



# Newsletter

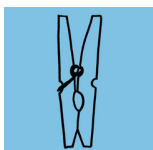
Conserving and restoring from forest to foreshore



This month's Plant Profile, featured on Page 15: Brush Mistletoe (*Amylotheca dictyophleba*) Image: Alison Ratcliffe

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### BRUNSWICK VALLEY LANDCARE IS A REGISTERED CHARITY ON PEGS AND PUBLINC



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



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



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

# BVL NEWS

## Will the real *Melicope* please stand up?

Some of you may recall the December newsletter's '2024 it's a wrap' article, in which we featured an image of a beautiful Pink Euodia and labelled it *Melicope elleryana*.

We were incorrect in identifying the species name and wanted to correct the record. December's image, below left, is in fact Pink Euodia *Melicope rubra*, native to north Queensland. The real *Melicope elleryana* is pictured below, right.

Thanks very much to keen newsletter reader Penny Watsford for writing in to very kindly point out our mistake, having had her own identification experience. Penny considers the *Melicope elleryana* her christmas tree because its festive season flowering, and brings raucous flocks of rainbow lorikeets to feed. Thanks Penny - we love learning, you can never be finished!

Below: Pink Euodia *Melicope rubra* (Nth QLD)  
Image: Alison Ratcliffe



Right: Pink Euodia *Melicope elleryana* (more local)  
Image: Jo Green



### **Euodia fun facts**

In NSW, ***Melicope elleryana*** grows in subtropical rainforest and swamp forest north from the Clarence River. Trees can reach up to 25m in height.

In North QLD, ***Melicope rubra*** occurs in lowland and highland forest, from the Iron Range in the north to the Atherton Tableland in the south. It also extends into Papua New Guinea. It is typically more like a large shrub or small tree, reaching around 6m in height.

*Melicope* is a large genus - did you know that there's more than 200 species occurring in the Pacific islands, Asia, Australia and New Zealand. There are 15 species in Australia. The genus is a member of the Rutaceae family, which includes the boronias and correas as well as citrus fruits, some of which also reach in Australia.



## BVL NEWS

### 'Revegetating Streams in the Brunswick Catchment' Launched!



Thanks to everyone who joined us at Kohinur last Friday, on the land and waters of the Minjungbal People, in the Upper Catchment of Durrumbul, aka the Brunswick River.

The new "Revegetating Streams in the Brunswick Catchment" brochure has been a collaboration between Brunswick Valley Landcare and Byron Shire Council over a year in the making. It's a revision of the original 1997 publication of same name, authored by Raine, Golding & Gardiner. The species list contained has been trebled from that original document's list and that's been informed by ground-truthed surveys in the catchment over the last two decades. The aim is to promote structure and biodiversity in people's revegetation and restoration outcomes.

A big shout out to the people behind this publication – Peter Boyd, Liz Caddick, Jo Green, Dave Filipczyk, John McVicar & Alison Ratcliffe. Credit also to the leadership of Brunswick Valley Landcare's Committee and Council's Biodiversity Team. It's been a true BVL-BSC co-investment and collaboration. Graphic designer Gaby Borgardts of GeeBee Design has done a fabulous job in wrestling a lot of information into such a beautiful format.

Sincere thanks to Dan Aveling and the North Coast Local Land Services Riparian Restoration Team who funded the Launch event and made available guest speakers Shaun Morris and Craig Hart. Shaun & Craig, together with Jo Green and Liz Caddick, shared a wealth of knowledge that really got the room inspired. Morning tea was followed by a field exercise with our experts on the banks of Durrumbil to demonstrate application of the guide as well as restoration principles.

Copies of the brochure are now available from Council's front desk. Digital download is available at: <https://brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/resources/kits-guides/native-plants/>



# BVL NEWS

## Collaboration in action for Durrumbul, Brunswick River

What was very clearly on display at last Friday's "Streams" Launch event was the willingness to collaborate and learn from each other in this most important work ahead, restoring and repairing (where we can) our life-giving river systems.

Which is fantastic, because there is a LOT going across multiple agencies and organisations in this space.

