

Welcome to 2021 Landcarers!

We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and Happy New Year.

BVL is looking forward to a positive 2021.

Gentle and productive with lots of good opportunities in the pipeline like community plantings, workshops and community building; helping us humans to be more in tune with nature and gaining a better understanding of different our natural environment.

BVL's Wildlife Safe Havens Project has been a great success, supporting landholders to establish nature sanctuaries for bushfire impacted fauna.

Through a targeted EOI process we offered landholders who had been impacted by the 2019 fires, adjoined National Park or were members of Land for Wildlife, the opportunity to create habitat sanctuaries for vulnerable species.

With funding from the WIRES Landcare Australia Wildlife Relief and Recovery Grants, Brunswick Valley Landcare was able to visit 30 landholders. Dave Rawlins (bush regen contractor) and David Brook (WildBnB nestbox builder) provided advice and information to landholders. They installed a suitable nest box and also looked in any existing nest boxes. Participants also receive a contribution towards buying some native plants, an information pack on how to create habitat and encourage wildlife to visit their properties and the opportunity to borrow a trail camera.

There are many simple things that landholders can do such as providing water and shelter, creating structural habitat features such as logs, rocks and ponds, planting native species that provide food and encouraging fungi.

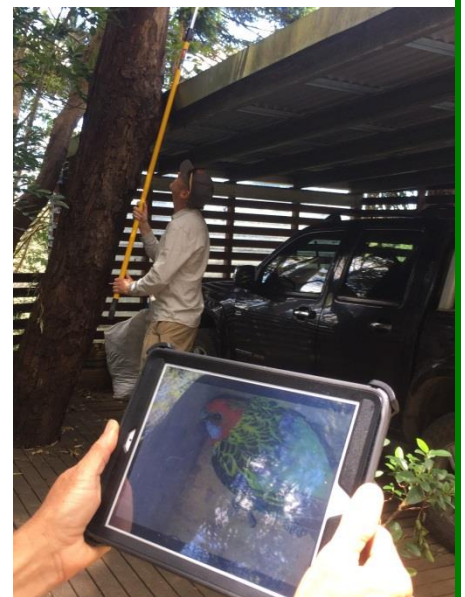
The project has been a great success and we hope to be able to secure some more funding to be able to extend the project to more landholders.

Some positive feedback from happy landholders:

I'm absolutely thrilled with my new nest box and all this great information and plant funds.

I'm so appreciative of all the wonderful work done by BVL; such an asset to the local area.

I feel reinvigorated to keep up my end of the bargain now!!!



Thank you so much for all the wildlife haven information.

We had the most marvellous morning with the team from Wildlife BNB, and learnt so much and enjoyed all the experience the team brought to share with us.

It is exciting monitoring the box and we will be borrowing the camera very soon.

Thank you for giving us this opportunity to be a Safe Haven.

It was a fun afternoon, and it is good to know we are well looked after.

Very professional effort by David, Dave and Locky.

We are looking forward to our first nest box tenant.

Was terrific having Dave and David visit yesterday. We are so delighted to have the nesting boxes set up and to be part of this wonderful Wildlife Safe Havens program, and to finally be joining up with Land for Wildlife, something I've been intending to do for ages.

Dave and David both provided an abundance of extra tips for us to know about, and we are so grateful for their generous sharing of their immense knowledge.

It is a wonderful program - well done Ali, Dave and David.

I feel a strong sense of duty of care for the creatures that live here but do get a bit discouraged by how hard I find it to keep up and keep improving the habitat. My determination is renewed!



Quality nursery stock from Tweed Council Nursery

Tweed council nursery has excess stock of native plants.

Landcare locality groups can order plants by contacting Jo Green for further details. The offer is not open to public, only Landcare projects.

jgreen@tweed.nsw.gov.au

Byron Shire Council News



Council kicks off litter blitz to clean up Byron's beaches

Thinking of lighting up or dropping that cigarette on a Byron Shire beach? Think again!

Council's 'litter enforcement blitz' on Byron's beaches and foreshore areas is on until mid-March as a part of the ongoing Butt Free Byron Shire campaign, thanks to funding from the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

Fines of up to \$250 will be issued to offenders caught littering or smoking on the beaches in a bid to cut down cigarette butt and ALL litter.



During patrols, Council rangers will be educating the public on the importance of correct waste disposal and the impacts of litter on our community and environment.

“Both littering and smoking on Byron’s beaches is illegal and our strong message to the community and to our visitors is that it will not be tolerated,” Council’s Waste Education and Compliance Officer, Zoe White said.

