Zoom and feature Guest Speakers Tim Low and Andy Erskine.

REGISTER TO ATTEND HERE

Please lodge any questions for the Guest Speakers by 23/2/21 using this survey.

Those who have registered will receive an email with login instructions and meeting protocols in the week prior to the AGM.

Over the last few years, Glyphosate has been almost constantly in the news or in our social media news feeds. This much-used tool in the bush regenerators' kit is under pressure from public opinion, surprisingly large legal payouts and risk-averse land managers.

But what is the true risk of using this herbicide, and how do we navigate through all the issues and blockages that are being placed in the way of using it in our regen projects?

The topic will be introduced by Patrick Deasey from the <u>AABR Glyphosate Working Group</u>, followed by Tim Low from the Invasive Species Council, speaking about the ISC's recently release report "<u>Glyphosate: A Chemical to Understand</u>" and its findings. Then Andy Erskine from Byron Shire Council, will be talking about some of the issues that councils are facing in regards to glyphosate use, and how he has worked with Councillors and the community to educate and engage them on the use of glyphosate in their bush regeneration projects.

The presentations will be followed by a Q and A. Questions can be provided prior to the AGM by sending them to **<u>education@aabr.org.au</u>** or you will be able to ask on the day.

https://www.aabr.org.au/glyphosate-the-politics-the-law-the-science-the-practicalities/



BANGALOW KOALAS KOALA TREE PLANTING

Saturday 27th February 2021

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

There are 1,885 koala trees and other species to plant thanks to NSW Government Environmental Trust so Bangalow Koalas is having a working bee. If you want to volunteer a hour or two of your time then please book your space today.

- Date Saturday 27th February 2021, 9.00am start
- Where Woodburn-Coraki Road, Bungawalbin.
- **RSVP** bookings are essential and spaces are limited due to COVID so email and book your place today with Linda.

president@bangalowkoalas.com.au





Proudly supported by
NSW ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST



Tallowood Locality Landcare Group

Community grassland planting

Mooibal Spur

Come and join us for a morning of planting and recreating native grassland on the Mooibal Spur

When: Saturday 13th March from 8am -12pm.

Where: Meet at Gathering Tree Cockatoo Crescent Tallowood Ridge estate, late comers make your way up the hill to the corner of Cockatoo Cres where you will see a track, head up track and veer to the left where you will find us.

What: Bring hat, gloves, sunscreen, sturdy footwear, long sleeves / pants and plenty of drinking water.

Morning tea will be provided – BYO cups, utensils.



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





NSW Environmental Trust

Interesting facts / weather news

El Nino and La Nina Explained

Improve your understanding of the El Niño and La Niña and their impacts on our climate and weather with our new Understanding ENSO video

https://youtu.be/dzat16LMtQk

El Nino & La Nina explained

by Jaci Brown: Senior Research Scientist, CSIRO

We wait in anticipation of droughts and floods when El Niño and La Niña are forecast but what are these climatic events?

The simplest way to understand El Niño and La Niña is through the sloshing around of warm water in the ocean. The top layer of the tropical Pacific Ocean (about the first 200 metres) is warm, with water temperatures between 20C and 30C. Underneath, the ocean is colder and far more static. Between these two water masses there is a sharp temperature change known as the thermocline.

https://theconversation.com/explainer-el-nino-and-la-nina-27719

EQUATORIAL THERMOCLINE

December - February El Niño Conditions

December - February La Niña Conditions





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Wetland restoration stories

Ecologists buy 1,000-acre blue gum plantation and transform it into wetland it once was

ABC South West Vic By Emily Bissland

When the Nature Glenelg Trust ecologists first laid foot on this piece of land, known as Walker Swamp, it was in a highly altered, depleted state.

For two centuries, water had been diverted and drained.

In the 1950s the land was drained for grazing. Then in the 1970s, more water was diverted from the entire catchment to the Wimmera-Mallee headworks system.

Finally in the early 2000s, much of the land was converted to blue gum plantation.

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-02-07/walker-swamp-blue-gum-plantation-transformed-back-to-wetlands/13110128

Algae-covered swamp transformed into thriving

wetlands producing clean water for Swan River

ABC Radio Perth By Emma Wynne

The Eric Singleton Bird Sanctuary is just eight kilometres from the Perth CBD, flanked by busy roads and suburbia on three sides.

Just five years ago, what is now the bird sanctuary was a degraded wetland with major algal blooms on the surface for much of the year.

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-05-06/from-algal-covered-swamp-to-thriving-wetland-inperth/9712284

Farming town pulls off epic backyard blitz to bring

stormwater eyesore to life as tranquil wetland

ABC Riverland By Catherine Heuzenroeder

The residents of Pinnaroo have spent the past eight years undertaking their own backyard blitz, bringing an unsightly stormwater dam to life as a tranquil wetland.

