

GREETINGS LANDCARERS

Another action packed newsletter for you to read with your favourite cuppa this week!

We've recently joined Publinc at Brunswick Hotel which will provide another way for people to donate to our great projects. Plus you get discounts on meals and drinks! (See p2)

We are planning activities for Landcare Week 6 - 13 August 2023 including a Science in the Pub. Come and join us for at least one of these to meet like-minded landcarers in the area. See p5 for more details.

From the BVL team





**Connecting our
people, pub and
Brunswick community.**

Brunswick Valley Landcare joins Publinc

Brunswick Valley Landcare is pleased to announce it is now a Peer Community Group at the Hotel Brunswick.

What does this mean?

By joining Publinc at the hotel (it's free) you accumulate points on purchases which you can pledge to Brunswick Valley Landcare (BVL) or other listed community groups. This provides more donations to BVL. The more points pledged to BVL, the larger the donation BVL receives. You also get discounted meals and drinks by using your red Publinc card each purchase at the Hotel.

How Can You Help?

Join Publinc and ask your friends and families to do the same.

<https://hotelbrunswick.com.au/publinc-communities.html>

You can pledge your accumulated points to BVL at any time via the Publinc App, or whenever Publinc ask what you wish to do with your points.

About Brunswick Valley Landcare

BVL is a local, long-standing not-for-profit community group.

BVL aims to conserve and restore our natural environment from forest to foreshore. We work with hundreds of volunteers in the Brunswick River catchment of Byron Shire in northern NSW. The Brunswick Valley has phenomenal biodiversity in its small catchment with around 750 local native plant species. It lies within the third most biodiverse area in Australia.

We are a membership-based, grass-roots organisation, leading by example, and hold regular workshops, field trips and other events to help you live amongst our natural environment.

We'd love to receive your community points donation to help us with our work on land management practices to conserve and improve local habitat for wildlife, our sensitive beach-dune areas and local farmland through regenerative agriculture.

Become a member today to be part of a community of people caring for our local ecosystems for future generations.

www.brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au

Find us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/brunswickvalleylandcare>

BVL EVENTS

Mending & Tending; Art Working for Nature

Brunswick Valley Landcare and Byron Bird Buddies are supporting the inaugural Lone Goat Gallery / Byron Council art show called The Climate Conversations. This project is a collaboration between artists Sam Moss, Shona Wilson and Jess Poulson. The project is focused on the neglected foreshore of Torakina park / reserve at Brunswick Heads, including improving habitat. Art pieces and workshops will help raise awareness to the importance of conserving the environment, including protecting old trees and hollows for habitat. The project will be conducted and displayed in Torakina Park, Brunswick Heads and Lone Goat Gallery, Byron and will run from 28 July to 26 August.

Come down and see us on our information stall on **Sunday 30th July in Torakina Park**, and consider participating in a workshop. There will be a stall, activity, information and guided walk. For information about the exhibition and workshops see

<https://www.lonegoatgallery.com/exhibitions/samantha-moss-jess-poulsen-shona-wilson>



LANDCARE WEEK ACTIVITIES

6 - 13 AUGUST 2023

Brunswick Valley Landcare are offering activities during Landcare Week this year. Sign up via links below to participate and meet other like-minded landcarers.

Federal Family Fun Day stall - Sunday 6 August

Find us at Federal Community Children's Centre between 10am to 2pm on Sunday 6th August. Check out the Bush Tucker Living Classroom which is a best practice example of how community can work together.

Science in the Pub: Building Wildlife Safe Havens in the Byron Shire - Hotel Brunswick - Wednesday 9 August

Building Wildlife Safe Havens in the Byron Shire. Come and hear experts talk about the nest box program and successes to date. Hear from ecologists and others about the latest biodiversity and habitat conservation efforts.

Stall at Mullumbimby Farmers Market - Friday 11 August

Come and chat to us at our stall at Mullumbimby Farmers Market. We're doing a membership drive so be sure to check out our latest resources.

Open Morning - Heritage Park Mullumbimby - Saturday 12 August

Come and chat to Landcare volunteers about Maslen Arboretum and other work in Heritage Park Mullumbimby at our open morning from 9 - 11am.

Be inspired, be empowered, be a landcarer. Celebrate Landcare Week with us!

Please note, details subject to change. Keep an eye on our socials for updates - facebook and instagram.

BVL NEWS

Broken Head Coastal Corridor Restoration Project

The Broken Head Landcare are completing the first year of a four year grant from NSW Environmental Trust Broken Head Coastal Corridor Restoration Project Stage 3.

The project includes seven properties between Piccadilly Hill and Broken Head mainly focusing on restoring and replanting riparian vegetation along Midgen Creek. In the first year of the project 6.740 rainforest and sclerophyll trees were planted and weed control was undertaken targeting exotic grasses and woody weeds that are impeding natural regeneration.

The seven landholders are enthusiastically committed to the project with in-kind actions including slashing prior to site preparation, weed control, augering holes, providing mulch and planting trees.



A very happy landholder with his trees

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



Wilsons Creek Public School - Cat Impacts

Sarah Legge has been working with the kids at Wilsons Ck Public School and this term they've been looking at native species extinction.

The kids developed this Cat Impacts poster which has been entered into the Byron Shire art competition.

