



Newsletter for Landcare and Dunecare in Byron Shire

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

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September 2016

SEPTEMBER 2 Wildlife Connections Field Day
21 – 22 National Landcare Conference
OCTOBER 16 Big Scrub Day

Intrepid Landcare by Alison Ratcliffe

We had a wonderful day on our inaugural Intrepid Landcare Day. The sun shone even though the wind was howling. 14 young people came to help us weed a 70 m length of the bank of Simpsons Creek in South Beach Park, Brunswick Heads. We planted 50 local native shrubs and ground covers along the creek and cleaned up a whole load of rubbish. Thank you to the generosity of Sticky Fingers, Star Fish and Yamis for providing us with a delicious lunch. After lunch Simon and Rob from



Byron Bay Eco Cruises and Kayaks took us down the river on their purpose built boat. We then kayaked up Minjimbil Creek. We saw lots of bird life and learnt a lot about the river. Thank you Simon and everyone for a brilliant day!



Big Scrub Rainforest Day Announces Bob Brown as Keynote Speaker

PROGRAM RELEASED TODAY <http://brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/BigScrub2016-Program-WEB.pdf>



18TH ANNUAL
BIG SCRUB RAINFOREST DAY
SUNDAY 16 OCTOBER 2016 • ROCKY CREEK DAM • 7AM TO 3PM

PRESENTED BY  **PRINCIPAL SPONSOR**  **MAJOR SPONSORS**    

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF RAINFOREST RESTORATION AT ROCKY CREEK DAM
KEYNOTE ADDRESS - BOB BROWN

GUIDED BIRD, PLANT USE & RAINFOREST RESTORATION WALKS | PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS
TALKS FACILITATED BY SOME OF AUSTRALIA'S LEADING ECOLOGISTS, BUSH REGENERATORS,
NATURALISTS & SCIENTISTS | FABULOUS FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT | FUN ENVIRONMENTAL
ACTIVITIES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY | INFORMATION DISPLAYS & STALLS

BYO PICNIC / FOOD & BEVERAGES AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE / GOLD COIN DONATION AT ENTRY
Full program available at www.bigscrubrainforest.org.au

ORGANISED IN ASSOCIATION WITH   

KATHERINE CASTLE

Environmentalist, chair of the Bob Brown Foundation and founder of Bush Heritage Australia will be Keynote Speaker for the 18th annual Big Scrub Rainforest Day being held on Sunday, 16 October 2016 at Rocky Creek Dam. His appearance will be a special treat for the Northern Rivers community.

Bob Brown was born and educated in rural NSW

and worked as a doctor in Australia and the UK before moving to Tasmania in 1972 to search for the legendary thylacine. He helped to establish the Wilderness Society and was soon the face of the campaign that saved the Franklin River in 1983. He has been a successful high-profile environmental activist since that time.



Bob Brown (Photo courtesy Matthew Newton)

He was elected to the Tasmanian state parliament in 1982 and during his ten-year tenure most notably achieved gun law reform, gay law reform and the expansion of the Tasmanian World Heritage Area.

In 1996, Bob was elected to the Senate, where he led the national debate for 16 years on issues including climate change, water, preventative healthcare, conservation, and human rights.

Bob resigned from the Senate in June 2012 to establish the Bob Brown Foundation, a not for profit organisation dedicated to supporting environmental campaigns and green causes in Australia and our region. He is a published author and acclaimed photographer.

Speaking from Tasmania ahead of his attendance at this year's event, Bob Brown said:

"The Big Scrub is one of Australia's iconic rainforest landscapes and was once the largest continuous expanse of lowland subtropical rainforest in Australia, covering an estimated 75,000 ha of fertile basalt-derived soils between Nightcap Range and the Richmond River. Whilst only 1% of the Big Scrub remains in remnants and regrowth areas dispersed throughout the landscape, these patches of what is now critically endangered rainforest contain very high plant species richness, and provide habitat for thirty-three nationally threatened plant and animal species in a national biodiversity hotspot.

These areas provide key stepping stones between coastal habitats and the hinterland ranges for many animals that need to move to follow food resources as they change with the seasons. Such connectivity is likely to become even more important as climate changes, underlining the need for remnant expansion and linkage through restoration, regrowth and planting in corridors.

I am very much looking forward to coming to Big Scrub Rainforest Day on 16 October at Rocky Creek Dam to visit the Big Scrub and help promote the protection and restoration of this majestic landscape."