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-06-15/town-backyard-blitz-turns-stormwater-drain-into-tranquil-wetland/12335650

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

Long-term organic management reduces soil-borne diseases and increases

crop production FEB 08, 2021

A recent study published in the journal <u>Biologia(link is external)</u> adds to the growing body of evidence showing organic farming improves microbial conditions in the soil that, in turn, increases disease control and crop yield. While a wide range of pathogen bacteria that cause soil-borne diseases was found in the conventional soil samples, these pathogens were completely absent in the organic soil samples. These results suggest that long-term organic management not only increases soil fertility, nutrient uptake, and carbon sequestration, it also reduces the risk of plant diseases by altering the diversity of the microbiome in ways that increases beneficial microorganisms.







LAND FOR WILDLIFE

Our latest enthusiastic member for Land For Wildlife is Merlene Gibson from The Pocket.

The past six months has seen a significant increase in new LFW members.

Joining Land for Wildlife is one way you can help conserve and manage wildlife on your property and contribute to the conservation of our unique Australian native plants and animals.

Land for Wildlife is a voluntary property registration scheme for landholders who wish to manage areas of wildlife habitat on their property; encourages and assists landholders to include nature conservation along with other land management objectives.

It is free to join and is not legally binding. Registration in the scheme will not change the legal status of a property.

Amphibian action

Bufo tabs with Peter Hall

In looking to control cane toad numbers, 2019/2020 saw BufoTabs being tried for the first time by a number of BVL members with varying success. These Bufo Tabs are being trialled under a program run by University of Queensland whereby cane toad toxin is removed from dead adult toads and made up into large tablets that can be used to bait funnel traps. These traps are then used in and around waterways to attract toad tadpoles thus removing them from the environment.

One trial in Wilsons Creek yielded many thousands of toad tadpoles last season and with a new consignment of bufotabs, more Valley landowners and managers can now utilise this new pheromone technology. The Bufo Tabs are available to those who are keen to try and remove toad tadpoles in this way. Under BVL's agreement with UQ, triallists are required to humanely dispose of toad tadpoles and to download an app and lodge their results in a simple process.

Contact Peter Hall on <u>pbhall@bigpond.com</u> for further information on making a funnel trap or for anyone to request a package of bufotabs for use on their property. Further useful links are:

https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=504552587071747 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2brtmSozjEw







Cane toad baby boom

ABC Gold Coast By Julie Clift and Kimberley Bernard

Thousands of fingernail-sized toads are appearing in what local environmentalists are calling an "explosive" number of cane toad babies as a result of La nina wet summer.

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-02-11/gold-coast-cane-toad-boom-and-humane-way-to deal-with-them/13140146

Cane toads for dinner. ABC ScienceBy environment reporter Nick Kilvert

A native water rat can rip out the heart and liver of a cane toad with surgical precision.

They do this to avoid poisonous glands located behind the cane toad's head, according to recent research published in Australian Mammalogy.

https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2019-11-01/cane-toad-native-animals-eating/11649498

Green tree frog population jumps in south-east Queensland after wet summer ABC Radio Brisbane By Edwina

Seselja and Terri Begley

Due to the wet summer we have been experiencing, Green Tree Frogs numbers have increased significantly. In order to keep them around, reduce insecticides and take advantage of the fact that frogs eat "anything that crawls". <u>https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-02-12/green-tree-frog-population-jumps-in-south-east-</u> <u>aueensland/13143796</u>

Did you know?

GTF toxicity Duncan McGinnes vet surgery

When the green tree frog is stressed, it secretes a substance over the skin which is a very powerful emetic (agent that causes vomiting) to dogs. This is a survival mechanism that green tree frogs have developed through evolution.

Thankfully, the toxin (Caerulein), produces vomiting, diarrhoea and sometimes some depression, but signs are usually resolved within 30-60 minutes without any treatment. This is not a toxin that will cause death of a pet.

https://www.dmvs.com.au/pet-care-tips/2017/10/15/green-tree-frog-toxicity

Fire Stuff

CSIRO fire mapping: Working with the National Landcare Program to produce interactive maps showing vegetation cover and fire impact in Australia. Fire has a huge impact on vegetation cover.

RaPP shows this clearly by comparing the months before and after a fire. Good rainfall in the last 12 months increased vegetation cover in November 2020

https://blog.csiro.au/interactive-maps-australia/









FERAL PHOTOS AND VIDEO COMPETITION

INVASIVE SPECIES SOLUTIONS

reignited in 2021

Keep informed Like us on Facebook Follow us on Twitter Join us on LinkedIn

About the competition

The popular Feral Photo and Video Competition is being reignited by the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions with some amazing prizes on offer thanks to our competition collaborators Animal Trap Solutions, CSIRO Publishing and Outdoor Cameras Australia.

