



# Newsletter for Landcare and Dunecare in Byron Shire

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

Connect on facebook

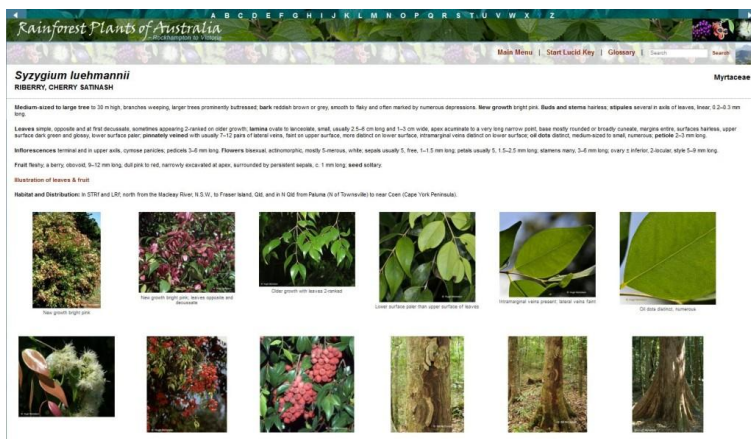
May 2015

- |             |     |  |
|-------------|-----|--|
| <b>MAY</b>  | 8   | Info stall at Ocean Shores Community Day           |
|             | 13  | Garden weeds workshop with Mark Evans              |
|             | 16  | "Why Fish need Trees" Workshop                     |
|             | 21  | Wilsons Creek Planning for Platypus Workshop       |
| <b>JUNE</b> | 6   | Info stall at Old & Gold for World Environment Day |
|             | tbc | Monitoring workshop                                |

## Rainforest Plant ID course

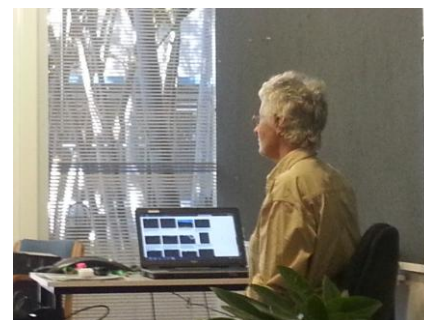
The Rainforest Plant ID course with Nan and Hugh Nicholson held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April was an amazing day with 32 participants over two half day sessions. The key that Nan and Hugh have created with Gwen Harden, Bill McDonald, Terry Tame and John Williams (authors of the Red Book) is the culmination of 14 years work!

For those who are not familiar with the key it is an interactive keying out system stored on a USB stick so instead of having to go through a traditional plant ID key in order you are able to pick out the features that are most prominent



on the plant sample. You can choose from features such as habit, leaves, bark, flowers, fruits, and many others, even new leaf colour or leaf scent. It can also be searched on geographical area, rainforest type, rare or threatened status, weed status or family. This makes identifying so much easier. Then there are the 12,000 photographs that Nan and Hugh collected over the 14 years. We were entertained by some amazing stories of the type of terrain they had to traverse to get some of the photos.

The key covers 1139 species of rainforest trees, shrubs, climbers and mistletoes from Rockhampton to Victoria. It also includes 104 species of weed naturalised in rainforests. There are expanded species descriptions, line drawings, explanations of the key features as well as information about the different types of eastern Australian rainforests. It truly is an amazing resource.



Nan and Hugh have offered to come back to do another course later in the year so if you are interested place contact me to register your interest. [alison.ratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au](mailto:alison.ratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au)

For anyone wanting to know more about the key they can visit <http://rainforestplantsaustralia.com/>

Photos and story by Alison Ratcliffe

# FUNDING

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## Eco School grants

The Eco Schools Program will award up to 100 schools grants of \$3,500 to deliver environmental management projects. 18 of these grants are available specifically for projects working with students with special needs.

Applications are due by **Friday 15 May 2015**.

Guidelines, application forms and a range of resources are available on the Trust's website:

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



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## Farm Innovation Fund

The Farm Innovation Fund provides loans to meet the cost of carrying out permanent capital works that will have a significant beneficial impact on the land, long term profitability of the enterprise and address adverse seasonal conditions. Applicants must be the owner or operator of the property where the work is to be carried out. Additionally the farm must provide at least 50% of your total gross income and applicants must not have off farm assets exceeding \$5,000,000.