Dr Tony Parkes (President of Big Scrub Landcare) said that:

"Big Scrub Rainforest Day is delighted Bob Brown will deliver the 2016 keynote address.

To succeed in our task of restoring the critically endangered Big Scrub rainforest we need to engage with landholders and local communities throughout our region. Bob Brown is an excellent ambassador for conservation and we are looking forward to welcoming him to the Big Scrub and to his contribution to what will be a great event."

The program will feature presentations from some of Australia's leading ecologists, rainforest regenerators, scientists and naturalists as well as practical workshops, guided bird and rainforest walks, children's activities, food, displays and stalls. This year's event celebrates 30 years of restoration at Rocky Creek Dam. www.bigscrubrainforest.org.au

Subtropical Rainforest Plantation Field Day

Timber Production on Small Farms for Best Social, Environmental and Economic Outcomes. Topics for the Day – Harvest to Market and Potential Carbon Offsets.

Carol Neal, Specialty Timber Growers Group (STG) - Introduction

Dr Joe-Harvey Jones – motivation for planting trees and 'where to next?'

Darryl Collins: STG member & timber merchant - Harvesting to marketing

Dr Kevin Glencross (SCU) – Biomass studies and potential for carbon offsets

Alison Dillon - Forester, Dr Joe Harvey-Jones & Dr Kevin Glencross – economics of farm forestry and wood production



137 Taylors Rd, Eureka, NSW **Saturday 10 September Times: 10.00am – 1.30pm**

\$10 per person (includes morning tea and field notes - BYO lunch)

Please RSVP by 3 September 2016 to Joe Harvey-Jones on 02 6688 4257

or joeharveyjones@hotmail.com

Sustainable House Day 2016 Design Competition + Expo + Open Homes



Make sure you save the date **Saturday 17 September 10am - 3pm, Mullum Civic Hall.**

For over two years, Sustainable House Day Northern Rivers has provided a great opportunity for hundreds of people to learn about new and innovative ways of living sustainably.

2016 is gearing up to be one of our best yet with a Tiny Homes Design Competition to inspire our creative designers, a one-day Expo to showcase the many different ways to become more sustainable along with our "Date a Designer" segment and our Open Homes Day to show us smarter ways to live.

Have you seen our popular [website](#) and [facebook](#) event? Visit now and register as 'going' to receive all the latest updates.



Bushfire 2016: Connecting Science, People & Practice

University of Queensland, St Lucia, Brisbane

28 - 30 September 2016

Bushfire 2016 will be an engaging, informative and inspiring conference squarely aimed at connecting fire scientists, ecologists and students with onground fire operators, public land managers, land managers (e.g. natural resources, weed/pest, biodiversity), utility operators, planners and other fire and environmental professionals.



Bushfire 2016 offers two days of concurrent sessions set in the beautiful grounds of the University of Queensland, with a catered poster session on the Wednesday evening. With further events and field trips to be announced we encourage you to join our mailing list to ensure you receive updates and alerts. Places are limited and based on enquiries to date we expect to see a great deal of interest when registrations open soon.

<http://www.fireandbiodiversity.org.au/bushfire-home>

Restore, Regenerate, Revegetate: Restoring Ecological Processes, Ecosystems and Landscapes in a Changing World



FEB 05-09 / 2017

Restore, Regenerate, Revegetate will bring together people from the mining rehabilitation, Landcare, carbon farming, revegetation, wildlife reintroduction and biodiversity conservation industries. The conference will attract significant media coverage, providing a great opportunity for you to showcase your organisation.

The program will feature a star-studded panel of some of the finest restoration practitioners and ecologists in Australasia and overseas.

The conference will be held between 5-9 February 2017 at the University of New England in Armidale.

<http://conferencecompany.com.au/revegconf2017/>



The Bush Food Living Classroom

One of BVL's locality groups - Federals' Bush Food Living Classroom is now on Facebook. Check out all the wonderful work Rachel, Mandala and all the kids have been doing.

<https://www.facebook.com/The-Bush-Food-Living-Classroom-in-Federal-NSW-1225558640790755/>



FREE Leadership for Sustainability Skills Development Program for environmental educators in NSW



Are you interested in leadership, cross-sectoral collaboration and a more united community of environmental educators?

AAEE NSW is running a FREE Leadership for Sustainability skills development program from mid-October to February 2017 for 30 environmental educators.

The two-day workshop and three webinars will be run by some of Australia's leading sustainability education trainers to help you develop your skills in leadership, collaboration, facilitating and running effective groups, and strategic planning & evaluation to help make your sustainability education projects a success!