“We know that litter can have detrimental effects on local wildlife, especially marine life as items such as cigarette butts and plastic can take several years to break down in the marine environment and be easily ingested.

“So the message is simple – put all your rubbish in the bin, especially cigarette butts that account for 82% of our litter in the shire and are harmful to the environment.”

“We have even installed special butt bins around the Shire. The butts are safely secured and can even be recycled into new products!”



Help keep the shire clean and protect our community and environment by following these simple steps and spreading the message:

Be responsible for your own litter

Use the bins provided where possible

Do NOT smoke on the beach

For further information about the Butt Free Byron Shire campaign and Council’s litter blitz contact Zoe White on 6626 7236.

Council applauds incredible bush regeneration efforts across Byron Shire

Did you know that 95 hectares, and more than 15 kms of river bank, have been restored by Council and community bush regenerators in the last five years?

“The bush restoration work going on in the Byron Shire is amazing and we want to take time to celebrate the passion and dedication of so many people who have made these huge environmental achievements possible,” Council’s Biodiversity Team Leader, Liz Caddick said.



“We would like to acknowledge the hard work of our Landcare groups and landholders in the shire, who spend their weekends and free time working voluntarily, to protect and restore the land.

“As well as the many hours of hard physical work our environmental volunteers put in, they also spend their free time attending training courses, applying for grants and organising events to help educate others,” Ms Caddick said.

In addition, Byron Shire Council’s bush regenerators are currently working to restore 250 ha of Council land and around 4,000 ha of private land in the shire is being managed for conservation, including 123 Land for Wildlife properties and many sites that have been restored by Landcare groups.

Council’s website at www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Services/Environment/Restoring-wildlife-habitat provides tips on how to create habitat, information on grant funding sources and links to other local community organisations that can provide help and support.

Council is also keen to hear from private landholders interested in restoring wildlife habitat.

Since 2013, Byron Shire Council has facilitated restoration and planting on around 90 properties as part of the Koala connections, Byron Habitat Corridors, North East Hinterland and Koala Food for the Future projects.

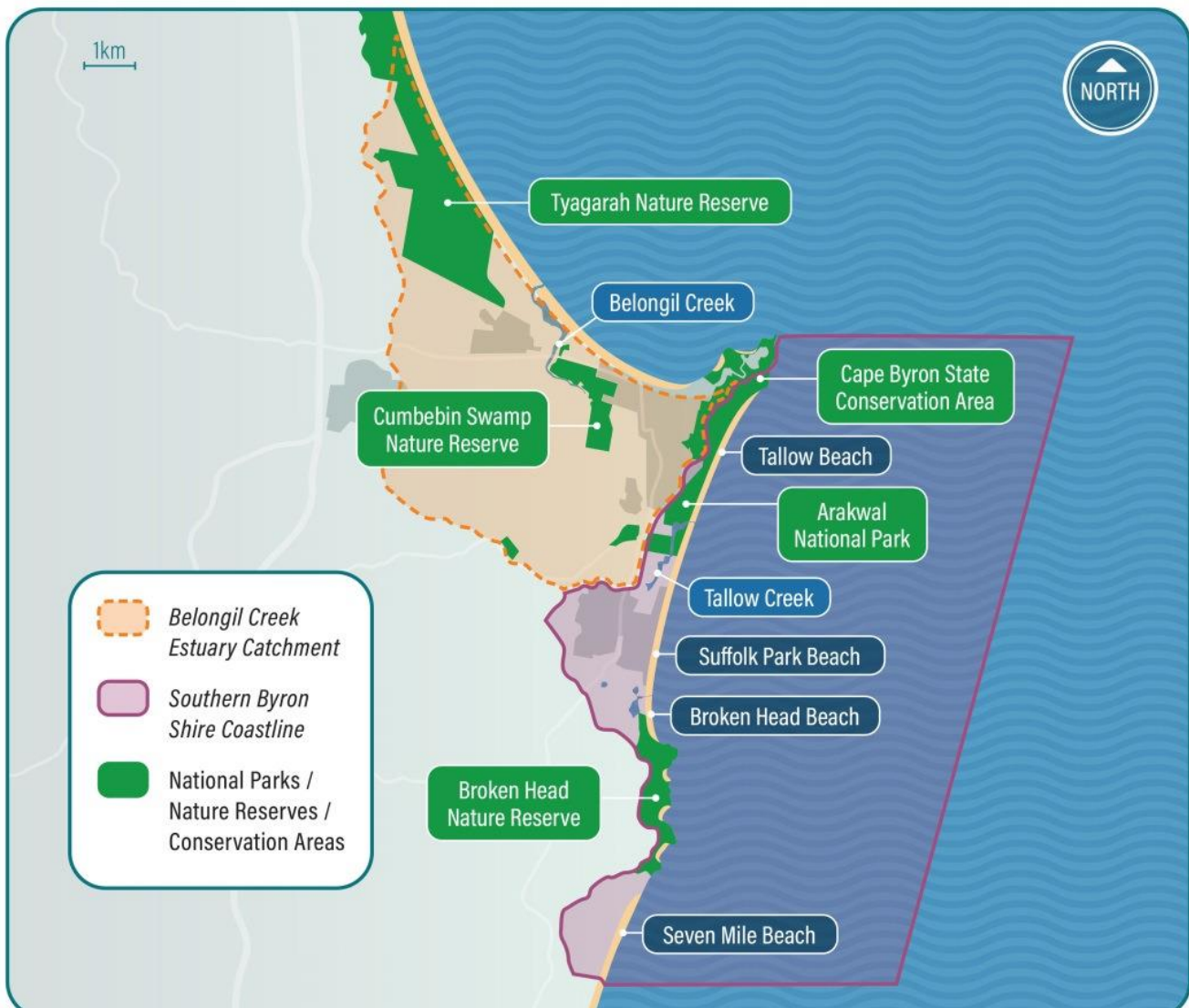
Council maintains a database of interested landholders, who we contact as funding for habitat restoration becomes available. If you would like your property added to this database, contact Council's Biodiversity Officer, Liz Caddick on 6684 3018.

