

Greetings Landcarers

Things are busy at BVL. We have been playing catch up now that COVID restrictions are not so restricting...

Tallowood Ridge Locality Landcare Group got together with the help of Bob Smeuninx from Bushland Restoration Services and Brunswick Valley Landcare to recreate this Themeda Grassland (Kangaroo Grass) along the Tallowood Ridgeline also know as Mooibal Spur.

Many thanks to Dave Rawlins and John Tann for propagating the stock from local provenance Themda; naturally occurring on the Mooibal Spur Ridgeline.

This grassland will become an important and valuable resource to local native wildlife – in particular seed eating bird species and also an area to collect seed to replant other degraded areas where Themeda once naturally occurred.

These grasslands were once wide spread and managed with fire by Indigenous people before white settlement.

Now these grasslands are regarded as endangered ecological communities. The loss of these grassland communities is a direct result of land clearing, grazing, exotic grass invasion and the absence of fire in the landscape.

The project and planting is funded by the Environmental Trust NSW.





<https://brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Feb-2021-WCHL-newsletter-1.pdf>



Tweed Byron Hinterland Trails



Minyon Falls improvements update

Minyon Falls and Minyon Grass will be closed from 1 March to enable the construction of a new lookout and day use area at Minyon Falls. The site is not expected to reopen until the end of June. **Rummery Park campground will remain open***, accessible via Nightcap Range Road.

The Minyon Falls master plan revised design will deliver an exceptional nature-based visitor experience while minimising impact on the natural setting. The upgrade will improve the sense of arrival, access pathways and family gathering spaces at Minyon Falls, including a new viewing platform, picnic tables and an educational space. The new design will supply opportunities for a diverse range of visitors to understand, enjoy and appreciate parks, and take maximum advantage of the site's interpretive opportunities and scenic values.

Minyon Falls will be closed from 1 March to end June 2021.

Minyon Falls Drive will be closed at Minyon Grass picnic area. See the attached flyer for details.

Visitors are advised to check nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/alerts before travel.

* Wet weather has delayed the re-opening of the Nightcap Range Road for a few days so there will be a short period when Rummery Park campground is not accessible.

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment acknowledges that it stands on Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and we show our respect for elders past, present and emerging through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically.

Extended community consultation dates and locations

The NSW Government is reviewing harvestable rights limits that apply to water taken in farm dams in coastal draining catchments.

Because of increased interest and the continued relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions we have now extended the consultation and submission period until **18 April 2021**.

The survey and submission portal is now open - Have Your Say

Lismore	Monday March 22 11am-12.30pm or 1pm-2.30pm	Register
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<https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/licensing-trade/landholder-rights/harvestable-rights-dams/review/public-consultation>



Byron Shire Council News



'Our Special Place – Tallow Creek' Exhibition on this Wednesday to Friday

Byron Shire Council is proud to support a unique exhibition created by University of Technology Sydney (UTS) Landscape Architect Masters student Nathan Galluzzo, *Our Special Place – Tallow Creek*, at Byron Bay's Lighthouse Cottage this Wednesday 10 March until Friday 12 March. Admission is free.

The exhibition is a showcase of Nathan's research project which focusses on using drawings as a measure and means of capturing, recording and delivering stories tied to Tallow Creek, exploring the complexities of ecosystems associated with the ICOLL (intermittent closed and open lake or lagoon) and the significance of the cultural connection of the Arakwal people to the area.

"Nathan has worked closely with two very important people who have an intricate connection to Tallow Creek, incorporating the stories and wisdom of Arakwal leader Uncle Norm and Suffolk Park Dune Care veteran Helen Brown," Council's Coast, Biodiversity and Sustainability Coordinator Chloe Dowsett said.

"Our Special Place – Tallow Creek is a really beautiful and moving exhibition that asks us all to take a moment to consider the stories and beauty of this sacred space from both indigenous and non-indigenous perspectives.

'Our Special Place – Tallow Creek'

Lighthouse Cottage, Byron Bay

Date: Wednesday 10 March – Friday 12 March 2020

Time: 10:30am - 3:30pm

Group bookings (more than 6 people) and tours call: 0459 541 230

Free SMS program launched to tackle surge in mosquito-borne diseases

Byron Shire Council has joined with Northern Rivers councils and the North Coast Public Health Unit to launch the Tackling Mosquitoes Together campaign and free text message program aimed at reducing the disease risks and nuisance of mosquitoes.



“Our free SMS text message program, which I strongly urge all residents to join, provides the tips and tools needed to protect ourselves from mosquitoes and the growing risk of mosquito-borne disease.

To join up, simply go to the Tackling Mosquitoes Together website and click on the SMS Program sign up: www.tacklingmosquitoestogether.com.au

Seminars and workshops

SOIL CARBON WEBINAR

Farmers for Climate Action

12:00 Thursday 25 March 2021



The potential of Australian soils to sequester carbon and offset emissions is a hot topic right now. But how do you go about building soil carbon?

Join us to hear from Dr Cassandra Schefe, a leading soil science researcher, for the next webinar in our Road to Net Zero series, Understanding Soils.

