



Newsletter for Landcare and Dunecare in Byron Shire

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

Connect on facebook

JUNE

11 Creeks n Grass

June 2017

17 Tree Planting Marshalls Creek

North Byron Parklands Schools Plantings by Alison Ratcliffe

Over the last month we have had 4 exciting days at North Byron Parklands with a total of 272 school kids from 3 different primary schools planting over 1300 trees!

As well as planting trees the students went for a walk to look at some of the 22,000 trees that have been planted on the site over the past 10 years. The children also got a tractor ride and to paint a sign to mark the area of trees that they planted.



Ocean Shores School stage 3 students also had a visit from the Totally Wild TV crew and ranger Stacey who filmed a story that will air at the end of July or early August. It's Totally Wild's 25th Birthday so all the kids filmed a big happy birthday message.

A big thank you to the team at North Byron Parklands who funded the days so that we could offer them to the schools for free! A big thank you to the teachers and students from Ocean Shores Public School, The Pocket Public School and Crabbes Creek Public School who came along and showed such enthusiasm. And also a big thank you to Dave Rawlins for helping to organise such a great fun educational program.





PRESENTS

creeks' n grass

SUNDAY 11th JUNE

Join us for a day of Landcare,
connecting to country,
munching on local food,
making new friends,
stories of cultural burns
and most of all, **FUN!**

Carpool to meet at Whian Whian falls carpark 8:45am
Event will finish at around 6:00pm or opt-out when you please

For inquiries email:

northernriversintrepidlandcare@gmail.com

With generous support from:





Wild About Pottsville



Celebration of our local wildlife

When

9am – 12pm, 25 June 2017

Where

Philip St Reserve, Pottsville
(or Pottsville Beach Public School in the case of heavy rain)

What's on

- \\ Live native wildlife show
- \\ Local school koala play
- \\ Guest visit from Kooee Koala
- \\ Jumping castle
- \\ Bring your dog! Free on-lead dog training class
- Kids games ///
- Local animal face painting ///
- Lots of prizes and giveaways ///
- New Tweed Shire native gardens book ///
- Birdlife walk (7am – Pottsville Beach tennis courts) ///

Speed talks

- Pottsville nature of the past
- Local native gardens
- Local Landcare updates
- Wildlife friendly back yards
- Local koalas – how can we help?





Working on Country Gathering

Casino-Boolangle Local Aboriginal Land Council (CBLALC) invite you to be part of a gathering at Busby's Flat, west of Leeville, to celebrate the achievements of the Working on Country project.

Date: Thursday 22 June 2017

Venue: The Old Cricket Pitch
Busby's Flat Road
Busby's Flat

Time: 10.30 am to 2.30 pm

RSVP: Registration is essential

This is a free event with morning tea and lunch provided.

Car-pooling from Casino is available

The Casino-Boolangle (CBLALC) Working on Country Team will demonstrate habitat restoration and weed control techniques and present skills gained through participating in cultural and wildlife assessments.

There will be opportunity for sharing of knowledge between Aboriginal organisations and Elders, including identification of cultural and environment values on country and future cultural land management opportunities.

This is a great opportunity for project partners, neighbours and friends of the CBLALC property to meet and learn more about the habitat restoration work underway.

Activities on the day – short walks, talks and stories and information

Guest Speakers will present cultural heritage, wildlife habitat and fire management information.

This event is supported by North Coast Local Land Services through funding from the National Landcare Programme and Northern Rivers Fire and Biodiversity Consortium:



To register your attendance, please contact:

Jane Baldwin - NRFABCON 0448 414 547 or email jane.baldwin@hotmail.com

For more information, please contact:

John Nagle - North Coast LLS 6623 3921 or email john.nagle@lls.nsw.gov.au



Guest speaker and local fire ecologist, Andy Baker will talk about restoration

Guest speaker and NPWS Ranger Norm Graham will talk about cultural aspects

Councils' Biodiversity Officer will talk about the importance of fire in the landscape

Light refreshments

Bring water and wear comfortable clothing and walking shoes, sun hat, sun screen etc.



Saturday 1st July 2015

Restoring the Byron Bay Clay Heath – a guided walk & talk

The talks will showcase the extensive restoration works, the cultural significance of Clay Heath and how fire can reduce bushfire risks to neighbours

Guided walk & talks will be held at:

10.00-12.00pm and 1.30-3.30pm.

