



Newsletter

Conserving and restoring from forest to foreshore

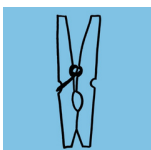
It's starting to feel like Autumn in the Brunswick Valley!
In this March edition of the newsletter, we are embracing the (slightly!) cooler weather by exploring the joys of being outdoors busying ourselves with plantings and habitat projects. This month we want to celebrate our incredible volunteers and have a special event planned just for you!



Byron Bird Buddies report that a couple of Eastern (Crested) Shrike-tits were observed at two sites in the Byron Shire last week. These birds are not often observed in our shire - both birds had a mate and to see them at different sites in the same week was pretty exciting! (Photo B. Mc Naughton)



BRUNSWICK VALLEY LANDCARE IS A REGISTERED CHARITY ON PEGS AND PUBLINC



Local Pegs app allows businesses to offer discounted prices to locals. You can opt to keep the discount, tip the business, or donate to a local charity



As a Publinc member, not only do you get discounts on food and drinks at Hotel Brunswick, but you can donate your points to a local charity



This initiative is made possible by the NSW Landcare Program. A collaboration of Local Land Services and Landcare NSW supported by the NSW Government.

BVL NEWS

Focus on Volunteers

Tuesday 19th March from 8.30am to 1.30pm including 'Meet the Committee' morning tea and lunch. Ocean Shores Community Centre

You are invited to attend this workshop especially if you are an active volunteer or new member. Brunswick Valley Landcare have developed some new resources and information for all our volunteers. We'd also like to offer you an opportunity to have input into our planning for 2024 as key members of our organisation.

Have input to our planning, hear about our new volunteer information, meet other volunteers and have your say. Ideally, all volunteers would like to attend, but at least two people from each locality group is a must. New and interested members (who are not part of a locality group) are also invited.

Registration essential no later than Monday 11th March to record your attendance and dietary requirements.



<https://events.humantix.com/volunteers-information-and-planning-workshop>

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BVL instigates new Salesforce database and thank you to Jane!

Brunswick Valley Landcare has obtained Salesforce to use as a database to manage our member and project records in a better way. This will make it much easier to keep track of members and their participation plus track project progress and outcomes.

All members should by now have received an email asking if we have all your information recorded correctly. The email asked that you let us know if your membership details and contact information are accurate.

If you haven't received this email but believe you are a current member, please contact Joanne at joanne@brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au.



Jane Wickers managed BVL membership as a volunteer for over 20 years. Jane was grateful for the lovely gift basket the committee provided as a thank you recently. "Very thoughtful and nice to be recognised."

Record funding to support Landcare and deliver on-ground Landcare projects

The NSW Government has reached a major milestone on an election commitment, allocating funding for 83 full-time equivalent local and regional Landcare coordinators and support staff through its \$59 million NSW Landcare Enabling Program 2023-2027.

Following a competitive grant and assessment process, 16 Landcare groups based across NSW were successful in receiving funding for coordinators and support staff.

Brunswick Valley Landcare has received some of the funding along with 10 other local Landcare networks in partnership with North Coast Regional Landcare Network.

The aim of the regional and local Landcare coordinators is to deliver and support on-ground projects specific to the needs of the local natural environmental and agricultural systems.

In addition to the delivery of on-ground projects, the local and regional coordinators will deliver on a number of other priorities, including:

- Strengthening the capacity of Landcarers which will result in effective, efficient support to landcarer volunteers, farmers and the community ensuring effective collaboration and partnerships between Landcare groups, Local Land Services, other government agencies
- Landcare NSW leveraging funding opportunities to maximise socio-economic and environmental outcomes.
- As part of the funding, each local and regional coordinator can also access up to \$5000 to undertake professional development over the course of the 4-year program.

Get more information about the current funding opportunity and the [NSW Landcare Enabling Program](#).



BVL Management Committee members and staff (L-R): Deja Ryan, Felicity Watsford, Jenny Hartigan, Sue Haining, Joanne McMurtry, Peter Ryan, Alison Ratcliffe, Harry Hackett, Rob Black, Doug Porter (not pictured: Caroline Kinsella)

Brunswick Valley Landcare wins funding for Junior Landcare Program

Brunswick Valley Landcare has obtained FRRR Strengthening Rural Communities Grant funding for a Junior Landcare in the Northern Rivers: Rejuvenation, Regeneration, Restoration for \$25,000.

The Program will be led by Ray Moynihan and delivered between April and September 2024. This innovative project will establish a new Junior Landcare community initiative in the Byron Shire, led by the respected Brunswick Valley Landcare, volunteer-based community network. The project will help rejuvenate this important network of volunteers and will facilitate an exciting intergenerational transfer of place-based knowledge and skills in ecological restoration, to help protect and enhance the ecology of our region.

The project will include a series of hands-on student workshops across the shire's public primary schools, a high-profile school/community planting event, and the creation of on-going relationships between schools and local Landcare groups within the network.

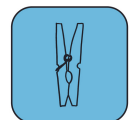
If you and/or your group are interested in being part of this project, please contact Joanne on email joanne@brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au.

Brunswick Valley Landcare has joined Local Pegs!

Local Pegs is a Byron born initiative that aims to facilitate better connection between the local community, local businesses and importantly - local charities. The Local Pegs App allows businesses to offer discounted prices to their local supporters. Locals can then choose to donate a percentage of this discount to their chosen local charity (such as Brunswick Valley Landcare), or set their donations to cycle through local charities at random.

Sign up today using the link below and don't forget to elect Brunswick Valley Landcare as your chosen charity!

<https://www.localpegs.com.au/download-app-apple-android>



We'll be at Mullumbimby Plant Fair

Mullumbimby Community Gardens *** Sunday 17th March 9am - 2pm *** Come and say g'day!