For information about the Program and criteria which may apply go to the [NSW Rural Assistance Authority](http://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/assistance/farm-innovation-fund) website <http://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/assistance/farm-innovation-fund> .



Rural  
Assistance  
Authority

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## Bush Connect

Bush Connect is a contestable grants program seeking to achieve long-term outcomes for the NSW environment within the Great Eastern Ranges (GER) corridor.



Grants of between \$250,000 and \$500,000 are available to eligible groups to carry out on-ground activities with an emphasis on creating and/or enhancing conservation connectivity.

The objectives of the Bush Connect program are to:

- Improve the condition and connectivity of natural resources and ecosystems within the GER corridor.
- Increase the area of land (public and private) suitable for long-term protection for its environmental value through appropriate conservation mechanisms.
- Increase the number of partnerships and alignments of effort that protect the environmental values of the GER corridor.

Applications are due by **5pm Friday 19 June 2015**.

Guidelines, application forms and a range of resources are available on the Trust's website:

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

## AMP Foundation's Tomorrow Fund



The AMP Foundation's Tomorrow Fund is offering \$1 million in grants to help Australians who are doing great things.

Now in its second year, the Fund targets Australians who are working hard to make a difference in their chosen field - whether artists, inventors, social innovators, musicians, researchers or others - offering them a financial boost for their projects.

Grant recipients can put their funds towards a range of activities, including training, travel costs, living expenses, research and development. "Our AMP Tomorrow Makers are as diverse as Australia itself and what they share is a desire to make a positive difference in the community, either by creating something special or inspiring others".

The AMP Tomorrow Fund is open to individuals of all ages, walks of life, interests and abilities who are working hard on a project or passion but need help to take it to the next level.

AMP's Tomorrow Fund wants to remove barriers by giving out grants of between \$10,000 and \$100,000 to help with costs such as travel, living expenses and research – or whatever it takes to achieve their dream.

Applications Close: **14th of May 2015**

Applications can be made <https://www.ampstomorrowfund.com.au/>

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## Environmental Restoration and Rehabilitation Grants



The next round of Restoration and Rehabilitation grants program is expected to **open in August 2015**.

The aim of the Restoration and Rehabilitation program is to facilitate projects run by community organisations and government entities working to prevent or reduce environmental degradation of any kind. Through these projects, we also aim to improve the capacity of communities and organisations to protect, restore and enhance the environment.

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

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## SUEZ Environment Community Grants



The SUEZ environment Community Grants program will partner with organisations that fit with our core philosophy of supporting local participation in social and environmental projects which help create a more sustainable future. You can apply for a grant for any amount between \$500 and \$5,000.

Applications close on the **22<sup>nd</sup> May 2015**. For more information please visit:

<http://suez-envcommunitygrants.com.au/>



**Brunswick Valley Landcare invites you to a FREE**  
**Weed Identification Workshop**

**With Mark Evans**



**Date: Wednesday 13th May**

**Time: 9:30 am – 11:30 am**

**Location: New Brighton**

*Please meet in the car park on the bend of North Head Road, New Brighton, just before the road turns to dirt. We will take a short work around the area.*

**Morning tea will be provided.**

This practical, in the field workshop will help you to identify environmental and garden weeds. Resources will also be provided to help identify and control weeds. We will talk about the threats weeds pose to native flora and fauna and what you can do to help.

Jacqui Paine from Far North Coast weeds will also be there to answer your questions on noxious weeds.

Bring along any weed samples you would like identified and a plastic bag to take home plant samples.

Please wear long pants, long sleeves, a hat, closed in foot wear, insect repellent, sunscreen and bring along some water.

**Bookings essential**

Please contact Alison Ratcliffe 6626 7028 [alison.ratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au](mailto:alison.ratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au)



*This project is supported by Brunswick Valley Landcare through funding from the Australian Government.*



**Local Land Services**  
**North Coast**



# WHY FISH NEED TREES!

**Date:** Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2015

**Time:** 1pm to 4pm

**Location:** Cook Pioneer Hall, Gordon St., Mullumbimby, followed by Fish Habitat Walk along Mullumbimby Creek

**Wear:** Sunsafe/wet weather clothes, covered shoes and mosquito repellent

*Afternoon Tea provided*

**RSVP:** Bela by 14th May, as numbers are limited.

**Email:** [Bela\\_allen@yahoo.com](mailto:Bela_allen@yahoo.com) Phone 02 66847113

- ❖ Discover the vital link between Trees on the creek bank and Fish in the creek
- ❖ Try your luck at identifying local native fish
- ❖ Visit a native revegetation planting site on Mullumbimby Creek
- ❖ Learn what you can do to improve Fish Habitat
- ❖ Have your questions answered by Fish Habitat expert, Scott Nichols, Fisheries NSW



This project has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust





Brunswick Valley  
**Landcare**  
Inc.