Meet at NPWS Byron Bay Office Tallow Beach
Road, Byron Bay

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL. Please contact Biodiversity Officer Clare Manning on 6626 7324 or email Clare.Manning@byron.nsw.gov.au





Marshalls Creek Tree planting

Come along to plant some trees and have a cuppa in Marshalls Creek Nature Reserve this **Saturday morning 17th June** with Madhima Gulgan Community Association and the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Meet at the gate at the eastern end of Old New Brighton Road at 9:00 am. The planting site is half way along the walking track/bike

path which is actually a traditional indigenous pathway. The holes for the trees will be pre-dug and we'll work until mid day. Too easy!

Make sure to wear long sleeves, trousers, sturdy closed-in shoes, a hat and gardening gloves. Remember to bring drinking water.

Morning tea will be provided. For catering purposes please RSVP to Lori Cameron at

lori.cameron@environment.nsw.gov.au or call 6670 8606. Looking forward to seeing you there!



Dr Christine Jones: Weaning off N - Are Your Soils Addicted?



Dr Christine Jones is visiting the northern rivers, and is presenting two separate one day training opportunities.

Dr Christine Jones is very well known for her workshops for farmers that explain the Liquid Carbon Pathway and how photosynthesis, microbes, diversity and limited chemical and tillage are the key to profitable and sustainable farms. Farmers attending workshops with Christine discover a greater appreciation of the roles and functions of biology in their soils which can, if managed correctly, enhance the quality of production, gross margins of their farming operations and improve their soil, plant and livestock health

Day 1: Wednesday, 2nd August - Southern Cross University Military Rd, East Lismore

Day 2: Friday, 4th August - Tweed Sustainable Living Centre Altona Road, Chinderah

Time: 9.30 Registration for a 10am start, conclude 2.45pm

Registration: soilrestorationfarming@gmail.com Rachele Armstrong 0407 879 053

Cost: \$110, Earlybird \$90 closes 10th July Complete registration form by Friday 28th July.

Pre-registration is essential for catering. Fee includes morning afternoon tea and lunch.

[Click here](#) to register or find out more.

Biochar Conference

An Australasian conference on biochar will be held in Murwillumbah for the first time in August and Council is offering free or subsidised registrations for some early applicants.

Preference will be given to people conducting agriculture and those willing to contribute to registration costs. To apply for one of these places, contact the Program Leader, Sustainable Agriculture on (02) 6670 2400 or at

eszandala@tweed.nsw.gov.au by 19 June.



Land Management and Biodiversity Conservation Reforms

The following draft Regulations and other key products to support the Government's new *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and *Local Land Services Amendment Act 2016* are on exhibition for six weeks from 10 May until **21 June**. There is a series of webinars to help you understand the new legislation. The reforms will commence on 25 August 2017.

- [Draft Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017 \(PDF\)](#), and its supporting [regulatory impact statement \(PDF\)](#)
- [Draft Local Land Services Amendment Regulation 2017 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Draft Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment \(Biodiversity Conservation\) Regulation 2017 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Explanation of Intended Effect for the State Environmental Planning Policy \(Vegetation\) 2017 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Land Management \(Native Vegetation\) Code \(PDF\)](#)
- [Biodiversity Assessment Method \(BAM\) \(PDF\)](#) and [BAM tool \(Link\)](#)
- [Accreditation Scheme for the Application of the Biodiversity Assessment Method \(PDF\)](#)
- [Draft Sensitive Biodiversity Values Land Map \(Link\)](#)
- [Serious and irreversible impacts guidance \(PDF\)](#)
- [Offsets payment calculator \(Excel\)](#) and [User Manual \(PDF\)](#)

[Facts sheets and guides](#) that provide detailed information on key topic areas are also available to assist you in making a submission.

<https://www.landmanagement.nsw.gov.au/>

Caldera Environment Centre will host a free EDO NSW workshop in explaining the next stage of the biodiversity legislative and policy package.



The *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and *Local Land Services Amendment Act 2016* are yet to commence. In the meantime, the Government has released a package of supporting documents, including draft Regulations, for feedback. The community has until 21 June 2017 to comment on the documents. This workshop will be useful for anyone wanting to learn about the proposed changes.

When: 8th June 2017 6pm – 8pm

Where: Tweed Valley Uniting church Hall, Byangum Road, Murwillumbah

http://www.edonsw.org.au/murbah_2017

Landcare and LLS Conference

25th - 27th October 2017

Renowned science communicator Dr Karl Kruszelnicki will be the keynote speaker at the 2017 NSW Landcare and Local Land Services Conference in Albury this year.

Dr Karl is best-known for his weekly radio spot on Triple J, in which he answers listener questions about science in his unique and entertaining style.