A promotional poster for the Mullum Autumn Plant Fair. The left side features a circular logo with "MULLUM SEED PRESENTS" at the top and "MULLUM AUTUMN PLANT FAIR" around the bottom. Inside the circle is an illustration of various plants, flowers, and vegetables. Below the logo are logos for Mullum Seed, Byron Shire Council, and RBN. The right side of the poster is dark green with white and orange text. It says "GOLD COIN DONATION" in an orange banner, followed by "SUN 17TH MARCH 2024", "9AM-2PM", "MULLUM COMMUNITY GARDENS SEED ECO HUB 156 STUART ST.", "PLANT STALLS | MUSIC & TALKS FOOD & DRINKS", and "TO BOOK A STALL OR FOR MORE INFO VISIT - MULLUMSEED.ORG.AU".

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL NEWS

Keep your dog on a lead

Byron Shire Council is making no apology for issuing fines to people who aren't keeping their dogs on leads in public places.

In January 2024 Council issued 30 fines for having a dog off-leash, compared to 3 in January 2023.

Byron Shire Mayor, Michael Lyon, said this approach will continue for the rest of the year and if people don't want to cop a fine, they should put their dog on a lead.

"Some people were upset about receiving a fine, but this could have been easily avoided," Mayor Lyon said.

"People can expect to see our staff out and about at all hours of the day, seven days a week and they will continue to fine people who are walking their dog off-lead in public areas," he said.

"We know it is important for people to be able to let their dogs run and walk off the lead and this is the reason Council provide areas where animals do not have to be restrained," he said.

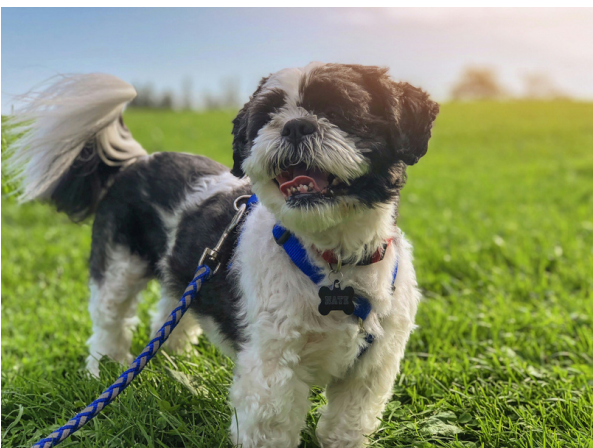
"Not everyone is comfortable around dogs, including other dogs, and it is not appropriate to have dogs unrestrained in neighbourhoods or near places like schools and busy roads and shopping areas.

"There are places in the Byron Shire specifically designated for people who want to walk and exercise their dogs off lead.

"Not all dogs are friendly or well-trained and they can be unpredictable," Mayor Lyon said. The NSW Government's Companion Animals Act sets out the laws and regulations relating to the responsibilities of dog owners and Councils are responsible for enforcing them.

"Last year we allocated an additional \$250,000 to enforcement activities, recognising that impact of roaming dogs and other activities, such as illegal camping, have on the broader community not to mention our natural environment," Mayor Lyon said.

Information on [leash-free dog exercise areas](#) in the Byron Shire is on Council's website.



Fire danger period to end early for Northern Rivers

(from The Echo)

Tweed, Byron, Ballina, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley and Clarence Valley are among the local government areas (LGAs) that will see an early end to the Bush Fire Danger Period (BFDP). This is due to easing conditions and recent rainfall stated the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS). The date has been moved forward to 1 March, the standard BFDP runs from 1 October to 31 March.

'From 1 March 2024, fire permits will no longer be required for the City of Coffs Harbour, Bellingen, Clarence Valley, Tweed, Byron, Ballina, Kyogle, Lismore and Richmond Valley LGAs,' Area Commander, Chief Superintendent Michael Brett said.

'Even though a fire permit is no longer required, residents must still notify their neighbours and the local fire authority 24 hours before burning.'

Chief Superintendent Brett said the local community should not become complacent to the danger of bush and grass fires, even with mild local conditions. 'Whilst the bush fire season has ended, this doesn't mean the risk of fire has, with high fuel loads still present across the state,' he said.

'Before lighting up, people should check whether they need a Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Certificate and have sufficient equipment on hand to control and contain the fire to their property.'

Fire agencies and land managers will now turn their attention towards conducting hazard reduction works, including planned burning.

To arrange a Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Certificate or a free environmental assessment, contact your local Fire Control Centre. More information is available at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/BFDP.

COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING

Organic Landcare Inc

Organic Landcare Incorporated recently led a chemical-free tree planting event where 29 volunteers banded together to plant 212 trees in Mullumbimby. These local rainforest species, including a number of threatened varieties, are vital for creating habitat preserving biodiversity.

We love seeing all the good work that other Landcare groups are doing and together we can make a difference.



Mullum Chamber of Commerce decorated nestbox

A beautifully decorated bird box, that was hand-painted by Scotty Sentence on behalf of the Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce (MCC), found its forever home recently.

The bird box was placed in Heritage Park by Landcare and Wildbnb in a tree that has numerous owl nests and will hopefully be well used by many little critters.

'We are so happy to have the installation of the bird box in Heritage Park just down from the Riverside Tennis courts,' said MCC member Jenelle Stanford.

Wildbnb continues to monitor the artificial hollows in Heritage Park and we'll see what creatures use it throughout the years.



Vale Mary Sparkle

Jan Olley from Byron Bird Buddies remembers her friend:

Mary and I joined BVL way back in 2004 when we started the North Byron Coastal Group and worked for many years together on the Rangal Rd. site, clearing weeds, mulching and replanting much of the site especially along the path to the beach under the guidance of Dennis Brown.