Submit your images and video footage which showcase **invasive species in Australia**. This might include pest animals, weed infestations, exotic insects and/or the damage these species cause. Remote camera images and footage is allowed.

Entry is free and you can enter as many times as you'd like, noting each time you enter you will have to fill out the complete form.

The winning entries will be completely decided by you, the audience, through a popular vote (details on how to vote below). The entries with the most votes will be notified by phone to receive one of the four major prizes listed below.

So share your entry far and wide via social media or email, to get as many votes as possible.



Outdoor Cameras Australia five camera Swift Enduro case set which includes 3 swift enduro 4G cameras, 3 swift solar panels and 2 swift enduro standard cameras (valued at \$2440).

Animal Traps Solutions 4G Trail Camera, with a six month subscription to their camera trap dashboard data centre. This gives users unlimited access to the ATS dashboard platform and covers all data costs associated with the devices (valued at \$825 + GST). Animal Traps Solutions 'ATS-1 Trap Devices' * 2, with a three month subscription to their camera trap dashboard data centre. This gives users unlimited access to the ATS dashboard platform and covers all data costs associated with the devices (valued at \$740 + GST).

https://feralphotos.invasives.com.au/feralphotos

Funding

RASF Community Futures Grant

Up to \$25,000

Closes 1March 2021

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

Funding for individual landholders

FNPW Grant Funding

The Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife invites grant applications for conservation projects.



The purpose of our Community Conservation Grants is to assist in the protection of our native species, habitats, landscapes and cultural heritage.

Grants are available for both field projects and education programs that have a direct outcome for nature conservation in Australia. All proposals are evaluated by FNPW's Projects Committee based on funding priorities, funds available and quality and quantity of projects submitted.

FNPW may support approved projects through untied funds that belong to FNPW, or it may choose to run a targeted public appeal or seek third party sponsorship for the project.

FNPW Community Conservation Grants aim to fund urgent and high priority projects in the following Focus Areas:

- **Healing our Land** Protection, restoration, rehabilitation and revegetation of degraded habitats to ensure their ability to sustain native species.
- **Saving Species** Scientific research with tangible conservation outcomes and onground works to conserve Australia's threatened species.
- **Indigenous Heritage** Conserving and celebrating Australia's indigenous heritage as part of the gift we leave to future generations.
- **Growing Parks** Improving National Park facilities for the enjoyment of all, to foster and encourage the appreciation of nature.

When can I apply?

Applications open on Friday January 1, 2021 and must be submitted by 8pm AEST* on Friday February 26, 2021 for this round.

Closing times for applications by state are provided below. No extensions to these times will be permitted.

• NSW, ACT, VIC: 8:00pm

Applications seeking up to \$10,000 that show value for money and include co-contributions will be given preference. In some instances part-funding may be offered.

https://www.fnpw.org.au/grants/conservation-project-grants



Would you like to participate in a survey on funding of rural environmental work?

Time: Participation should take between 1 and 2 hours. We know this is a big 'ask' of busy people, but because funding is such a major problem we hope that you will appreciate that this is a reasonable request, if it leads to a better funding approach.

Rural Stewardship Funding Project at UNE

Landcare NSW, the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative, Gondwana Links, and The Nature Conservancy have partnered with the Australian Centre for Agriculture & Law at the University of New England, to investigate better models for funding the protection or restoration of rural environments. As funding is a constant challenge for rural environmental work, this is an important issue for our organisation.

Professor Paul Martin and Dr Andrew Lawson lead the team from the Australian Centre for Agriculture & Law. Part of the project is to get reliable frontline intelligence from community-based groups, and from landholders who are involved conservation or restoration work. Professor Martin and Dr Lawson are using 2 surveys to obtain this important information.

It would help a lot if you could let the community groups that you work with, and individual landholders involved in environmental protection or restoration works, know about these surveys; and request that they participate.

The surveys are completely voluntary and responses to the survey questions will be confidential.

- For community groups to access the survey, click this link <u>Stewardship resourcing citizen</u> <u>groups survey</u> (or use this URL: https://unesurveys.au1.gualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_a4QruJSgmh4lYkR)
- For individual landholders to access the survey, click this link <u>Stewardship funding -</u> individuals survey (or use this URL: https://unesurveys.au1.gualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3VH7CEUYxw8ayB7)

People who agree to participate can complete the whole survey online, or (if they prefer) by phone, Skype or Zoom. The deadline for completion is **Sunday, 28 February 2021.**

This project has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of the University of New England (Approvals No HE20-176, Valid to 30/11/2021, and No. HE20-175, Valid to 9/12/2021).

