



# Newsletter for Landcare and Dunecare in Byron Shire

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

Connect on facebook

July 2015

<b>JULY</b>	11	Byron Bay Clay Heath Walk with Andy Baker
	19	Rainforest Walk and Plant ID at the Pocket with Justin Mallee
	20	Talk to Ocean Shores Garden Club
<b>AUGUST</b>	5	Talk to Bangalow Garden Club
	8	Native Bee Workshop
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	1-3	NSW Landcare Conference in Orange
	10	BVL AGM

## Woodchips and Fungi

Woodchips seem to have become the most popular way to mulch against weed growth in the region, and with this practice have come a growing population of woodchip-loving fungi. Somebody grumbled at me the other day about the speed with which fungi break down the woodchips, and that after only two years more chips have to be brought in.



### Weeds

can never be the only story. For you need growth by the planted seedlings, don't you? People who mulch solely to keep down weeds may be surprised to discover that if only they are so lucky to have a selection of fungi breaking up their woodchips, they can be assured that nutrients will get down to growing tree roots in a form that seedlings can use, courtesy of the work of these fungi. Though I haven't

tested the matter scientifically, it seems to me that where there are a lot of fungi at work, new plants do better.

Saprophytic (wood rotting) fungi are the great recyclers of nutrients. They break down the lignin and cellulose in timber, and while they first consume these simplified sugars themselves, they subsequently make the nutrients – minerals and sugars among them – available to the soil and so for the plants.



The ink-caps usually appear first, they can use the simplest sugars. Photo 1, The biggest fungi fruiting event I've ever seen happened in R and A Smith's wood-chipped paddock. Photo 2, half a dozen, at my last count, species of 'little brown mushrooms' seem to sprout from wet wood-chipped ground only about six months after the chips are spread. Photo 3, in this region we have at least 7 or 8 species of stinkhorns, I know you have all smelled them. They too seem to prefer woodchips.

Photo 4 is of a squad of Garden Kings (*Stropharia rugosoannulata*) an import from North America. Edible when young, it is grown in the US among vegetables. If you want to explore mycophagy, the collecting and eating of wild mushrooms, please learn from an experienced *person* in a face-to-face situation. Depending on the internet for identification is a sure way to grief and tears. I am only concerned that the Garden King will become a weed in Australia ... see photo 5.



I'll be posting more examples in each group here: <http://calderafungi.blogspot.com/> and on Brunswick Valley Landcare's FaceBook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1506048359640096/>

Story by Rita Dee Heer

Photos : photo 1 - Field of inkcaps by R Smith, photo 2 - Little Brown Mushrooms by R de Heer; photo 3 - stinkhorns by R Smith, photo 4 Garden Kings by J Green.

## BVL is still looking for a new treasurer

The duties of the treasurer include attending to the activities that contribute to the financial well-being of the organisation including overseeing grant funding and other sources of finance. The treasurer advises the BVL Committee of relevant monetary issues, financial status and compliance. This includes maintaining financial records and providing monthly income and expenditure statements to the Committee. BVL also employs a bookkeeper, and the treasurer is responsible for overseeing the work of the bookkeeper in processing payments and preparing documents for auditing.

This is a voluntary position and would suit someone with a background in finance, someone who is currently studying in this field, has other relevant experience or a head for figures, along with an interest in the environment and conservation. Training will be provided. Committee meetings are a relaxed monthly affair in Mullumbimby.

If you are interested, please contact the BVL Secretary, Melody Valentine, for more information and a copy of the Duty Statement at: [brunswickvalleylandcare@gmail.com](mailto:brunswickvalleylandcare@gmail.com)



## FUNDING

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### Jemena Junior Landcare Grants



Sustainable living is the theme of a new set of grants helping kids swap PlayStation fingers for green thumbs, as energy distributor Jemena and Landcare Australia launch 35 Jemena Junior Landcare Grants worth \$1,000 - to fire up young minds about the local environment and issues such as energy efficiency for the future.

The launch of the 2015 Live.Grow.Explore grants coincides with World Environmental Day and seeks schools, kindergartens, day-care centres and youth groups within Jemena's areas of operations to nominate a project on the theme of living, growing and exploring sustainably. It should demonstrate strong environmental education outcomes and links to the school curriculum.

Applications for the Jemena Junior Landcare Grants close on **Friday 24 July 2015**. [Click here for further details and to apply.](#)

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### Love Food Hate Waste grants program



The grants are available under the Waste Less, Recycle More Love Food Hate Waste program and will open for applications on **July 22, 2015**.

Applicants can tap in to a suite of resources developed by the EPA to encourage positive behaviours to reduce food waste, such as meal planning, shopping to a list, correct storage and using up leftovers. The grants provide funding of between \$5,000-\$70,000 and are open to incorporated not-for-profit, non-government organisations and community groups and local councils and include use of EPA-developed resources, communication tools and messaging. For more information, email the EPA's Love Food Hate Waste team at [organics.recycling@epa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:organics.recycling@epa.nsw.gov.au) or call (02) 9995 6890. [Find Out More...](#)

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### Wildlife Rehabilitation Grants



NSW Wildlife Council Inc.  
"Achieving optimal outcomes for Australian wildlife"

The NSW Wildlife Council is the peak representative organisation for wildlife groups and individual rehabilitators licences by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage. The objective of the Grants Program is to increase the capacity for individual wildlife rehabilitators to purchase materials to build animal enclosures or equipment needed to rehabilitate native Australian wildlife within the state of NSW.