Registrations are open NOW, with end-of-financial-year bargain tickets available until 30 June 2017.

Click here to register. <http://nswlandcareconference.com.au/registration/>



Brunswick Valley Landcare Committee Members Needed

Brunswick Valley Landcare is looking for new Committee members. The committee meets in Mullumbimby on the 2nd Thursday of each month, in a relaxed and informal atmosphere. Meetings take less than 2 hours, between 5 and 7pm. Please contact brunswickvalleylandcare@gmail.com for more information.



The June issue of Village Eco News is now available with a great article on why our native bees are under threat.

<http://brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Village-Eco-News-Issue-11-June-2017.pdf>

TSR Review



Local Land Services have released the NSW Travelling Stock Reserves Review, and are inviting you to "Have your Say".

The NSW Travelling Stock Reserves Review aims to determine which TSRs are still used or required for their original purpose and to determine if there are other values that they are used for today.

The review is the start of a complete mapping exercise of:

- Where they are?
- What are they used for?
- Who uses them?
- How often are they used?

The government is committed to maintaining a viable, well maintained and connected TSR network for the future. Having a complete and accurate map of TSRs – their function and land use across the state is vital in ensuring they align with Indigenous, conservation, livestock, production recreation and community priorities.

A public consultation paper has been released with input sought from the community.

Read through the [consultation paper](#) and the discussion points raised and have your say on the future of the TSR network in NSW.

To assist in responding to the discussion points raised in the consultation paper, the government has created an [online mapping tool](#) to allow you to investigate TSRs in your local area. The mapping tool is available through the following link: [TSR Web Spatial Tool](#).

Complete an [online submission](#), email your submission to tsr.feedback@lls.nsw.gov.au or post a hard copy response to Local Land Services, State Operations, PO Box 2105, Dubbo, NSW, 2830.

Submissions close at 5 pm Thursday 22 June 2017. www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au.

STORIES to inspire and give you hope

Twelve reasons to get your kids outside!

We all know that learning and spending time outdoors plays a huge role in a child's development and wellbeing. This is just one reason why Junior Landcare projects are so great to be involved in. Outdoor classrooms are living and breathing, providing an excellent framework for learning about the natural environment, biodiversity, and healthy ecosystems. Projects can also be integrated into topics within the school curriculum, offering new and exciting ways of teaching and learning. These are just some of the benefits of encouraging children to spend more time outdoors. [Read more from Caro and Co](#) on why children should be turfed outside!



Dung Beetles by Samantha Poate, Northern Star

Deputy Prime Minister, Barnaby Joyce and Member for Page, Kevin Hogan recently announced new funding under the Rural R&D for Profit Programme to look at ways the farming industry can benefit from using dung beetles.

[Read the full article here.](#)



Eastern Pygmy Possum by Australian Wildlife

Conservancy

Great news – AWC ecologists have recorded an Eastern Pygmy Possum during our Pilliga biodiversity survey ... the first record for an Eastern Pygmy Possum in the Pilliga for 6 years. All part of our ground-breaking partnership with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.

[Australian Wildlife Conservancy...](#)



Targeted Landcare grant at Tyagarah by Bela Allen

At the beginning of May, 16 community volunteers and the Green Army Team lead by John McVicar got together to plant 900 plants on the banks of Simpsons Creek, Tyagarah. The project is supported by North Coast Local Land Services, through funding from the National Landcare Programme. We would like to say thank you to this and all the Green Army teams who

have helped on many of our projects over the years. We will miss the energy and passion of these young people on our projects.



Caring for the rare Byron Bay Clay Heath - Making Progress

by Clare Manning, Byron

Shire Council

Ecological restoration work to restore the rare Byron Bay Graminoid Clay Heath is in its third year of a proposed ten year program. To date, the works have included removal of weeds, non-native

and native trees, tree planting, prescribed burns and community workshops.

“The work is being undertaken as part of the Byron Clay Heath Restoration project with funding from the NSW Environmental Trust,” Byron Shire Council’s Biodiversity Officer, Clare Manning said.

Council’s appointed project officer and fire ecologist Andy Baker said the Clay Heath is a rare plant community found in only a two locations in Byron and Tweed Shires and provides unique habitat to a range of threatened flora and fauna.

“Less than 5% of the Clay Heath remains and it is now listed as an Endangered Ecological Community in NSW.”

“It is also a significant cultural landscape for the Bundjalung of Byron Bay Arakwal people who used fire to maintain the Clay Heath as a vital source of bush foods including edible tubers,” he said.

Why does it need restoration?

Clay Heath remnants are threatened by environmental weeds, fragmentation and storm water pollution.

