



Newsletter for Landcare and Dunecare in Byron Shire

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



March 2019

National Regenerative Agriculture Day by Alison Ratcliffe

Peter, Josie and I attended the inaugural national regenerative agriculture day at The Farm on Valentine's day 14th February.

National Regenerative Agriculture day is a united national movement to raise awareness about Regenerative Agriculture and the benefits to helping heal the land and our communities.

This event will be an annual event so mark it down in your diary's for next year or subscribe to their mailing list for updates of the movement.

www.nationalregenerativeagricultureday.com



What is Regenerative Agriculture? - an ever-growing, world-wide movement whereby land managers recognise the need for new (sometimes back to old!) ways for farmers and land managers to cope with changing climate and to be more resilient to such changes. Not only that, but also part of a growing recognition that some established, industrial farming practices are not resulting in the sort of farm ecosystems and products we want: less healthy ecosystems, more costly practices, all in a changing social and commercial market.

Regenerative Agriculture is a general term describing practices that assist a farmer to withstand change, and restore healthy farm ecosystems. It may cover land and stock management practices such as:

- cell or rotational grazing, mirroring natural herd movements
- low-till or no-till cultivation
- improved soil carbon
- improving soil microbes and soil health
- farm forestry
- ridgeline re-afforestation to increase catchment water holding capacity
- composting
- less reliance on synthetic fertilizers and chemicals
- re-introducing and encouraging native pastures
- restoration of waterways and creeks
- improving water cycles and the water holding capacity of land
- integrated pest management and pollination
- carbon banking via tree planting
- biodynamic practices



BVL is positioned to support and champion Regen Ag landholders and build community support and education on such topics.

After the success of last years "Farming into the Future" seminar, BVL will be running a number of seminars and field days to further explore some of the topics above. Watch this space for more information – but keep the date for a farm forestry seminar on 14th June.



Yalla Kool Reserve

Walking Track Opening

Sunrise bird walk, BBQ breakfast and guided walks

The walking track through Yalla Kool Reserve in Ocean Shores has been upgraded. Join us to celebrate the track opening and enjoy a sunrise bird walk, BBQ breakfast and guided walks through the reserve.



Saturday 30th March 2019 7.00 am – 11.00 am Ocean Shores

Over the last 15 years Landcare volunteers have regenerated this community reserve into a thriving rainforest.

PROGRAM AND GUEST SPEAKERS:

- 7.00 Sunrise Bird walk by Byron Bird Buddies
- 9.00 BBQ breakfast and walking track opening
- 9.30 guided walks though the reserve

BOOKINGS for the bird walk are essential as numbers are limited.

Please contact Alison: aratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au or 02 6626 7028 to book.

For the breakfast, opening and 9.30am guided walks please meet at the end of Inderwong Avenue, Ocean Shores.



This event is possible through funding from the Australian Governments National Landcare Program



BANGALOW KOALAS

Bangalow Koalas has another tree planting coming up. Then there are another 2 plantings in April!!

By end of June they will have planted 12,000 trees in 18 months!!

Look at these trees that were planted in late September last year on David and Jannine McNicol's. Even through the drought they have grown so tall in under 6 months!

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2315733365138119/>



BANGALOW KOALAS KOALA TREE PLANTING

Saturday 23rd March 2019

NO Weeding, **NO** Digging, **NO** Whipper Snipping, just planting trees in pre-dug holes and mulching – **EASY!**

There are 1,150 koala and rainforest trees to plant so Bangalow Koalas is having another Working Bee. If you want to volunteer a couple of hours of your time then please see below for details.

FREE Sausage Sizzle and Sandwiches!!

PLUS as a thank you for this outstanding effort the Bangalow Lions are going to lay on a **FREE Sausage Sizzle** there will also be sandwiches available kindly made by Julie Frankham.

Date Saturday 23rd March 2019, 9.00am start

Where 90 – 92 Dudgeons Lane, Bangalow

RSVP Linda Sparrow on
twodogsmedia@optusnet.com.au

Thank you for the help and support of:



National Landcare
Program
Environmental
Small Grant.



