



# Newsletter for Landcare and Dunecare

in Byron Shire

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

October 2020



## Greetings Landcarers!

The weather is warming up and the days are getting longer.

Tell tale signs that summer is around the corner are the raucous Channel Billed Cuckoos and the monotonous Koel; having arrived from PNG and Indonesia to lay their eggs in the nests of ravens, currawongs, butcherbirds and Australian magpies. The male Channell billed cuckoo deviously distracts the host bird by flying around screeching whilst the cunning female deposits her egg in the host birds' nest. Ingenious!

Following on from beautiful winter rain the Eucalypts and Silky Oaks are flowering producing abundant nectar for our precious flying fox mothers who give birth over spring and summer.

You may come across fledgling magpies on the ground and see the parents pecking them when they make begging calls. As the juveniles get older their hunting skills improve and the adults become reluctant to feed them.

Reptiles are on the move and are busy mating and feeding after hibernating over winter.

You may see animals behaving in a strange manner such as goannas and snakes wrestling for dominance over mating. It can be quite dramatic and fascinating to watch.

Please keep an eye out when driving at night for pythons and other reptiles crossing the road, they are attracted to the warmth.

Read on for fascinating stories about nature and agriculture, links to funding opportunities and inspiring articles. Our field days and workshops still have limited numbers due to Covid restrictions; however there are also online seminars available.

## Enjoy!



## Seminars and workshops

### Living alongside Brush Turkeys

Join Dr. Ann Goeth, brush-turkey expert and author of "Mound-builders" for an online informative seminar. Get tips on how to live side by side with these unusual birds, in your garden, backyard or wider vicinity. Discover their unique breeding behavior, their unusual upbringing and their role in our bushland ecosystems.

This is an online event via zoom. Please register with the Eventbrite link below and the zoom link and instructions will be sent out with a reminder a few days before the event.



<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/living-alongside-bush-turkeys-via-zoom-tickets-125105845953>

### Two Day Introduction to Biodynamics @ Binna Burra, NSW

16th & 17th November at Tathra Ridge, Binna Burra NSW

Biodynamics is a cost effective method of producing high quality plants, food and fibre with regenerative ecological outcomes.

Proven for nearly a century all over the world, biodynamic methods promote the creation of organic matter, enriching and deepening topsoil and significantly improving its ability to retain water and achieve fertility and balance.

An Introduction to Biodynamics brings together the art and science of agriculture, teaching participants how biodynamic preparations contribute to the soil food web and introduce practical aspects needed to apply biodynamics

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=667870&>



### Land Life Podcast Series

The 'Land Life' podcast is designed to share knowledge and experience with North Coast Landholders to support farm productivity and healthy environments.

Managing Wild Dogs. Duration 16:20

Preparing Your Animals For the Fire Season. Duration 15:08

[Click here for the 'Land Life' podcasts.](#)

This project has been developed by North Coast Local Land Services through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.



# NOVEMBER 2020 LISMORE

TIME TO REGENERATE

**8-DAY COURSE - FOUR 2-DAY SESSIONS**  
**Session 1: November 10-11 / Sessions 2-4 TBA**

## HOLISTIC MANAGEMENT

IMPROVE  
PROFITABILITY  
DROUGHT RESILIENCE  
SOIL FERTILITY

**STARTING NOVEMBER 2020**

Enquiries:  
[kerry@insideoutsidemgt.com.au](mailto:kerry@insideoutsidemgt.com.au)  
[www.insideoutsidemgt.com.au](http://www.insideoutsidemgt.com.au)

### **Aussie Backyard Bird Count**

Dust off your binoculars and head to your local green space, because the 2020 Aussie Backyard Bird Count is nearly here. It'll take place during Bird Week, 19–25 October. Register [here](#) to take part.



## STORIES to inspire and give you hope

### Australians recorded frog calls on their smartphones after the bushfires – and the results are remarkable

This article reveals how 45 frog species, some rare and threatened, were recorded calling after the fires. This has allowed us to collate a snapshot of where frog species are surviving – at least for now.