Friday 5 June 2015  
Saturday 6 June 2015

Brunswick Heads

Participating venues:

Australia Post

Brunswick Heads  
Primary School

Brunks Kids

Print Rescue

The Big Fish

The Terrace Espresso  
Bar



## World Environment Day Photography Exhibition

### ***'Our Environment is Golden'***

Brunswick Valley Landcare and Byron Shire Council are celebrating World Environment Day 2015 with a photography exhibition.

Students from Brunswick Heads Primary School will display images taken at the Suffolk Park Dunecare and Saltwater Creek (Mullumbimby) Landcare sites.

Photographs will be displayed at various venues in Brunswick Heads during World Environment Day on **Friday 5 June 2015** and the Old and Gold Festival on **Saturday 6 June 2015**.

Further information is available from the project coordinator (details below) and the Brunswick Valley Landcare and Byron Shire Council stall at the Old and Gold Festival, located outside the Memorial Hall, Brunswick Heads on 6 June 2015.



*For further inquiries please contact:*

*Melody Valentine  
Project Coordinator  
Brunswick Valley Landcare  
Melody.f.valentine@gmail.com*

This event is funded by Brunswick Valley Landcare and Byron Shire Council  
[www.brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au](http://www.brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au) | [www.byron.nsw.gov.au](http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au)



# Planning for Platypus, Caring for Creeks



*Come along to our workshop to learn how to care for the land along our waterways to support our native flora and fauna*



- Date: Thursday 21st May 2015
- Time: 9-2pm
- Place: Wilsons Creek Hall, Wilsons Creek Road

## AGENDA

9.00am- Registration and welcome

9.30am- Marg East - Coral Tree Project. Progress, methods, issues, what we can all do to help

10.00am- Ian Fox - Platypus Conservation. What kind of habitat is best for platypus? What we can do to encourage and protect these creatures?

10.30am- Creek inspection - platypus habitat, weed management

11.00am- From Cow Paddock to Rainforest: Walk across swing bridge to see an example of creek bank restoration in progress and have morning tea. Landholders will be available for discussion

12.00pm- Andrew Murray - Mapping. Learn how to follow our projects without even leaving your computer. Watch those Coral Trees disappear.

12.30pm- Barbara Stewart - Bush regeneration in threatened species habitat.

1.00pm- Lunch



All welcome! \* Please bring: a hat, gloves, sunscreen and water

Please register by Monday 18 May by email [wilsonscreeklndcare@yahoo.com.au](mailto:wilsonscreeklndcare@yahoo.com.au) or phone Barbara 6684 0378 \* Lunch and morning tea provided for registrants \* Please drop by for a single session if you cannot attend the whole morning \* Please bring a share plate if you don't manage to RSVP \*

*Our landcare group is located in the beautiful valleys of Wilsons Creek, Upper Wilsons Creek, Huonbrook and Wanganui. We are custodians of two major creeks and their catchments. We are passionate about our local environment, and keen to preserve and restore native vegetation and habitats for species such as Alberts Lyrebirds, Koalas and Platypus and Great Eastern Cod.*

Wilson's Creek Huonbrook Landcare Inc, PO  
Box 678, Mullumbimby NSW 2482

Workshop funded through NSW Environmental Trust





Department of  
Primary Industries



# Biological Weed Control morning at:

**Kyogle Showground Hall**

**ALL WELCOME**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

**9.30am – 12pm**

**RSVP: (02) 6623 3847**

**Biological control updates and  
limited distribution of biological agents**

**Giant Parramatta Grass, Giant Rat's Tail Grass, Cat's  
Claw Creeper, Crofton Weed, Madeira Vine, Lantana and  
Salvinia.**

**Speakers:**

Dr Louise Morin, CSIRO; David Officer, Research Agronomist Department of primary Industries (DPI) Grafton; Royce Holtkamp, Strategy Leader Invasive Species DPI Tamworth; Rod Ensbey, Invasive Species Officer DPI Grafton and Bernadette Hanley DPI Grafton.