Special offer: Sustainable Food Business Innovation Summit

As a special offer to our subscribers Venture Organics is offering \$30 off the ticket price of the Sustainable Food Business Innovation Summit (Sustainable Food BIS) at The Farm in Ewingsdale on March 22nd and 23rd .

What is Sustainable Food Business Innovation Summit?

The Summit will cover how to implement strategies to help you scale up your current farm or business or turn your startup or innovation into a commercial success. The day is designed to support ethical food producers to be fairly rewarded for what they do best.

Join the industry's leading agribusiness mentors, thought leaders, impact investors and startup experts to discover new solutions for business and innovation in organics and sustainable food.

To find out more visit www.ventureorganic.com . To book go to <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/sustainable-food-business-innovation-summit-tickets-52806619019>

BOOK NOW: www.ventureorganic.com

**SUSTAINABLE
FOOD
BUSINESS
INNOVATION SUMMIT**

**BYRON
BAY MARCH 22-23**

Get \$30 off your ticket
Use Coupon Code VOPO at checkout

20th NSW Weeds Conference

Are you working to manage and eradicate weeds in Australia? The 20th NSW Weeds Conference is a premier event for NSW weeds officers, researchers, market and industry analysts, government officials and policymakers working towards better weed management across the country. The conference will unite more than 250 weeds management experts in the beautiful beach-side city of Newcastle, Australia. Join us in Newcastle, 26-29 August 2019. <https://www.nswweedsconf.org.au/>



The March issue of Village Eco News is now available. There's a great article on Rat, Mouse or Native Antechinus?

<http://brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Village-Eco-News-Issue-29-March-2019.pdf>

STORIES to inspire and give you hope

Celebrating International Women's Day by Landcare Australia

Did you know that the Landcare movement started with two passionate and remarkable women: Joan Kirner, Victorian Minister for Conservation and Lands and Heather Mitchell, Victorian Farmers Federation president. Their vision has led to Landcare becoming the largest volunteer movement in Australia with thousands of men, women and children actively participating in caring for our country. *Photo: Landcare Victoria Inc archives*



Weevils a success in Byron Shire



For a number of years Byron Council has had issues with reoccurring Salvinia overgrowth at Waterlily Park, Ocean Shores. Methods of weed control in Byron Shire is limited to biological and mechanical due to strong public objections for chemical use in water bodies. If water weeds are chemically sprayed and die, rotting vegetation can have adverse environmental effects such as high DO (dissolved oxygen) levels, potentially killing other species and creating a strong decaying aroma.



Salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) biological control is one of the services Rous County Council provides free to landholders. Initially, Salvinia overgrowth was so thick at Waterlily Park that biological control would not have worked. For insects to succeed, at least a third of the water body needs to be cleared.

Mechanical harvesters although costly, can remove the bulk of the weed, and are highly effective. Based on this, Byron council made the decision to use a harvester to remove the heavy layers of Salvinia overgrowth. However, after harvesting, there was still Salvinia around the edges left and it quickly re-established. In optimal conditions, Salvinia doubles in size in under three days so an integrated control plan was carried out using biological control agent *Cyrtobagus (Cyrtobagus salviniae)* weevils.



The conditions were favorable at the time of insect release (Sept 2018), as best results are achieved when releasing after Spring rain with a third clear water cover.



This week Council staff monitoring the park reported that the Weevils have done a fantastic job with the lagoon now free of *Salvinia*. Council will monitor the lagoon to check for any regrowth.

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE



Regenerative agriculture finds solid backing as decades of success show renewal by ABC News



Boorowa farmer Charlie Arnott has experienced the immense toll of drought on his cattle, his business and his wellbeing, but he has found a way through it all.

Fifteen years ago, reeling from the effects of the Millennium drought, he attended a workshop on regenerative agriculture that radically changed the way he farmed and, he believes, saved his life.