Applications for this program close on Friday 2 September 2016 visit the site below to find out more!

<http://www.aaeensw.org.au/rsens-capacity-building-project>



NRM on Farms is a monthly NSW DPI newsletter that summarises recent information about climate and natural resource management relevant to agriculture to keep farmers and agricultural and NRM advisors and researchers up to date. It is freely available to anyone interested or involved in agriculture or NRM. To subscribe, email Rebecca Lines-Kelly at rebecca.lines-kelly@dpi.nsw.gov.au.



Bangalow Village Eco News

The September issue of Village Eco News can be read by clicking the link below:

https://issuu.com/villageeconews/docs/village_eco_news_issue_3_sept_2016

If you would like to subscribe please email bangalowlandcare@gmail.com

Have your say about significant weeds on the North Coast

The North Coast Regional Weed Committee (NCRWC) has been established as part of a new approach to weed management on the North Coast. NCRWC are currently seeking feedback from the community with regard to any significant weeds.

The Biosecurity Act 2015 Supplementary Information Paper: Weeds should be referenced (http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/664337/citrus-red-mite-supplementaryinformation-paper.pdf), particularly Appendix 4 where there is a long list of weeds to be considered for regional regulation.

If there are weeds that you considered to be of regional importance that are not in this list then please advise Tweed Landcare (info@tweedlandcare.org.au) so they can be bought up for consideration at the next North Coast Regional Weed Committee meeting on 7 September 2016. These weeds will then be considered for inclusion in the regional plan.

Farming Future

There is an important initiative underway to try to prevent the downgrading of our land management laws and to protect the legacy of Landcare.

I've been working with a group of farmers to release a statement calling on the NSW Government to reconsider their current plans to re-write land management laws. The way the laws are being proposed at the moment will take our farming back to the old days of vegetation clearing and the issues with salinity, poor soil health and water erosion that go with it. You can see the statement at:

www.FarmingFuture.org.au

I believe the community and most farmers have moved beyond the old view of landscapes only being used for chemical monocultures and can see the need to adopt a new and complete vision of the landscape as the provider of multiple essential goods and services.

Agriculture in NSW needs a new vision and this statement is part of showing that farmers support a new approach to farming.

So far hundreds of farmers have signed the statement, would you consider signing it please, and sharing it with your local Landcare members? You can sign it [here](#).

Thanks for taking the time to consider my request, please let me know if you'd like to get more involved.

Regards, Glenn Morris, Inverell Beef Farmer.

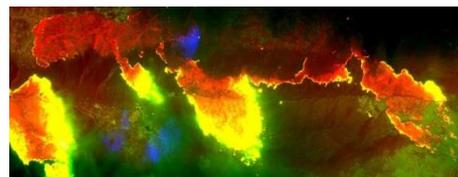
New fire modelling

Bushfires in Australia can have a devastating impact on an environment and destroy homes and lives, so any effort to prevent

them is a welcome move.

But the way that we have traditionally understood bushfires and forest flammability in Australia is not up to the challenges of our changing climate. Thankfully, a new approach is making sense of the confusion by looking at the plants themselves.

<http://theconversation.com/new-modelling-on-bushfires-shows-how-they-really-burn-through-an-area-63943>



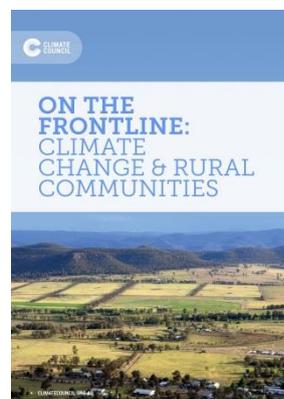
An aerial infrared photo of the fire edge near Jindabyne in January, 2003. Philip Zylstra, Author provided

On the Frontline: Climate Change and Rural Communities report

This new report from the Climate Council assesses the impact on rural communities of climatic change revealing both the challenges and opportunities for regional Australia. Our [new report](#) reveals that **climate change is likely to worsen the systemic disadvantages suffered by rural and regional communities**, and further widen the gap between rural and urban areas.

The '[On the Frontline: Climate Change & Rural Communities](#)' report finds the **increase in extreme weather events is disproportionately affecting those in rural areas**, with serious social, health and economic impacts.