INFORMATION



Byron Shire Southern Coastline and Belongil Creek Estuary Survey

Council currently has a survey out regarding the development of a Coastal Management Program scoping study for the southern coastline of Byron Shire (Cape Byron to Seven Mile Beach) and including the Belongil Creek and Tallow Creek catchments. The key focus of the survey is to understand the communities values for, and management issues associated with the study area. Details are at: <https://www.yoursaybyronshire.com.au/southern-coastline-survey>



Seminars and workshops

Byron Community College

Do you have a passion for plants, getting your hands dirty and the outdoor lifestyle? If the answer is yes, then a career in Horticulture or Permaculture could be for you. Byron Community College is currently offering nationally recognised training that can give you the skills required to enter these growing industries.

AHC42116 Certificate IV in Permaculture – starting 3 Feb

AHC30716 Certificate III in Horticulture – starting 11 Feb

Fee free and subsidised places* are available for both these courses. Call to see if you are eligible, but hurry as places are limited. For more info visit www.byroncollege.org.au or call 02 6684 3374



*This training is subsidised by the NSW Government.

Developing strategies for effective feral cat management

Local Land Services are seeking potential target sites for feral cat trapping. If you are aware of any locations in the shire where feral cats have been sighted or are known to be a problem? If you can think of any spots, please let Byron Council know.

The Cat Management Plan will take a regional approach and cover domestic and feral cats. The idea is that it will be a plain English, practical document stepping out and addressing the process of behaviour change in cat ownership as well as best practice management of feral cats.

As part of wider vertebrate pest management programs there are also some opportunities coming up for **training in vertebrate pest management** which will include cats amongst other species.

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/news/developing-strategies-for-effective-feral-cat-management>https://www.ils.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/820807/North-West-Pest-Plan.pdf



NSW Environmental Trust Strategic Plan 2020–24

The Trust's recent strategic review resulted in a new strategic plan for 2020-24. This outlines new immediate priorities of climate change, increasing national park estate and increasing and stabilising threatened species populations, as well as new longer-term priorities.

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/environmental-trust-strategic-plan-2020-24>



REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

Council offering free farming and agricultural landholder consultations

Byron Shire Council's Agricultural Extension Officer Andrew Cameron is looking to connect with farmers and landholders, in a bid to revitalise and support the primary production sector in Byron Shire.

Council's latest economic data has shown a decline in primary industry output in the Shire.

"We are seeing more and more people selling up in the city, and moving to places like Byron Shire to live on the land or large 'lifestyle lots'," Agricultural Extension Officer Andrew Cameron said.

"Our large 'lifestyle lots' are beautiful places to live, but they are also prime land for farming and food production.

"It can be an overwhelming task to take on land for the first time and we are now offering a support service to help people overcome some of those challenges."

"As part of my role, I'm here to help new land owners with ideas on how to manage the land productively and sustainably. Whether they take on the work themselves, or connect with a local farming partner," Mr Cameron said.