"I was doing a really good job of killing a lot of stuff to try and grow food, which is kind of crazy," Mr Arnott said.

He had been farming conventionally using pesticides, herbicides and fertilisers, but the course taught him how to partner with nature instead of trying to control it.

It has turned around his farm's capacity to deal with drought and he currently has plenty of water and grass for his livestock even as the drought in NSW intensifies.

"We haven't fed for 15 years [because] we measure how much grass we have, we know how many animals we have to eat that grass and a very simple calculation gives us the amount of time that that grass is available before it runs out," Mr Arnott said.

From a desert to a paradise

Another farmer in Boorowa, David Marsh, began his journey into regenerative agriculture in the 1980s, after a drought brought him to the edge of ruin.

"In 1982 we reduced our numbers far too late, like so many ... and we turned this place into a desert," Mr Marsh said.

Photo: David Marsh - The 1982 drought turned David Marsh's Boorowa farm into a desert. The same spot in 2019 shows how regenerative agriculture has turned his farm around.

"In that time you couldn't give sheep away and I promised I wouldn't do that again."

He began adopting regenerative practices in 1999, increasing the amount of native vegetation and tree coverage on his property from just 3 per cent to 20 per cent.



He believes trees and native grasses are fundamentally important to farming because they capture carbon from the atmosphere and their deep-rooted systems recycle nutrients from the soil.

The other key change he made was to switch from a "set stocking" rate to planning grazing according to what the landscape could support.

He has a mob of more than 300 cattle, many with calves at foot, and he grazes them in small areas, leaving most of the farm free of animals so it can recover.

"We've got over 100 paddocks and [the cattle] are gradually moving around the place through all those paddocks.

If conditions are dry he destocks.

"I guess in the past, we were trying to run fixed enterprises in an incredibly variable climate and you can do that, but a lot of the time you're going to be spending a lot of money [on feed]," Mr Marsh said.

Like Charlie Arnott he matches his livestock numbers to the amount of feed he has.

"The whole thing we're doing here is trying to fit into the way the world works rather than trying to bend the world to our will."

Photo: ABC News Matt Roberts - Keeping cattle in bigger mobs and moving them around the farm gives the farm environment time to rest and recover.



National study shows regenerative farmers doing better

A study commissioned by the Federal Department of Environment found that regenerative management practices "have the potential to increase the health of Australia's grassy woodlands and at the same time improve financial and farmer wellbeing".

Mark Gardner from Vanguard Business Services said the survey of 16 farms compared incomes against conventional farming systems using ABARES and Australian Bureau of Statistics figures over a 10-year period.

It showed that regenerative farmers had above average profit levels, especially in dry years.

To read the rest of the story visit https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2019-03-10/regenerative-agriculture-attracts-solid-backing-amid-success/10871130?fbclid=IwAR0HqOeDuXC4gPsLsPnLM-IWISXlp3u2A_XRhnnFIhzTLifXE2TGiqwR6WU

Land for Wildlife

Native Bees by Alison Ratcliffe



I got to look inside a native bee hive this week that had recently been split. The construction these small stingless bees make was truly amazing. To find out more about attracting native bees to your garden this page give some great info

<https://www.backyardbuddies.org.au/habitats/build-a-bee-hotel>

For more info on native bee hives <https://sugarbag.net/>



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 2019. 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/>

2019-20 Crown Reserves Improvement Fund



Applications for funding under the 2019–20 Crown Reserves Improvement Fund Program (CRIFP) will open **11 February 2019** and close at 5 pm **22 March 2019**.

There will be only **one** round this year.

Managers of Crown parks and reserves, Crown caravan and state parks, commons and showgrounds (including freehold) and schools of arts (excluding freehold) can apply.

Third-party organisations can also apply for funding, but must obtain a letter of authority from the Crown land manager supporting their application.

Detailed application instructions are now available on

the <https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/lands/reserves/funding/improvement-fund>

FRRR Strengthening Rural Communities



Strengthening Rural Communities - Small & Vital grants of up to \$10,000 are available for a broad range of initiatives that directly and clearly benefit local communities.