Last week this Cat Impacts Poster was shown to the AG Threatened Species Committee - which has led to an action for education materials for schools in the new National Threat Abatement Plan for feral cats! Go Wilsons Creek PS!

Don't let pet cats roam outside!

Cats have made over 20 species of native mammal go extinct, and kill millions of animals every day

Feral There are more pet cats than feral cats in Australia:
5.3 million pets
2.8 million ferals

Pets

Pet cats that roam outside...

have a high chance of being hit by cars, mauled by dogs, and picking up diseases. A pet cat that is kept contained lives 4 times longer than a roaming cat!

Pet cats that roam outside...

hunt native animals. Studies show that on average, a hunting pet cat kills 110 native animals each year. That works out as over 545 million mammals, birds, and reptiles killed each year by our pet cats!

These are some of the animals that cats hunt

Emerald dove, platypus, pink water lizard, ringtail, sugar glider, pitta, lyrebird, koala, masked owl, spot-tailed quoll, numbat, greater glider, eastern quoll, fairy-wren, potoroo, snake, antechinus, worm, pigeon, glider, meadow whistler, malleefowl, greater glider, numbat

If you have a pet cat, and you want it to live a long, healthy life, without harming wildlife, then:

- Keep your cat indoors or in an outdoor cat run
- Desex your cat
- Register, microchip your cat

Created by the students of Wilsons Creek Public School during Science Class, May 2023.
Facts about cat impacts: https://soob.warrholmschool.org.au/media/galleries/2023_6/get_cat_impacts_fa_page_2023.pdf

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL NEWS

Byron Shire Council and The Farm team up to help wildlife

Council has teamed up with [The Farm Byron Bay](#) to install wildlife friendly fencing and is encouraging landowners in the Byron Shire to do the same.

Staff from Council and The Farm Byron Bay recently installed aluminium tags on barbed wire fencing, a simple measure to help wildlife such as birds and flying-foxes see fences, and reduce the risk of them becoming trapped.

Liz Caddick, Council's Biodiversity Team Leader, explained that many animals sadly become trapped on barbed wire fences and in netting every year, often resulting in them having to be euthanised, but that fortunately there are things that landowners can do to stop this from happening.

"The aluminium tags work by catching the light and making the fences more visible to wildlife. This prevents them from flying into the fence and becoming trapped," Ms Caddick said. "Other things that landowners can do is remove old barbed wire fences if they are no longer needed, or replace the top strand of fencing with smooth wire. They can also replace netting around fruit trees with more wildlife-friendly options.

"All of this information is available on Council's [website](#), and we are encouraging people to take a look," she said.

Andy Carbone from The Farm Byron Bay said that landowners can take a look at the aluminium tags that have been installed in the pecan orchard.

"We were really happy to team up with Council on this project. We hope that, by making our fences more visible to wildlife, we will help protect the birds and flying-foxes that visit The Farm, as well as showing other property owners simple things they can do to make their fences more wildlife friendly," Mr Carbone said.

"If you are interested come and take a look at the tags," Mr Carbone said.

With local citrus trees also fruiting at the moment, there is a risk of animals getting tangled in netting around fruit trees. The new webpage also gives growers tips on how to install wildlife-friendly netting, to protect their fruit and also protect wildlife.

If you do find an animal tangled in a net or fence, call the experts for help as soon as possible on the phone numbers below:

- WIRES: 1300 094 737,
- Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers: 02 6628 1866,
- Friends of the Koala: 02 6622 1233.



BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL NEWS

Major rehabilitation project starting – Bringing Back the Bruns

Work started in May on a major rehabilitation project on the Brunswick River near Mullumbimby. Funded by the Australian Government’s Fisheries Habitat Restoration program, the project aims to stabilise 160m of riverbank to improve the health of the river and the local fishery.

“Like many parts of the Brunswick River, this section of riverbank is privately owned and over the years has been badly degraded by cattle and also through weed infestation,” Council’s Coast, Biodiversity & Sustainability Coordinator, Chloe Dowsett said.

“This project involved major earthworks to reshape and the building of in-stream log structures to assist the growth of mangroves,” Ms Dowsett said.

The land will be fenced to prevent stock entering the rehabilitation area, where the landholder and volunteers from the not-for-profit OzFish group and the Brunswick River Angling and Deep Sea Fishing Club will be planting 1,400 native plants and trees.

Some of the aims of the project include improving the aquatic and terrestrial habitat for the benefit of our fisheries as well as to stop erosion which will reduce the amount of soil and nutrient runoff entering the river.

The project is supported by Council alongside Local Land Services, the NSW Soil Conservation Service, OzFish and the Brunswick River Angling and Deep Sea Fishing Club. “This project has been identified as one of the most important rehabilitation projects to be undertaken on this stretch of the the Brunswick River and it is only possible through the goodwill and contributions of the committed landowner,” Ms Dowsett said.



Brunswick Valley Landcare Field Trip - Bringing Back the Bruns

Story and photos by Harry Hackett

On a beautiful day in June, BVL arranged a field trip in partnership with Byron Shire Council to engage the community in the work outlined in the Council media release above.

The field trip allowed for people to view the site in person, understand the challenges, learn about river & catchment processes and what the management solutions are. Some plants were also planted.

continued overleaf.....