Applications will be evaluated based on 3 criteria Need; Excellence and Value for Money. Grants of up to \$1000 will be provided to the top 5 applications. Applications for grants need to be submitted between **1<sup>st</sup> July and 1 August**. Applications for grants need to be in writing on the application form available at <http://www.nwc.org.au/> or by emailing [alison.ratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au](mailto:alison.ratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au)



AABR events are free and open to all, aiming to promote and encourage information exchange in ecological restoration management and practices.

## *AABR events 2015-6*

**Australian Association of Bush Regenerators**  
*Working with natural processes*  
[www.aabr.org.au](http://www.aabr.org.au)

### **GUIDED WALK & TALK Saturday 11th July 2015** **Restoring the Byron Bay Clay Heath EEC**

Ecological consultant Andy Baker will lead 2 walks through this unique Endangered Ecological Community and discuss the extensive restoration works including use of fire. The Byron Bay Clay Heath is home to two threatened flora which occur nowhere else in the world and provides fantastic opportunities to explore the dynamics of vegetation change following fire exclusion.



Numbers are strictly limited so Andy is offering both a morning and afternoon walk. The walks will be about 1 km return to several different sites. **Further information call Andy 0422 736 351**

**WHEN:** Saturday 11th July 2015

**TIME:** am walk 9am-11am; pm walk 1pm-3pm

**WHERE:** Meet the Paterson Street Water Tower, Byron Bay. (See map)

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL! Email: [andybaker@wildsite.com.au](mailto:andybaker@wildsite.com.au)**

**DETAILS:** Before restoration works, the Byron Bay Clay Heath was being rapidly displaced by encroaching forest and fernland due to fire exclusion and stormwater pollution. The work to restore the heath includes weed and native tree removal, reinstatement of historical fire regimes and extensive monitoring.

Andy Baker has been involved in the management and monitoring of Clay Heath for 18 years. His recent research at Southern Cross University has identified the significant threats of fire exclusion for the region's heathland and sclerophyll forests, as opposed to the widely assumed threat of high frequency fires.

Brunswick Valley Landcare invites you to a

**FREE!**

# Rainforest walk and plant identification workshop



Come and walk among the giants in some ancient rainforest.

This workshop will teach you skills to identify rainforest trees and shrubs.

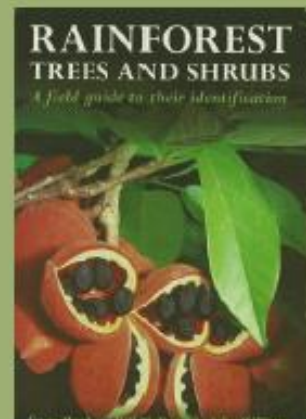
It is aimed at beginners and people with intermediate level identification skills.

**Trainer:** Justin Mallee  
**Date:** Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> of July 2015  
**Time:** 9:30 am – 1:00 pm  
**Location:** The Pocket (details will be provided upon booking)  
**Bookings Essential:** Please contact Justin by email: [j.ecologic@gmail.com](mailto:j.ecologic@gmail.com) or phone: 02 66840212

Please bring the following along to the workshop

- Water, snacks and sturdy shoes
- Optional – binoculars, camera, pen, note book, hand lens
- Optional – A copy of *Rainforest Trees and Shrubs: A field guide to their identification* by Gwen Harden, Bill McDonald and John Williams.

**Morning tea will be provided.**



This project is supported by Brunswick Valley Landcare through funding from the NSW Government.





**FREE!**

# Native Stingless Bee Workshop

Are you ready to become a beekeeper?

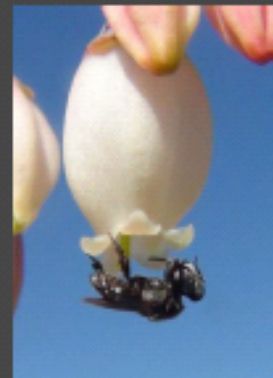
In this workshop, entomologist Dr Tim Heard will teach you the basics. "He will entertain and educate you at the same time"

**Trainer:** Entomologist Dr Tim Heard  
**Date:** Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> of August 2015  
**Time:** 9:30 am – 3:30 pm  
**Location:** Byron Region Community College –  
Corner of Burringbar & Gordon Streets Mullumbimby  
**Bookings Essential:** Please contact Justin by email: [j.ecologic@gmail.com](mailto:j.ecologic@gmail.com)



**His stunning presentation and practical demonstrations will cover the topics of:**

- bee nesting biology,
- bee foraging biology,
- diversity of wild bees,
- importance of bees in natural systems,
- traditional stingless beekeeping around the world,
- modern stingless beekeeping in Australia,
- using stingless bees for pollination of gardens and farms,
- sugarbag honey and its properties,
- rescuing bees threatened in the wild, and more



*This project is supported by Brunswick Valley Landcare through funding from the NSW Government.*