Grants can be used for a wide range of purposes including:

- Delivering activities, programs and services;
- Purchasing or hiring equipment and materials;
- Community infrastructure projects;
- Operational and administrative costs associated with your project will be considered. This could include wages, paying a skilled contractor, or paying for overhead costs incurred in the project's delivery.

Applications close 26 March 2019. https://www.frrr.org.au/SRC_Small_Vital.php

Enviro-Funding On Offer

The Purves Fund provides grants for focus areas of plastic pollution; biodiversity species loss, water resource management of the Murray Darling Basin, broad-scale land-clearing and renewable energy and climate change advocacy. More? <http://www.purvesenvirofund.org.au/>



The Ian Potter Foundation- Environment and Conservation grants



The program considers large grants (over \$100,000) within two themes:

- fostering biodiversity
- water and/or land management.

Expressions of Interest open March 25th 2019.

Click here to find out more: [The Ian Potter Foundation](#)

Wettenhall Environment Trust Small Environmental Grant Scheme

Do you have a project that needs funding around flora and fauna conservation and/or threatened mammal conservation?

These projects should involve any of the following:

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

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 1st April 2019 Click here to find out more: [Norman Wettenhall Foundation](#)



Weed of the Month

This month's first weed of the month Lady-of-the-Night also known as night flowering jasmine *Cestrum nocturnum*. It is a multi-stemmed large shrub or small tree to 4m high with sparsely hairy new growth. The flowers are greenish yellow, in congested spikelike racemes produced in spring and summer.



The most prominent feature of this plant being the amazingly

strong perfume they release at

night. These are flowering now so easy to small and some are fruiting so easy to spot.



The fruit are white and globose. You will see all the birds love eating this fruit and this is how the seeds are dispersed.

As much as I love having this fragrance filling my backyard on summer evenings this plant is becoming a real problem in the shire forming dense thickets of fast growing plants that out compete all other vegetation.

Weed Poisonous to Stock

With the recent dry weather it has been slim pickings in the paddocks for cattle.

With the grass so short cattle are sometimes forced to eat plants that in a normal wet season they wouldn't touch. Unfortunately, some of these plants are poisonous to cattle.



All lantana should be treated as poisonous to stock, with the red flowering form the most toxic. Lantana can cause liver damage resulting in sunburn, dehydration and death in cattle, sheep and goats. Other common poisonous plants in the region include fireweed, mother of millions, bracken fern, green cestrum, black bean, cotton bush, poison peach and crofton weed. A number of plants can also be associated with nitrate poisoning or plant staggers. The signs seen in stock will depend on the plant eaten. Newly introduced stock are often the most prone to disease from poisonous plants.

[See here for more information](#)

The good thing about the short grass is that the weeds are easy to spot and it's a good time of the year to get out and knock the weeds off while they are actively growing before we move into Autumn.

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!**

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 Rita de Heer
CONTACT: Rita de Heer 02 6684 1495 ritadeheer7@gmail.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

Yallakool Reserve Landcare, Ocean Shores

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

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 River and Landcare <http://www.bangalowlandcare.org.au/>
 - Big Scrub Landcare <https://www.bigscrubrainforest.org.au/>
 - Brunswick Valley Landcare <http://www.brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/>
 - Byron Bird Buddies <http://www.byronbirdbuddies.com.au/>
 - Byron Community College <http://www.byroncollege.org.au/>
 - Byron Shire Council <http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/>
 - EnviTE www.envite.org.au
 - Environmental Trust <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/envtrust.htm>
 - Friends of the Koala www.friendsofthekoala.org
 - Local Land Services www.northcoast.ils.nsw.gov.au
 - North Coast Local Land Services <http://northcoast.ils.nsw.gov.au/>
 - Border Ranges Richmond Valley Landcare www.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 0421 244 640 (Monday, Thursday and Friday)

email: alison.ratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au



This newsletter is supported by Byron Shire Council.