# Whipbird Gully Field Day

“Waiting under the Lantana...”

Friday May 22nd 2015  
9am - 12 noon.  
Morning tea provided.  
No cost.



Large scale gully restoration techniques and rainforest survival strategies for living under lantana.

Restoring gullies, deep in lantana, can be a daunting task. Join the environmental dynamos, The Weber family, including son and renowned botanist Lui Weber as they discuss over 30 years of lowland subtropical rainforest restoration and lantana control on their Chillingham property.

**Topics include:**

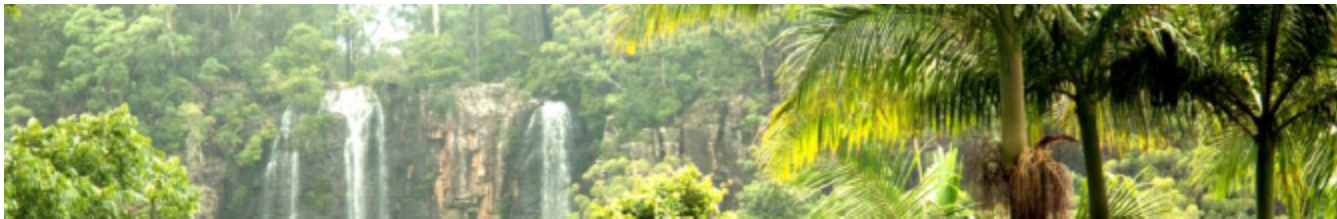
- History of disturbance and weed infestation on the property - **Adrienne and Erwin Weber**
- Talk and demonstration of large scale lantana control by EnviTE Environment - **Richard Burer**
- Discussion of the strategies used by rainforest plants to survive and recover after lantana - **Lui Weber**
- Walk along Laceflower Creek, led by the Webers, pointing out threatened and pioneer species.

Participants for the Laceflower Creek Walk will need to be physically fit. Others are welcome to wait at the morning tea spot after the talks. Please bring a hat, sunscreen, chair, drinking water, suitable clothing and closed footwear or gumboots.

This is a partnership between the Nature Conservation Trust of NSW, EnviTE Environment and three landholders. The project has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through the NSW Environmental Trust.

To register and for further details, contact Kim Stephan at The Nature Conservation Trust, Lismore. [kim@nct.org.au](mailto:kim@nct.org.au), phone 0448 801 843 or 6626 0304. Bookings essential.





## Wompoo Gorge Field Day

Thursday May 28, 2015

9.00am—12.00pm



### Celebrating seven years of lowland rainforest restoration!

NSW Environmental Trust has been the major supporter of ecological restoration at Wompoo Gorge over the past seven years. Green Army teams are now assisting lowland rainforest restoration in Nightcap and Goonengerry National Parks and Big Scrub Lowland Rainforest remnants. This is the first year of management of the area by NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, linking Nightcap and Goonengerry National Parks.

### Join us and see the amazing transformation from dense lantana to rainforest.

- See restoration of lowland rainforest - habitat for over 27 threatened species.
- Hear how professional bush regenerators and Green Army teams restore rainforest together.
- Meet at the end of Upper Coopers Creek Road, parking before closed gate.
- Light morning tea will be provided, please bring water and extra food if required.
- Wear sturdy footwear, long pants and shirts, hat, sunscreen and insect repellent.

**For further details and to register for the workshop contact:  
Georgina Jones at EnvITE on 02 66272800 or [georginaj@envite.org.au](mailto:georginaj@envite.org.au)**

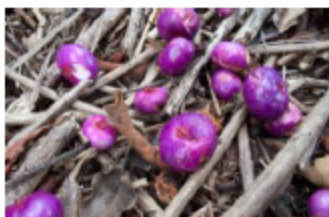
### Green Army projects involved include:

- *Enhancing Biodiversity of the Big Scrub* - Big Scrub Landcare project sponsor & Conservation Volunteers Australia service provider.
- *Protecting and restoring large landscape linkages in the Nightcap Range* - EnvITE Environment project sponsor and Job Futures service provider.