Brunswick Valley Landcare Field Trip - Bringing Back the Bruns continued

The weather was glorious and field trippers had an all-round great morning. Gathering at the Paddock Project for morning tea, we then heard a presentation by Peter Boyd, Council's Agricultural and Biodiversity Project Officer, about natural river and catchment processes, the challenges being faced at this site, as well as the strategy behind restoration works. The primary cause of the major bank undercutting and erosion is known as "channel meander migration", being accelerated by the lack of riparian vegetation and possibly wave action from the wind and boat traffic.

Next, we heard from Dave Filipczyk, Council's Team Bush Regeneration Team Leader about effective riparian vegetation management strategies supporting biodiversity outcomes. Dave presented maps showing how he and his team have been restoring riparian vegetation on Council-managed land in Mullumbimby from 2017 to now. The before-after comparison was quite impressive to see.

Inspired by all the theory, we then made our way to the project site to experience first-hand how the restoration works have been implemented on a stretch of cleared land along the rivers' edge. And in true Landcare-style, whilst at the site we planted some trees together, contributing to the revegetation outcomes. For an example of what that habitat will grow to become in the future, we took a short walk to a nearby section of Council-managed land on the river. Dave Filipczyk led us through the riparian habitat he and his team have been regenerating and explaining the regeneration techniques being deployed. Advanced canopy structure, plant species diversity, beautiful grassy ground cover and barely a weed in sight. It was beautiful in there.

Attendees really enjoyed the opportunity to pop their heads up from their own regen sites to see what else is being achieved in the Shire, and to learn more about our precious river systems. It was wonderful to see what the commitment from the landholder, Council, funding partners and local organisations can achieve.

Overwhelming feedback from the day – more field trips!
Watch this space....



Species selection guides for riverbank rehabilitation

Are you looking to rehabilitate a stream bank with plants and want to know what species to choose and where to plant them?

Then you're in luck! Local Land Services have created a series of fact sheets that will help you:

- understand the different parts of the riparian zone
- choose species best suited for your catchment
- choose species best suited for the different areas of the stream bank.

The fact sheets are relevant for the Mid-Lower Clarence, Hawkesbury, Macleay, Nambucca and Richmond catchments.

You can find the river catchment specific species selection guides on the [Riverbank Rehabilitation Project webpage](#). To discuss one of the species selection guides further with a staff member, contact the Riverbank Rehabilitation Project by email: riverrehabproject@lls.nsw.gov.au.

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Targeting priority weeds on our travelling stock reserves

Rangers and contractors for North Coast Local Land Services' travelling stock reserves program have been undertaking control of Tropical Soda Apple on Trade Stock Routes.

Working with Local Control Authorities to identify known or high-risk locations for this priority pest, the weed is being controlled by removing the fruit by hand for landfill disposal and then using both hand-pulling or foliar spraying of the plants to ensure their effective control. In a recent sweep of a single reserve over several days, a contractor bagged and removed more than 60 kilograms of fruit, equating to hundreds-of-thousands of seeds!

For more about Tropical Soda Apple see <https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/Details/186>

Help us control TSA on our travelling stock reserves by reporting it to your local council or the NSW DPI Biosecurity Helpline 1800 680 244.



Do you still have flood damaged fences in need of clearing, repairing or replacing?

Primary producers in the Tweed, Byron, Lismore & Mid-Western regions who require assistance are encouraged to apply for support through [Rotary Australia World Community Service](#).

RAWCS are currently taking expressions of interest from primary producers for fence rebuilding support to be carried out by their teams of volunteers. To check your eligibility and how to apply visit [RAWCS](#) or contact projects.supervisor@rawcs.org.au.

RESEARCH, RESPOND, RECOVER: A YEAR ON FROM DISASTER

Supported by The Paul Ramsay Foundation, this report, *Research, Respond, Recover: A year on from disaster*, takes a deep dive into the recovery progress and ongoing disaster impacts within the Northern Rivers not-for-profit and grassroots community sector. The report is the second in a four-year longitudinal study being carried out by Northern Rivers Community Foundation, following the devastating flooding events of February and March 2022 in the Northern Rivers.

Over 12 months on from the 2022 disaster, many individuals and communities are still working on their recovery, feeling exhausted, struggling with trauma, and in need of support. Response by place-based charities has faced numerous challenges including a significant reduction in volunteer numbers and workforce, employees struggling with flood recovery, mental health pressures, and a funding squeeze. As this report reveals, not-for-profit organisations are struggling to meet increased demand on their services.

NRCF's four-year research project helps unpack the issues and conditions impacting community and grassroots recovery from disaster. It builds an evidence-base for support of not-for-profit organisations and increases awareness of the need at local, state and national levels.

To read the report and more, see https://nrcf.org.au/our-impact/research/?mc_cid=ec8e96f14a&mc_eid=ea9fe9667c

Flood Recovery Vouchers

Brunswick Valley Landcare are offering \$250 vouchers for native plants to help residents of Byron Shire to replant and recover from flood damage.

This offer is open to members of BVL and Wilsons Creek Huonbrook Landcare.

Vouchers will be accepted at 3 local native plant nurseries:

- Firewheel Rainforest Nursery
- Northern Rivers Natives
- Friends of the Koala Nursery

The vouchers will only be reimbursed for native plants and must be reimbursed within 6 months of issue. To apply please complete this simple online form

<https://form.jotform.com/222261171517852>

2nd Flood recovery

BVL members can apply for a \$250 voucher to spend on native plants.