Local Land Services' Riverbank Rehabilitation Project is at work in 11 catchments in NSW, with the North Coast Team working in the Brunswick, Tweed, Richmond, Clarence and Bellingen catchments. [Riverbank Rehabilitation Project](#)

Byron Shire Council continues its multi-faceted Bringing Back the Bruns Program, with Brunswick Valley Landcare as delivery partner in several of these initiatives, and lead on the Caring for Catchments project. [Bringing Back the Bruns](#)

Jagun Alliance's Heal the Rivers Project is focussed on Indigenous-led on ground catchment restoration and culturally informed management practices in the Brunswick, Tweed, Richmond and Clarence catchments. [Heal The Rivers](#)

For more information or to get involved in Heal The Rivers, Jagun Alliance have established a quick 15-question survey form to complete: [Jotform survey](#).

Positive Change for Marine Life have been active in the Brunswick Catchment over the last years with community engagement activities, mangrove restoration, coastal clean ups, water quality monitoring & sustainable fishing advocacy, in partnership with OzFish. [Brunswick River Community Hub](#)

Brunswick River Regeneration Alliance formed in 2024, launching [Bruns River Keepers](#) as a community-driven means to mobilise and connect private landholders in collective action to restore river health and address the impacts of the 2022 Floods.

And beyond our tiny catchment there is significant work underway in the Richmond, Clarence and Tweed.

### **A story about the power of collaboration and the impact it can have**

Eighteen years ago, an old causeway on the Brunswick River was removed. It was the beginning of a project aimed at restoring the river's natural flow. Over the years, four more disused causeways were removed, and two bridges were constructed, systematically opening the waterway.

In 2024 the final piece of the puzzle was completed.

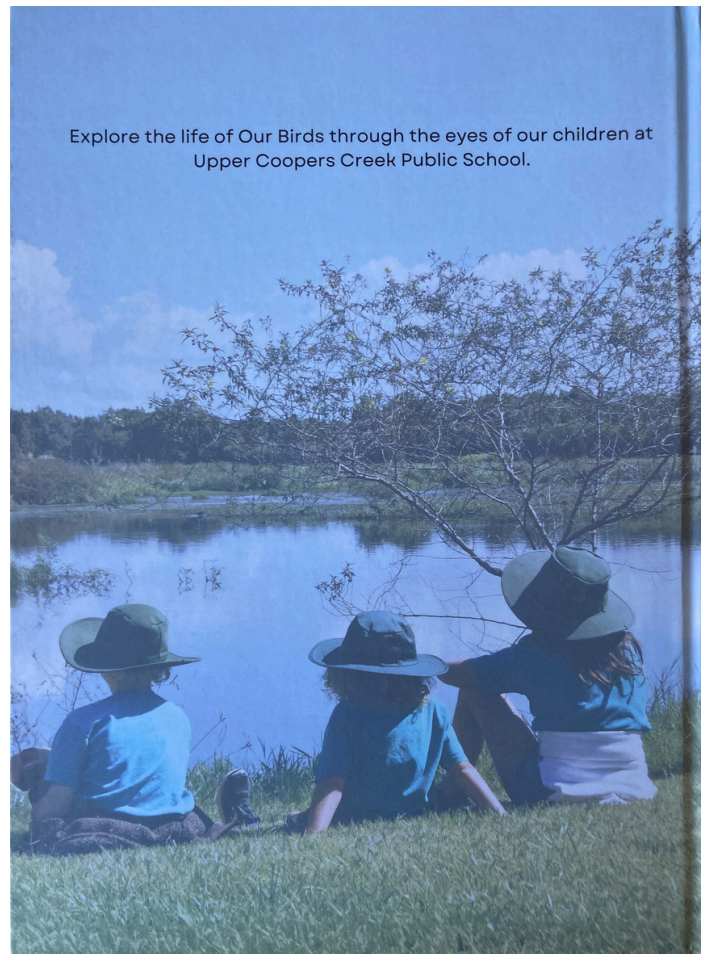
Full story here:

<https://www.marine.nsw.gov.au/news-and-more/newsroom/news/2024-news-stories/bringing-back-the-bruns-last-barrier-to-fish-passage-removed!>



# BVL NEWS

## 'Our Birds' by Upper Coopers Creek Public School



'Our Birds' beautifully-coloured front cover (left) and back cover (right).

It is impossible to not be happy after reading this book. For so many reasons.

Without giving away any spoiler alerts, from the introductory words of the inside cover:

"Our Birds is the result of a six-month long learning journey by the students of Upper Coopers Creek Public School. During this time our students became scientists, authors, artists and all-round bird nerds."

