



In the Valley

Rainforest News and Views



Newsletter distribution

The Byron Shire Landcare and Dunecare newsletter is sent out electronically every month by Brunswick Valley Landcare and now includes our newsletter as a (not very regular) insert. "In the Valley" is also available from our Facebook group page and on the Brunswick Valley Landcare website.

Conference report Barbara Stewart

It was wonderful to spend time with 300 delegates to the Society for Ecological Restoration conference. All were united in their enthusiasm for, and expertise in, restoring terrestrial, aquatic and marine environments both nationally and internationally. But there was general agreement that it would be a whole lot better if environments had not been destroyed and degraded in the first place.



Highlights of local relevance included an account of the restoration of lowland subtropical rainforests at Wanganui Gorge. A case study presented by Ian Stych demonstrated how dense swathes of lantana had been converted to rainforest regrowth in the downstream section of the gorge. The project received a prestigious society award.

Further good news – work will begin on the upstream section of the gorge soon.

Our role in protecting Wanganui Gorge

As Huonbrook and Wanganui lie upstream on Coopers Creek, our community has an important role in managing weeds with potential to threaten the Wanganui Gorge rainforests.

I asked Shane Ivey, from Madhima Gulgan bush regenerators, which weeds had been observed in the downstream section of the gorge. It is sad to know that Singapore Daisy has been spread from our creek banks for long distances into the gorge and probably further afield. Giant Devils Fig, a species spread in all directions by birds and bats, is also moving in. No Coral Tree has been observed to date, but we know there are trees at our end – hopefully the new works will be sufficiently resourced to completely remove them.



Singapore Daisy

Following up our Coral Tree project

Unless you are a newcomer to our valleys, we hope everyone will remember that we have recently come to the end of a three-year project funded by the NSW Environmental Trust. We did a fantastically thorough job of removing most of the trees in our valleys, concentrating on the creeks and roadsides, where water and machinery respectively spread the plants. But while plants remain, we cannot claim eradication and, in time, the same problems will build up again.

WCHL is using some general funds for searches of creeks and roadsides, to be followed by works as required. Please help by checking on treated areas and reporting any live plants. (We know about plants at Upper Wilsons, Johnsons Road roadside, Wilsons Creek downstream from Pioneer Bridge and roadside on the town side of the quarry.) Email wilsonscreeklancare@yahoo.com.au or phone 66840378.

Spring flowers – some good, some bad



The beautiful Native Wisteria *Callerya megasperma* has pods and large seeds similar to those of the Black Bean. It is an evergreen species, in contrast to the deciduous garden variety of Wisteria.



Small-leaved Privet *Ligustrum sinense*, a serious environmental weed, is flowering prolifically. While it is so conspicuous, it is a great opportunity to note where it is and make plans to remove it and replace with natives.

Annual General Meeting

This will be held at a date to be announced during November. Please look out for emailed and published notifications and consider coming along to support the group and have a sociable evening.

WCHL is on Facebook



To become a member of our group, go into Facebook, search for Wilsons Creek Huonbrook Landcare and request to join. Any member can approve you. Alternatively you can go to the URL below: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/551428364915585/?ref=ts> Once accepted as a member, feel free to post photos and stories, ask and answer questions and check in regularly

Local Contacts

Landcare: Barbara 66840378, Julie 66840242
Fire Brigade: David 66840093, Bob 66840181

Wilsons Creek Hall: Robyn 66840299
Wires: 66281898