Mary and her husband John continued to work at the site after I left the immediate area in 2011. John and Mary were very dedicated and focussed with the maintenance of both the Rangal Rd and dunecare site until Mary started getting sick in 2012.

We thank Mary and her husband John for their contribution to restoring environmental habitat for many years.

BIOBLITZ Citizen Science Project

Do you want to be involved in a Citizen Science project?

The organisers of Hope Spot in our area are proposing a Marine Bioblitz for our coastline between South Golden Beach and Ballina over a week 8th-17th of March.

You can do this as an individual or as a group of family friends or as an organisation. You can do the whole 10 days or just one. The results will be recorded in inaturalist.

WHAT'S A BIOBLITZ? - community getting involved to collect and record sightings of animals and plants in a given area within a specific timeframe to provide a snapshot of biodiversity within the defined area.

Byron Bird Buddies is planning to lead a group of people - 8am Saturday 9th at the end of North Head Rd on Marshalls Creek, looking particularly for birds.

There is a planned launch event at Common Ground in Bangalow on 7th March - "blue drinks" style, come and mingle with other ocean lovers plus short presentations & sharing the how to guide and code of conduct.



7th March: Launch & information evening - Common People Brewing Co 6:00-8:30pm

8th March: Dolphin Watch - The Pass, Byron Bay with Dolphin Research Australia

9th March: Bird Spotting Walk with Byron Bird Buddies - Marshall Creek

10th March: Byron Bay Sea Turtle School - Nguthungulli Julian Rocks

13th March: Byron Bay Sea Turtle School - Nguthungulli Julian Rocks

15th March: Mangrove Walk - Brunswick Estuary with Dolphin Research Australia

16th March: Bird Spotting Walk with Byron Bird Buddies

Places are limited for many of these events so please RSVP if you want to join. For the details or to register, head to: <https://events.humanitix.com/marine-bioblitz-byron-bay-region>

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Birds in Backyard – Autumn Survey begins March 1st

The Birds in Backyard (BirdLife) survey goes from 1st March to 30th April. Birds in Backyards surveys are run quarterly (each season). All you do is submit at least one 20 min count alongside some information about your garden. Surveying the same garden each season helps us collect important information - and thats just 80 mins per year!

For more information <https://www.birdsinbackyards.net/getinvolved/How-survey>

Do you know how to identify invasive Fire Ants?

Whether you're in your backyard or out on a nature trail, our mobile identification kit will help you recognise and report the spread of fire ants in your area. Get it free: <https://invasives.org.au/how-to-help/take-action/fire-ant-kit/>

**Get your free
fire ant
identification
kit, today.**

Fire Ant ID Kit

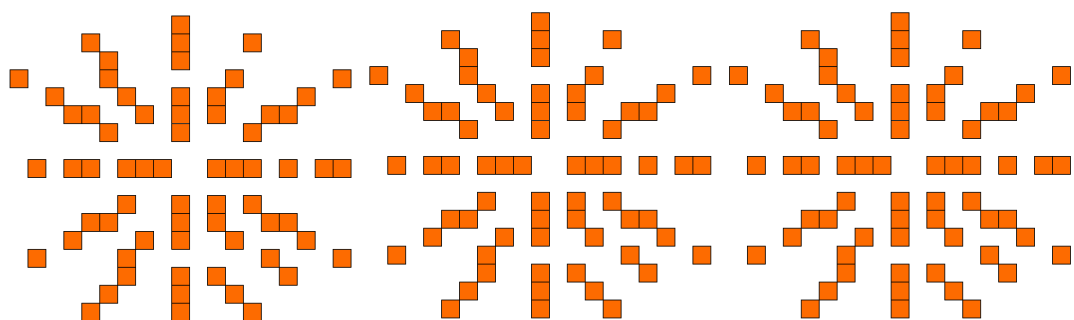
Fire ants are one of the world's worst invasive species threatening human health, our environment, agriculture and our outdoor way of life.

This kit gives you everything you need to ID and report them.

REPORT FIRE ANTS:

National Fire Ant Eradication Program | 📞 13 25 23
🌐 fireants.org.au

invasive species council



Landcare Australia Celebrating a 35-year Anniversary

In 2024, Landcare Australia celebrates a 35-year anniversary. Also marking its 35-year anniversary this year is the establishment of Landcare as a national movement by the Hawke government with bipartisan support in 1986.

Throughout the year, Landcare Australia will promote the work we do to support the landcare movement including our on-ground restoration projects.

We will also profile the remarkable work of individuals, groups and organisations involved in landcare activities to showcase their important work.

In our anniversary year, we want to celebrate achievements and the impact of how landcare has had an environmental and social benefits in communities across Australia.

If you have a story you'd like to share as part of this celebration, Joanne can help you develop it for publication if you like. Contact Joanne at joanne@brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au

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SAVE THE DATE - Koala Conversations

Two weeks of ideas, dialogue and action Get ready for the exciting Northern Rivers Koala Conversations in 2024! This two-week event hosted by the Northern Rivers Koala Network will be held from 20 May to 1 June 2024.

The Koala Conversations will feature workshops, tree plantings, field days, online talks and various activities hosted by organisations across the region. The event will culminate with a one-day forum on 1 June at Southern Cross University. Stay Tuned for further information.



The weather records that fell in Queensland during the summer of 2023-24

The Bureau of Meteorology has released its annual summer report.

A 54-year-old rainfall record was broken when 714mm fell in Mossman over 24 hours in December. More than 100 weather records fell during a summer of extremes in Queensland, according to the Bureau of Meteorology.

The average maximum temperature in the state was 1.18 degrees Celsius above the 1961-1990 average, making it the hottest summer since 2020.