Three cheers for that!

The time, energy and collaboration behind this creation is evident all the way through. Congratulations students, you have captured some astute observations and important species information about your favourite birds, in both written word and colourful pictures. Awesome job to everyone involved!

You can purchase a copy of Our Birds, which is raising funds for Upper Cooper Creek Public School:

@ Made in Mullum, Burringbar Street Mullumbimby

@ Federal General Store, Albert Street Federal

@ Upper Coopers Creek Public School (02) 6688 2128



# BVL NEWS

## Australian Plant Society Far North Coast NSW

Interested in learning more about our region's unique native flora with other people passionate about their cultivation and conservation? Australian Plant Society Far North Coast group host informative newsletters, local Walks & Talks and a bunch of other activities that bring people native plant lovers together.

There are a range of reasonable membership options available from Concession, Ordinary, Joint and Students.

For more information about what's planned for 2025, contact Jo Green or Stephanie Francis at [coffsharbouraps@gmail.com](mailto:coffsharbouraps@gmail.com) noting your location.

<https://austplants.com.au/>

**Australian Plants Society**  
**Far North Coast NSW**

Local natives rare and unusual  
Walks and talks  
Cultivation and conservation  
Education and sharing knowledge  
Promoting and learning about our indigenous plants  
Weekend outings to bush, public and private land  
Local and national newsletters

Contacts  
Jo Green, Stephanie Francis  
[coffsharbouraps@gmail.com](mailto:coffsharbouraps@gmail.com)  
<https://www.austplants.com.au>

*Acacia sophorae*  
*Actinotus helianthi*  
*Alloxylon pinnatum*  
*Banksia serrata*  
*Alveayne hueaelli*  
*Banksia ericifolia*  
*Platycentium superbum*  
*Leptospermum "Outrageous" cv.*  
*Crinum pedunculatum*  
*Hibbertia vestita*  
*Syzigium australe*  
Our Logo  
Syzigium australe / Brush Cherry / Lilly Pilly

Minyon Falls Xmas 2024

*Viminaria juncea*



# BVL NEWS

## NSW DPI Biosecurity update - Fire Ants

No images? [Click here](#)



### Biosecurity Emergency Order (No. 1) 2025:

NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (the Department) has published *Biosecurity (Fire Ant) Emergency Order (No. 1) 2025* on 28 January 2025. This supersedes *Biosecurity (Fire Ant) Emergency Order (No. 17) 2024*, published on 18 December 2024.

There are **no changes to the boundaries of the NSW Fire Ant Infested Area or the Fire Ant Movement Control Areas (Murwillumbah and Wardell)**. *Note:* Movement controls were not deemed necessary following the interception of fire ants in turf at Clunes in November, however, the suspension of turf movement from the *Qld Fire Ant Infested Area* remains.

The Qld Fire Ant Infested Area has increased in size with additions in Grantham, Lower Tenthill, Ma Ma Creek, Placid Hills, Townson, Veradilla, Winwill (Zone 1), Beechmont, and Witheren (Zone 2). A new outlier infestation has occurred at North Arm.

If you are moving the defined fire ant carriers from the parts of QLD and NSW shown in red, orange or yellow on [this map](#), you must comply with the current Emergency Order.

View the [new order](#) and [Plain English Guide](#).

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# BVL NEWS

## Call for Abstracts - Weeds NSW Conference



Port Macquarie August 4 - 7, 2025

Submissions are being invited for the 23rd NSW Weeds Conference in 2 categories:

1. Oral Presentations and Workshops, **due 2 March 2025**
2. Lightning Talks, **due 12 March 2025**

Conference sub-themes include:

- Turning the tide on coastal weeds
- Country and Western Weeds
- All about aquatics
- Cacti: controlling the weeds and the collectors
- Weed surveillance, new and emerging weeds, recording and mapping
- Identifying weeds: tools and techniques
- Control: innovation and research
- Protecting cultural heritage
- Helping native species by managing weeds
- Building capacity and engaging stakeholders
- Funding planning and legislation

Please ensure you read the abstract guidelines prior to making your submissions, available here: <https://www.nswweedsconf.org.au/call-for-abstracts/>

For information and updates about the Conference keep your eyes on: <https://www.nswweedsconf.org.au/>





# BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL NEWS

## Artist announced for Council's Climate Conversations project

Media release published on 31 January 2025

Local Indigenous artist Karla Dickens has been selected for Byron Shire Council's \$5,000 Climate Conversations commission, for her project, Rise and Fall.