A former 'tree changer' himself, with over eight years' experience farming and running a small agricultural business locally, Andrew is committed to nurturing the local agricultural sector to become more sustainable and embrace more regenerative practices.

"I am offering free one-on-one-consultations, with local farmers and landowners, to offer a range of support services, solutions, networking and funding opportunities," Mr Cameron said.

"Council is committed to ensuring Byron Shire land is used in a productive, sustainable way. We want to ensure local farmers are able to work in a way that is profitable while achieving positive environmental outcomes," he said.

For enquiries or to book a free on farm consultation please contact Andrew on 02 6626 7223 or email - ancameron@byron.nsw.gov.au

To sign up to the Byron Shire Farming Network newsletter visit www.byron.nsw.gov.au/byronshirefarmingnetwork



LAND FOR WILDLIFE

Endangered pygmy possums devastated by bushfires thriving off baked goods made by students

[ABC South East NSW](#) By [Keira Proust](#)

Mountain pygmy possums feed predominately on insects, seeds, [bogong moths](#) and fruit from the mountain plum pine, which was mostly wiped out during the fires. A supplementary feeding program was set up to help the species recover last year, with eight primary schools across the Snowy

Monaro now on board to help bake special "bogong biscuits". Berridale Public School teacher Alison Fox said she is proud to see her students lend a hand to the NSW Government's Saving our Species program and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-01-08/school-kids-bake-for-endangered-pygmy-possums/13036148>



Fire Stuff

What is cultural burning?

By Miki Perkins

A cool, gentle, creeping fire came to the bushland that surrounds the Tang Tang and Thunder swamps in central Victoria, north of Bendigo, in 2019. It burnt gently through grasslands and connected up with other fires lit on the forest floor to create a mosaic effect.

This fire was lit by Dja Dja Wurrung people, including employees of Forest Fire Management Victoria, and their non-Aboriginal colleagues. It was the first cultural burn in the area in 170 years.

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/what-is-cultural-burning-20200228-p545e2.html>

CANOPY Must be protected as its removal alters the ecosystem

INDIGENOUS CUSTODIAN or person given their permission and guidance



FIRE COUNTRY by Victor Steffensen.

A great read for all Australians.

Recently, Victor Steffensen received news that he has been shortlisted for two Literary awards Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Non Fiction & the Independent Book Awards.

When it comes to Aboriginal fire management, the old people didn't burn every ecosystem. Many people think that Aboriginal people burnt everything and applied fires that scorched large tracts of land. They also think it is like Western hazard reduction, but it is all far from the truth. How could they maintain the diversity of ecosystems and natural resources for thousands of years through the careless application of fire? Aboriginal fire knowledge is based on Country that needs fire, and also Country that doesn't need fire. Even Country we don't burn is an important part of fire management knowledge and must be within the expertise of a fire practitioner.



Funding

Closes 8 February 2021

VET (Vocational Education and Training) Scholarships are available to support individuals in NSW who demonstrate a passion for rural life and commitment for any career that will ensure the future success of rural and regional NSW.

There is no limit on the types of courses that qualify or the age of the applicant.



Community Grants Hub
Improving your grant experience



RASF Community Futures Grant

Up to \$25,000

Closes 1 March 2021

The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW Foundation (RASf) is offering an opportunity for community-minded 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 on-ground 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>



Weed of the month

Murraya paniculata ☹️

Orange Jessamine / Murraya / Mock orange - cross it off the list!

The pretty berries follow on from the fragrant /perfumed / sickly sweet white flowers and are spread into bushland from gardens by birds like Currawongs

and other fruit eating animals.

This weed naturalises in bushland reserves and conservation areas neighbouring suburban areas.

FAMILY

Rutaceae

FLOWERING TIME

Year round

ORIGIN

Mock orange (*Murraya paniculata*) is native to southern China, Taiwan, Indian sub-continent and south-eastern Asia



Amazing Alternatives 😊

Lilly Pillys make awesome lush, evergreen hedges!

They have pretty white flowers with pretty red or pink fruit.

Select and Resilience variety grow to 3 and 5m respectively and are psyllid free (the pimply, dimply leaf damaging insects).

If you are after perfume, Gardenias provide a weed free non native alternative, whilst they won't provide a hedge as high or tight as Lilly Pillys they can still work.



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 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 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 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 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.greasterranges.org.au/border-ranges/overview/overview>
- Bangalow Koalas <http://www.bangalowkoalas.com.au/>
- 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 (Mon, Tues, Wed) aratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au
Project Officer, Rochelle Merdith 6626 7201 rmerdith@byron.nsw.gov.au
www.brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au



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