<http://www.climatecouncil.org.au/ruralreport>



Aussie Backyard Bird Count

October is just around the corner, and that means Bird Week and the Aussie Backyard Bird Count! So put October 17-23 in your diary and plan some time to count the birds in your backyard or favourite outdoor space. The app has some great new upgrades and will be free to download from the app stores on 1 October. Keep an eye on

www.aussiebirdcount.org.au for information.

This year there will also be lesson plans for primary schools so whole classrooms can get involved. Keep an eye on the website to find out when they will be released.

Would you like to show off your bird-friendly backyard?

We have another way you can get involved this year – just for you Backyard Birders! We don't want people to just count birds, as you know, we want people to take action for birds and they can do that through bird-friendly gardens.

So we are looking for backyards to showcase the variety of bird-friendly gardening options out there and inspire others. If you have a backyard that you would like to share with us (regardless of where you live), please email me at birdsinbackyards@birdlife.org.au and send us some photos. The images may be used in the media and in our promotions, and in some instances we might arrange to come and visit you as well (if you'll have us!).



Photo by Mark McGeachie

Biodiversity Reform - Comments Collated:

Landcare NSW, through the support of the NSW Environmental Trust, delivered a series of eight workshops across NSW during the submission phase of the NSW Biodiversity Reforms. In addition, the Office of Environmental and Heritage hosted a webinar for landcarers to discuss and ask questions about the proposed reforms.

The comments from landcarers have been collated into a document. Landcare NSW throughout the process remained impartial – no specific position was adopted by Landcare NSW, rather LNSW undertook to ensure the many views of Landcarers were represented. Landcarers across NSW – groups and individuals – were also encouraged to make submissions to ensure a full range of views were represented.

http://landcarenewsw.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/LNSW-Biodiversity-reform-workshops-collated-comments_FINAL.pdf

Impacts of 1.5 and 2 degrees of warming

A new report from The Climate Institute has found the difference between 1.5 and 2 degrees of warming would be much greater in terms of extreme events and disasters than previously believed. In southern Australia, heatwaves would be on average 13 or 20 days longer. Dry spells would be 3.5 or 6 days longer. Water availability through run-off after rain would be down 7 per cent and 13 per cent. The report concludes that emissions reduction targets to limit global temperatures to 1.5°C will require transformation; not achieving them will require even greater transformation.

<http://www.climateinstitute.org.au/articles/media-releases/national-agenda-climate-analytics-1.5.html>

Climate impacts of land revegetation

University of Queensland modelling of impacts of revegetation of less productive land found that restoring trees to parts of Australia would reduce surface temperatures by up to 1.6°C, especially in western Queensland and NSW, and that more trees reduced the overall climate-induced warming from 4.1°C to 3.2°C between 2050 and 2100. Replanting trees could increase summer rainfall by 10% overall and by up to 15.2% in the southwest. Soil moisture would increase by around 20% in replanted regions.

<https://theconversation.com/stopping-land-clearing-and-replanting-trees-could-help-keep-australia-cool-in-a-warmer-future-63654>

CoastAdapt

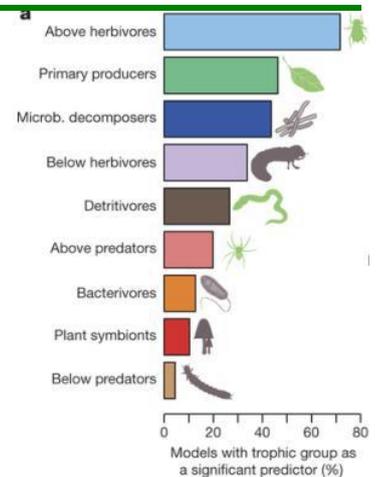
A beta version of CoastAdapt is now open for review and feedback until November 2016. CoastAdapt is an online decision support system with maps, guidance, and international and Australian examples of coastal adaptation. An online forum allows users to share problems, news and ideas, including asking questions of a panel of experts. The final version of CoastAdapt will be launched in 2017.

<https://www.nccarf.edu.au/CoastAdapt-beta-release>

Insects, plants, soil microbes underpin ecosystem services

The more an ecosystem swarms, crawls and flies the better it is for humans conclude European researchers. The most important groups for ecosystem services are above-ground herbivorous insects, plants, and soil microbial decomposers. Management strategies focused on them may foster synergies between biodiversity conservation and high ecosystem multifunctionality.