However, the biggest threat to the heathland’s future is the lack of fire over recent decades. Without fire many species are at risk of local extinction. Fire can also inhibit weed and trees from spreading, and therefore an alternative weed control method.

Without restoration, all Clay Heath is likely to be lost by 2040. The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) list tree encroachment as one of the main threats to clay heath.

How is the recovery progressing?

The ecological restoration work is well underway and has been guided by a detailed Clay Heath Management Plan. The aim of the plan is to restore the structure, function, dynamics and integrity of the Clay Heath vegetation and the natural processes it relies on to survive. There has been input and support from the Paterson Hill Trust, NSW Fire & Rescue, NSW Rural Fire Service, NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service and local community to implement the plan.

As a result, over the last three years, several key weeds such as Bitou Bush, Winter Senna, Singapore Daisy and Molasses Grass have also been significantly reduced. Supported by the Fire & Rescue NSW and NSW Rural Fire Service several prescribed burns have been implemented between 2008 and 2015.

The burns have promoted Clay Heath recovery as well as provided hazard reduction benefits to the adjacent interface and created a ‘clean slate’ in terms of weed mass, significantly reducing hours of



work and funds needed to manage weeds. Some non-native and native trees shading out the Clay Heath have been carefully removed or controlled in-situ. This is being carried out in a targeted manner to secure core areas of Clay Heath vegetation where the opportunity to undertake planned burns is restricted.

Following burns and weed control, carefully selected planting has been carried out which is aiding the restoration process and providing the natural habitat of the animals and birds.

New interpretative signage has also been installed in the Byron Bay area, near Clarkes Beach and at Paterson Hill to raise public awareness of the rare Clay Heath and its importance to biodiversity and culture.

Where to next?

In partnership with the NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service, Byron Shire Council will be hosting a Clay Heath Community Field Day 1 July 2017 (details in flyer at beginning of newsletter).

Clarence freshwater fish go with the flow by Local Land Services

Clarence River Fish Track continues to undertake world class research investigating the influence of river flows and barriers (e.g. waterfalls and weirs) on the seasonal movements of freshwater fish species. A mini-report detailing the latest findings of the Fishtrack project has just been completed by Dr Gavin Butler of DPI Water.



Clarence Fish Track is a partnership initiative of NSW Department of Primary Industries, North Coast Local Land Services, Clarence Valley Council, Coffs Harbour City Council and Essential Energy with support from the National Landcare Programme and the NSW Recreational Fishing Trust.

Nigel Blake, Senior Land Services Officer said, “It is great to be have a world class fish monitoring programme right here in the Clarence and the knowledge generated by Clarence Fish Track is of interest to many people from all areas of the community.”

The project is assisting river managers, recreational fishers and the international scientific community to better understand and manage the region’s precious freshwater fish communities.

Over the 2015/16 season more than 30,000 individual fish were caught (and released) from 27 sites in the Clarence System. Twenty eight different native fish species and two introduced species, goldfish and eastern mosquitofish, were found.

Encouragingly, the endangered eastern freshwater cod (*Maccullochella ikei*) was present at a number of sites in the Orara, Clarence, Mann and Nymboida rivers. Other large species caught include, catfish, bass, herring, eels, and freshwater mullet.

Using an internationally recognised method of analysing fish numbers, diversity and breeding at the 27 sites in the system an overall health score was determined. All sites in the Clarence System had good or excellent scores for indicators of both diversity and nativeness (lack of introduced species).

A low number of juveniles (recruitment) for many samples resulted in the overall health scores being reduced to moderate in the winter season. However, juveniles were found at many sites in the system over the year, indicating that most species are successfully breeding in parts of the system and overall, fish numbers have not reduced over the ten years of Fish Track monitoring.

The study also reports on the movement of fish implanted with acoustic tags that monitors their movements upstream and downstream. The tags emit a beep that is detected by the receivers placed throughout the Clarence System in what is the largest detection array in the southern hemisphere.

Flow was typically low across all parts of the basin during 2015-16 and only two rises over two metres were recorded at the Lilydale Gauging Station. This is most likely the reason that movement by tagged fish were overall fewer in number and shorter in distance than last season with most tagged fish staying near where they were released. This is in contrast to seasons when river rises coincide with breeding seasons.

These seasons saw migrations by many Australian Bass and Freshwater mullet of over 300 km, while other tagged species displayed greater movement upstream and downstream.