For more information, please email Professor Paul Martin at <u>Pmartin9@une.edu.au</u>, or telephone him on 0416 015 161; email Dr Andrew Lawson at <u>andrew.lawson@une.edu.au</u> or telephone him on (02) 6773 3551.

Landcare NSW, the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative, Gondwana Links, The Nature Conservancy, and the Australian Centre for Agriculture & Law at the University of New England

Weed of the month

Cats Claw Creeper

Dolichandra (Macfadyena) unguis-cati

Declared a weed of national significance

A long-lived rampant and destructive climber native to central and South

America.

Found in tropical, sub-tropical and warmer temperate regions.

Cat's claw creeper has the ability to completely smother native vegetation, even growing up over tall trees, and many bushland areas in eastern Australia have serious infestations of this species. It can grow as a **ground cover** along the forest floor of scrub remnants and can form a **thick carpet of stems and leaves which chokes out small existing plants** and prevents the germination of all other species. The large climbing stems can also reach to the top of the rainforest canopy where, through a combination of weight and shading, they can **cause the eventual death of the largest canopy trees**. The vigorous and extensive root system, which produces large tubers at about 50 cm intervals,

also adds to the invasiveness of this weed.

This is a SERIOUS environmental weed

Stems become woody and the vine completely smothers trees eventually killing them

Leaves: Opposite consist of two leaflets and a distinctive three-clawed tendril

Flowers: showy yellow tubular (4-8 cm long) with five petal lobes

Fruit: contain numerous papery, winged seeds dispersed by wind

Underground tubers are starchy and persistent reshooting after fire

If you have this weed on your property hire a professional bush regenerator and have it treated.

https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/CatsClawCreeper





Credit:Liza Smith









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, closedin shoes, hat, gloves and bring water, sunscreen, and insect repellent. Please always contact the group 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:	3 rd Sunday of the month 9:00am	
WHERE:	Meet Main Beach, Byron Bay	
CONTACT:	Veda Turner <u>vedaturner@gmail.com</u>	0427 857 991

Heritage Park Landcare, Mullumbimby

WHEN:	alternate Saturdays	9:00am – 11:00 am
WHERE:	Heritage Park, Mull	lumbimby
CONTACT:	Diana Hughes bro	omspot@gmail.com

Jinangong Landcare, Ocean Shores

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

Mullum Town Landcare, Mullumbimby

WHEN:	last Sunday of the month	
WHERE:	find out from Jude Alcorn	
CONTACT:	Jude Alcorn 0411 298 356	judealcorn@yahoo.com.au

Ocean Shores Landcare, Ocean Shores

WHEN:	each Friday at 8.30 - 11.00 am (8.00am DST)
WHERE:	corner of Yallakool Drive and Warrambool Roa	ad, Ocean Shores
CONTACT:	David Kemp dnkemp77@gmail.com 0427 6	650 861

South New Brighton Dunecare

WHEN:	1 st Friday of the r	month 1:30pm - 4:30pm	
WHERE:	Meet at southern	n end of the Esplanade at the Strar	nd beach access point.
CONTACT:	Robyn Bolden	robyn.bolden@optusnet.com.au	6680 1970

Suffolk Park Dunecare

WHEN:	1 st Saturday of	f 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@vahoo.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

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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 <a href="http://www.greateasternranges.org.au/border-ranges/overview/o
- Bangalow Koalas <u>http://www.bangalowkoalas.com.au/</u>
- Bangalow River and Landcare <u>http://www.bangalowlandcare.org.au/</u>
- Big Scrub Landcare https://www.bigscrubrainforest.org.au/
- Brunswick Valley Landcare http://www.brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/
- Byron Bird Buddies <u>http://www.byronbirdbuddies.com.au/</u>
- Byron Community College http://www.byroncollege.org.au/
- Byron Shire Council http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/
- EnviTE <u>www.envite.org.au</u>
- Environmental Trust http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/envtrust.htm
- Friends of the Koala www.friendsofthekoala.org
- Local Land Services <u>www.northcoast.lls.nsw.gov.au</u>
- North Coast Local Land Services http://northcoast.lls.nsw.gov.au/
- Border Ranges Richmond Valley Landcare <u>www.brrvln.org.au</u>
- 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 <u>http://www.soilcare.org</u>
- Tweed Landcare Inc. <u>http://www.tweedlandcare.org.au/</u>
- Wilson's Creek Huonbrook Landcare http://www.wilsonscreeklandcare.mullum.com.au/

For information about Landcare or other natural resource issues in Byron shire please contact Landcare Support Officer, Alison Ratcliffe 6626 7028 (Mon, Tues, Wed) <u>aratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au</u> Project Officer, Rochelle Merdith 6626 7201 <u>rmerdith@byron.nsw.gov.au</u>

www.brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au



This newsletter is supported by Byron Shire Council.