<http://www.tum.de/en/about-tum/news/press-releases/short/article/33329/>



Biodiversity at multiple trophic levels is needed for ecosystem multifunctionality

Many experiments have shown that loss of biodiversity reduces the capacity of ecosystems to provide the multiple services on which humans depend^{1, 2}. However, experiments necessarily simplify the complexity of natural ecosystems and will normally control for other important drivers of ecosystem functioning, such as the environment or land use. In addition, existing studies typically focus on the diversity of single trophic groups, neglecting the fact that biodiversity loss occurs across many taxa^{3, 4} and that the functional effects of any trophic group may depend on the abundance and diversity of others^{5, 6}. Here we report analysis of the relationships between the species richness and abundance of nine trophic groups, including 4,600 above- and below-ground taxa, and 14 ecosystem services and functions and with their simultaneous provision (or multifunctionality) in 150 grasslands. We show that high species richness in multiple trophic groups (multitrophic richness) had stronger positive effects on ecosystem services than richness in any individual trophic group; this includes plant species richness, the most widely used measure of biodiversity.

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nature19092.html>

STORIES to inspire and give you hope

Wildlife Connections Field Day by Alison Ratcliffe

A extremely popular field day was held with over 50 people attending on Friday 2nd September. The practical field day focussed on three projects aimed at protecting, enhancing and restoring biodiversity and wildlife corridors within Byron Shire.

- Bush Connect “*Restoration and Linkage of Wilsons and Coopers Creeks*”. A consortium made up of Goonengerry Landcare, Wilsons Creek / Huonbrook Landcare, and Byrangerry Grass Reserve Trust have joined forces with a common goal of restoring over 120 hectares of degraded bushland.
- Environmental Trust “*Restoring Rainforest in a Biodiversity Hotspot*”. A 3 year project managed by Byron Shire Council restoring 11 hectares of bushland on Land for Wildlife properties.
- Land for Wildlife – Brunswick Valley Landcare are the regional provider in Byron Shire.

Stuart McDonald and Julie Gardner led a walk through an old, new and unworked Camphor Laurel regeneration site to look at new techniques and explain the importance and intricacies of restoring this degraded vegetation to rainforest.

Stephen Hardy from the Environmental Trust gave an overview of the Bush Connect Project and the Environmental Trust.



Mark Fitzgerald gave a talk on attracting wildlife to your property and wildlife corridors.



And Hollow Log homes delivered a wide variety of nest boxes and were a wonderful source of information on boxes for birds, bats and arboreal mammals. We also watched a demonstration of how to install the nest boxes. A wonderful day was enjoyed by all. Thank you to Julie and Frank for the use of their amazing property.



Owl video

Check out the video of a boobok owl bathing in a forest puddle that John Lindsay from Durrumbul caught in the depth of the night on a remote sensing camera – very cute!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1506048359640096/>



Tasmanian devils developing resistance to deadly cancer, species may 'save itself'

By Sallèse Gibson and Stephanie Smail ABC news

Tasmanian devils are developing resistance to the devil facial tumour disease, potentially saving themselves from extinction, new research has found.

The international study, published today in the journal Nature Communications, looked at tissue samples taken from Tasmanian devils at three sites across the state over a 17-year period. Researchers have identified genetic changes in the mammals that are associated with fighting cancer.

University of Tasmania's School of Biological Sciences Associate Professor Menna Jones said it was a significant find. "The main result of this study is that the devil is evolving at a genomic level," she said. "The regions [in its DNA] that are changing in response to the disease are those that are associated with cancer and immune function.

"It indicates that the devil is adapting, it's responding to the disease in ways that it may be able to beat the cancer and save itself."

Professor Hamish McCallum, from Griffith University in Queensland, who is part of the research team, said the findings were an unexpected turnaround.

"I published modelling seven years ago that suggested these populations should be extinct by now and they're not," he said.

To read the rest of the story visit <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-08-31/tasmanian-devils-developing-cancer-resistance/7798338>



Cool chicks: Queensland women set to travel to Antarctica to promote gender equality in science

ABC NORTH QLD BY HARRIET TATHAM

Two north Queensland scientists will be making up for the lack of winter in Townsville by travelling to Antarctica in an epic voyage to study climate change and fight for gender equality in science.

The Homeward Bound project involves about 70 international female scientists sailing to the South Pole for a boot camp on leadership skills.

<http://mobile.abc.net.au/news/2016-07-28/from-townsville-to-antarctica-for-science-and-gender-equality/7665986?pfmredir=sm>



Dr Webster first travelled to Antarctica in 2000 in a military plane without windows.