## Afternoon Presentation - Birds of the Wetlands with a focus on Shorebirds.



The power point presentation will be followed by a shared afternoon tea and then a walk to the bird hide and beyond. Byron Bird Buddies will also launch their new brochure "Birds of the Byron Wetlands"

**Date: Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July**

**Time : 13.00 - 18.00**

**Where : Byron Wetlands** – There is limited space so please book your place at [byronbirdbuddy@gmail.com](mailto:byronbirdbuddy@gmail.com)

**What to bring:** a plate of nibbles to share, drinks, binoculars and wear covered shoes

**How to Get There:** Take the exit off Ewingsdale Rd at the BP station into Bayshore Drive, follow the road past IGA and then just after IGA but before the railway tracks left into an unnamed road – drive to the gate, then take the first left turn past the gate and park in the parking area about 200mts in and walk to the Interpretative Centre – a small building west of the carpark and sign on. The gates will be opened 10 minutes before and after 13.00, if late contact Jan– 0428864378

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## North Coast Local Land Services Chair Resigns

Kent Lee has resigned as Chair of North Coast Local Land Services. The LLS NSW Acting Chair of Chairs, Alexandra Anthony of Murray LLS has announced that the North Coast LLS Acting Chair will be one of the existing NCLLS Board Members, Mark Bully (oyster farmer from the Hastings). Meanwhile the Minister for Primary Industries Niall Blair has confirmed that the LLS model has his support. [Click here](#) for the Minister's interview with ABC Rural.

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## North Coast Regional Landcare Facilitator

The new Regional Landcare Facilitator has been appointed. Kim Wolfenden will commence duties on 20 July. Kim is extremely excited to accept the job and looking forward to meeting you all and working very closely with you to assist the networks where she can.

Kim has worked closely with landholders and community in her previous jobs and holds qualifications with a Masters of Environment, majoring in Education for Sustainability and a Bachelor of Communications. Kim has a high level of communication skills coupled with over ten years' experience working in various environmental education and engagement roles. Her roles have been mainly in Queensland and include Communications and Engagement Manager for Keep Australia Beautiful, Queensland.



Kim will be based in the Coffs Harbour Local Land Services office and will be contactable through email at [r1f@northcoastlandcare.net.au](mailto:r1f@northcoastlandcare.net.au).



Brunswick Valley  
Landcare  
Inc.

## Grazing on Small Farms in Byron Shire

Brunswick Valley Landcare Inc.  
*Sustainable grazing on small farms:  
farmers teaching farmers*



## Grazing on Small Farms in Byron Shire

### *Sustainable grazing on small farms: farmers teaching farmers*

Wendy's booklet on farms in the Byron Shire is now available to download from our website.

<http://brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Final-Farm-Book-BVL-low-res-new-cover.pdf>

It has sections on soils, water, pastures and feed, paddocks and fences, weeds, animal health and welfare, pest animals, native vegetation, local farms, beef cattle farms, dairy cattle, small cattle, breeds, sheep and goats, alpacas, and legislation.

Hard copies will be available soon from the council building, libraries and the Rural Co-op in Mullumbimby. The official launch will take place as part of the Mullumbimby Rural Co-ops 60<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration in September.

## National Biological Farming Conference and Expo 2015

6, 7 & 8 November 2015 at Southern Cross University, Lismore



SoilCare  
Inc.

'Regenerating Our Soils' is the theme of the conference being convened by RLI member, SoilCare Inc. The premier event, in celebration of the International Year of Soils 2015, is scheduled to begin with a welcome reception on the 6th of November followed by 2 days of conference sessions and an Expo of sustainable farming products and services.

The conference is about learning, sharing and problem solving amongst producers, educators and national/international agricultural support professionals with a broad range of direct farming and consultancy experience. Conference speakers are being identified and honoured for their important contributions to the regenerative farming movement. Many of the speakers are farmers who have been innovative, early adopters of biological farming systems. Other speakers are consultants and educators who have supported farmers to successfully regenerate their soil and farms.

Conference registration opens on July 10. Conference delegate 'early bird' (before 1st September, 2015) registration fee is Australian \$200.00 + GST. After 1st September, 2015 the delegate registration fee is \$250.00 + GST.

Seats are limited. Book early to avoid disappointment. Watch the [SoilCare website](#) for conference details starting later this month



2015  
International  
Year of Soils



*'From the Ground Up'*  
Celebrating the International Year of Soil  
1st – 3rd September 2015 Turners Vineyard, Orange, NSW  
[www.nswlandcareconference.com.au](http://www.nswlandcareconference.com.au)



## 2015 NSW Landcare and Local Land Services Conference

# Registration now open!

Landcare NSW and Central Tablelands Local Land Services are hosting the NSW Landcare and Local Land Services Conference from the 1-3 September, in Orange, NSW. This State-wide Conference includes the Landcare Muster and the NSW State Landcare Award Presentations. As the premier event in New South Wales to showcase Landcare and environmental sustainability, the conference is being coordinated in partnership with local Landcare and community groups and is supported by Landcare NSW and the Department of Primary Industries. The conference is designed to bring together the community to facilitate networking, capacity building and to celebrate achievements of Landcare. Around 300 people from Landcare and community groups, farmers, Aboriginal groups, industry and government representatives from across NSW and Australia are invited to attend.