BOM senior climatologist Hugh McDowell summer was the nation's most extreme season, but conditions tended to be particularly acute in Queensland.

Birdsville, one of the top four warmest places in Australia, sweltered through a record-breaking 49.4 degrees Celsius on January 25, which was the state's hottest January day. The remote outback town also held the title for the warmest average day of 40.2C and the warmest average night of 36.4C.

Further reading <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-03-06/queensland-summer-weather-records-rainfall-heat>

Riparian Revival

Local Land Services are collaborating on riparian vegetation improvement project to revive important riparian areas in the Northern Rivers, partnering with macadamia growers and graziers to rehabilitate their properties.

Benefits of this collaborative effort include increasing biodiversity, creating healthy wildlife corridors and rehabilitating the Big Scrub Rainforest.

This year the project will enhance riverbank revegetation along more than 5.5 km of creekline along the Wilsons River, Skinners Creek and Maguires Creek. There is more information about our work on the [Marine Estate Management Strategy](#) on our website.

Join the Invasive Species Council Bug Hunt

Have you ever wondered about the amazing slithering, squirming, flying, crawling native critters that live in your garden or favourite bushwalking spot? Have you ever considered that among them there might be a new invasive insect that could devastate Australia's environment?

Well we've made it fun and easy for you (and your kids or grandkids) to find out and help out.

Using powerful AI and a simple app, it's easy to identify weird and wonderful insects just by snapping a photo with your mobile phone. You can satisfy your curiosity, be entertained, and learn interesting facts about our valuable native species!

More information and to sign up <https://invasives.org.au/our-work/bug-hunt/>

Australians are washing microplastics down the drain and it's ending up on our farms

Australian wastewater treatment plants produce thousands of tonnes of treated sewage sludge every year. This nutrient-rich material is then dried to make "biosolids", which are used to fertilise agricultural soil.

Unfortunately every kilogram of biosolids also contains thousands of tiny pieces of plastic. These pieces are so small they can only be seen under a microscope, so they're called microplastics. In our new research, we sampled biosolids from three states and calculated the average contribution of microplastics per person: 3g in New South Wales and 4.5g in Queensland. But the average in South Australia was 11.5g – that's about the same amount of plastic as a plastic bag.

Roughly 80% of this microplastic comes from washing clothes. We need to protect agricultural soil from contamination by making simple changes at home, mandating filters on washing machines and introducing more effective wastewater treatment.

Read more <https://theconversation.com/australians-are-washing-microplastics-down-the-drain-and-its-ending-up-on-our-farms-223079>

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Have your say: Coastal Floodplain Drainage Project Options Report

The [Coastal Floodplain Drainage Options Report](#) lays out six proposals to improve the regulatory framework and water quality impacts associated with coastal floodplain drainage.

The report's focus is NSW coastal floodplains with extensive agricultural drainage systems, including the Tweed, Richmond, Clarence, Macleay, Hastings, Manning and Shoalhaven rivers.

We invite you to provide feedback on the proposed options before the survey closes at 11:59 PM 21 April 2024. Access the survey [here](#).

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Survey Invitation - Exploring Landholders' Readiness to Restore Coastal Wetlands in Australia

The Blue Carbon Lab from Deakin University is inviting Australian coastal landholders to participate in a nation-wide survey, to contribute your views to influence new research on coastal wetland restoration!

By participating in this study, you can help the research team understand landholders' challenges to undertake coastal wetland restoration measures, and the mechanisms that need to be in place to help more landholders to engage in coastal restoration work (e.g., new funding schemes for wetland restoration programs).

As a thank you for your time, upon completing the survey, you will also have the option to enter in the chance to win a \$250 Digital Visa Gift Card, awarded to 25 lucky participants.

To participate, please click the survey link below. The survey will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. Survey link:

https://researchsurveys.deakin.edu.au/jfe/form/SV_9LesG6vkqjdbQbA

LAUNCH OF STANDARDS OF PRACTICE TO GUIDE ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

The National Landcare Network have announced that the “Standards of Practice to guide ecosystem restoration- a contribution to the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030”, have been published.

Download them here: [Society for Ecological Restoration](#)

This incredible milestone is the result of the dedication and support of 33 authors from 25 organisations, along with inputs and feedback from over 400 participants in the global consultation process.

The Standards of Practice provide essential recommendations for applying the ten principles of ecosystem restoration throughout the entire restoration process, covering all types of ecosystems and a wide array of restoration activities under the UN Decade.

If adopted by those on-ground (including us - Landcarers!), these recommendations can significantly enhance the benefits of restoration activities for both nature and people.

The National Landcare Network is an official Actor in the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, joining hands with hundreds of organisations, charities, and agencies who committed to accelerating ecosystem restoration efforts and making a positive impact on our planet.



Street Tree Trials: The future for our urban forests

A forum was held on Thursday 15th February 2024 in Brisbane at the University of Queensland St Lucia campus to discuss the topic of street trees. With around 70 attendees from a range of organisations, the forum now has information online from the presentations.

See information <https://treenet.org/segforum/>

Clean Up Australia Day Hauls

Landcarers participated in two clean ups on Clean Up Australia Day on 3 March - one at Vallances Road Council property near Mullumbimby and one at Byron Bay Main Beach.

Vicki from Byron Bird Buddies reports they had a pretty good morning amongst the mangroves along Brunswick River at Vallances Road picking up rubbish that weighed in at 120kgs.

Positive Change for Marine Life teamed up with Byron Shire Council to host a successful Clean Up Australia Day event at Brunswick Heads. Volunteers gathered at Torakina Park and got busy picking up litter along the Brunswick River. Throughout the morning over 80kgs of waste was collected, including 330 cigarette butts, 70 pieces of takeaway food packaging, and even 2 bikes were retrieved from the river! This cleanup effort serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of addressing waste at its source and the ongoing need for waste education in our community. A huge thank you to PCFML, Byron Shire Council, and all the participants who played a part in making our coastline cleaner and safer for marine life!