Researchers just accidentally discovered how to treat chlamydia infected koalas

by JOSH HRALA Science Alert

Australian researchers have identified a chemical that can effectively treat chlamydia in koalas without damaging healthy tissue, and it could soon form the base of a new medication.



The discovery could not have come soon enough, with around [70 percent](#) of wild koalas in Australia

now infected by the disease, and the local population dropping to a mere [100,000 individuals](#). Current treatments for koala chlamydia are now in dangerously short supply.

"It's really urgent now that we put a concerted effort into developing this treatment further. Manufacture has stopped, supply has stopped, and it can take years to develop a new drug," [said lead researcher Willa Huston](#), from the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS).

"We are in a desperate search to find new, effective treatments, and to test other drugs that might help koalas recover from this horrible disease."

Huston and her team came upon the new drug candidate by accident. They've spent the past four years developing a drug to treat the human form of chlamydia, but weren't getting anywhere because of the [huge array of antibiotics](#) already on the market for human consumption.

Then, by chance, a researcher working in a lab down the hall told Huston of the plight of the koalas.

"Science is pretty funny. It was pretty much an accident," [she told Matt Wordsworth from ABC News](#). "It was something we were doing for human chlamydia and it just turned out to be the right application at the right time."

With a new, koala-focussed goal in mind, Huston and her colleagues went about testing the drug on tissue samples taken from infected koalas. To their surprise, the drug - [called JO146](#) - effectively wiped out the disease without damaging the animals' healthy tissues.

<http://www.sciencealert.com/researchers-just-accidentally-discovered-how-to-treat-chlamydia-infected-koalas>

Giant pandas are no longer an endangered species

By Alyssa Braithwaite SBS news

The iconic giant panda (*Ailuropoda melanoleuca*) has just been taken off the endangered species list, following decades of rescue efforts.

According to the latest update to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) [Red List](#), the official status for the panda has changed from 'endangered' to 'vulnerable'.

Conservation efforts by China to protect their habitat and re-establish forests have seen numbers of the animal increase in the wild by 17 per cent over the last decade, and researchers believe there are now around 2000 pandas in the wild.

To read more of the story visit <https://www.sbs.com.au/topics/science/nature/article/2016/09/05/giant-pandas-are-no-longer-endangered-species>



Land for Wildlife



Nest Birds from Birds in Backyards

With spring around the corner its time for many birds to get busy building their nests. So how can you make your garden suitable for nesting birds?

- Plant dense shrubs – yes I harp on about this all the time – but not only do they make great shelter for many birds, they are also a fantastic place for them to build nests. Most small birds in particular like to hide their nests to protect them from predators
- Hang pot plants on the patio – some small birds, like Brown Honeyeaters really like nesting in these
- Don't be too tidy – let the birds gather up fallen sticks and twigs to use in their nests
- Make other materials available – place items like dog hair, laundry lint, dry glass clippings and short pieces of wool out on a platform or in the fork of a tree
- Install a nest box. Don't forget we have a range of plans on the website: <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/Nest-box>
- Keep cats indoors or in a run or have a section of the yard separate from pets that will help any nesting birds feel safe
- Resist the urge to get close to nests too often. If you want to keep an eye on things, think about installing a webcam close by.



Photo by Gaylene Parker

Remember we have lots of information on creating places for birds on the [Birds in Backyards website](#).

Spotted-tailed Quoll by Hollow Log Homes

Species Profile Spotted-tailed Quoll *Dasyurus maculatus* The Spotted-tailed Quoll or Tiger Quoll is the second largest carnivorous marsupial in Australia. It has been described as 'ferocious' and 'very combative and is equipped with a sharp set of canines which it uses to kill a variety of prey. Prey includes birds, rats, and other small terrestrial and arboreal