*The project has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through the NSW Environmental Trust.  
Supported by the Australian Government's Green Army Programme,  
Big Scrub Landcare and EnvITE Environment.*



Australian Government



## Ecological Restoration Workshop

At Linnaeus, Broken Head

**Thursday June 4 - 9.00am - 11.30am**

- Learn to identify and control local weeds
- Bring along any weeds you want identified
- Find out about ecological restoration works being implemented at Broken Head and along the Byron Bay and Ballina coastline.

Event supported by NSW Environmental Trust and EnviTE Environment Green Army teams (Ballina and Byron Bay).

For more information and to register for the workshop contact Maree Thompson at EnviTE on 02 66272800 or [mareet@envite.org.au](mailto:mareet@envite.org.au)



**Rural Land Use Strategy - Discussion Paper**

### A fresh approach - have your say

A Discussion Paper taking a fresh look at the future of Byron Shire's rural land is available for community comment on **1 May 2015**.

The Paper is the first stage of the Rural Land Use Strategy.

Council wants to hear from everyone, not just those living in our rural areas but anyone who has a connection or interest in our rural environment.

Please get involved and tell us what you think are the important issues relating to agriculture, rural living options, natural environment and tourism.

**For a copy of the discussion paper:**

- Visit [www.byron.nsw.gov.au/rural-land-use-strategy](http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/rural-land-use-strategy)
- Pop in and read a copy of the discussion paper at Council's Mullumbimby Administration Office or Community Access Points.

**'Have your Say' by 30 May 2015**

- Complete the online feedback form
- Chat with Council Staff - visit an information stall, location and dates on Council's website

**To find out more:**

- Visit Council's website or phone 6626 7126

Byron Shire Council 70-90 Station Street Mullumbimby  
PO Box 219 Mullumbimby NSW 2482

P: 02 6626 7126

E: [rural.strategy@byron.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rural.strategy@byron.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.byron.nsw.gov.au/rural-land-use-strategy](http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/rural-land-use-strategy)

## Landcare NSW Muster - Claim the Date!

Landcarers from across NSW are encouraged to come to Orange on 1st September 2015 to join the Landcare Muster and the State Landcare Conference. The Muster in Landcare NSW's key mechanism for gathering input from the Landcare community to shape our priorities and activities into the future – come along and contribute your thoughts & ideas.

Theme: *'From the Ground Up' - Celebrating international year of soil*  
When : 1st Sep 2015 8:30am - 3rd Sep 2015 5:30pm  
Where : Turners Vineyard, 4929 Mitchell Highway, Orange  
Contact: Liz Davis on 02 6363 7872

What would you like to see at the conference?

The Steering Committee for the Conference would like your recommendations on speakers and workshops for the conference. We would greatly appreciate your input into planning the conference by completing our very quick survey. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NSWLandcareConferenceZYT6J7Q>

## Sustaining Landcare Campaign

Landcare NSW coordinated the Sustaining Landcare campaign in the lead up to the March State Election. As a result of the collective efforts of Landcare NSW and grassroots Landcarers around the State, all political parties released Landcare policies and funding commitments. The re-elected Liberal National Government has promised a renewed support program with funding of \$15m over four years in addition to the support currently provided by LLS and DPI. The Government has also promised to work with us to develop a long term, sustainable funding source for the infrastructural support Landcare needs, such as a Landcare Trust. Landcare NSW will be working with the Government on what the support program will look like and how it might work. Your ideas are welcome any time as this will be an ongoing discussion in the Landcare community until we see the program up and running.

Please contact your Regional Landcare Facilitator Amanda Pollard Harris [rff@northcoastlandcare.net.au](mailto:rff@northcoastlandcare.net.au)

North Coast Region  
Wild Dog Management Plan  
2015-2020



## Comment sought on new North Coast Region Wild Dog Management Plan

North Coast Local Land Services is seeking community feedback on a new North Coast Region Wild Dog management Plan. To see the Plan and get more details on how to comment please go to

<http://www.northcoastlls.engagementhq.com/North-Coast-Open> .

## Native Vegetation Act Update

The NSW Government recently announced that it would adopt all 43 recommendations of the Independent Biodiversity Legislation Review Panel's report. The report recommended repealing the *Native Vegetation Act 2003* and introducing a new Biodiversity Conservation Act later this year. New legislation is likely to take some time and, in the interim, clearing of all native vegetation is still regulated by the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*. Landholders can find out more about their responsibilities under the Native Vegetation Act by contacting North Coast Local Land Services or by visiting the Native Vegetation website.