VegeSafe program looks for metal and metalloid contaminants in garden soil

VegeSafe is a community science participation program run by Natural Science staff at Macquarie University. We are the only service of this kind in Australia.

We seek to inform the community about metal and metalloid contaminants in their garden soil through our soil metal testing program. Participants receive a formal report with their soil results and are provided with links to information and advice about "what to do next" in the event of soils containing elevated concentrations of metals and metalloids. We accept soil from all Australian states and territories.

In order to keep the program running and accessible to all, the VegeSafe soil metal testing program needs a small donation from participants. We ask if you could consider providing a donation to support the work of the program, starting from \$20. Your donation covers the time involved, and the costs of soil analysis and laboratory consumables. Please note: your donation covers up to five samples submitted, it is not per sample. Soil samples can be sent with a \$20 note, or a \$20 donation can be made to support our program via: VegeSafe Donation. See [here](#) for further details and to donate

Our motto is "Carry on gardening" because this is exactly what we want people to do — in the knowledge that both their soils and the produce from their gardens are metal-free.

Citizen scientists hop to it with rabbit virus tracking project

Australia's national science agency, CSIRO, is calling on rural and regional Australians to join in the longest-running citizen science survey of rabbit diseases in the world, to help keep the invasive pest in check.

Feral rabbits are one of the most destructive invasive pest species in Australia. They compete with native animals, cause plant biodiversity loss, reduce crop yields and cost the agricultural industry around \$239 million per year.

Rabbit haemorrhagic disease virus (RHDV), also known as Rabbit Calicivirus or Lagovirus, is used as a biocontrol agent to manage rabbit populations at the landscape scale in Australia. It only affects rabbits and hares, and vaccination is available for domestic (pet) rabbits.

New research shows the success of the nine-year disease monitoring program, which relies on members of the public taking tissue samples from dead rabbits found in their area using free sample kits provided by CSIRO.

Samples can be taken from deceased wild or domestic rabbits.

CSIRO scientist Dr Maria Jenckel said the samples provided since 2015 have helped paint a better picture of the viruses circulating in wild rabbit populations.

Read more <https://www.csiro.au/en/news/All/News/2024/February/Citizen-scientists-hop-to-it-with-rabbit-virus-tracking-project> To request a free test kit, email the research team at rabbitcalicivirus@csiro.au with your postal address.

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Synthetic biology advances to generate \$30B opportunity for Australia

Synthetic biology could underpin an industry worth up to \$30 billion per year and create over 50,000 new jobs by 2040, according to a new report by Australia's national science agency, CSIRO, and Main Sequence Ventures.

Synthetic biology, or engineering biology, is a transformative and interdisciplinary field of science that applies engineering workflows and sophisticated genetic technologies to rapidly design and create new solutions from the building blocks of life.

The Synthetic Biology National Progress Report is an update to the 2021 National Synthetic Biology Roadmap – which originally found the field would deliver an annual revenue of \$27 billion and 44,000 jobs by 2040.

New projections have seen this figure increase to \$30 billion and 50,000 new jobs, and the report found Australian synthetic biology start-ups received over \$363 million in capital investments over the past three years.

Agriculture and food applications represent the largest share of both Australian-founded synthetic biology start-ups (over 45 per cent) and capital investments raised (\$290 million).

Further reading [https://www.csiro.au/en/news/All/News/2024/February/Synthetic-biology-advances-to-generate-\\$30B-opportunity-for-Australia](https://www.csiro.au/en/news/All/News/2024/February/Synthetic-biology-advances-to-generate-$30B-opportunity-for-Australia)

REGENERATIVE FARMING

How can Soils for Life best support you?

Once a year Soils for Life invites our valued community to complete a short survey. They use this information to help create the best possible programs to support farmers around Australia.

The survey results are incredibly useful, and it only takes around 15 minutes to complete

By taking this survey, you're making an invaluable contribution - helping to support the farmers regenerating Australia's precious soils and landscapes. Complete the survey here

<https://loom.ly/Q4JHB1E>

P.S. To say thanks, they're gifting three survey respondents an exquisite photo print of soil microbiology by UK photographer Frank Ashwood, taken on regenerative farms around Australia.

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Our Natural Capital Accounting Journey

In a Landcare Farming video, Landcare Australia explain more about three of their key focus areas - Natural Capital Accounting, Carbon Benchmarking and the Innovations in Agriculture Series.

You will learn more about the Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) Project and the producer Field Day held on Wirra Station (West of Rockhampton in QLD).

Listen to leading beef producers and Accounting for Nature scientists explain why it's important to investigate NCA on your property.

Watch the video here (approx 5 mins) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fCAVKCH5T3c>

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New tool helps farmers navigate the carbon market

The Carbon Opportunity Decision Support Tool (CODST) is a new tool that aims to help farmers find the best carbon options for their farms.

Developed by the [Australian Farm Institute](#), the CODST serves as a guidebook-like resource, offering users a broad overview of their options based on their personal situation, and guiding them through a decision-tree questionnaire covering various carbon farming opportunities.

Learn more in this [AgriFutures article](#).



Ag Skilled supported Short Courses available

TAFE NSW is welcoming expressions of interest from local Agri-business people who are eligible to access 'Ag-Skilled' funded training for any of the following short courses:

- Trim Trees using Pole Saw - - 2 days training
- Operate and maintain side by side Utility Vehicles - 2 days training
- Safely Operate Tractors and Perform Field Operations - 2 days training
- Safely transport, store, prepare and apply chemicals in an Agricultural Operation - 2 days training
- Operate & Maintain Chainsaws (Chainsaw - Level One course) - 2 days training
- Operate Chainsaw to fell trees (basic tree-felling) - Chainsaw Level Two course - 2 days training

The Ag-Skilled Program and eligibility information is available [here](#).