Dr Schefe will take us back to basics, explaining the relationships between different soil characteristics and their contributions to a soil system. She'll then take us through how farmers can use this knowledge to achieve an increase in carbon.

The Road to Net Zero webinar series explores the reasons for reducing emissions, the different solutions available and industry progress towards carbon neutrality.

<https://farmersforclimateaction.org.au/.../understanding.../>

Understanding the impact of Exotic Perennial Grasses in Threatened Ecological Communities in NSW

Purpose of research

This is an invitation for you to participate in a research project being conducted by the University of Wollongong. The purpose of the research is to investigate the impact of exotic perennial grasses to native and threatened ecological communities in NSW, and to investigate the best-practice management of these invasive grasses. To understand exotic perennial grass impacts and management, the project seeks to survey people who have experience with these grasses and the communities they invade. This is an invitation for you to participate in this survey.

Researchers

Julia Rayment, School of Earth, Atmospheric, and Life Sciences, University of Wollongong, 02 4252 8993, jrayment@uow.edu.au

Professor Kris French, School of Earth, Atmospheric, and Life Sciences, University of Wollongong, 02 4221 3655, kris@uow.edu.au

This study has been reviewed by the Social Sciences Human Research Ethics Committee at the University of Wollongong

(Reference: 2021/008). If you have any concerns or complaints about the way this research is conducted you can contact the

Ethics Manager on (02) 4221 4457 or email rso-ethics@uow.edu.au.

Wednesday 24 March 6pm-9pm

Film + Panel discussion
*"How we can grow more food
in the Byron Shire"*

Tickets \$25
online BYRONCENTRE.COM.AU or at the door
Limited seats - book early, you don't want to miss this event!

VENETIA SCOTT Hungry Earth Agroecology & Young Farmers Connect
BUNYA HALASZ Growing Roots Permaculture
HELENA NORBEG-HODGE Local Futures
ANDREW CAMERON Agricultural Extension officer Byron Council
and the filmmakers HILARY BAIN & ÅSA MARK

Byron Community Centre
69 Jonson St, Byron Bay



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ecological farming solutions"*

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on global food issues!"*

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REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

WHAT IS REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE?

Regenerative Agriculture (a.k.a. Regen), works with nature rather than against it. 'Regen' is all about leaving the land better than you found it. Think going beyond organic, it's not a certification (well not yet) but it's an approach to farming that focuses on improving the ecological health of farmland. Regen farmers use a collection of highly adaptable practices, that when performed together, make for healthier, happier soil, food, humans, farmers and planet.

The 'agriculture' part speaks to the farming context. An alternative to conventional, synthetic chemical-fueled practices: Regen is the future. Holistic management keeps water in the landscape, enriches soil, enhances ecosystem services and increases biodiversity.

Put simply, it is a method of farming that improves the surrounding environment, rather than destroying or depleting it.

<https://www.harrisfarm.com.au/blogs/guides/what-is-regen-ag>



Queensland graziers and authorities unite to restore green pastures to barren landscapes

ABC Western Qld By Dan Prosser

Early results of a trial underway in western Queensland to determine the effectiveness of artificially increasing the amount of Mitchell grass seeds in depleted soil is providing hope for a potential solution.

Longreach-based natural resource management group Desert Channels Queensland is conducting the trials in collaboration with landholders across three separate sites, and operations manager Simon Wiggins said they were already finding success. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-03-09/queensland-grazier-grass-growing-trials-after-years-of-drought/13141670>



LAND FOR WILDLIFE

We are looking for someone to take over wildlife deaths tally sign on Left Bank Road, Mullumbimby.

The sign has had a noticeable affect on driver behaviour and it would be great if someone could take over. If you would like to help out contact Jane Wickers janeawickers@gmail.com



Freshwater turtles rescued from Gold Coast beaches displaced from creeks following heavy rainfall

[ABC Gold Coast/ Melissa Maykin](#) and Julie Cliff

Baby fresh water turtles found on Gold Coast beach would not have survived. Currumbin Wildlife Hospital Head Vet Michael Pyne said the turtle "bubs" were likely flushed out of swollen creeks during the recent heavy rain.

"There have been about 10 baby turtles brought in. We've had episodes with heavier flooding in the past where we've had about 30 or 40 turtles brought in within a couple of days after washing up on the beaches," he said.



<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-02-27/freshwater-bubs-saved-gold-coast-beaches-following-rain/13196848>

Southern hairy-nosed wombats reclaim the Nullarbor

Michael Swinbourne, a wombat expert from the University of Adelaide, hoped the next decade would see it continue a westward march into territory lost decades ago.

"If you ever had a pet wombat, you know exactly what I mean. "It's like having a very, very friendly dog.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-02-21/southern-hairy-nosed-wombat-nullarbor-march-wombats-wa/13173482>



Rare spotted-tail quoll discovered in Logan.

[ABC Radio Brisbane](#) By Antonia O'Flaherty

The rare spotted-tail quoll has been discovered after a scat was found in Logan after more than a decade of searching to confirm the species' existence in the area.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-03-11/endangered-spotted-tail-quolls-discovered-in-logan/13237176>



Fire Stuff



Gold Sponsors



Tickets now on sale!