Nigel concluded, "The Clarence Fishtrack project has confirmed that the Clarence Catchment has a unique and resilient fish population. We have proven that barriers and flow have a major influence on the natural movements and migrations of our native fish. We need to carefully consider the influence of any projects on the Clarence that may have the potential to modify natural flood patterns, block natural migration pathways, and will severely and irreversibly affect many of our native fish such as Australian bass and the endangered eastern freshwater cod".

Photo : *Captured eastern freshwater cod - tagged and measured prior to release.*

<http://northcoast.ils.nsw.gov.au/resource-hub/media-releases/2017/clarence-freshwater-fish-go-with-the-flow>

Half of all Species are on the move – and we're feeling it

As climate change displaces everything from moose to microbes, it's affecting human foods, businesses, and diseases.

The shrubs probably responded first. In the 19th century, alder and flowering willows in the Alaskan Arctic stood no taller than a small child—just a little over three feet. But as temperatures warmed with fossil fuel emissions, and growing seasons lengthened, the shrubs multiplied and prospered. Today many stand over six feet.

Bigger shrubs drew moose, which rarely crossed the Brooks Range before the 20th century. Now these spindly-legged beasts lumber along Arctic river corridors, wherever the vegetation is tall enough to poke through the deep snow. They were followed by snowshoe hares, which also browse on shrubs.

Today moose and hares have become part of the subsistence diet for indigenous hunters in northern Alaska, as melting sea ice makes traditional foods like seals harder to chase. That's just one of thousands of ways in which human-caused climate change is altering life for plants and animals, and in the process having direct and sometimes profound impacts on humans. As the planet warms, species are shifting where, when, and how they thrive. They are moving up slopes and toward the poles. That is already altering what people can eat; sparking new disease risks; upending key industries; and changing how entire cultures use the land and sea.

"We're talking about a redistribution of the entire planet's species," says Gretta Pecl, lead author of a new study in *Science* that examined the implications of wildlife on the move.

Photo: As the Atlantic warms, mackerel have spread north, creating a new fishery off Iceland. PHOTOGRAPH BY JOAO PEDRO SILVA, GETTY

To read the rest of this story please go to: <http://www.nationalgeographic.com.au/nature/half-of-all-species-are-on-the-moveand-were-feeling-it.aspx>



Land for Wildlife

Frogs are calling: restored waterways show results for amphibians by Discover SCU



Native frogs appear to be thriving in restored waterways around Rocky Creek Dam after Whian Whian Landcare members and Southern Cross University researchers used automated recording devices to capture a diversity of amphibian calls.

Now the community research partnership project's protocol for the restoration of riparian areas, incorporating best management practice around frog consideration and protection, is being taken up by other Landcare groups and landholders.

The project was led by Emma Stone of Whian Whian Landcare and Dr David Newell, Dr John Grant and Rosalie Willacy in the University's School of Environment, Science and Engineering.

The team recorded and identified frog calls in riparian sites that were re-planted 20 years ago through to two-year-old sites and sites that were degraded and impacted by dense weed coverage.

Photo: Emma Stone at Rocky Creek near Dunoon.

Emma said the results – including three threatened frog species found in a two-year-old regenerating Landcare site – were encouraging.

“We were able to plot species diversity in varying conditions.

“We found greater frog species richness in the native regenerated areas of 20 years. We also found an encouraging range of frog species in sites of recent restoration works. It was a positive sign in that even two years on from restoration works there appears to be a positive impact on the frogs. We are comfortable our efforts are enhancing habitat for frogs.”

The project team worked primarily with landholders and the Landcare community to install the recording equipment in a range of sites in the Rocky Creek and Branch Creek areas.

“The community listened to the tracks recorded and matched the calls recorded with different frog species,” said Emma.

“Now other Landcare groups are interested in the research model and in doing similar surveys of frog species in their river restoration works.”

The University loaned the equipment to the Landcare team, cross-checked the identification records and provided knowledge and expertise at a community forum.

“This is a case of ‘if you build it they will come’,” said Dr David Newell of the riparian restoration works.

Photo: Cascade Tree Frog (credit: David Newell)



“Many of our native frogs that live along streams require forested habitats and features such as deep layers of leaf litter. Food sources are also important. In our subtropical climate we get to see the results of plantings relatively quickly and this project has shown us that with a bit of time the frogs will move in.

“Restoring degraded riparian areas is a great thing to do for native fauna and it is also good for your soul.”

The catalyst for the project, which started in 2014, was a classroom discussion when Emma was a student enrolled in the Bachelor of Indigenous Studies, majoring in Sustainability, at the University’s Lismore campus.