mammals like possums. It is an agile climber, although it spends most of its time on the floor of sclerophyll forests and rain forests. Males grow up to 759mm and weigh up to 7 kg. Females are much smaller, measuring up to 450mm and weighing up to 4kg. In the past these guys were spread throughout South-east Australia. Now, due to land clearance, over burning of bushland, the spread of cane toads and competition with introduced species like the fox and feral cat, they can be found sparsely between Fraser Island and South-west Victoria. In Tasmania they are more abundant and can be found from sea level to the sub-alps across a range of habitats. These include wet and dry sclerophyll forests, coastal heath and scrub, even in Red Gum forests along inland rivers. In north east Queensland they can be found but are considered endangered from Mt Finnigan to South Atherton Tableland. Spotted-tailed Quolls breed from April to July, Their gestation period is about 21 days and the average litter size is 5. Quolls are primarily a solitary animal. However while nesting, both parents will defend the nesting site together. Nesting sites are made in rock caves, hollow logs or trees. Males are known to bring food for the female while the young are dependent on her for food. While completing surveys for the Pacific Highway upgrade in Northern NSW, a population of Spotted-tailed Quolls was discovered adjacent to a work site. Hollow Log Homes was approached by Roads and Maritime Services NSW to design a box for the Spotted-tailed Quoll. We started the process of designing the box by speaking to experts who have researched denning/breeding behaviour and have successfully bred Spotted-tailed Quolls in captivity. We came up with two designs. One design is big enough for the Quolls to breed in and another design which is smaller to house a single denning animal.



Spotted-tailed quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*) | Photo: Jim Evans. NSW Government Office of Environment & Heritage website

Hollow log homes newsletter http://media.wix.com/ugd/46eab1_c45f6e713ffa4c60b63e336431c65523.pdf

FUNDING

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

You can find more information on available grants on the Brunswick Valley Landcare website including a calendar of all grants expected to be available during 2016. There are also some handy tips on how to be successful with grant applications. Below is a summary of grants which are currently accepting applications and ones that are anticipated to open within the next month.

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

ET Restoration and Rehabilitation Grants



Applications are now open. 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 and pollution, restore habitats and improve the capacity of the community to protect important ecosystems and species. Grants of between \$5,000 and \$100,000 are available.

Applications close at **3pm Monday 26 September 2016**.

More info on past projects and other useful info for planning can be found at

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

Suitable for community groups want to undertake restoration and rehabilitation of our natural resources

DPI Habitat Action Grants



NSW Department of Primary Industries – Fisheries Habitat Action Grants will open on Friday 5 August. Small grants up to \$2,000 and large grants up to \$40,000 are available and need matching funds (in-kind or cash). Applications including recreational fishers as part of the project will be looked on favourably. Projects should improve fish habitat in your area - weeding, revegetation, stock management, erosion control works, fish passage improvements, resnagging.

Applications close on **30th September** at 5pm.

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/habitat/rehabilitating/ahr-grants-program>

Suitable for riparian projects

Community Litter Grants



Community Litter Grants are open to Community Groups and non-for-profit organisations to address a littering issue in their local area.

Funding of up to \$5000 is available for a variety of litter reduction initiatives, including but not limited to:

- Infrastructure updates and/or installations
- Community engagement
- Clean ups
- Litter reduction education

A Handbook with eligibility and step by step instructions, application forms and a range resources are available at <http://knswb.org.au/our-programs/community-litter-grants/>

Applications open until March 1st 2017. *Suitable for community volunteer groups wanting to tackle litter problems*

The Hamer Sprout Fund

Each year, the Hamer Sprout Fund will consider applications from organisations that share the fund's goals. We are particularly interested in giving to smaller organisations and projects to get them off the ground. Please contact us with your ideas and projects – we would love to discuss them with you. The mission of the Hamer Family Sprout Fund is “to build communities inspired to take action for a sustainable future”.



Our aim is to support projects and organisations that:

- Promote innovation in environmental education
- Facilitate engagement in environmental action
- Advocate for environmental sustainability
- Foster collaboration between young people engaged in environmental leadership

Available Funding

A total of \$25,000 is available for the Sprout Grants each year. Up to \$5,000 is available per project, however more (up to \$10,000) may be awarded in exceptional circumstances.

<http://thehamersproutfund.org/>

Grants that are opening soon

Protecting our Places grants

The aim of the Protecting our Places program is to protect land that is culturally significant to Aboriginal people and to support education projects about the environment and its importance in Aboriginal life.

This grant will now reopen early in 2017 <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/pop.htm>

20 Million Trees Programme Grant Round 3

Round Three of the 20 Million Trees Programme will probably open soon. The Programme will support projects that involve the community in re-establishing native vegetation, provide habitat to support our threatened species, sequester carbon from the atmosphere and help to create greener spaces to improve the liveability of Australia's cities and towns. Priority for Round Two will be given to projects with positive outcomes for threatened species and threatened ecological communities listed under the EPBC Act.

More info on past projects and other useful info for planning can be found at

<http://www.nrm.gov.au/national/20-million-trees>

Suitable for tree planting projects



National
Landcare
Programme



Weed of the Month

This month's weed of the month is Coral Berry *Ardisia crenata*.