Please note that only individuals who are assessed by the NSW State Govt. Ag Skilled Program Managers as meeting the Ag Skilled eligibility requirements are able to access funded places in the training.

Register your interest here <https://forms.office.com/Pages/>

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Cattle Drench and trace mineral Field Day

A great opportunity to hear the latest results from local drench and injectable trace mineral trial work over the last four years with locally bred cattle.

WHEN: Tuesday March 19th Arrive 9am for 9:30am start finishing with lunch by 1pm.

WHERE: NSW DPI "Duck Creek Field Research station" 143 Pimlico Road, Pimlico NSW 2478,

Registration is essential:

You can register directly via this link:

https://regionalnsw.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bOqVbsej7kHbVGK

or by calling 1300 795 299

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Syntropic Agriculture Workshop

If you are a hobby farmer, primary producer, land steward, student of agriculture or environmental enthusiast, we invite you to join us for a 2-day immersive workshop to discover a cutting-edge food growing method that yields an abundant variety of food, all while improving soil conditions, enhancing biodiversity, and creating resilient ecosystems.

WHERE: The Paddock Project Mullumbimby

WHEN March 23rd and 24th

<https://events.humanitix.com/food-forest-syntropic-agroforestry-workshop-the-paddock-project>

SNIPPETS

Secrets of Night Parrot unlocked after first genome sequenced

Researchers at CSIRO, Australia's national science agency, have sequenced the first genome of the Night Parrot, one of the world's rarest and most elusive birds.

The development will answer questions about population genetics and biology that could boost conservation hopes for the recently rediscovered species.

"The genome will enable us to explore the genetic basis of why the Night Parrot is nocturnal, a very unusual feature in parrots. We'll investigate faculties like navigation, smell, beak shape and its less-than-optimal night vision," Dr Leo Joseph, Director of CSIRO's Australian National Wildlife Collection said.

"Researchers will also be able to run statistical analyses on the genome of this individual to estimate past population sizes of Night Parrot populations in Australia.

Further reading <https://www.csiro.au/en/news/All/News/2024/February/Secrets-of-Night-Parrot-unlocked-after-first-genome-sequenced>

Providing water for birds

Summer may be over, but birds need water year-round! Here's a helpful guide to providing a source of safe, clean water to help your local native birds in any weather.

Providing a source of safe, clean water is a great way to help local native birds

See the guide <https://birdlife.org.au/providing-water-for-birds/>

Boost for research, investment and innovation for Australia's biosecurity

A landmark new initiative, Catalysing Australia's Biosecurity (CAB), will see a forecast initial co-investment of more than \$55 million over six years from Australia's national science agency, CSIRO, government, industry and a range of partners to strengthen the nation's biosecurity defences.

This is in addition to the extra \$1 billion in biosecurity funding over the next four years, announced by the Australian government in the Biosecurity Sustainable Funding Package in Budget 2023-24.

The CAB initiative, co-led with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), is expected to scale over time providing better coordination as well as alignment of biosecurity research development and extension outcomes in the National Biosecurity Strategy.

Further reading <https://www.csiro.au/en/news/All/News/2024/March/Boost-for-research-investment-and-innovation-for-Australias-biosecurity>

EVENTS & WORKSHOPS



Join Mandy Nolan
and the filmmakers for a
special "FINE CUT" screening

FEDERAL MEMORIAL HALL
SUNDAY 17th MARCH 5:00PM

THE Koalas

A MOVIE... ABOUT SURVIVAL

Tickets
\$20

FUNDRAISER- Help us to complete the film. We have spent 3 years filming in VIC, NSW and QLD to tell stories of courage, resistance, and humanity. We tell the stories of those on the front line rescuing, caring and advocating to save the koala from extinction.

EVENTS & WORKSHOPS



INVITATION - Launch of the Richmond Riverkeeper Strategy

The Richmond Riverkeeper Strategy will set the direction for the recently formed Richmond Riverkeeper Association, taking the community-based not-for-profit forward over the next 3 years.

Curious to find out what the Riverkeeper is all about - this is the event for you!

Where: Ballina RSL

When: 6 - 8pm 18 March 2024

The launch of the Richmond Riverkeeper Strategy will be followed by our Annual General Meeting. More information coming soon! [RSVP HERE](#) for all updates and so we can cater for you. Email richmondriverkeeper@gmail.com for more information.

PEST ANIMAL CONTROL WORKSHOP - WOODBURN

Are pest animals impacting your property?

North Coast Local Land Services is hosting a free pest animal workshop that will cover pest animal signs, impacts, and control techniques.

Hear from our team about our services to help you manage pest animals on your property. Presentations on local pest animal control projects and equipment demonstrations will take place. A Veterinarian will also be present on the day to discuss the disease risk pest species can have and answer your questions.

Lunch and resources for pest animal control will be provided. Please register your attendance at this event by [clicking on this link](#) to access the registration form.

16 Mar 2024 10:00 am - 1:00 pm. Woodburn Hub, 108 Richmond Street Woodburn

Contact: Sophie Pryor 0408 216 023. Sophie.pryor@lls.nsw.gov.au

EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

Local Land Services Workshops on Paddock Plants

LLS are running another series in the North Coast region between the 19th -27th March and you're invited to one near you. Please see the attached flier for the various locations, which include Tyalgum in the Tweed Shire, Myocum in the Byron Shire, Gilletts Ridge, Hernani, Moparrabah and Beechwood.