The theme of the Conference is ***'From the Ground Up' - Celebrating the International Year of Soil.*** Topics to be covered during the conference will include

- Sustainable Agriculture
- Environment
- Community
- Building Landcare/succession
- Governance

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September** – The NSW Landcare Muster will be held at Turners Vineyard during the morning (free for all to attend, register via the conference registration form). After lunch, optional field trips and activities will be held (optional extras, not included in the conference registration fees). The Welcome Reception will be held on Tuesday evening at Turners Vineyard, where you will have a chance to meet the State Landcare Award finalists (Champions).

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September** – The NSW State Landcare Awards will be presented at the “Breakfast of Champions”, which will be held at Turners Vineyard. A full day of presentations will follow, with the Conference Dinner held at Turners Vineyard on Wednesday evening.

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September** – Conference sessions will continue until lunchtime on Thursday. After lunch, optional post conference workshops and activities will be held (additional cost, not included in the registration fees).

Registration for the Conference is now open and can be completed online by [clicking here](http://www.nswlandcareconference.com.au). Detailed information is available on the conference website: [www.nswlandcareconference.com.au](http://www.nswlandcareconference.com.au). Close of ‘Early’ Registration is the **31<sup>st</sup> July**.

Hosted by:



Landcare  
New South Wales



Local Land  
Services  
Central Tablelands

## Green Globe Awards

Nominations for the Green Globe Awards – the leading environmental recognition program that celebrates excellence, leadership and innovation in sustainability – are now open.



Office of  
Environment  
& Heritage

[The Green Globe Awards](#) have [seventeen award categories](#) covering a range of resource, business, community and individual sustainability initiatives. The awards recognise organisations and individuals who integrate environmental practices and resource-saving initiatives into their lives and work.

Nominations can be made online on the [Office of Environment and Heritage website](#).

**Nominations close on Monday 13 July 2015.**

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## Review of State Environmental Planning Policies

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment is seeking feedback on a proposal to update and simplify a number of State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs). This proposal seeks to save planners, industry and the community time spent navigating the planning system; reduce the number of SEPPs by removing policy and development controls that have been replaced by Standard Instrument Local Environmental Plans, and other existing SEPPs; and incorporate some planning policies into relevant local plans.

Feedback is welcomed from local government, industry and the community on the proposed changes. Changes in the Explanation of Intended Effects can be viewed and feedback given on the [Department of Planning and Environment](#) website until **9 July 2015**

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## Commonwealth funding of environmental programs

Chapter 2 looks at the abolition of the Biodiversity Fund by the current government and the funding now available from the Commonwealth Department of the Environment (the department) for environmental programs, including current funding opportunities provided by the Green Army and 20 Million Trees programs.

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment\\_and\\_Communications/Ausenviron/Report/c02](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communications/Ausenviron/Report/c02)



## WCA and CVA Merger

WetlandCare Australia are pleased to advise that following discussions between the Boards of WetlandCare Australia (WCA) and Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) it has been agreed that our objectives are complementary, and there are synergies to be obtained from bringing the two organisations together. As such it has been resolved that the organisations will merge, with CVA taking control of WCA. WCA will continue as a wholly owned subsidiary of CVA and the WCA brand will be retained.



[Click here](#) for link to media announcement.

## Splendour in the Grass Community Grant

Splendour In the Grass has contributed over \$350,000 in donations to local community groups within the last 13 years, donating \$25,000 annually. In 2014 -2015 Brunswick Valley Landcare were successful in attaining grant funds for environmental education and promotion of landcare within schools and the local community. These funds have been shared with Mullumbimby State High School, Main Arm State School, Ocean Shores State School and Mullumbimby Community Gardens Green Army Team. The results of the individual projects exceeded expectations and left smiles on the faces of local students, trainees, teachers and landcare representatives alike.

### Mullumbimby State High School

Our project focused on engaging the students enrolled in the Green Group program. Students have been introduced to the concept of weed weaving using many of the shires most notorious environmental weeds, using them to create useful and beautiful baskets and artistic creations. The project included tips on identifying weeds in the local area as well as recycling and reusing household items combined with weaving the weed species.

Weed Species included:

Coastal Morning Glory	Corky passion vine
Cats Claw Creeper	Rain tree
Ochna	Mock Orange
Camphor Laurel	Alexander palm
Cestrum	Privet

In total the students participated in 18 hours of weed weaving using at least half a square metre of solid weed material every session. The results of these weaving practices revealed a twofold impact. The material harvesting sites have shown vast improvements with significant reductions in invasive species using chemical free harvesting techniques. The more unexpected result was the increased confidence and focus of students. Teacher Pauline Macleod commented every session on the level of student participation and commitment. As students finalised projects they visibly became more confident and felt a sense of achievement after completing tasks they had never done before. Several of the students have become inspired to seek out weeds for weaving and would like to continue the practice.