Climate Conversations is a creative initiative that invites Northern Rivers artists to collaborate with community and explore ways we can adapt, re-organise, and evolve in the face of climate change through the arts.

The theme for the second iteration of Climate Conversations is 'Rising' and artists were invited to propose a collaborative, community focused project and exhibition. "We received a number of excellent applications that were engaging, thought provoking and innovative," Byron Shire Council's Gallerist, Sarah Harvey, said.

"Given the urgency of our climate situation, it is very encouraging to see so many artists exploring ideas around climate change to generate these important conversations," Ms Harvey said. "We are very excited to have this project coming to Council's Lone Goat Gallery in Byron Bay and the opportunity to work with Karla, who is a nationally recognised artist.

"Karla is a Wiradjuri women who has lived on Bundjalung Country for many years.

"She has a lived experience of the devastation of natural disasters and the ongoing trauma that results. This history directly informs the work she is currently creating. Through her large-scale installations, she conveys the urgent ideas of what it means to fight for survival and change in a world hanging by a thread, where shared responsibility for action is crucial," Ms Harvey said.

Rise and Fall by Karla Dickens, curated by Daniel Mudie Cunningham, and presented by Bondi Pavilion, was proudly commissioned by Waverley Council.

The exhibition will be reimagined for Climate Conversations 2025 and presented at the Lone Goat Gallery in July 2025. Karla is represented by STATION Gallery.

As part of the project, the gallery will present a series of events, talks and workshops to help generate deeper conversations and immersive experiences, highlighting the growing sense of urgency and consciousness to meet climate challenges.

Official opening is 11 July 2025, 5pm - 7pm.

For exhibition and event details, visit: <https://www.lonegoatgallery.com/exhibitions/rise-and-fall>



# BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL NEWS

## Byron Shire Council Wildlife Corridors Interactive Map

If you haven't had the chance yet, check out Council's new wildlife corridor interactive map. Attendees at last Friday's Launch of "Revegetating Streams in the Brunswick Catchment" were treated to a step-by-step demonstration of the new web portal's functionality by Biodiversity Team Leader Liz Caddick.

There's been a lot of thought behind what information you can access and there are easy instructions available to navigate your way. You'll find details about the corridor significance, identified vegetation and geology type, threatened species of flora and fauna - and most importantly, what actions you can take to create and restore habitat. By using the arrows at the bottom of the Info tab, you can access extensive information about the plant species listed to help guide your selection of what to plant.

The wildlife corridor map is non-statutory and is not a land use planning zone. The information available is a tool to learn about how wildlife corridors might impact your land management.

Head to: <https://wildlife-corridors-byron-council.hub.arcgis.com/pages/interactive-map>

**BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL**









**Details** Zoom to

**Info**

**Soils:** Red/brown, well drained, often gravelly, rhyolite derived

**Plant Communities:** Wet Eucalypt Forest, Dry Eucalypt Forest, Rainforest in gullies

**What to Plant:**  
These wet, eucalypt dominated communities can overlap with rainforest in moist gullies, with drier heathy vegetation occurring on exposed ridges. To reduce your fire risk, avoid planting eucalypts and plants with fibrous bark close to your house.

Plant Species	Habit	Growth Rate	Height	Availability	Flower Colour
 <u>Native Ginger</u> ( <i>Alpinea caerulea</i> )	Shrub	Fast	0.5m - 1.0m	Easy to propagate.	White
 <u>Blue Flax Lily</u> ( <i>Dianella longifolia</i> )	Herb/Ground Orchid	Fast	< 0.5m	Only available in some seasons.	Blue/Orange
 <u>Star Goodenia</u> ( <i>Goodenia ovata</i> )	Herb/Ground Orchid	Medium	< 0.5m	Only available in some seasons.	Yellow
 <u>Forest Lobelia</u> ( <i>Lobelia trigonocaulis</i> )	Herb/Ground Orchid	Medium	< 0.5m	Only available in some seasons.	Purple/Blue
 <u>Bush Basil</u> ( <i>Plectranthus graveolens</i> )	Herb/Ground Orchid	Fast	< 0.5m	Only available in some seasons.	Purple/Blue
 <u>Kangaroo Grass</u> ( <i>Themeda australis</i> )	Grass-like Plant	Fast	< 0.5m	Only available in some seasons.	Pink/Yellow
 <u>Lomandra</u> ( <i>Lomandra confertifolia</i> )	Grass-like Plant	Medium	< 0.5m	Only available in some seasons.	Yellow/Brown
 <u>Spiny-headed Mat</u>					