Photo: Vice Chancellor Professor Adam Shoemaker (left) and Chancellor Nick Burton Taylor AM (right) with Engaged Research recipients (l to r): Dr John Grant, Dr David Newell, Ms Rosalie Willacy, Mr George Tutua and son Kiko Tutua representing Whian Whian Landcare (absent: Emma Stone).

“Dr David Newell inspired me to develop a project based on a discussion about what impact river restoration works might be having on frogs in the waterways and whether frogs could be an indicator for the health of that environment.”

The project team was recognised at the 2016 Southern Cross University Excellence in Engagement Awards with an [award in the Engaged Research](#) category.

“The award has definitely inspired not just our Landcare group but others to engage in on-ground works as well as assess the impact of those works by having an applied research project alongside it,” Emma said.

Whian Whian Landcare’s project, ‘Monitoring frog populations in upper catchments of Whian Whian, NSW’, was supported by the Norman Wettenhall Foundation.

<http://discover.scu.edu.au/featured/frogs-thriving-in-riparian-restoration-along-rocky-creek/>

Fungal Infection by backyard Buddies

That sounds much worse than it is. Australian fungi is beautiful, interesting, a vital part of the ecosystem and remains largely a mystery to biologists. You have to look closely, but there is every chance you have one in your backyard...

<http://www.backyardbuddies.org.au/b-mail/latest-b-mail>



Barks and Trunks now available as an App

New Rainforest Trees App for identifying trees by Bark and Trunk

Do you find yourself staring up into the canopy and wanting to identify that glorious tree with nothing but the trunk as your guide?

With over 30 years’ experience in identifying eastern Australian rainforest trees, Peter Poropat has published two popular books on Barks and Trunks, Rainforest Trees of South-Eastern Australia (Volume 1 and 2). These books have now been converted into an App available from the Apple iTunes store. This App is currently only available for iPhones.

Peter’s books are available from his website: www.barksandtrunks.com.au.



Nest Box Monitoring by ABC News

An ANU study has revealed some interesting research results about nest box success on the Hume Hwy in Southern NSW. The research demonstrates the importance of regular monitoring. Have you checked yours lately?

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-05-19/hume-highway-duplication-failed-to-protect-threatened-animals/8540406>



Reintroducing dingoes can help manage feral foxes and cats, study suggests by Marcus Storn, Sydney

Morning Herald

Reintroducing dingoes to areas from where humans have removed them could help control the feral red fox that hunts native animals such as the bilby and wallaby. That's the finding of an international study led by [Thomas Newsome from Deakin University](#).



A study involving staff from the University of Sydney and the University of New South Wales has found that reintroducing dingoes to areas where humans have removed them would help control the numbers of feral foxes and cats.

"Our research is the first to look at the effect of dingo distribution and abundance on fox numbers," said Dr Newsome, who is based at the [University of Sydney's desert ecology research group](#).

Dr Newsome said foxes and cats were blamed for the extinction of at least 20 native mammals in Australia since European settlement.

A Department of Agriculture spokesman said the total annual cost of foxes to Australia's environment and economy is estimated to be \$227.5 million.

Dingoes don't pose the same risk to threatened species, as the smaller mammals have developed anti-predator strategies to co-exist with dingoes," he said.

Even so, Dr Newsome said reintroducing dingoes near small populations of threatened mammals would need to be carefully controlled.

The study, published on Tuesday in *Nature Communications*, looked at the role apex predators play in controlling the population of "mesopredators", upon which they prey.

Native animals such as the bilby have co-existed with dingoes for 4500 years, yet are threatened by introduced species such as foxes and cats.

As well as studying the impact of dingoes on red foxes in Queensland, the study examined the relationship between the grey wolf and coyote in Saskatchewan, Canada, and the grey wolf and jackal in Bulgaria and Serbia.



The findings of the study suggest optimum suppression of the smaller predators occurs when the apex predator is able to exist at high densities over large areas.

Photo: University of Sydney Dr Thomas Newsome, ecologist at Deakin University and the University of Sydney, with a dingo. Photo: Bobby Tamayo

To read the rest of this story please go to: <http://www.smh.com.au/technology/sci-tech/reintroducing-dingoes-can-help-manage-feral-foxes-and-cats-study-suggests-20170523-gwb8e6.html>

FUNDING

Do you have a great project and need funds to make it happen?

You can find more information on available grants on the Brunswick Valley Landcare website including a calendar of all grants expected to be available during 2016. There are also some handy tips on how to be successful with grant applications. Below is a summary of grants which are currently accepting applications and ones that are anticipated to open within the next month.