Weaving by Mullumbimby Green Group students (photos Alys Shilo)

### Main Arm Upper Public School

Located in Upper Main Arm, the public school has small pockets of rainforest plantings. Our project focused on extending these pockets with the help of teacher Christian Tranberg and his year 3 and 4 students. The session started with an environmental weed talk and identification walk before students planted and mulched 90 trees. In addition another 60 trees and mulch were donated to the school and planted during a working bee. The students were encouraged to take ownership over the planting and therefore named their trees. This school is very interested in learning more about control of environmental weeds and further extending the existing rainforest plantings within the school grounds.



Students of Main Arm State School participating in weed walk and tree planting (photos Alys Shilo)

### **Mullumbimby Community Gardens Green Army**

The Mullumbimby Green Army have been performing chemical free bush regeneration and weed control along the community garden section of Saltwater Creek. Under the guidance of team leader Janie Smith and with help from Dave Rawlins who started the project several years ago, the team have made a significant impact on weed infestations along the riparian zone. The team participated in a one day workshop giving them an overview of Landcare works in the local area, plant identification resources and bush regeneration. The day finished with a species specific weed collection and weed weaving session.

The team really enjoyed learning how to use common vines species located within their site in a positive and creative way. Many team members are hoping to continue in the industry after finishing the traineeship and found information about projects in the local area very useful.



Mullumbimby Community Gardens Green Army team collecting and weaving with weed vines (photos Janie Smith)

### **Ocean Shores Public School**

Students of Ocean Shores Public School have been learning for many years about the wetlands located along the school boundary. This ongoing commitment and education program has seen many improvements within the wetland ecosystem and created a very enthusiastic attitude about conservation and environmental restoration within the school community. As part of the efforts to improve the local wetlands, Splendour In The Grass combined forces with the Brunswick Valley Landcare and Byron Shire Council's Koala Connections program to visit the school for the quarterly Wetlands Celebration Day. Brunswick Valley Landcare and Koala Connections contributed 150 plants, mulch, fertiliser and water crystals. Landcare representatives assisted the students in years 5 and 6 to plant a natural drain, filtering water from the sports field as it flows into to the wetland. In addition the students planted a buffer of native species between the school and an upcoming residential development. As part of Wetland Celebration Day students also learnt about nest boxes for local wildlife during a presentation by special guest Rita de Heer from Brunswick Valley Landcare. The project finished with a competition to design a sign for the wetlands. Proceeds for this sign and a small prize have been donated by the Splendour in the Grass grant.



Ocean Shores State School Students and Brunswick Valley Landcare representatives planting natural water filtering system (photos Alison Ratcliffe)

In summary Splendour in the Grass have contributed to:

- Environmental education projects in three local schools
- One day workshop for local Green Army team
- Planted, mulched fertilised and watered 300 native plants species
- Removal of over 6 meters square of solid weed material from the local environment
- Creating over 100 environmentally sustainable and recycled baskets and artworks

Brunswick Valley Landcare and all stakeholders involved in these projects, we gratefully appreciate the efforts made by Splendour in the Grass to enrich our small but deeply connected community. These projects have made a positive impact on all participants and will leave lasting memories for many involved.

## In memory of Phillip Toyne, co-founder of Landcare

Phillip Toyne, co-founder of Landcare and former head of the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF), died last month aged 67 after a long battle with cancer. Late last year Mr Toyne made a special trip to speak at the opening plenary of the 2014 National Landcare Conference and shed light on how Landcare was created, his views on its greatest successes and opportunities for the future.

Mr Toyne was one of the last surviving founders of Landcare, after the death of

[Joan Kirner](#).

In 1989 the Landcare movement as it is now known began nationally with the late Rick Farley of the National Farmers Federation (NFF) and Mr Toyne successfully lobbying the Hawke Labor Government to commit itself to the emerging movement, which it did by announcing a Decade of Landcare, kicked off with \$320 million.



*L-R: Christine Forster, Phillip Toyne and Andrew Campbell on the History of Landcare panel at last year's National Landcare Conference.*

At the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference late last year, Mr Toyne recalled that period as a relatively easy sell to key stakeholders, including Prime Minister Bob Hawke, coming at a time when the Labor Party was seen as being beholden to trade unions and wanted to reach out to the bush: "He accepted it on the

spot, it was a single meeting and he said ‘this is terrific’, and when we left, Rick said to me, ‘Damn, we should’ve asked for \$100 billion.’”

Professor Andrew Campbell, the head of the Research School for the Environment at Charles Darwin University who was first Regional Landcare Facilitator, has recalled in his book *Landcare – Communities Shaping the Land and the Future* – the confluence of crucial factors at the time, including the “unlikely bedfellows” – the united push by the ACF and the NFF. “The potent political ingredients of perfect timing, a discrete package with broad voter appeal, against a background of exponential growth in community awareness of environmental issues, ensured that Landcare became the ‘flavour of the month’.” Prior to that, Mr Toyne, along with his farming counterpart Rick Farley had a job to do formulating the concept for their respective constituents, having visiting locally based land conservations groups and being impressed by their potential.

Mr Toyne said while clearly the environmental benefits were the motivation for forming Landcare, for the NFF, as for the government of the day, the attraction lay not only in demonstrating land conservation credentials to avoid government regulation, but also to linking up with the bulk of Australia’s population in urban areas. “Rick... realised that if Landcare could be given a ‘sustainability’ flavour and purpose then that would attract the support of the city voters and that’s exactly what happened,” he said. He recalled in the early days there had been some confusion about who was doing what, citing a trip to the midlands of Tasmania during a “show and tell” tour of Australia supported by Senator Peter Cook, then Minister for Resources.