<< Collapse



# REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

## Byron Farmers Network 2025 news

Here's update from Andrew Cameron & Alys Taylor, sharing dates and info about this year's agrarian gathering, as well as a few webinars related to cover cropping and large-scale compost production / application to improve soil health.



### DEEP WINTER *Agrarian Gathering*



Deep Winter Agrarian Gathering  
We're thrilled to announce that Deep Winter 2025 will be hosted by Jonai Farms & Meatsmiths and Tumpinyeri Growers, **7-9 June**, on Djaara Country, where it was first held in 2015. The concept behind Deep Winter is to bring small and medium scale farmers and allies together to connect and collectively discuss our challenges and successes, and share knowledge, experiences, and strategy to deepen our thinking and strengthen our movement for agroecology and food sovereignty.

We couldn't recommend these gatherings more highly! Start planning a winter weekend away in Daylesford and get your tickets now:

[https://www.deepwinter.org/store/tickets?mc\\_cid=78f332cdb0&mc\\_eid=ca7ffa5ded](https://www.deepwinter.org/store/tickets?mc_cid=78f332cdb0&mc_eid=ca7ffa5ded)

### Cover crop online learning opportunity

The National Cover Crop Summit returns **March 18-20** with a can't-miss lineup of today's most successful cover crop adopters, researchers and agronomists. Learn about their seeding strategies, grazing and feeding tips, variety selection secrets and more. Register for access to summit discussions here:

[National Cover Crop Summit Homepage](#)

### Large scale composting to improve soil health

This great Soil Food Web webinar recording discusses the process of improving soil structure through the production and application of compost on a LARGE scale. After watching this webinar you may feel inspired to enrol in [Dr Elaine Ingham's Soil Food Web School](#) or contact John, a local biologist from [Living Earth Biology](#) who can assist you with compost making, microscoping, extraction and application if of interest!

If you have friends or colleagues who would benefit from receiving email updates with news and upcoming events, sign up to the Byron Farmers Network by [registering here](#)

Byron Farmers  
Network



# CRITTER CORNER!

## Latham's Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii*



Image credit: Geoffrey Dabb

We were treated to a delightful surprise discovery at a recent monitoring visit with the landholders at our 2024 Mother's Day planting site. As we moved through the planting towards the southern stream edge, we inadvertently flushed out a small, unusual looking bird from its well-camouflaged spot. It took off like a shot, it's small body distinctly contrasted by the length of its beak.....it was on it's own and definitely not one of the usual suspects previously observed at this site. Could it be.....? I've only ever seen one once before at Byron Wetlands. But this bird seemed smaller than I remembered. And was it crazy to think it could be found inland on the floodplains of Main Arm?

An excited quick message to Jan and Vicki at Byron Bird Buddies helped confirm the query - yes, it is Latham's Snipe migratory period and yes they have previously been locally observed as far inland as Rosebank and Alstonville. Vicki said that what we'd observed was quite typical for a 'flushing' of the bird - they are a small bird and seem even smaller when flying. That beak was the clincher. Byron Bird Buddies were scheduled to be out the very next day surveying for Latham's Snipes at Byron Wetlands, Seapeace and Belongil. Neat timing - the location of this bird could be included as additional sighting.

Following some further research, it turns out that not much is known about the birds' movements whilst they visit Australia. They migrate all the way from Hokkaido in northern Japan to south-eastern Australia each year in August - September, tracing the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. They're here in Australia to feed in shallow wetlands along the eastern seaboard before returning to Japan for their breeding season in March and April. There have been Latham's Snipe records as far inland as the border region with western NSW / NE South Australia and SW Queensland! Ok, now our interest is piqued!