TO BE CLAIMED AT THE FOLLOWING NURSERIES

Firewheel Rainforest Nursery, Friends of the Koala, Northern Rivers Natives

to apply please fill out this form <https://form.jotform.com/222261171517852>

We recommend consulting our booklets My Local Native Garden and Climate Resilient Landscapes if you are unsure of what you should plant. You can download both here: <https://brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/native-plants/>

Not a BVL member? Don't worry you can become a member for \$20 per year or \$100 for life membership, head to: <https://brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/apply-for-membership/>

Wildlife Safe Havens update

BVL and Wildbnb are conducting monitoring and maintenance of nest boxes installed in our region. Here are Ben McDonald, wildbnb specialist climber, and Heritage Park stalwart, Diana Hughes after finding gliders habitating the nest boxes.



Sugar Glider, *Petaurus breviceps* at Heritage Park



Ben from Wildbnb and Diana Hughes, Heritage Park locality group

You can make a tax-deductible donation for our native wildlife at the link below! Come along to the re-launch of Wildlife Safe Havens at Science in the Pub at Hotel Brunswick on 8 August. See details under 'Landcare Week' information.

<https://chuffed.org/project/wildlife-safe-havens>

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World Environment Day Festival 2023

Knox Park Murwillumbah, Sunday July 16th, 10am to 3.30pm.

Hosted by the Caldera Environment Centre in conjunction with community environmental groups from around the region. The event gives local environmental organisations an arena to bring attention to their issues and their actions, plus Guest Speakers (including a Glossy Squad presentation), plus performance entertainment.

<https://calderaenvironmentcentre.org/the-wollumbin-caldera-world-environment-day-festival-2023/>

Cultural burning to protect threatened species

In northern NSW, cultural burning is helping to secure populations of threatened species that rely on fire to maintain habitat for their survival.

A number of threatened species rely on fire to maintain habitat crucial to their survival. The eastern chestnut mouse (*Pseudomys gracilicaudatus*), Hastings River mouse (*Pseudomys oralis*) and eastern bristlebird (*Dasyornis brachypterus*) rely on open forest with dense tussocky grass understorey. Maintaining the structure of this kind of habitat requires frequent low intensity burns.

In northern NSW, Saving our Species works with Aboriginal groups to plan and implement cultural fire management on both Aboriginal-owned land and on national park estate. This 'cultural burning' is a cultural fire practice used by Aboriginal people to improve the health of Country and its people. It has been used for over 60,000 years to manage land, plants and animals.

To learn more about some of the projects applying cultural burning to threatened species conservation, see <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/news/cultural-burning-to-protect-threatened-species>

Byron Bay's lighthouse headland could soon be known by Indigenous name Walgun

The Guardian



The headland of Cape Byron, home to Byron Bay's famous lighthouse, could soon be known by its Aboriginal name Walgun as part of a push for greater Indigenous recognition. Nearby Julian Rocks nature reserve, home to some of the most diverse marine wildlife on the planet, could officially be known as Nguthungulli, after a community consultation process.

Walgun, an important gathering site, means shoulder. Nguthungulli, the traditional name for the imposing outcrop 2km off Cape Byron, translates as father of the world in a number of Dreaming stories of the Bundjalung of Byron Bay – Arakwal people.

Brent Emmons from Bundjalung of Byron Bay Aboriginal Corporation – which is working alongside the state government, Cape Byron Trust and the National Parks and Wildlife Service on the dual name project – said if the changes went ahead they would bring Aboriginal culture to the forefront.

NSW minister for Aboriginal affairs, David Harris, said the state government was keen for community feedback on the Cape Byron and Julian Rocks naming proposals. "Reawakening Aboriginal placenames helps to preserve cultural traditions and provide a sense of belonging for all people from all walks of life," he said.

If the dual names are assigned, signposts, maps and directories will feature both names. About 45 dual names have been assigned across NSW since 2001.

Written submissions for the naming proposals can be sent to the state's geographical names board, by 28 July. <https://proposals.gnb.nsw.gov.au/currentproposals>

Myrtle Rust contained on Lord Howe Island

National Parks and Wildlife Service recently lent a hand to our friends at the Lord Howe Island Board to address a new biosecurity threat on the island - myrtle rust. This fungal disease threatens the island's unique ecosystem including native flora and endangered species. Thankfully the quick response implementing treatments, managing transmission risks and building knowledge amongst visitors has effectively contained the spread with the last active myrtle rust infected sites treated in March.

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Become a Volunteer Campground Host for National Parks

Do you have a passion for the outdoors and volunteering? Camp hosting in a NSW national park could be perfect for you. Volunteer your time to meet and greet campers in our national parks and help them to enjoy their experience, sharing knowledge and making friends along the way. Check out our campground host program to learn more.

<https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/campground-hosts>

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Ground truth: CSIRO launches national data and information tool for soil

Australia's national science agency, CSIRO, has launched a new tool that will help Australia sustainably manage a critical natural resource which sustains lives and livelihoods.

Now live and available for use, the [Australian National Soil Information System](#) (ANSIS) brings together soil data from across Australia, connecting multiple data sources to provide access to nationally consistent soil data and information.

