

GREETINGS LANDCARERS

Happy Winter Solstice!

June has been a very busy time for the BVL Team.

Under the direction of our irrepressible President Pete and the amazing organisational skills of Alison Ratcliffe - Soils Our National Capital series of workshops has been an amazing success. .

Thanks to our hosts Ross Arnett, Johan Kortenhorst, Lyn Lee; speakers Glenn Morris, John Grant, Alan Coates, Dave Forrest, Gavin Tinning, Kevin Glencross, Nathan Jennings, Leonie Kotejin, Joe Leven and Chef David Carew for cooking incredible food.

Thank you to our generous sponsors and attendees.



Your donation dollars at work

Wildlife Safe Havens is delivering nesting hollows for Glossy Black-Cockatoos in the Byron Shire. Funded by you!

We wanted to take this opportunity to say **THANK YOU** to all of you individuals, organisations, local businesses, Art-Meets-Habitat artists and auction bidders who've got behind Wildlife Safe Havens. **You** have made this work possible.

Our fundraising tally has now reached over \$37,000, over a third of the way towards our \$100,000 target. That's inspiring.

Planning for next Wildlife Safe Havens projects is in full swing, with a focus on habitat for Greater Gliders and the Forest Owls – Powerful, Sooty and Masked.

Santos Organics is a little shop with a big heart, who have in total donated a whopping \$25,000 to the Wildlife Safe Havens project. Following the philosophy to care for ourselves is just as important as caring for Mother Earth. As a 100% not-for-profit social enterprise, Santos is proud to be able to donate a portion of annual profits to support selected organisations working hard to improve our environment. "Our new partnership with WildBnB is close to our hearts and we're excited to see who will move into all the nest boxes we've been able to help put up."

GLOSSY BLACK COCKATOO HABITAT - HUNK O TRUNK!

Why the open top?

By David Brook

Hollows of this size are usually found in the trunks of trees (not branches) often due to a lightning strike damaging the top of an already large tree, so they tend to be vertical and open-topped when occurring naturally.

Trees need to be 400-600 years old to naturally form hollows suitable for GBC's.

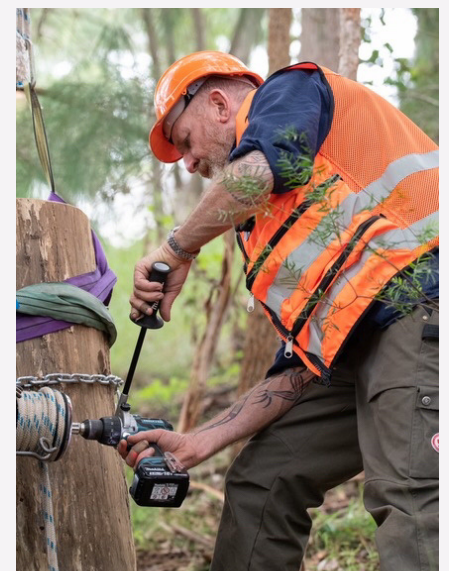
The Hunks-of-Trunks replicate the most ideal naturally forming hollows with a few improvements including a removable mesh base for drainage with 200mm bark chip comprising the timber chips from the actual h-of-t and from the individual trees that they are mounted on - we are doing most of the work for these birds.

Other improvements include consistent 'wall depth' for insulation and an inner wall texture to assist the young birds to climb out.

Hollows of this size are scarce and, as the wildlife camera images show, are being checked-out by many different species

The GBC's don't mind getting a bit wet, and having the top open keeps other invading species like bees (which will move into these hollows if enclosed in a minute), possums, correllas and galahs a bit more under control.

Wood Ducks will be the most likely invading species to manage, sometimes laying 12 eggs in the hollow with one hatching and 11 going rotten and they go head-to-head with the GBC's in relation to securing the hollow. Install photo credit Locky Cooper@pixofnature.



The hollow at the top of Scott's Wood Grove has Wood Ducks on it all day (triggering 100's of camera images) and they look like moving in. Installing specific wood duck nest boxes in the area to attract them away from the hollows.

Retrofitting covers if required (for eg if it was super wet - like last winter on Kangaroo Island where the hollows there were closed mid-way through the breeding season) is an option, as is closing the hollows up over the non-breeding season to prevent other species using them.

The local hollows will remain open over summer as part of the monitoring process to see what happens, and there is always a chance that Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos will use them during this period - a two-for-one bonus we could only hope to achieve.