The Conversations / by Jodi Rowley & Will Cornwell

<https://theconversation.com/australians-recorded-frog-calls-on-their-smartphones-after-the-bushfires-and-the-results-are-remarkable-146578>



### Bilbies released into Sturt National Park, 100 years after being declared extinct in NSW

ABC Western Plains / By Dale Drinkwater

More than 100 years after being declared extinct in the state, 10 of the strongest and healthiest Australian bilbies from Dubbo's Western Plains Zoo have been released into a protected area of the Sturt National Park in the most north-western corner of New South Wales.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-09-27/extinct-bilby-release-after-100-years-sturt-national-park/12703800>



### Do you have special tree you would like to register with Significant Trees of the Byron Shire?

In the face of future development, Significant Trees in Byron Shire aims to identify and preserve our natural assets for future generations while strengthening our culture to values trees, the environment and history.

[https://www.treeregister.com.au/nominate/?fbclid=IwAR1rYKh5qNFuGf4wpOrbiLlx0UC2b1k\\_j-IRDnGmuG7ZS4CaCglyRFORIVQ](https://www.treeregister.com.au/nominate/?fbclid=IwAR1rYKh5qNFuGf4wpOrbiLlx0UC2b1k_j-IRDnGmuG7ZS4CaCglyRFORIVQ)

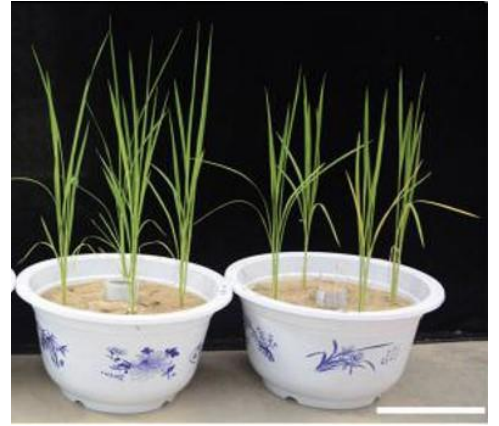


## REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

**The collaboration revealed that the symbiotic relationship between plants and fungi provides nitrates to plants, could lead to reduced fertilizer use.** George Watson

Fungi play a critical role in the growth and development of plant life and have for millions of years. Scientists have known for a long time that arbuscular mycorrhizal (AM) fungi that live in harmony with about 90% of land plants and play a key role in their root systems, are responsible for carrying needed phosphate to plants to help growth.

<https://today.ttu.edu/posts/2020/06/Stories/Herrera-Estrella-Plant-Nitrogen?>



## RESEARCHERS questions carbon farming

THE Federal Government's new energy policy has identified carbon farming as a key method of reducing emissions, but there may be problems with the strategy.

Read the [full story...](#)

Article Source: ABC Rural. *Image: Michael Marshman has changed his farming practices to store more carbon in the soil, and it getting paid for it.*

*Image credit: Jacqueline Schulz From The Carbon Market Institute.*



## NATURAL Intelligence Farming with Ian and Dianne Haggerty

NATURAL Intelligence Farming is the term Ian and Dianne Haggerty use to describe the harnessing of the dynamic, natural relationships that exists between all the organisms in the ecosystem and the environment itself, particularly the soil. Read the [full story...](#)

Article Source: Future Directions *Image: Natural Intelligence Farming: Ian and Dianne Haggerty.*

*Image credit: Future Directions. International.*



## HOW the regenerative farming movement transformed Charles Massy's sheep station

ON a still autumn morning in 2016, Charles Massy walked up a hill above his farm to sit beside a favourite old snow gum. High up on the Monaro plateau that runs off the flank of Mount Kosciuszko he could see his homestead and the native brown grasses on his farm dusted with frost. Read the [full story...](#)

Article Source: Australian Story; ABC Rural, By Susan Chenery and Vanessa Gorman.





## Global study reveals time running out for many soils - but conservation measures can help

Source: Lancaster University

The top layer of soil is often rich in nutrients and organic matter, making it important for growing food, fibres, feed and fuel. Soil erosion is a serious threat to global sustainability, endangering food security, driving desertification and biodiversity loss, and degrading ecosystems. A study, led by Lancaster University, found more than 90 per cent of the conventionally farmed soils in the study were thinning, and 16 per cent had lifespans of less than a century. These rapidly thinning soils were found all over the world, including countries such as Australia, China, the UK, and the USA.

[Read the complete article here.](#)

## Put down that veggie burger. These farmers say their cows can solve the climate crisis

Calls for plant-based diets to save the planet from the climate crisis are growing louder. But there is another, quieter, revolution reshaping the agricultural world. Farmers like Slabbert and their supporters say that what people eat is not as important as how they farm. They believe cattle and cropland could help save the planet.