## Panama disease

With Biosecurity Queensland having received a positive test for Panama disease tropical race 4 (fusarium wilt) on a second commercial banana farm, near Mareeba in North Queensland it is a timely reminder to register you bananas with DPI. Before moving or planting bananas into or within the NSW Banana Protected Area you must [notify a Biosecurity Compliance Officer](#) in writing of the proposed movement or planting. [The NSW Banana Protected Area \(BPA\)](#) includes the NSW eastern seaboard extending from Kempsey to the Queensland border. To lodge a Notification Form, download the form below, complete it and post to NSW Department of Primary Industries, PO Box 530, Coffs Harbour 2450 or fax to 02 6651 2780 or scan and email to [anne.webster@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:anne.webster@dpi.nsw.gov.au) for assessment by a Biosecurity Compliance Officer.



## It's Composting Week 4<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> May 2015

Come down to one of the local farmers market during national composting week:

- New Brighton - Tuesday 5 May
- Byron Bay - Thursday 7 May
- Mullumbimby - Friday 8 May
- Bangalow - Saturday - 9 May

And pot your free seed in the organic compost produced from the regional kerbside green bin collection service.

You can also find out more information on your New Three Bin Collection Service coming in august this YEAR!

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## Absentee landholders - what are the issues in your region?



We are interested in finding out more about what land management issues your region experiences as a result of absentee landholders.

Greater Sydney Local Land Services has received \$72,000 from the Environmental Trust Environmental Education Program in a program that could benefit all regions as it targets absentee landholders across NSW.

The funds are for an education project called "Sustainable land management for Sydney-based rural landholders". It involves a series of workshops in Sydney on land management issues, including water, vegetation and biodiversity for absentee

landholders.

The funding will also allow the development of a smartphone app. The app will provide spatially-relevant information about local resources, support agencies, Landcare networks and NRM advice about rural living.

Following on from a pilot series of workshops for this audience, Greater Sydney LLS is in a unique position to run this statewide engagement program to connect Sydney-based landholders with local land management agencies and resources. Staff are looking forward to working with the other regions to achieve good outcomes for both Local Land Services and the environment across the whole of NSW.

As the project will have benefits throughout NSW, we are keen to hear from all regions. We would appreciate if you could please spend a few minutes completing an online [Landholder Land Management Issues Survey](#). Your feedback will be used to help shape the content of workshops and smartphone app for the project.

Contact Angela Maier Land Services Officer, Greater Sydney Local Land Services on (02) 9842 8687.

## Implementation of the NSW Bitou Bush Threat Abatement Plan

North Coast Local Land Services has commenced planning to extend the National Northern Containment Zone to help control Bitou Bush. The proposed extension will contribute to habitat improvement by prioritising and continuing Bitou Bush control within Byron Shire and follows extensive work undertaken in the Tweed Shire.

The control of Bitou Bush in the National Northern Containment Zone within the whole of coastal Tweed Shire over the past 10 years has resulted in an increase in biodiversity of native flora and fauna.

The proposed Plan extends the Containment Zone an additional 22 kilometres south from the Tweed Shire border into Byron Shire. The Plan will include the coastal areas of the southern section of Billinudgel Nature Reserve, Brunswick, Tyagarah and Marshalls Creek Nature Reserves, Cape Byron SCA, Byron Shire Council land, Crown Land and other coastal tenures.

The Plan, to be developed by Bushland Restoration Services, will provide guidance to the recently successful application by North Coast Local Land Services to the NSW Government Environmental Trust, “Beating Byron’s Bitou Bush” project.

Kel Langfield, Land Services Officer with North Coast Local Land Services said of the plan, “Much work has been undertaken in recent years to achieve the increases in biodiversity of native flora and fauna and we’re keen to now extend the reach of that success.”

Rhonda James from Bushland Restoration Services added, “Monthly bird species monitoring in the Fingal Head littoral rainforest remnants have shown the growth of sixty individual species to over hundred species in the last nine years. Forest bird numbers for Fingal Peninsula have grown from just twenty-eight species in the 1960s to over 130 species in 2014. Both of which are outstanding results for the region’s birdlife.”

Additionally, opportunistic sightings by Dunecare members at Hastings Point and Casuarina Beach also reflect increased fauna diversity over time after control of bitou bush.