All nest boxes / hollow habitat require ongoing maintenance and these specialised threatened species projects have a requirement for annual maintenance and regular monitoring for invading species and efficacy for target species to ensure they have the best chance of success.

You can still donate to this important, on-going campaign
<https://chuffed.org/project/wildlife-safe-havens>



Custom Glossy Black-Cockatoo installs and monitoring cameras

These precious birds are the smallest of the Black-Cockatoos and are listed as Vulnerable in NSW. Glossy Black-Cockatoos (GBCs) only breed every two years, laying only one egg. Breeding season is March - August. The Glossy's require a nice deep hollow of 1.2m depth. With a distinct lack of suitable hollows, combined with fierce competition from other species, these birds need our help.

Wildbnb Wildlife Habitat's custom GBC hollows, made using salvaged tree trunks, weigh a up to a whopping 50kg each. Installed with precision by Wildbnb's specialist climbing team at heights between 7-15m, each hollow has a monitoring camera mounted above the entrance to capture essential data on hollow activity.

5 of these huge 1.2m deep hollows have been installed with cameras to connect a GBC habitat corridor from Mullum Creek to Bruns.

Monitoring data captured so far hasn't caught GBCs yet but some other species are checking out the sites.

You can continue to help by sharing our campaign news with family, friends and anyone who cares about our precious native wildlife.

With sincere thanks,

The Wildlife Safe Havens Team



Vimeo links to videos in relation to the GBC project

Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos visit
GBC Hollows

<https://vimeo.com/564985462>

GBC Hollow installation

<https://vimeo.com/555505259>

Wildlife Safe Havens Video

<https://vimeo.com/524854789>



THERE IS MORE TO A FOREST THAN A LOT OF TREES

By John Tann

The Broad-leaved Paperbark, *Melaleuca quinquenervia*, is commonly found in swampy areas and along the margins of estuaries. It is host to a scale insect which forms a fluffy gall about 30mm across on its branches.



Gall on a branch of a Broad-leaved Paperbark.

Inside this gall lives a female *Beesonia ferrugineus* about 2.5 mm long, shown here sitting on the edge of my thumbnail

I've been told that the light-coloured end is where her mouthparts are: there would be extremely thin stylets there that the female uses for sucking plant fluids.

Walter Froggatt described this gall and female insect in 1921. It was then known as *Sphaerococcus ferrugineus*

Froggatt, W.W. 1921. A descriptive catalogue of the scale insects ('Coccidae') of Australia.

Part III. Science Bulletin, Department of Agriculture, New South Wales 19: 10
The adult dark reddish-brown female is marked with dull yellow on the dorsal surface, and is embedded in the central woody cavity. Diameter, about 1.25 lines [about 2.6 mm]*. General form oval, dorsal surface conical, antennae indistinct, legs wanting.

* The line was a unit of length, of different values depending on the trade, here it probably represents 1/12 of an inch - see Wikipedia

Confine Domestic Cats in New South Wales

Why is this important?

Currently in New South Wales, your neighbor's cat can come onto your property and even into your house; defecate in your garden, child's sand box; spray your plants and walls, and scare and kill the native wildlife in your garden.

To an ordinary person, any cat doing any of these things would be deemed a "nuisance." NSW law considers a cat a "nuisance" only if it "makes a noise that continues to such an extent that it unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort or convenience of any person in any other premises, or "repeatedly damages anything outside the property on which it is ordinarily kept" (Companion Animals Act 1998, Sec. 31). The burden of proof is on you. Only if you can prove one of these highly subjective offences, can your local council make a "nuisance cat" declaration and act.

These problems make it almost impossible to provide the evidence necessary to meet the current definition of a nuisance cat. "Prove it was my cat!" "Prove it was on your property!" In effect, therefore, offended owners have no practical recourse to stop a cat coming onto their property and doing whatever it likes. The current law is ineffective, and ineffective law is bad law.

There are two reasons why there is no effective control of roaming cats. First, it is thought to be cruel or "unnatural." Second, it is an unreasonable inconvenience to cat owners.

The RSPCA recommends that Australia move to 24 hour-containment of domestic cats (<https://kb.rspca.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Identifying-Best-Practice-Domestic-Cat-Management-in-Australia-RSPCA-Research-Report-May-2018.pdf>).

Radio-tracking shows that domestic cats routinely roam across three or four neighbouring yards, with occasional forays two or three times this distance and into adjacent bushland.

Twenty-seven percent of Australia households have cats, and 14 percent of households let their cats roam.