[Read the complete article here.](#)



## Ground Cover is a podcast created for farmers, by farmers.

It is a uniquely Australian podcast series exploring real life stories of land managers who have undertaken the transition from conventional farming to regenerative agriculture. Proudly brought to you by The Regenerative Agriculture Alliance and Southern Cross University.

Subscribe on your favourite podcast listening app:

[Ground Cover on itunes](#)

[Ground Cover on Stitcher](#)

[Ground Cover on Spotify](#)



## Fire Stuff

**Traditional fire management** conducted in Bega Valley, Eurobodalla — hardest-hit by last season's bushfires



<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-09-27/rebirth-of-cultural-burning-in-hardest-hit-bushfire-region/12706810>

## Centre of Excellence for Prescribed Burning



Traditional Owners and cultural burning

<https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/resources/traditional-owners-and-cultural-burning/>

## Land for Wildlife

### Looking for a great nature DIY project? Why not make a possum drey for your backyard?

Some possums will build a nest called a 'drey'. In the wild, dreys are built by possums with sticks and branches woven together into a ball with leaf material inside. Watch this easy video from WIRES to make your own artificial 'drey' at home and create a nesting place in your backyard for Ringtail possums!



<https://www.wires.org.au/wildlife-info/wildlife-factsheets/making-a-ringtail-possum-home>

### Powerful Owl updates

Powerful Owls are starting to fledge, so now's the time to read the latest from the [Powerful Owl project in Queensland](#), tune into a [podcast](#) or watch a [virtual workshop](#).



### Pollination

Pollination occurs through the interactions of nectar-feeding animals and flowers, frequently within a single plant or between neighbouring plants.

Pollination can also occur over much longer distances across the landscape. Highly mobile birds and bats move over large areas when feeding and disperse pollen hundreds of metres and sometimes several kilometres.

It promotes long-distance genetic transfer and increases genetic variation in the plants and plant populations the animals visit. Genetic variation builds ecological resilience in ecosystems, and can improve their capacity to withstand or adapt to human-driven change.



<http://environment.nsw.gov.au/pollinators>



## FUNDING

Do you have a great project and need funds to make it happen?

On the Brunswick Valley Landcare website there are some handy tips on how to be successful with grant applications. Below is a summary of grants which are currently accepting applications and ones that are anticipated to open within the next month. <http://brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/funding/>

FRRR Strengthening Rural Communities FRRR Strengthening Rural Communities

The Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC) program aims to give the thousands of small rural, regional and remote communities across Australia an opportunity to access funding to support broad community needs. Given the events of summer 2019/20, it has also been expanded to offer funding to support recovery in bushfire-affected communities. Two funding streams are available - Small & Vital Grants up to \$10,000 and Bushfire Recovery Grants up to \$25,000.

**Applications close 24 November.**

[https://www.frrr.org.au/grants/Strengthening\\_Rural\\_Communities](https://www.frrr.org.au/grants/Strengthening_Rural_Communities)



**JAMES N. KIRBY**  
FOUNDATION

## Future Drought Fund: Natural Resource Management Drought Resilience Program - Grant

The Australian Government is inviting applications under the Future Drought Fund: Natural Resource Management Drought Resilience Program - Grants.

The Program is focused on support for experimentation in NRM practices, systems and approaches that go beyond current best practice. This aims to foster innovation and transformational change in the management of Natural Capital to deliver drought resilience in agricultural landscapes.

**\$20,000 - \$200,000.**

**Closes: 30th October 2020**

For organisations, farmer groups and individuals to deliver on-ground activities that build drought resilience on agricultural landscapes and will improve natural capital and contribute towards landscape-scale drought resilience.



**Australian Government**



**Future  
Drought  
Fund**

## Weed of the Month

### Red Cestrum

Weed Alert - Be on the Lookout for Red Cestrum

Red Cestrum in flower

The highly invasive toxic plant Red Cestrum (*Cestrum elegans*) – reports of cattle dying after ingesting it.

Red Cestrum is a medium sized woody shrub growing to four metres which forms dense thickets, displacing native species. Red Cestrum can also readily invade high value agricultural land with graziers known to lock off prime paddocks in fear of Cestrum poisoning. Red Cestrum is a unique species as it is highly adaptable to all conditions and performs well in high altitude cool climates. It is part of the Solanaceae (nightshade) family which is known to have toxic properties.