A small shrub 1-2 m high with leaves that are dull and dark green above, paler below and have even, rounded teeth on the margins. It has small white flowers borne in clusters which are followed by round bright red fruit.

It originates from north east India to Japan. It flowers in autumn and fruits most of the year. It is widely planted in gardens as the fruit are very attractive. When found in bushland it forms dense monocultures as it will grow in full sun as well as deep shade.

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>



Time to treat weeds like Giant devils fig

Giant devils fig is a native of Central America and was introduced to the Far North Coast of New South Wales around 35 years ago. It has been spread extensively by birds and bats to become one of the most serious weed threats on the Far North Coast.

Giant devils fig is a tall perennial woody shrub, 3-4m high. It has thorns similar to a rose plant and long distinct rusty coloured hairy stems and petioles.

It has broad ovate-lobed leaves that finish in a distinct point and are hairy on the underside. The fruit is similar to wild tobacco and is spread via birds and bats.

Senior Noxious Weeds Officer, Rhett Patrick, said spring is a good time for landowners to be treating their land for all weeds, including Giant devils fig (pictured).

'The seriousness of the threat to our bushland cannot be overstated. We share a similar climate to the other locations in the world where this plant has devastated the natural environment.

'Due to the numbers of germinating plants, we know there are many plants on private land in the area and we need the assistance of our community to treat them.'

If you would like to learn more about how to control Giant devils fig control, and other weeds, visit

www.fncw.nsw.gov.au



Further media enquires: Kim Curtis, Extension Officer, Rous County Council
(02) 6623 3847 or 0427 335 502.

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!**

Brunswick Heads Dunecare

WHEN: 4th Sunday of the month 8:00am – 11:00am
WHERE: Meet in North Beach Car Park
CONTACT: Jordan Moore brunswickheadsdunecare@gmail.com 0413 962 468 txt mess pls

Yallakool Reserve Landcare, Ocean Shores

WHEN: each Friday at 8.30 am
WHERE: corner of Yallakool Drive and Warrambool Road, Ocean Shores
CONTACT: Felicity Watson 0467 650 140
or David Kemp dnkemp77@gmail.com 0427 650 861

Green and Clean Awareness Team, Byron Bay

WHEN: 3rd Sunday of the month 9:00am
WHERE: Meet Main Beach, Byron Bay
CONTACT: Veda Turner vedaturner@gmail.com 0427 857 991

Heritage Park Landcare, Mullumbimby

WHEN: alternate Saturdays 9:00am – 11:00 am
WHERE: Heritage Park, Mullumbimby
CONTACT: Diana Hughes bromspot@gmail.com

Jinangong Landcare, Ocean Shores

WHEN: 1st Sunday of the month
WHERE: The Tunnel Road, Ocean Shores
CONTACT: Ian Parer ianparer@hotmail.com

Lower Mullum Creek Landcare, Mullumbimby

WHEN: 2nd Sunday of the month
WHERE: find out from Rita de Heer
CONTACT: Rita de Heer 02 6684 1495 rdeheer1@bigpond.com

South New Brighton Dunecare

WHEN: 1st Friday of the month 1:30pm - 4:30pm
WHERE: Meet at southern end of the Esplanade at the Strand beach access point.
CONTACT: Robyn Bolden robyn.bolden@australis.net 6680 1970

Suffolk Park Dunecare

WHEN: 1st Saturday of the month
CONTACT: Helen Brown hellyh@bigpond.com 6685 4964

Tyagarah Landcare

WHEN: Each Thursday 9:00am – 11:00am
WHERE: 23 Prestons Lane, Tyagarah
CONTACT: Bela Allen bela_allen@yahoo.com 6684 7113

LINKS

- Arakwal <http://arakwal.com.au/>
 - Border Rangers Alliance <http://www.greasternranges.org.au/border-ranges/overview/overview>
 - Bangalow River and Landcare <http://www.bangalowlandcare.org.au/>
 - Big Scrub Landcare <https://www.bigscrubrainforest.org.au/>
 - Brunswick Valley Landcare <http://www.brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/>
 - Byron Bird Buddies <http://www.byronbirdbuddies.com.au/>
 - Byron Community College <http://www.byroncollege.org.au/>
 - Byron Shire Council <http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/>
 - EnviTE www.envite.org.au
 - Environmental Trust <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/envtrust.htm>
 - 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
 - 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
 - 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



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Local Land
Services