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

Splendour Community Grants Fund

Splendour in the Grass is proud to call Byron Shire home and is committed to supporting important local community initiatives through our Community Grants Fund.



Over the past 16 years, Splendour has provided more than

\$500,000 in cash and prize donations to local charities, schools and community organisations throughout the Byron Shire.

Some of the previous recipients include Waterlily Community Playscape, Ocean Shores Primary School, Brunswick Nippers Junior SLSC, Byron Community Centre Homeless and Community Breakfast, Shara Community Gardens, Mullumbimby High School, Brunswick Valley Meals on Wheels Inc, Brunswick Valley Rescue, Ocean Shores Soccer Club, Tidy Towns Ocean Shores, WIRES, Crabbes Creek Primary School and many more.

Splendour is thrilled to announce that the 2017 Community Grant Fund is now open for applications!

If you know of or are a part of an organisation within the Byron Shire that is making a difference within your community and in need of a helping hand, we would love to hear from you!

[Click here to fill out the application form](#)

Threatened Species Recovery Fund

In 2016, the Minister for the Environment announced a \$5 million Threatened Species Recovery Fund (the Fund) to

support communities to actively protect Threatened Species, leverage additional investment, and assist with delivering on the Targets and Action Areas in the [Threatened Species Strategy](#) (link is external).

The Fund builds on the Government's commitment to supporting threatened species recovery through the [Threatened Species Commissioner](#) (link is external), and the implementation of the [Threatened Species Strategy](#) (link is external) and [Threatened Species Prospectus](#) (link is external). It sits within the National Landcare Programme and delivers tangible benefits for Australia's Threatened Species, as well as helping to grow community involvement in their recovery.

Funding amounts between \$20,000 and \$250,000 are available for grants to eligible groups though this Competitive Round.

The Competitive Round of the Fund will open for Applications on **5 May 2017** and close on **15 June 2017** (2pm AEST). To be eligible for consideration, Applications must be submitted by the Closing Time.

<http://www.nrm.gov.au/national/threatened-species-recovery-fund>



20 Million Trees Programme



20 Million Trees is an Australian Government initiative that is part of the National Landcare Programme. It is designed to protect and restore the environment and contribute to more sustainable and productive agriculture.

Having committed \$50 million to the programme, the government's objective is to plant 20 million native species trees by 2020. To meet this objective, the government has engaged service providers, like CO2 Australia, to deliver large-scale tree planting projects.

Why participate?

Participation in the programme offers landholders the opportunity to have a service provider undertake large-scale revegetation projects on their properties at no cost. Using locally appropriate native species, these projects will contribute to more resilient landscapes, improve the extent and connectivity of native vegetation, and provide habitat for threatened species.

Participation in the programme is most suited to properties that meet the following criteria:

- 50 ha of cleared land available for revegetation OR multiple properties in the same local area that can together provide a project area of at least 50-100 ha
- flat to moderately sloped land with a reasonable depth of topsoil
- more than 350 mm of rainfall each year.

How do landholders get involved?

Initially, the only requirement from you is to make contact with CO2 Australia or by filling out the Expression of Interest Form. We will talk to you about the suitability of your land for a project, including the potential location and method for tree planting. If the project proceeds, your land needs to be made available for approximately three years. During that time, we will require land access to plant trees at ideal times and care for them to enhance survival rates. A landholder's involvement in projects is entirely discretionary, with options available to take a more hands on role or leave the entire project to us.

Will it cost me anything?

No. All projects are fully funded by the Australian Government and all contractual obligations sit with the project delivery partner. CO2 Australia will take care of, and pay for, all aspects of the project, including site preparation, any required fencing, seedling production, planting and pest management.

<https://www.co2australia.com.au/20-million-trees-programme/>

Youth Funding Opportunity

Applications are now open for the NSW Government Youth Opportunities Program.

The Program provides one-off, time-limited grants of up to \$50,000 to not-for-profit organisations and local councils for youth-led and youth-driven community projects that have a positive youth development focus. Applications must be submitted by 5pm on **Monday, 26 June 2017**.

<http://youth.nsw.gov.au/youth-opportunities/>



The Norman Wettenhall Foundation

Small grants for innovative ecological projects



The Small Environmental Grants Scheme offers grants between \$1,000 and \$10,000 from the Norman Wettenhall Foundation to support groups or individuals undertaking projects that will make a positive difference to the natural living environment in land, sea or air, rural or urban. These grants are available for projects relating to flora and fauna conservation, threatened mammal conservation and landscape scale restoration and education.