Red Cestrum has hairy ovate leaves with red to purple hairs along the stems and develops clusters of red tubular flowers in late winter to spring. Fruits are produced in late spring to summer forming clusters of red berries. Seeds can stay viable for up to 8 years and can be spread by birds, flood waters and by leaving cut branches piled on the ground where it can easily take root.

If you or anyone you know suspects you have seen this plant please contact Rous County Council on (02) 6623 3800

Treatment:

Cut and paint large shrubs with 1:1 Glyphosate + 1g metsulfuron methyl / L water or foliar spray seedlings < 20cm high 1:50 Glyphosate

<https://www.bellingen.nsw.gov.au/news/weed-alert-be-lookout-red-cestrum>

<https://weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au/weeds/red-cestrum>



## First ever outbreak of new prohibited matter species discovered in Northern Rivers region

Rous County Council (RCC) Weed Biosecurity Officers have uncovered an outbreak of Parthenium weed on a rural property in Tweed Shire for the first time in history for this region.

Parthenium weed (*Parthenium hysterophorus*), a native of the Caribbean region, is both highly invasive to the natural and agricultural environment and is known to cause severe health reactions in humans and livestock.

The source of infestation is suspected to have come from a contaminated batch of chook feed. The discovery was made when RCC Weed Biosecurity Officers were conducting targeted extension work on properties in the area identified as high risk of Parthenium weed incursion.

Once the property owner was made aware of Parthenium, it was reported immediately. Weed Biosecurity Officers were then able to access the outbreak area, correctly identify the weed and immediately roll out a rapid response plan which entailed manually removing all flowering plants and treating any seedlings.

Weed Biosecurity and Bush Regeneration Manager, Rhett Patrick said, 'We appreciate how cooperative the landowner has been and urge others to jump on the Rous website and look up how to identify and report prohibited matter species like Parthenium.'

Parthenium is endemic in parts of central Queensland and is slowly spreading to southern parts of Queensland. However, until now it has never been reported in the Northern Rivers region of New South Wales, making it a significant biosecurity risk. Small outbreaks have occurred in other parts of the state, mainly from contaminated fodder and machinery.

**"We are lucky to catch this outbreak when we did as it spreads rapidly in these conditions," Mr Patrick commented. "Ecoclimatic index modelling published in the New South Wales Parthenium Strategy shows that this region is highly vulnerable to Parthenium weed incursions. Without the assistance of landholders to help identify outbreaks, it is only a matter of time before this situation happens again".**



## WORKING BEES - why not get out and get involved in one of our local groups?

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

### Bangalow Land and Rivercare, Bangalow

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

### Green and Clean Awareness Team, Byron Bay

WHEN: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month 9:00am  
WHERE: Meet Main Beach, Byron Bay  
CONTACT: Veda Turner [vedaturner@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:bromspot@gmail.com)

### Jinangong Landcare, Ocean Shores

WHEN: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month  
WHERE: The Tunnel Road, Ocean Shores  
CONTACT: Ian Parer [ianparer@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:dnkemp77@gmail.com) 0427 650 861

### South New Brighton Dunecare

WHEN: 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:robyn.bolden@optusnet.com.au) 6680 1970

### Suffolk Park Dunecare

WHEN: 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month  
CONTACT: Helen Brown [hellyh@bigpond.com](mailto: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](mailto: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

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- Arakwal <http://arakwal.com.au/>
  - Border Rangers Alliance <http://www.greateasternranges.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](http://www.envite.org.au)
  - Environmental Trust <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/envitrust.htm>
  - Friends of the Koala [www.friendsofthekoala.org](http://www.friendsofthekoala.org)
  - Local Land Services [www.northcoast.ils.nsw.gov.au](http://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](http://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/>
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For information about Landcare or other natural resource issues in Byron shire please contact

Landcare Support Officer, Alison Ratcliffe

6626 7028 0421 244 640 (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday) [aratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au](mailto:aratcliffe@byron.nsw.gov.au)

Project Officer, Rochelle Merdith

6626 7201 (Friday) [rmerdith@byron.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rmerdith@byron.nsw.gov.au)



This newsletter is supported by Byron Shire Council.