Nature Conservation Council's 2021 Bushfire Conference

Tuesday 4th, Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th May

[GET TICKETS HERE](#)

The Nature Conservation Council of NSW's Bushfire Conference is back this May bringing together the nation's leading fire and ecology experts.

Over three days, this year's theme "*Cool, Warm, Hot: the burning questions*" will explore how different fire intensities can influence ecosystems and communities in a changing climate.

Confirmed speakers include:

- Minister for Energy and Environment, Matt Kean
- Shadow Minister for Emergency Services, Trish Doyle
- Shadow Minister for Environment and Heritage, Kate Washington
- Dr Mark Ooi, (UNSW)
- Dr Philip Zylstra (Curtin Uni.)
- Emeritus Professor and author Bill Gammage (ANU)
- Professor Philip Gibbons (ANU)
- Professor David Lindenmayer (ANU)
- Former Commissioner of Fire and Rescue NSW Greg Mullins (Climate Council)
- Professor Lesley Hughes (Macquarie Uni. and Climate Council)
- Professor Andrew Bennett (La Trobe Uni.)

If you have submitted an abstract to present at this conference please do not register until you have heard from the organisers.

	General (Government/ Corporate/ Individual)	Concession (Volunteer/ Student/ Not-For- Profit/ Unwaged/ NCC Member Group/ Aboriginal Land Council or Organisation/ IPA Representative)
3 Day Bundle Deal	\$230	\$140
2 Days	\$180	\$120
1 Day	\$90	\$60

The Nature Conservation Council of NSW would like to acknowledge the generous support of our platinum conference sponsors the NSW Rural Fire Service and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, and our gold conference sponsor the Humane Society International.

Australia's first satellite that can help detect bushfires within one minute of ignition set for launch

ABC Science By technology reporter James Purtill

A Queensland-based company, Fireball, announced the first purpose-built satellite for fire detection in Australia. Read the full article here:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2021-03-14/bushfires-detecting-them-from-space-fireball-satellite-launch/13203470>



Funding

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR ELECTRIC FENCING GRANTS

Applications are open for the 2021 Gallagher Landcare Electric Fencing Grants. Gallagher is continuing its commitment to support projects aligned with the priority areas of conservation fencing and grazing management.

Eligible applicants are invited to apply for an individual electric fencing project grant for up to \$8,000, for fencing materials. Up to 12 grants across Australia are planned. Applications close 9th April. <https://landcareaustralia.org.au/gallaghergrants>



Funding plans to turn back the tide of extinction

A \$20.3 million Environmental Trust grant to NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service will help turn back the tide of species extinctions by supporting plans to more than triple the area of feral-cat-and-fox-free land in national park estate.

Australia has the worst mammal extinction record in the world. In New South Wales, 14 bird species and 26 mammals have become extinct in the past 250 years.

Feral cats and foxes are the key drivers of the decline in most mammals, as well as bird, reptile and amphibian species. Feral cats alone kill more than 1.4 billion native Australian animals every year. In New South Wales, cats – more than any other feral animal – are thought to impact 117 threatened species.

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/funding-and-support/nsw-environmental-trust/major-projects/turning-back-the-tide-of-extinction>



Seen this plant? Monkey's comb

Pithecoctenium crucigerum



How does this weed affect us?

Monkey's comb is an aggressive woody climber. It will quickly out-compete and smother other species. This weed:

- impacts on threatened species habitat
- slows natural regeneration processes in bushland areas
- restricts the movement of some wildlife
- reduces the aesthetic values of your property
- reduces the number of native plants
- limits access for bush walkers
- makes trees more susceptible to storm damage
- impacts on natural ecosystem functions

Seen it? Call us:

Rous County Council
Weeds Officer:

02 6623 3800

NSW DPI Biosecurity
Helpline:

1800 680 244

Help protect our land, plants and wildlife.

For control and biosecurity information visit NSW

WeedWise: weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/MonkeysComb



NORTH COAST
**No Space for
Weeds**



Where are you likely to find it?

This plant is native to southern Mexico and Brazil. It has been recorded in south-east Queensland and in the North Coast region of NSW.

When looking for this plant, check:

- the edge of bushland areas
- along creek lines
- on road sides

What does it look like?

Monkey's comb is a woody climber with heart shaped leaves. It has hexagonal ribbed branchlets and many-branched tendrils.

Flowers are yellow, tubular and up to 5 cm long and 2 cm wide.

Fruit is a thick woody capsule, with dense prickles. Seeds are surrounded by a transparent wing.

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1800 680 244

Help protect our land, plants and wildlife.
For control and biosecurity information visit NSW
WeedWise: weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/MonkeysComb



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 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

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.ils.nsw.gov.au
- North Coast Local Land Services <http://northcoast.ils.nsw.gov.au/>
- Border Ranges Richmond Valley Landcare www.brrvl.nsw.gov.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



This newsletter is supported by Byron Shire Council.