There are three ways cats can be kept from roaming: keep them indoors; put them on a tether when outdoors, or keep them in a cat run. All these restraints are sanctioned by animal welfare legislation, and responsible owners already use them. Indeed, many cats are kept indoors their entire lives.

No other domestic animal is allowed to roam freely through our neighborhoods, so why should domestic cats?

<https://me.getup.org.au/petitions/a-petition-to-confine-domestic-cats-in-new-south-wales>

World Environment Day working bee with Arnhem and Ocean Shores Landcare group

The team from Arnhem clothing came and helped out Ocean Shores Landcare on Divine's Hill to clear weeds around native trees and collected a massive amount of rubbish out of the bush. We also checked nest boxes with the pole camera and tasted finger limes. Thank you ladies! Your hard work and enthusiasm is greatly appreciated, looking forward to working with you again :-)



SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

The National Landcare Conference

Wednesday 4 - 6 August, 2021

International Convention Centre, Darling Harbour, Sydney

Landcarers from across the country will gather this August to share knowledge, ideas, and plan for the future – as part of the 2021 National Landcare Conference. With over 60 speakers, the conference includes a field trip program around the Greater Sydney region, and four important panels on the topics of Landcare Farming, Mental Health and Wellbeing, Bushfire Recovery and Resilience, and Cultural Land Management.

Returning as MC for the event, Costa Georgiadis, is excited to once again be part of this opportunity for the Landcare community to come together. For more information about the National Landcare Conference program and to register please visit: <https://nationallandcareconference.org.au/>

Tax rebate factsheets and United Nations Food Systems Summit webinars

Please follow the link to range of fact sheets that have been developed by the Basalt to Bay Landcare Network in conjunction with the Australian Taxation Office, which are aimed at helping farmers with rebates.

- Tree farming forestry operations
- Expenditure on establishing shelter belts
- Fire preparedness and prevention expenses
- Landcare expense

[HTTP://WWW.BASALTTOBAY.ORG.AU/INTEREST-AREAS/TAX-REBATES](http://www.basalttobay.org.au/interest-areas/tax-rebates)

Webinar 5: Agricultural innovation – building better food systems

Tuesday 13 July, 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm (AEST)

The fifth and last in the series of Australian National Food Systems Summit Dialogues, hosted by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, this webinar will explore:

- The role of agricultural innovations in building better food systems
- Australia's policy approaches to support the development of new agricultural and value chain innovations and to promote widespread uptake of innovative ideas and technologies
- How stakeholders across the supply chain are utilising innovation to deliver sustainable and efficient food systems.

If you are interested in joining the discussion – Register for the webinar.

Visit <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/market-access-trade/un-food-systems-summit-2021> for more information on the Summit.

Further information on the FSS can be found here: <https://www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit/about> and for Australian preparations in particular: <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/market-access-trade/un-food-systems-summit-2021>

CSIRO are currently releasing a biological control for Trad

If you or someone you know are interested in receiving some and being part of the trial please have a read of the following and get in touch with the CSIRO team. Guidelines for community participation in the wandering trad biological control release program in New South Wales

The primary aim of this project is to facilitate the broadscale release in NSW of the leaf-smut fungus named *Kordyana brasiliensis*, a biological control (biocontrol) agent that specifically attacks Trad (*Tradescantia fluminensis*).

The project is co-funded by CSIRO and the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust between July 2020 and June 2023.

Biocontrol agent releases will be undertaken by CSIRO in partnership with community stakeholders, including private landholders, weed control operators, government agencies and volunteer community groups, such as Landcare and Bushcare.

Monitoring will reveal the flow-on effects of wandering trad biocontrol for native vegetation regeneration.

https://research.csiro.au/wandering-trad/wp-content/uploads/sites/173/2020/09/Wandering-Trad-Biocontrol_Release-Information_NSW-Enviro-Trust_07.09.20.pdf



REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

With the chips down McCain says it's time to go regen ag

Vernon Graham

McCain Foods, the global leader in the supply of manufactured potato products, has embraced regenerative agriculture in a big way.

By the end of this decade every spud that McCain turns into fries and potato patties will be sourced from farms using regen ag practices.

The company is pledging it will implement regen ag practices across 100 per cent of its potato acreage - representing 150,000 hectares worldwide - by 2030.

[With the chips down McCain says it's time to go regen ag](#) | [Farm Online](#) | [Australia](#)



FUNDING

Possible funding opportunities in the future, keep an eye on this page for future opportunities

National Soil Strategy

The National Soil Strategy sets out how Australia will value, manage and improve its soil for the next 20 years. The Strategy highlights three overarching goals:

- prioritise soil health
- empower soil innovation and stewards
- strengthen soil knowledge and capability.