Plant identification of pasture species and weeds is an important skill to have when you manage or own rural land. This workshop provides you with field-based knowledge and skills and is free to landholders of any size acreage. The workshops are catered for so just bring a camp chair and suitable clothing and footwear for the weather on the day.

There is no cost to participants. Because your time is valuable the workshop content is condensed into one day, between 9:30am-2:30pm! All participants take home two booklets which are great resources to have on hand.

Local Land Services



Paddock plants workshops

Calling all North Coast rural land managers. Would you like to improve your identification of plants, analysis of landscapes, and understanding seasonal conditions and soils to inform better management of the land?

Please join us for one of the pasture, weed and grazing management workshops with Carol and Harry Rose at workshops across the region.

Lunch will be provided. Please BYO water bottle, hat, a folding chair and appropriate footwear and clothing for a paddock walk.

Event details:

Time: 9.30am to 2.30pm

Tuesday 19 March – Tweed

Wednesday 20 March – Myocum

Thursday 21 March – Gilletts Ridge

Friday 22 March – Hernani

Tuesday 26 March – Moparrabah

Wednesday 27 March - Beechwood

Due to the nature of the workshops, numbers are limited and registrations will close a week before each workshop. Venue details will be supplied by email after registration. Register by clicking on the link or via the QR code

https://regionalsw.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8kTFnlcj9eEage



More information:

Tweed & Myocum - Lisa Castleman 0460 898 096

lisa.castleman@lls.nsw.gov.au

Gilletts Ridge - Julie Dart - 0427 007 501

julie.dart@lls.nsw.gov.au

Hernani - Nikia Nolan - 0497 862 221

nikia.nolan@lls.nsw.gov.au

Upper Macleay & Beechwood - Craig Clarke 0460 694 424

craig.clarke@lls.nsw.gov.au

The Early Needs Recovery Program is part of the \$150 million Primary Industries Support Package co-funded by the Australian and NSW governments.

lls.nsw.gov.au



FUNDING

\$1,000 grants on offer for hands-on environmental projects

2024 Woolworths Junior Landcare Grants are now open!

The Woolworths Junior Landcare Grants program is now open for applications, offering 1,000 grants, each with a value of up to \$1,000 to engage students in projects that support the environment.

Open to primary schools and early learning centres across Australia, the Woolworths Junior Landcare grants program gives children across the country an opportunity to get hands-on with environmental and sustainability projects, learn new skills and knowledge, connect with their peers and enjoy the wellbeing benefits of time spent outdoors in nature.



The Woolworths Junior Landcare projects can include planting a vegetable or bush tucker garden, creating a sensory garden or a butterfly garden, installing a yarning circle to learn more about First Nations perspectives, or tackling waste issues through a composting or recycling project.

For Junior Landcare Project Ideas, a helpful Grant Information Session video and other information see <https://juniorlandcare.org.au/grant/2024-woolworths-junior-landcare-grants>

Visit the [Junior Landcare Learning Centre](#) for more project ideas.

Since 2018, the Woolworths Junior Landcare Grants have engaged over 400,000 students and supported close to 5,000 schools and early learning centres to help grow the next generation of environmental champions.

You can apply for funding for projects that focus on any of these areas:

- Food production e.g. planting a veggie garden
- Waste management and recycling e.g. composting and worm gardens
- Biodiversity e.g. enhancing wildlife habitat or creating a butterfly garden
- First Nations perspectives e.g. planting a bush tucker garden
- Wellbeing benefits e.g. sensory gardens

With a thousand grants on offer, this is a fantastic opportunity to set up a new environmental project or enhance an existing one at your school or learning centre. **Applications close 5pm AEDT, 15 March.**



FUNDING

2024 GALLAGHER LANDCARE ELECTRIC FENCING GRANTS

Expressions of Interest is now open for the 2024 Gallagher Landcare Electric Fencing grants. Now entering its fifth round, the Gallagher and Landcare Australia Electric Fencing Grants provide support for conservation and biodiversity protection projects aligned with the priority areas of Conservation Exclusion/Inclusion Fencing and Riparian Protection and Farm Dam Restoration on agricultural land.

A total pool of \$176,000 worth of Gallagher permanent electric fencing product, with up to 22 grants available, each valued at \$8,000.

For the first time ever, the grant round is now open to applicants from all regions throughout Australia.

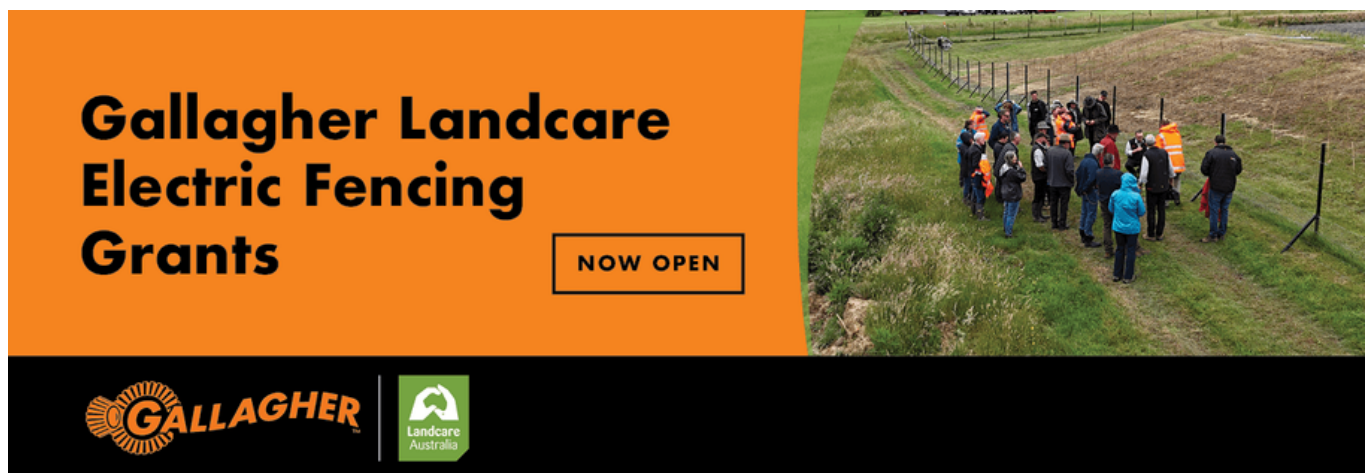
The Gallagher Landcare Fencing Grants 2024 are a national grant round, open to:

- Landcare groups or networks, community-based environmental groups
- Individual landholders, farmers, agriculturalists and graziers that are members or pending members of community/sustainable agricultural groups.