It will equip farmers, policy makers and researchers with the data and information they need to better manage, restore, and protect Australia's soils.

Speaking at the Soil Science Australian conference in Darwin, ANSIS project lead at CSIRO, Peter Wilson, said it was an important step forward for the future sustainable management of soils in every part of the country.

"Soil is the backbone of our food security, and it is critical that we manage it effectively for climate change adaptation and economic and environmental prosperity to support national and global agrifood priorities," Mr Wilson said.

"Until now, it's been exceptionally difficult to find, access, integrate and compare soil data. This new system brings together all this information providing easy access to soil data and information that will underpin the effective management of soil."

ANSIS will be a valuable tool for farmers and farm advisors, allowing them to compare the condition of their soil with other soils in their region; monitor how their soil has changed over time; and inform opportunities for change or improvement in land management practices.

Governments and industry bodies will be able to use data and information through ANSIS to support the development of effective policies to ensure our soil is sustainably used and enhanced for future generations, and to inform policy decisions in areas such as drought resilience, climate adaptation, natural capital accounting and biodiversity conservation.

Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans

Regional Weeds Committees have developed Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans to guide weed management in each of the 11 Local Land Services regions in New South Wales (Central Tablelands, Central West, Greater Sydney, Hunter, Murray, North Coast, North West, Northern Tablelands, Riverina, South East and Western). These plans prioritise activities, clarify expectations and help guide investment to lead to more coordinated, efficient and effective weed management.

The goals of the Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans are that:

- responsibility for weed biosecurity is shared by all people of the region
- weed biosecurity supports profitable, productive and sustainable primary industries
- weed biosecurity supports healthy, diverse and connected natural environments
- weed biosecurity is supported by coordinated, collaborative and innovative leadership.

These Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan has now been published and are available for download at www.lls.nsw.gov.au/rswmp

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The International Weather Agency Declares El Nino

The World Meteorological Organisation has declared the first El Niño, eight years after the last weather event, that will bring record-high temperatures. El Niño increases the likelihood of record high global temperatures and disruptive weather patterns over the next 12 months.

Historically, El Niño brings below average rain and above average temperatures to Australia, particularly through winter and spring, which can lead to severe drought and enhanced bushfire activity. This year the delayed onset of typical El Niño weather has so far negated impacts. June rainfall has been 25 per cent above average, followed by a wet start to July throughout much of Australia.

Further information <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-07-04/world-meteorological-organisation-declares-el-nino/>

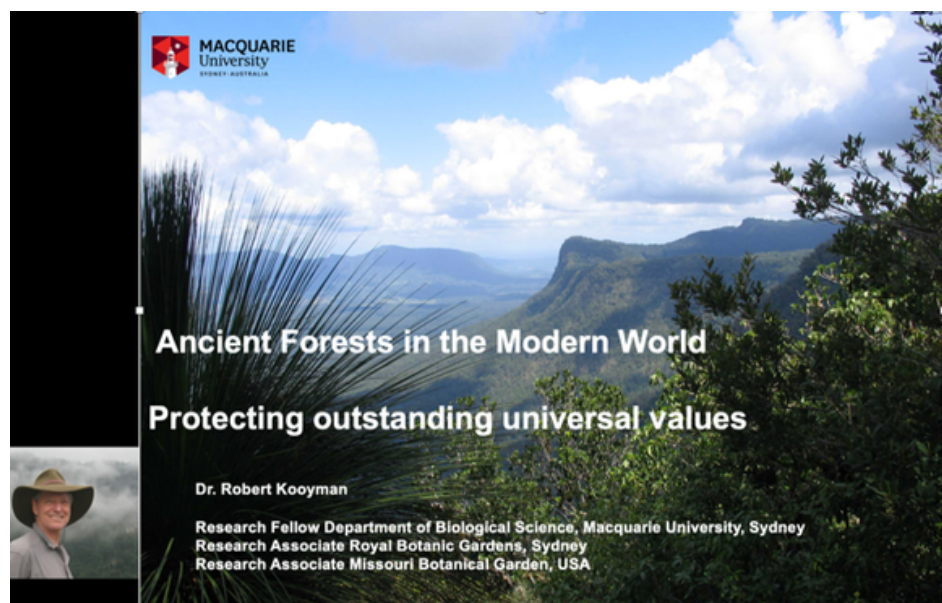
Wilson's Creek Landcare Event

Please join us to hear about climate change impacts, recovery and the future of our local ancient rainforests.

**6 pm Thursday 20 July 2023 at
Wilsons Creek Hall**

Tea and coffee provided. For informal discussion afterwards, please consider bringing snacks to share and any other drinks of your preference.

All welcome. Inquiries 6684 0378



Fire Ants - take action

Invasive Species Council

Invasive Species Council are asking for help to bring urgent action to Fire Ant Control

"As long as fire ants are anywhere in Australia, they are everybody's problem. Now I need your help to stop this nightmare for good. Fire Ant efforts are failing and more funding is needed," says Andrew Cox, CEO of Invasive Species Council.

Key ministers from across Australia's state and federal governments are meeting in Perth on 13 July. We must ensure they get behind action on fire ants.

Fire ants are already closing sporting fields on the Gold Coast. They were recently detected on Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island) and in Toowoomba for the very first time last week. They are impacting cane fields, disrupting schools and at this rate will invade Sydney by 2035.