Actions to address these goals will ensure that soil continues to contribute to agricultural productivity, environmental sustainability, and economic growth.

Soil supports every Australian no matter where we live. It provides essential ecosystem services that support and contribute to Australia's economic, environmental, and social wellbeing. It underpins our way of life. Australia is known internationally for our world class agriculture and is home to some of the most stunning and important natural landscapes anywhere on the planet. None of this would exist without our soil.

We are enabling farmers to increase their ability to build farm resilience by planning and maintaining environmental plantings to protect soil.

The Strategy was developed in consultation with state and territory governments and the National Soils Advocate, the Honourable Penelope Wensley, AC. We have consulted with a broad range of stakeholders, and we have also conducted two public consultations.

Commonwealth Interim Action Plan

A Commonwealth Interim Action Plan has been developed to outline the Australian Government's commitment to implementing the National Soil Strategy. The Interim Action Plan outlines high level actions we will take to support the Strategy. The actions in the plan will ensure that soil continues to contribute to agricultural productivity, environmental sustainability, and economic growth.

The Australian Government has committed \$196.9 million in new funding over 4 years to implement the National Soil Strategy and the Interim Action Plan.

This includes:

- \$5.9 million to implement the National Soil Strategy
- \$120 million for a National Soil Monitoring and Incentives Pilot Program (costs to deliver soil extension activities will be met from existing funding under the National Landcare Program)
- \$1.1 million for accreditation standard to enhance soil education and expertise
- \$20.9 million for a National Soils Science Challenge
- \$67.0 million for Food Waste for Healthy Soils Fund

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/natural-resources/soils/national-soil-strategy>

WEED OF THE MONTH

Palm Grass *Setaria palmifolia*

Why is it a problem?

Palm grass can form large colonies.

- It competes with native plants for water and nutrients
- invades pastures
- has hairy stems, which can cause irritation
- can reduce yields of some crops
- has thick prickly roots can stop other plants from establishing and growing.



Origin

India

What does it look like?

Palm grass is a robust perennial grass to 1.5 m high with wide leaf blades.

Dense, palm-like grass with a dense root mass and tough rhizomes with rounded stems. Harsh, hanging palm-like leaves (30-100 x 5-8 cm) are pleated and taper to a point. Narrow, seedheads (20-30 cm) with fuzzy, foxtail-like tips on long arching stems (Dec-Mar).



Why is it a problem?

Tough rhizomes, long-lived and forms pure stands. Forms a total ground cover, preventing the growth and establishment of seedlings of all other species.

Tolerates full sun to moderate shade, heavy to light soils, damage, hot to moderately cool temperatures, wind, salt, occasionally submersion, wet or dry spots, and is drought-tolerant when established.

How does it spread?

Rhizomes and seed, occasionally aided by water movement, dumped garden waste. Frequent follow up removal or treatment is required to tackle this weed.

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 coordinators before attending a working bee as plans do change!

Bangalow Land and Rivercare, Bangalow

WHEN: every Saturday 8:30am
WHERE: find out from Liz Gander
CONTACT: Liz Gander bangalowlandcare@gmail.com 66871309

Green and Clean Awareness Team, Byron Bay

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

Heritage Park Landcare, Mullumbimby

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

Jinangong Landcare, Ocean Shores

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

Mullum Town Landcare, Mullumbimby

WHEN: last Sunday of the month
WHERE: find out from Jude Alcorn
CONTACT: Jude Alcorn 0411 298 356 judealcorn@yahoo.com.au

Ocean Shores Landcare, Ocean Shores

WHEN: each Friday at 8.30 – 11.00 am (8.00am DST)
WHERE: corner of Yallakool Drive and Warrambool Road, Ocean Shores
CONTACT: David Kemp dnkemp77@gmail.com 0427 650 861

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

South New Brighton Dunecare

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

Suffolk Park Dunecare

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

Tyagarah Landcare

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

Can't find a group near you? We have many other groups who meet on an ad hoc basis (contact us for more details) or if there isn't an existing group in your neighbourhood or you are interested in looking after a particular area, BVL can help you to form a locality group under the BVL umbrella.

LINKS

- Arakwal <http://arakwal.com.au/>
- Border Rangers Alliance http://www.greasternranges.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 Support Officer, Alison Ratcliffe 6626 7028
(Mon, Tues, Wed)**

aratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au

Project Officer, Rochelle Merdith 6626 7201 rmerdith@byron.nsw.gov.au

www.brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au