How to apply:

Eligible applicants can submit an Expression of Interest for the Gallagher Landcare Electric Fencing Grant 2024 via the [Landcare Australia Grants site](#) powered by SmartyGrants until Monday 15th April 2024 (midnight). An EOI must be submitted for review and successful applicants will progress to a full application.

Applications close midnight 15th April



**Gallagher Landcare
Electric Fencing
Grants**

NOW OPEN

GALLAGHER | Landcare Australia

WEED OF THE MONTH

Night Jessamine (*Cestrum nocturnum*)

Carole contacted BVL worried about the spread of this weed: "I know that it still doesn't have a noxious weed classification that requires notification and removal but it is everywhere in the Northern Rivers region, colonising verges, neglected paddocks and forest edges.

It is in full flower and seed right now and I have been waging a one woman war against every plant that I see. I break off flowering canes and wherever possible bagging the seeds but obviously this is an inadequate control method!

Perhaps Landcare could ask the groups to concentrate on removal whilst it is in this phase. Left unchecked it can form huge impenetrable thickets of canes up to 4 metres high! Let's make a difference to its spread now."

Thanks Carole. Below is information from Brisbane Weeds
<https://weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au/weeds/night-scented-jasmine>

An upright shrub or small tree up to 4m high, its young twigs are sparsely finely hairy; the undersurface of the leaf midrib is finely hairy; the leaves have an unpleasant odour when crushed. Flowers are greenish white to cream coloured and are produced in terminal panicles or clusters; the flowers are very strongly perfumed (said to resemble the aroma of "sweet custard powder") and the perfume is released during the hours of early evening and then into the night. The fruits are long oval to globular berries that are at first green but then become white.

Night jessamine (*Cestrum nocturnum*) has a negative impact on native ecosystems because it can form dense, shady thickets that outcompete the native flora and thus it prevents natural regeneration. It grows quickly and reproduces by both cuttings and seeds.

Naturalised in the coastal districts of central and northern New South Wales. *Cestrum nocturnum* thrives in moist or wet forests, scrub and open areas (both natural and disturbed), *Cestrum nocturnum* has already invaded wet forests and open areas on several islands in the Pacific region.

If plants are caught small enough, they can be completely removed by being dug out of the ground.



Information and photos from Brisbane Weeds (see link above)

WORKING BEES

Why not get out and get involved in one of our local groups?

For all Landcare Working Bees please wear protective clothing - long pants, long-sleeved shirt, closed-in shoes, hat, gloves and bring water, sunscreen, and insect repellent. Please always contact the group co-ordinators before attending a working bee as plans do change!

Bangalow Land and Rivercare, Bangalow

WHEN: every Saturday 8:30am

WHERE: find out from

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

Friends of Lilli Pilli (Byron Bay)

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

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

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

Green and Clean Awareness Team, Byron Bay

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

WHERE: Meet Main Beach, Byron Bay

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

Heritage Park Landcare, Mullumbimby

WHEN: Saturdays 9:00am – 11:00 am

WHERE: Heritage Park, Mullumbimby

CONTACT: Diana Hughes bromspot@gmail.com

Jinangong Landcare, Ocean Shores

WHEN: 1st Sunday of the month

WHERE: The Tunnel Road, Ocean Shores

CONTACT: Ian Parer ianparer@hotmail.com

Mullum Town Landcare, Mullumbimby

WHEN: Morning of last Sunday of the month

WHERE: find out from John Tann

CONTACT: John Tann johntann99@gmail.com

Ocean Shores Landcare, Ocean Shores

WHEN: each Thursday at 8.30 – 11.00 am (8.00am DST)

WHERE: corner of Yallakool Drive and Warrambool Road, Ocean Shores

CONTACT: David Kemp dnkemp77@gmail.com 0427 650 861

Suffolk Park Dunecare

WHEN: 8.30 - 10.30 every fourth Sunday of the month

WHERE: find out from:

CONTACT: Rebekah O'Flaherty rebekahoflaherty@gmail.com 0428 942 903

Tallowood Ridge Locality Landcare, Tallowood Ridge Mullumbimby

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

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

CONTACT: Joanne McMurtry jmcmurtry@bigpond.com

Tyagarah Landcare

WHEN: Each Thursday 9:00am – 11:00am

WHERE: 23 Prestons Lane, Tyagarah

CONTACT: Bela Allen bela_allen@yahoo.com 6684 7113

Can't find a group near you? We have many other groups who meet on an ad hoc basis (contact us for more details) or if there isn't an existing group in your neighbourhood or you are interested in

LINKS

- Arakwal <http://arakwal.com.au/>
- Australian Association of Bush Regenerators <http://aabr.org.au>
- Border Rangers Alliance http://www.greasterranges.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 Coordinator, Alison Ratcliffe 0421 244 640**

info@brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au

Community Liaison Officer, Joanne McMurtry 0409 925 330

jmcmurtry@brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au

www.brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au