We cannot afford to live with fire ants. We can and must stop them in their tracks.

Take Action here <https://invasives.org.au/how-to-help/take-action/save-australia-from-fire-ants/>

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Why Intergenerational Thinking Is Essential to Heal the Planet

In the state of Meghalaya in northeast India, Ingenious elders from the Khasi community spent decades, even centuries, building living root bridges known locally as jingkieng jri. The bridges were shaped by pulling and intertwining the aerial roots of the rubber fig tree (*Ficus elastica*) over a bamboo framework until the roots reached the opposite bank. There are at least 150 such bridges in the state in various stages of use and decay, and the oldest is estimated to be about 700 years old, according to Morningstar Khongthaw, a Khasi youth.

In many cases, the elders who planted the rubber fig saplings on the banks of the river, or those who initiated the construction of a bridge, would not have lived to see or use the bridge they founded. However, thanks to their long-term vision, the generations that follow get to use the bridges to reach schools, markets, farms, and other places of daily importance. Long-term thinking is urgently needed as humankind grapples with climate change and other burning issues. Read more <https://www.yesmagazine.org/environment/2023/04/04/climate-change-intergenerational-thinking>

Brunswick Valley Landcare are currently discussing ways to incorporate the younger generations and long-term thinking into our practices. Ideas and suggestions are welcome. Please contact Joanne McMurtry, jmcmurtry@brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au



The double-decker living root bridge of Nongriat village, in the Indian state of Meghalaya, is estimated to be 250 years old.
PHOTO BY ANNE PINTO-RODRIGUES

REGENERATIVE FARMING

Great **podcast** worth a listen - Exploring the stories of a generation that is changing the story, enabling the regeneration of life on this planet. [The RegenNarration](#)

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Join **Regenerative Agriculture Alliance** for a **special screening of "Rachel's Farm"**, an inspiring documentary showcasing the power of regenerative agriculture in restoring Australia's farmland, food, and climate.

Save the date: Tuesday, July 25th
Time: 6.30pm
Venue: Palace Cinemas Byron Bay

Rachel Ward will be joined by:

- Lorraine Gordon, Director of the Regenerative Agriculture Alliance
- Andrew Cameron, Farm Liaison Officer from Byron Shire Council
- Mindy Woods, Bundjalung woman and chef.

Get your tickets now:

<https://www.palacecinemas.com.au/.../rachels-farm-qa-byron/>

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Could your farm be safely powered by hydrogen?

Hydrogen is the buzzword in energy circles now.

You can make it by electrolysing water and, if the electricity used came from renewable sources, it's effectively emissions free. When you use hydrogen in a fuel cell to generate electricity or fuel a vehicle, nothing comes out the tailpipe except water vapour.

So, why aren't we using it already? Well, there are some technical challenges to overcome, such as storage and transport. How can we store and transport hydrogen?

Like natural gas, hydrogen needs to be stored either in high pressure tanks, or liquefied and stored in cryogenic tanks. And, like natural gas, hydrogen can explode. While hydrogen is safely managed by trained professionals in an industrial setting, there may be concerns about usage of large quantities of hydrogen in urban environments.

Researchers around the world are looking for ways to store and transport hydrogen as safely as possible. One way is by attaching the hydrogen to a carrier liquid – something that is stable at normal operating conditions. This liquid can be stored and transported using standard fuel tanks and trucks similar to our existing petrol or diesel infrastructure.

Our researchers are building a hydrogen generator, which can recover hydrogen from a liquid carrier, to address the storage and transport challenge.



To read more, click here <https://www.csiro.au/en/news/All/Articles/2023/May/hydrogen-generator>

SNIPPETS

Plastic fantastic initiatives reducing waste across the globe

A new book published by Australia's national science agency, CSIRO, shines a light on the creative and impactful ways communities across the globe are dealing with the plastic pollution crisis.

Released today, *Ending Plastic Waste: Community Actions Around the World* presents a collection of stories, advice and information from people in the field, and aims to serve as a source of inspiration to reduce plastic waste in the environment.

The book highlights 19 initiatives from 15 countries including Australia – including reusable menstrual products, thongs into artworks, and a recycling app to prevent waste ending up in landfill.

To read more and order a copy of the book see <https://www.csiro.au/news/All/News/2023/July/Plastic-fantastic-initiatives-reducing-waste-across-the-globe>

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We could need 6 times more of the minerals used for renewables and batteries. How can we avoid a huge increase in mining impacts?

We are seeing the biggest changes in our energy and transport systems since industrialisation. By 2026, global renewable energy generation is expected to match total fossil fuel and nuclear output. Building the wind and solar farms, batteries and electricity networks we need to run our system on renewables will use a huge array of mined minerals, known as “transition minerals”. Transitional minerals include metals such as lithium, cobalt, copper, graphite, magnesium and nickel. They also include rare earths like neodymium, praseodymium, dysprosium and terbium.

The numbers are staggering. Currently, mining provides almost our entire supply. The scale of demand for these minerals could result in almost 400 new mines by 2035. To put this in perspective, Australia has around 350 operating mines. More than 50% of the world's lithium and much of its copper, cobalt, nickel and rare earths come from our mines. Australia is hosting the World Mining Congress 26-29 June 2023. A key issue for the industry is how we can ensure the minerals needed for the energy transition are sourced responsibly.