“I was wearing my tweed jacket and my moleskins, which I wore most of the time, and Rick turned up in a suit. We hopped off the bus completely surrounded by farmers, and one farmer sidled up to me and he said, ‘Rick, Do you reckon we can really trust these greenies?’ And I said, ‘I find them completely lovely people.’ And I wonder to this day if he ever found out the difference between us!”

Looking to the future in an environment of tight budgets, Mr Toyne has pointed to the Carbon Farming Initiative and innovations in soil as a way to absorb CO<sub>2</sub> as having great potential to provide funding for Landcarers. “Keep an eye on it – I really believe that if you can unlock the potential of soil carbon... then the opportunities are tremendous and the potential returns could be huge. But I’m not suggesting that we will see it right now and I’m not suggesting that all of the technical issues in measuring it and calculating it have been resolved but we’re not far away from it.”

Mr Toyne said it is the individuals that make up Landcare everywhere that are behind the movement’s success: “This social network, this body of knowledge, this capacity to work, is the real success of Landcare and of course, there isn’t an end point to Landcare; it’s a continuous journey and it will reinvent itself as it evolves in time,” he said, but advised: “Don’t lose sight of what was achieved and how it was done because it’s going to be enormously valuable to future generations.

We give our thanks to Phillip Toyne for his time, vision and dedication as an architect of Landcare.

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## North Coast Region Wild Dog Management Plan

The [North Coast Region Wild Dog Management Plan](#) was recently finalised following consultation with a range of government, industry and community stakeholders. Implementation of the Plan will provide leadership and coordination for the management of wild dogs across the North Coast region and will increase awareness, understanding and capacity building with regards to wild dog management.

# Great Schools Resource: Environment club manual for high-school students

The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage has available online a fantastic resource set for School-based environment groups.

Click the link below and see how "Landcare Group" can be substituted for "Environmental club"  
<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/sustainableschools/manage/enviro-club-manual.htm>

## Infographics

There are some great info graphics this month.



# Science is back! To help educate quolls about cane toads. With sausages!

[First Dog on the Moon](#)

## The Whales are back.

<http://www.wildaboutwhales.com.au/news-and-events/news/migration-overview-what-you-need-to-know>

Everyone knows the story of the not very good scientists who introduced the cane toad (*Rhinella marina*) into Queensland in 1935. They did it to eradicate the cane beetle (*Dermolepida albobirtum*) but it didn't work because the cane toads didn't eat the cane beetle. Probably should have thought of that. Anyway...

Cane toads do eat lots of other more useful things and nothing really much eats them because they are also poisonous. They began to spread across the entire nation; they are still spreading today.

One of the many creatures that suffers from the invasion of cane toads is the completely excellent Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*)

This is sad and bad but it's ok because **SCIENCE IS BACK** and it promises not to bugger it up this time.

These brave animals are predators and often eat toads which causes them to die - they are now at risk of extinction.

Quoll scientists are teaching some quolls **NOT** to eat the toads and then these quolls are going out and teaching other quolls.

But how do they do this? Do the quolls attend adorable little quoll schools where they learn about all the things they should avoid? Sort of. The main tool they use is... **Toad Aversion Sausages!**

Scientists put a nausea inducing chemical in a toad meat sausage. Quolls eat them and become ill and then associate the smell and taste of cane toads with illness. After that they mostly ignore the toads.

Do NOT eat

EWWW those things are gross!

Are you sure? It looks delicious.

You heard me! Let's all say that again - **Toad Aversion Sausages!** Woo-hoo!

Scientists are also trying to create long lasting toad-aversion baits suitable for aerial deployment. They plan to deploy these baits ahead of the toad invasion front.

Not only do you get to be a quoll scientist, you also get to throw toad-aversion sausages out of a helicopter!

Wheee!

Airborne Toad Aversion Sausage

Best. Job. Ever.

Toad Invasion Front

Public Awareness Campaign

BE TOAD SMART

And then climate change will probably kill all of them anyway.

Try this handy recipe and make your own Toad Aversion Sausages at home!

You will need -

- Skinned and unskinned cane toad legs
- Nausea causing thiazibendazole
- Synthetic sausage skin
- A helicopter

Blend the legs into mince then bung in the thiazibendazole (60 ml per 15 gms of toad mince). Stuff the lot into sausage skins. To serve, throw out of helicopter.

Taken from the final report of the Northern Quolls Vs Toads Research Unit. Australia salutes our brave Quoll Scientists - Jonathan Webb, Sarah Legge, Katherine Tuft, Teigan Cremona and Caitlin Austin. Also did you know quolls like tuna? True!

### THE NSW WHALE MIGRATION: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The annual whale migration is a sight to behold. But do you know what it's all about? Get the most out of the whale watching season and discover what's what with these wandering, wondrous whales.

#### WHY DO THEY MIGRATE?

Whales migrate for breeding and eating. Food is generally found in the cooler waters, but this is no environment for a newborn calf - so the migration to warmer waters in the north begins.