Projects should involve any of the following:

- monitoring, recording and sharing data
- delivering community education
- providing community capacity building (e.g. skills training, organisation)
- research and science

There are 4 grant rounds each year in Feb, May, Aug and Nov. Access to these grants is through an expression of interest process. The EoI's for the August grants will open on June 20th and close when there is a suitable number and spread of applications. Not all EoI's will be invited to submit their full project proposal.

Eco Schools grants

The Eco Schools Grants Program is now open. The Eco Schools Grant Program aims to provide learning opportunities for students, teachers and the school community, through hands-on curriculum-based environmental projects that focus on strong student participation.



The program will fund school environmental management projects aimed at one or more of the following objectives:

- Environmental benefits,
- Student participation,
- Teacher engagement and
- Managing for sustainability in school and the community.

The ultimate goal of the Eco Schools Grant Program is the development of environmentally sustainable schools.

Grants of \$3500 are available. Applications close **3pm Monday 19th June 2017**.

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/schools.htm>

Regional Australia Bank



Regional Australia Bank is helping local Landcare groups achieve their goals through their corporate sponsorship to Landcare NSW.

Using the funds provided, Landcare NSW is offering grants of up to \$1,000 (incl. GST) to support our Landcare group members to assist their volunteers. To apply, simply complete and submit the online application form. Applications close at 5pm on **Monday 31st July**.

Suitable for environmental projects under \$15,000

Weed of the Month

This month's weed of the month is Elephants Ears, Taro *Colocasia esculenta*. A perennial herb originating from Asia. It grows to 1-2 m tall. It has large "elephants ears" shaped leaves that grow from the base. The upper surface is glossy green to bluish-black.

It occurs in many variants and forms dense monocultures that are shade tolerant. It grows particularly well in moist areas, including creek beds. It disperses via rhizomes which are spread by water and soil movement.

Similar native species are Cunjevoi *Alocasia brisbanensis*. Cunjevoi has green stems, white flowers and red fruits.

For more information on how to control these weeds and other weeds in the shire please visit the Byron Shire Council website and you will find weed profile sheets: <http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/weed-profiles>



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 groups co-ordinators before attending a working bee as plans do change!**

Brunswick Heads Dunecare

WHEN: 4th Sunday of the month 8:00am – 11:00am
WHERE: Meet in North Beach Car Park
CONTACT: Jordan Moore brunswickheadsdunecare@gmail.com 0413 962 468 txt mess pls

Yallakool Reserve Landcare, Ocean Shores

WHEN: each Friday at 8.30 am
WHERE: corner of Yallakool Drive and Warrambool Road, Ocean Shores
CONTACT: Felicity Watson 0467 650 140
or David Kemp dnkemp77@gmail.com 0427 650 861

Green and Clean Awareness Team, Byron Bay

WHEN: 3rd Sunday of the month 9:00am
WHERE: Meet Main Beach, Byron Bay
CONTACT: Veda Turner vedaturner@gmail.com 0427 857 991

Heritage Park Landcare, Mullumbimby

WHEN: alternate Saturdays 9:00am – 11:00 am
WHERE: Heritage Park, Mullumbimby
CONTACT: Diana Hughes bromspot@gmail.com

Jinangong Landcare, Ocean Shores

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

Lower Mullum Creek Landcare, Mullumbimby

WHEN: 2nd Sunday of the month
WHERE: find out from Rita de Heer
CONTACT: Rita de Heer 02 6684 1495 rdeheer1@bigpond.com

South New Brighton Dunecare

WHEN: 1st Friday of the month 1:30pm - 4:30pm
WHERE: Meet at southern end of the Esplanade at the Strand beach access point.
CONTACT: Robyn Bolden robyn.bolden@australis.net 6680 1970

Suffolk Park Dunecare

WHEN: 1st Saturday of the month
CONTACT: Helen Brown hellyh@bigpond.com 6685 4964

Tyagarah Landcare

WHEN: Each Thursday 9:00am – 11:00am
WHERE: 23 Prestons Lane, Tyagarah
CONTACT: Bela Allen bela_allen@yahoo.com 6684 7113

LINKS

- 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
- Environmental Trust <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/envtrust.htm>
- Ewingsdale Locality Group (BVL) <http://ewingsdale.org.au/#/landcare/4532495308>
- Rous County Council (formerly Far North Coast Weeds) <http://rous.nsw.gov.au/>
- Friends of the Koala www.friendsofthekoala.org
- 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
- 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>

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



This newsletter is funded through the Community Capacity Support program which is supported by North Coast Local Land Services, through funding from the National Landcare Programme and from the NSW Government's Catchment Action NSW and supported by Byron Shire Council.