<https://theconversation.com/we-could-need-6-times-more-of-the-minerals-used-for-renewables-and-batteries-how-can-we-avoid-a-huge-increase-in-mining-impacts-206864>

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French Green Energy Giant builds mega battery at Collie in West Australia's coal hub

Neoen, the French clean energy powerhouse, confirmed it had started construction on one of the country's largest batteries at Collie, a town south of Perth that has long been home to WA's coal-fired power industry.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-06-20/neoen-builds-mega-battery-collie-west-australian-coal-hub/>

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Why aren't we eating more persimmons?

A Queensland orchard is celebrating a record persimmon crop, but few Australians have ever tasted the fruit. Is that about to change? After battling drought and then flooding rains, a south-east Queensland orchard is celebrating a record persimmon crop. "This is definitely the best harvest we've had," Jeanette Dalton said. "It's the best quality overall, too." Alison Fuss, Executive Officer of Persimmons Australia, says many people have the wrong idea about persimmons. She said many older Australians may remember the persimmon tree in their mum's or grandma's backyard and eaten it too early.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-06-10/queensland-orchard-celebrating-a-record-persimmon-crop/>

WEED OF THE MONTH

Cestrum weeds are perennial shrubs with small, round berries.

For a detailed description and advice on how to manage these weeds go to WeedWise:

Green cestrum: <https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/GreenCestrum>

Red cestrum: <https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/RedCestrum>

Lady-of-the-night: <https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/LadyOfTheNight>

or download the app: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds/nsw-weedwise-app>

Lady of the Night is commonly found in our area and is poisonous to people and animals. It is a shrub that grows up to 4 metres tall with white berries. Also known as night flowering Jasmine or Queen of the night.



Photos courtesy Local Land Services website

EVENTS AND SEMINARS

Nature-based Solutions Conference and Expo

Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre

17 - 19 July 2023

More information and tickets <https://naturebasedsolutionsconference.com/>

Hosted by Carbon Farmers of Australia, the National Carbon Farming Conference & Expo was established in 2007. The tenth conference was held in May 2022, with over 400 attendees and almost 40 exhibitors.

Hear from industry leaders on topics such as carbon farming and carbon markets, greenwashing, ESG, sustainability and food security.

The Inaugural Nature-Based Solutions Conference & Expo is expected to be at least twice the size and scope of its predecessor. More space, more speakers, and more topics for the biggest audience of our dedicated farmers and landholders than ever before. As climate change marches forward, and the effects on the land intensify, it's obvious that we need ALL solutions.

Webinar: Dam enhancement

Join NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust ecologists on Wednesday, 16 August, between 1pm, and 2pm, to learn about the importance of bringing biodiversity back to farm dams. We'll look at dam enhancement, revegetation and the creation of aquatic habitat.

Register for the 16 August lunchtime webinar and follow-up Q&A.

[Register for the webinar](#)

Richmond River Keeper

Join a conversation about the what you value most about the Richmond River catchment.

Have you got a favourite place to throw a line, row or sail? Maybe there's a special spot where you take a cool dip at a waterfall on a hot summers day? Did you see a platypus and want to know it will have habitat for the future? Maybe you have questions or concerns about a creek or river near you? Southern Cross University researchers want to hear from you!

Come and have your say over a cuppa! All welcome!

There are workshops at locations across the catchment including:

Alstonville Summerland Farm
18 July 10:00am - 12:30pm

Ballina Richmond Room
21 July 10:00am - 12:30pm



Register Here

<https://form.jotform.com/>

Further information here:

<https://richmondriver.org.au/>



Koala Talk

Friends of the Koala, Byron Shire Council, and The Farm present an insightful and educational event about koalas and their habitat in Byron Shire.

When: 5:00pm - 6:00pm, Tuesday 18 July 2023

Where: The Farm, Byron Bay

Cost: Free with light refreshments provided

For more information, including presentation topics, and to reserve your ticket, see [Byron Shire Council's website](#).

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Queensland Garden Expo **7, 8 9 July 2023** **Nambour Showground**

This garden expo has a full program of all things gardening. Including a 'Living Backyard' workshop on helping and caring for native flora and fauna and attracting wildlife to backyards.

<https://qldgardenexpo.com.au/whats-on/living-backyard/>

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AgTech Field Day

Join DPI at the Transforming Agriculture with Agtech Field Day, an event dedicated to showcasing ways in which Agtech integration and enhanced connectivity can boost productivity for the agricultural industry. This field day, hosted by the NSW Department of Primary Industries, offers primary producers an opportunity to tackle regionally specific connectivity challenges, discover cutting-edge Agtech solutions, and establish connections with industry-leading suppliers.

Producers will immerse in a dynamic program featuring insightful presentations and interactive sessions that delve into the latest advancements in Agtech and connectivity solutions. Renowned speakers will share their expertise, equipping primary producers with the knowledge and tools to seize the potential opportunities that Agtech presents for their businesses.

Producers will experience the value of Agtech first-hand, as this event effectively lowers barriers and encourages the adoption of new tools.

Don't miss this extraordinary event that will shape the future of agriculture. Join us at the Transforming Agriculture with Agtech Field Day and be part of the Agtech revolution!