#### WHAT KIND OF WHALES CAN I SEE?

14 - 18 metres long

Blowhole, Dorsal fin, Dorsal ridge, Flukes, Ventral Pleats, Pectoral fins, HUMPBACK WHALE

14 - 18 metres long

Blowholes, Tail Flukes, Callistoties, Pectoral fins, SOUTHERN RIGHT WHALE

Humpbacks and southern right whales are the most sighted, but minke, blue whales and orcas are occasionally spotted too.

#### WHEN DO THEY MIGRATE?

They generally start their swim north between May and July, and then start making their southbound journey from around September to November.

#### WHERE DO THEY GO?

South Pacific Region

NEW ZEALAND

ANTARCTICA

— Humpback Whales

— Southern Right Whales

— Breeding Grounds

— Feeding Grounds

#### HOW MANY WHALES MIGRATE?

**UP TO 20,000 WHALES** expected to pass the NSW coast in 2015

**10% - 14%** population increase every year

#### WHAT SHOULD I LOOK FOR?

Humpback Whale: Blow, Breach, Surfacing, Other characteristics

Southern Right Whale: Breach, Blow, Surfacing, Other characteristics



- #### FIND OUT MORE
- 1 Find a top spot for whale watching in a national park on our website. [wildaboutwhales.com.au](http://wildaboutwhales.com.au)
  - 2 Plan your coastal adventures on our Facebook page. [facebook.com/wildaboutwhales](https://www.facebook.com/wildaboutwhales)
  - 3 Tell us about your whale sightings via Twitter. [twitter.com/wildaboutwhales](https://twitter.com/wildaboutwhales)
  - 4 Or email your sightings on the go and learn more about whales with the Wild About Whales mobile app.
  - 5 So what are you waiting for? It's time to get Wild About Whales.



## What is the best amount of riparian vegetation?

The Ecological Management and Restoration Journal published this article in January 2015, where researchers reviewed studies, reports and guidelines to see if there is an ideal width of vegetated riparian area to provide good environmental outcomes, including improved water quality for rivers, creeks and wetlands. The review of current information did find evidence that the continuity and connectivity of vegetated riparian zones is important.

[Follow the link to find out more](#)

## North Coast Region Socio-Economic Profile launched

North Coast Local Land Services has commissioned research that will help the organisation better meet the needs of the North Coast community. The [Characterisation of the Socio-economic Landscape of the North Coast Region NSW](#) report was developed by Eco Logical Australia, in partnership with Lawrence Consulting and Western Land Planning.



The Report provides a socio-economic snapshot of the region's communities and significant agricultural industries, drawing on comprehensive data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES), and industry sources. When compared to NSW as a whole, the North Coast has lower than average growth in population and is considerably older than the NSW average. Nevertheless, North Coast agriculture is diverse, highly productive and valuable. Historically important industries such as beef, dairy, sugar and macadamias continue to be of central importance to the region but some industries, such as blueberry, are emerging rapidly or experiencing steady growth. The latter include eggs, poultry, beans, vegetables and oilseeds. The information in the report will be used as background for upcoming engagement with key industries and should provide useful context for investment in agriculture services, biosecurity and NRM programs.

[http://northcoast.ils.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0012/564789/characterisation-of-the-socio-economic-landscape-of-the-north-coast-region-of-nsw.pdf](http://northcoast.ils.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0012/564789/characterisation-of-the-socio-economic-landscape-of-the-north-coast-region-of-nsw.pdf)



## Help to combat pest animals is only a click away

A new online pest animal toolkit from the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre (IA CRC) is a one-stop shop of practical knowledge to arm farmers and land managers with the information and connections they need to combat pest animals.

The PestSmart Connect website [www.pestsmart.org.au](http://www.pestsmart.org.au) is the culmination of ten years of information gathering and research by the IA CRC - Australia's largest integrated pest animal management research organisation.

## Landcare NSW Muster - Claim the Date!

Landcarers from across NSW are encouraged to come to Orange on 1st September 2015 to join the Landcare Muster and the State Landcare Conference. The Muster in Landcare NSW's key mechanism for gathering input from the Landcare community to shape our priorities and activities into the future – come along and contribute your thoughts & ideas.

Theme: *'From the Ground Up' - Celebrating international year of soil*  
When : 1st Sep 2015 8:30am - 3rd Sep 2015 5:30pm  
Where : Turners Vineyard, 4929 Mitchell Highway, Orange  
Contact: Liz Davis on 02 6363 7872

What would you like to see at the conference?

The Steering Committee for the Conference would like your recommendations on speakers and workshops for the conference. We would greatly appreciate your input into planning the conference by completing our very quick survey. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NSWLandcareConferenceZYT6J7Q>

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## Plants of the Month

This months plant of the month is actually two emerging weeds in the area. Some new sites of Kidney Leaf Mud Plantain have been found in Tweed Shire and Coral Creeper is moving south from Queensland.

### Kidney leaf mud plantain



Kidney leaf mud plantain (*Heteranthera reniformis*) is a class 1 noxious weed in the Northern Rivers.

Until last week, three contained sites were recorded; another site has now been located in the Tweed Council area.