*continued over.....*

# CRITTER CORNER

## Latham's Snipe *Gallinago hardwickii*

### Description:

Latham's Snipe is the largest snipe in Australia, with cryptic, mainly brown, plumage. The bill is long and straight, the wings rather short and pointed and the tail is long. It has short legs and when folded, the wings project well past the tail, giving a pointed look. The upper body is boldly patterned with black, brown and white. There is a bold narrow dark brown cheek stripe and dark line through the eye. The sexes are similar and, unlike most migratory waders, do not show a lot of seasonal variation. The eyes are set well back on the distinctive rounded head. Snipe are very shy and wary and burst from cover when disturbed, zig-zagging off with a very fast flight, with a 'crek' call, before dropping to cover again. This is often the first indication that they are around, as they are usually well-camouflaged when still. This species is also known as the Japanese Snipe.



Image credits: L: a captured Snipe part of Latham's Snipe Project (Lori Gould) and R: camouflage skills (P.Straw)

### Habitat:

Latham's Snipe are seen in small groups or singly in freshwater wetlands on or near the coast, generally among dense cover. They are found in any vegetation around wetlands, in sedges, grasses, lignum, reeds and rushes and also in saltmarsh and creek edges on migration. They also use crops and pasture.

### Feeding:

Latham's Snipe feed by thrusting their long bill into mud with an up and down 'sewing machine' action in soft mudflats or shallow water. They roost in the day and feed at night, early morning or evening. They are omnivorous, eating seeds and plant material, worms, spiders and insects, some molluscs, isopods and centipedes.

### Breeding:

Latham's Snipe breeds in Japan and on the East Asian mainland, on dry ground such as grassy hillsides and forest clearings. The males have spectacular display flights, rising in the air and then diving to the ground, in courtship or to defend territory. The female incubates in a shallow depression lined with grasses and leaves.

### Did you know?

When breeding in Japan, Latham's Snipe have spectacular display flights and are called 'Thunder Birds' for the drumming noise made by their outer tail feathers.

Information sourced from Birds In Backyards and ABC news article:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-05-12/latham-snipe-migration-project-takes-flight/7408292>



# BVL NEWS

## Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital

### Urgent call out - fresh food for injured wildlife patients

Did you know that the dedicated staff at Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital need 2 - 3 wheely bins' full, twice per week, of fresh native plant leaves, fruits and nectar-full flowers to feed their injured patients. So many of our wildlife rely on them - koalas, gliders, possums, flying foxes and all manner of birds.

For the koalas, preference is for at least three varieties of koala tree food every time - locally that means Tallowwood, Swampbox, Swamp Mahogany, Forest Red Gum, Flooded Gum, Spotted Gum, River Red Gum, Grey Gum and Small-Fruited Grey Gum.

For other wildlife species, a mix of grevilleas, callistemon, acacia, lilly pily and melaleuca are needed. Preference for all supplied vegetation is for branches at minimum length 1m and cut on an angle please. For more information, contact Annette [annette@byronbaywildlifehospital.org](mailto:annette@byronbaywildlifehospital.org)



You are not seeing double....this is the amount of food needed each week to help keep patients well-fed on their road to recovery



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## Byron Bird Buddies monthly programs

Due to timing of February's newsletter we've unfortunately missed a number of Byron Bird Buddies' scheduled February events. To never miss an opportunity to attend one of their many and regular bird outings / surveys, contact Jan to request to be added to the email list

OR keep your eyes posted on the Byron Bird Buddies website

Email: [byronbirdbuddy@gmail.com](mailto:byronbirdbuddy@gmail.com)

Web: <https://www.byronbirdbuddies.com.au/>

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# PLANT PROFILE

## Brush Mistletoe *Amylotheca dictyophleba*



Images: Alison Ratcliffe

Ah, the ever mysterious and (unfortunately) sometimes maligned mistletoe. This fine specimen, Brush Mistletoe *Amylotheca dictyophleba* we found recently on a baseline monitoring visit to one of the riparian restoration sites. Mistletoe is a parasite that grows on the branches or roots of other plants to steal nutrients and water but it rarely harms the tree it grows on.

**PlantNET Description:** Spreading to pendent shrub, glabrous.

Leaves lanceolate to elliptic, 6–13 cm long, 20–60 mm wide, apex acute to rounded, base attenuate or contracted, upper surface usually shining, lower surface dull, reticulate venation distinct; petiole 2–8 mm long.