Date: Thursday 20th July

Time: 9am to 3pm

Location: Alstonville Showground

Enquiries: agtech@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Register for free

<http://events.humantix.com/transforming-agriculture-with-agtech-field-day>



WORKSHOP: PLAN YOUR FUTURE WITH CONFIDENCE

This two-day workshop will teach you vital holistic decision-making skills and help you develop action plans to prepare for, and respond to, climactic events.

Hosted by Helen Lewis, a Savoy Institute accredited professional educator with more than 20 years' experience, you will gain the confidence to plan a future that aligns with your vision and values.

While the workshop has proven extremely useful for farmers and land managers, the skills taught are also useful for business people, community groups, disaster recovery organisations and families.

Workshop details:

- 20th of July: Welcome webinar
- 9th and 10th August: Two-day workshop at Lismore
- 21st and 22nd August: Follow up one-on-one sessions
- Follow-up mentoring support.

The cost of the workshop is valued at \$600, but this workshop is offered for a special price of \$100 per person or \$150 per couple.

[BOOK NOW!](#)



Korinderie Ridge (The Gap 2472) are holding a Regen Week from 2 - 6 August. 'Regen Week' is a 5-day event of connection to land and knowledge exchange at Korinderie Ridge in Northern NSW. 'Regen Week' is an opportunity to explore and experience towering Eucalypt forest, native grasslands and rich rainforest gullies whilst contributing to one of the longest community led conservation initiatives in the country. AND it is family friendly! For more info and to register see the facebook event

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1306863526897899/>

FUNDING

Fixing Farm Erosion expression of interest

Do you have an erosion problem on farm that you just can't work out how to solve? Do you need a plan to help get your production back on track?



Landholders in the North Coast LLS region are now able to submit an expression of interest (EOI) to receive support to help manage an erosion problem that is impacting farm production.

A wide range of erosion impacts are still affecting farm production following the 2022 severe flooding and wet weather. Some of the erosion impacts that landholders might be experiencing may be a threat to built infrastructure, reduced access to production areas, dam failure or reduction in productive land area.

Successful applicants will have the opportunity for a consultant to visit the erosion site and be provided with tailored management advice and a plan, which may include an initial design and estimate of costings for remediation works. A series of group workshops are also planned for later this year.

Financial support to complete on ground works will not be provided through this program and the intention is that landholders will be able to use the plans to undertake self-funded works. The Fixing Farm Erosion EOI are now open.

For more information, eligibility and how to apply see <https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/north-coast/financial-assistance/fixing-farm-erosion-expression-of-interest>

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NSW Department of Primary Industries Farms of the Future Grants Program

The NSW Government opened the \$20 million Farms of the Future grants program in February 2023, which will provide up to \$35,000 to eligible farm businesses to purchase the latest Agtech equipment and connectivity solutions to address their farm needs. The grants program will be available for primary producers in the target Local Government Areas (LGAs). The grant will be for purchasing approved connectivity solutions and digital Agtech devices with a level of co-contribution required to participate in the program.

Minimum grant amount \$5,000 ex GST, maximum \$35,000 ex GST
Connectivity solution cap \$15,000 ex GST

Applications close 31st August 2023

Claim period closes 29th February 2024

Program closes 30th June 2025

For more information on grant program details an eligibility, head to:

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/dpi/climate/farms-of-the-future/grants>

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

CONTACT: Noelene Plummer bangalowlandcare@gmail.com 0431 20 0638 6687 4470

Friends of Lilli Pilli (Byron Bay)

WHEN: 1st Saturday of the month 3:30pm - 5:00pm

WHERE: At entrance to Lilli Pilli (contact Deb).

CONTACT: Deb Jorgensen deborah.jorgensen60@gmail.com 0434 254 802

Green and Clean Awareness Team, Byron Bay

WHEN: 3rd Sunday of the month 9:00am

WHERE: Meet Main Beach, Byron Bay

CONTACT: Peter Farmakis peter.farmakis@gmail.com 0488 715 565

Heritage Park Landcare, Mullumbimby

WHEN: 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: Morning of last Sunday of the month

WHERE: find out from John Tann

CONTACT: John Tann johntann99@gmail.com

Ocean Shores Landcare, Ocean Shores

WHEN: each Thursday 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

Tallowood Ridge Locality Landcare, Tallowood Ridge Mullumbimby

WHEN: Second Saturday of the month from 3pm (winter), 4pm (summer).

WHERE: Gathering Tree Pocket Park, Cockatoo Cres Tallowood Ridge Estate

CONTACT: Joanne McMurtry jmcmurtry@bigpond.com

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/>
- · Australian Association of Bush Regenerators <http://aabr.org.au>
- · Border Rangers Alliance http://www.greateasterranges.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
- · Federal Landcare Inc federalandcare@gmail.com
- · Local Land Services www.northcoast.lls.nsw.gov.au
- · North Coast Local Land Services <http://northcoast.lls.nsw.gov.au/>
- · Border Ranges Richmond Valley Landcare www.brrvln.org.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 Coordinator, Alison Ratcliffe 6626 7028**

(Mon, Tues, Wed)

info@brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au

Community Liaison Officer, Joanne McMurtry 0409 925 330

jmcmurtry@brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au

www.brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au