#### **Have you seen Kidney leaf mud plantain in local waterways?**

Kidney leaf mud plantain grows prolifically in highly disturbed, shallow, freshwater habitats. It was introduced into Australia as a pond plant, with escaped plants colonising freshwater streams, ponds, and mudflats.

#### **Identification**

Aquatic plant with a stalk 2-15cm long. Bright green, glossy, kidney shaped leaves, 1-4cm long.

#### **Why is it a problem?**

It is only present to a limited extent now, but it poses a potentially serious threat to the environment in waterways if it is not controlled and is allowed to spread.

## What can I do?

Visit our website or call us for help with identification and removal.

If you think you have seen Kidney leaf mud plantain in the area, please call Far North Coast Weeds on (02) 6623 3833. If you would like to learn more about Kidney leaf mud plantain, or any of our High Priority Species, visit [www.fncw.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fncw.nsw.gov.au).

Further media enquires: Kim Curtis, Extension Officer, 6623 3833 or 0427 335 502.

weed  
watch™

MARCH 2010

YOUR ALERT TO NEW AND EMERGING THREATS.



1. Dense infestation in bushland at Kuraby, QLD. 2. Glossy paired leaves. 3. Showy red flower. 4. Scattered infestation in forest understorey at Drewvale, QLD.



### Coral Creeper (*Barleria repens*)

Introduced

Not Declared

Coral creeper is a creeping or scrambling shrubby plant that is an emerging weed of urban bushland, riparian vegetation, coastal sand dunes, waste areas and disturbed sites. Also known as creeping barleria, red barleria and coral bells, this species is a member of the Acanthaceae family and is native to Africa.

#### Distribution

This plant has recently been reported in major urban centres in the coastal parts of eastern QLD (e.g. Mackay, Gladstone and Brisbane). The first records were from gardens in Brisbane in 2006, where collectors noted large numbers of young plants germinating near cultivated individuals.

In February of this year, two infestations were reported from the margins of urban bushland reserves in south-eastern Brisbane. A very dense population is located in a disturbed forest backing onto houses near the upper reaches of Slacks Creek in Kuraby, while a second population is present in the understorey of a bushland area in Drewvale. Shortly afterwards, a third infestation was detected in Toohey Forest at Tarragindi.

#### Description

A creeping or scrambling shrubby plant usually less than 70 cm tall. However when growing in the forest understorey it scrambles over nearby shrubs and can occasionally climb up to 2m in height. The younger stems are green and sparsely hairy, while older stems may become somewhat woody in nature. These stems tend to produce roots where they touch the ground, enabling this plant to spread quite quickly. The shiny, dark green leaves have entire margins and are borne in pairs along the stems.

The showy tubular flowers have five spreading lobes and are mostly produced in late summer and autumn (i.e. from February to April). These flowers are borne in the leaf forks and have two large green leafy bracts at their bases. Forms with pink, mauve and purple flowers are common in South Africa, but the form that is cultivated and naturalised in Queensland has bright red or pinkish-red flowers. The fruit is a small club-shaped capsule that splits open when mature to release four seeds.

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#### Quick Facts

- > A creeping or scrambling shrubby plant with bright red tubular flowers
- > Its stems produce roots where they come into contact with the soil
- > Capable of forming a dense groundcover in forest understoreys

#### Habitat

This plant has been recorded in the understorey of urban bushland and disturbed forests, but it is also a potential weed of riparian vegetation, roadsides, disturbed sites and waste areas.



## LINKS

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- 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](http://www.envite.org.au)
  - Environmental Trust <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/envtrust.htm>
  - Ewingsdale Locality Group (BVL) <http://ewingsdale.org.au/#/landcare/4532495308>
  - Far North Coast Weeds <http://fncw.nsw.gov.au/>
  - Friends of the Koala [www.friendsofthekoala.org](http://www.friendsofthekoala.org)
  - Green and Clean Awareness Team [www.greenclean.org.au](http://www.greenclean.org.au)
  - North Coast Local Land Services <http://northcoast.lls.nsw.gov.au/>
  - Northern Landcare Support Services <http://www.nlss.com.au/>
  - Mullumbimby Community Gardens <http://mullumcommunitygarden.wordpress.com/>
  - North Coast nature <http://www.northcoastnature.org.au/>
  - Richmond Landcare Inc. <http://www.richmondlandcare.org/>
  - Soilcare <http://www.soilcare.org>
  - Suffolk Park Locality Group (BVL) [www.landcare.nsw.gov.au/groups/suffolk-park-dunecare-group](http://www.landcare.nsw.gov.au/groups/suffolk-park-dunecare-group)
  - Tweed Landcare Inc. <http://www.tweedlandcare.org.au/>
  - Wilson's Creek Huonbrook Landcare <http://wilsonscreeklandcare.mullum.com.au/>
  - Wetlandcare Australia <http://www.wetlandcare.com.au/index.php>
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For information about Landcare or other natural resource issues in Byron shire  
please contact

Landcare Community Support Officer  
Alison Ratcliffe 66267028 (Tuesday and Wednesday)  
email: [alison.ratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au](mailto:alison.ratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au)



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Local Land  
Services