The project planning includes partner representatives from Brunswick CSO, Brunswick Valley Landcare, Byron Shire Council, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Crown Lands, Far North Coast Weeds and North Coast Holiday Parks.

This project is supported by North Coast Local Land Services, through funding from the Australian Government’s National Landcare Programme.

### A rare and beautiful find

The threatened Pink Nodding Orchid *Geodorum densiflorum* has been recorded in numerous locations on the Tweed Coast and in Tyagarah NR after control of Bitou Bush and associated environmental weeds.



## Plant of the Month - Do you have her in your backyard?

This month's plant of the month is **Lady-of-the-Night** *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 spike-like racemes produced in spring and summer. The most prominent feature of this plant being the amazingly strong perfume they release at night.

These are fruiting now 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.

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

**2015 STATE  
& TERRITORY  
LANDCARE  
AWARDS**

**ENTRIES OPEN**  
**CLICK HERE**

These awards are supported by Landcare Australia, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.

## Beware of Snakes!

A few weeks ago a two metre South American boa constrictor was caught by police and inadvertently released in bushland on Queensland's Gold Coast. Despite efforts by Biosecurity Queensland, to locate the snake, it remains at large.



The Boa constrictor has been assessed for its risk of establishing wild populations in Australia, and has been assigned an Establishment Risk Rank of EXTREME. According to Dr. Michelle Christy, National Incursion Response Facilitator for Invasive Animals CRC, there is no doubt the snake was either illegally brought to Australia or captive-bred as part of the black market pet trade. However, it is impossible to know at this stage if the boa has recently been released or has been at large for a long time.

And don't think that because this is a single individual, there is no risk. A single pregnant female is capable of starting a new population. In fact, the rapidly spreading population in Puerto Rico was almost certainly started by a few young from a single litter.

Why should we prevent the release of exotic reptiles like Boa Constrictors in Australia? This [video from the New York Times](#) might give you an idea!



## Thank you Landcare Crew!

Goonengerry Landcare recently held a working bee at the top of Mafeking Road on a site which has been worked on after help from Byron Shire Council to initiate some years ago.

Attached is a message some happy resident left on our notice board...again assisted into assistance by council.

Nice to be appreciated sometimes.

Alan, Goonengerry Landcare Group

## Cane toads killing dung beetles

Farm dams are encouraging the spread of cane toads and related loss of dung beetles. Researchers have found that cane toad numbers at dams were about 6.4 times higher than at water tanks and dung beetles were about 9.6 times lower at dams than at tanks. The toads sit on freshly-deposited dung pats at night and eat all the dung beetles in it. Find the full article here

<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs10021-015-9865-x#>



## LINKS

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- 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](http://www.envite.org.au)
  - Environmental Trust <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/envtrust.htm>
  - Ewingsdale Locality Group (BVL) <http://ewingsdale.org.au/#/landcare/4532495308>
  - Far North Coast Weeds <http://fncw.nsw.gov.au/>
  - Friends of the Koala [www.friendsofthekoala.org](http://www.friendsofthekoala.org)
  - Green and Clean Awareness Team [www.greenclean.org.au](http://www.greenclean.org.au)
  - North Coast Local Land Services <http://northcoast.lls.nsw.gov.au/>
  - Northern Landcare Support Services <http://www.nlss.com.au/>
  - Mullumbimby Community Gardens <http://mullumcommunitygarden.wordpress.com/>
  - North Coast nature <http://www.northcoastnature.org.au/>
  - Richmond Landcare Inc. <http://www.richmondlandcare.org/>
  - Soilcare <http://www.soilcare.org>
  - Suffolk Park Locality Group (BVL) [www.landcare.nsw.gov.au/groups/suffolk-park-dunecare-group](http://www.landcare.nsw.gov.au/groups/suffolk-park-dunecare-group)
  - Tweed Landcare Inc. <http://www.tweedlandcare.org.au/>
  - Wilson's Creek Huonbrook Landcare <http://wilsonscreeklandcare.mullum.com.au/>
  - Wetlandcare Australia <http://www.wetlandcare.com.au/index.php>
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For information about Landcare or other natural resource issues in  
Byron shire please contact  
Landcare Community Support Officer  
Alison Ratcliffe 66267028 (Tuesday and Wednesday)  
email: [alison.ratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au](mailto:alison.ratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au)



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This newsletter is funded by North Coast Local Land Services and supported by Byron Shire Council.