Inflorescence axis slender, 5–14 mm long, rarely to 28 mm, with 1–6 decussate pairs of triads or single flowers on peduncle usually 4–8 mm long; pedicels of lateral flowers, if present, 2–4 mm long; bracts 1 mm long. Corolla in mature bud 28–38 mm long, inflated in middle, acute, usually red, often grading into green in upper part and yellow at apex. Style articulate 1–3 mm above base.

Fruit globose, 5–10 mm diam. red or purple.

flowers usually in summer.

Distribution: Parasitic on many species of rainforest trees; north from the Illawarra region.

NSW subdivisions: NC, CC.

Brush Mistletoe *Amylotheca dictyophleba* belongs to the *Loranthaceae* family - interestingly there are other mistletoes that belong to the *Viscaceae* family.

According to Systematic Botanist Dr Andrew Barrett of Botanic Gardens Sydney, "....in Australia we have about 90 different species. Mistletoe are over 30 million years old and there has been a lot of debate about where they originally came from and how they are now found in so many different parts of the world."

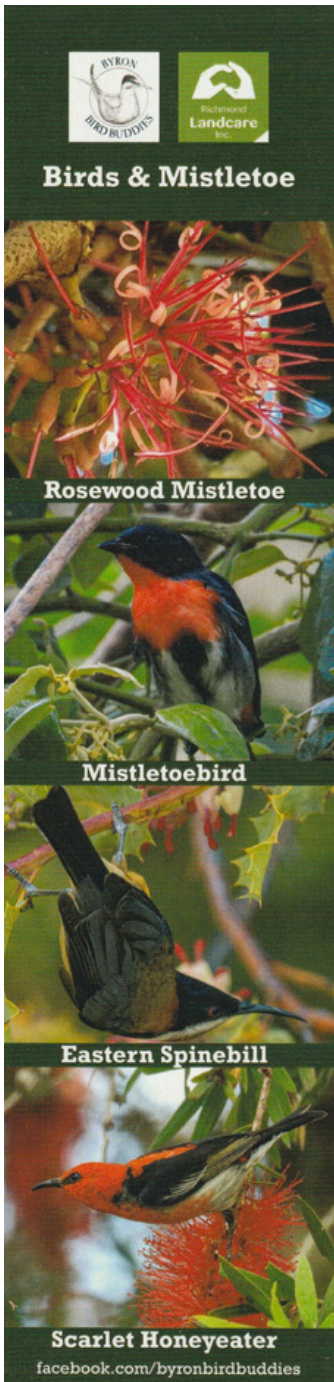
Using DNA technology and fossil records, Dr Barrett's team found that the origin of mistletoe is in fact Australia, or at least the part of Australia that was attached to Gondwana.

*Continued over....*



# PLANT PROFILE

## Brush Mistletoe *Amylotheca dictyophleba*



Handy mistletoe bookmarks, produced by Byron Bird Buddies

There are over 90 species of Mistletoe in Australia

One species, the *Rosewood Mistletoe (Amyema plicatula)* – is listed as endangered in New South Wales (NSW). It only occurs within fragmented patches of remnant Big Scrub rainforest. Like most mistletoe plants in Australia, it is semi-parasitic, depending mainly on Rosewood (*Dysoxylum fraserianum*) & Hairy Rosewood (*Dysoxylum rufum*) trees.

- 1. Threats:** Land clearing for agriculture, forest operations, removal or damage to mistletoe or host trees, weed invasion & change to fire regimes.
- 2. Symbiotic Relationship:** Most Australian mistletoe species do not harm their host trees. Instead, they form a symbiotic relationship by drawing water & nutrients from the host while producing their energy through photosynthesis.
- 3. Ecological Importance:** Mistletoe provides essential resources for various species, including nectar, edible flowers, fruit, & leaves. Birds like the mistletoebird, honeyeaters, fairy-wrens, & parrots rely on mistletoe for food & nesting sites. Gliders, bats, possums & jezebel butterflies are also mistletoe-feeders.
- 4. Seed Dispersal:** The mistletoebird plays a critical role in seed dispersal. After consuming mistletoe fruit, it passes the seeds within 15-20 minutes. Interestingly, the bird's sticky droppings help dislodge the seeds as it wipes its bum on the branch!

If you encounter the *Rosewood Mistletoe (Amyema plicatula)*, please contact: [info@richmondlandcare.org](mailto:info@richmondlandcare.org)  
Photography by **Rodney Falconer** (birds), **David Fell** (mistletoe) & produced by **Byron Bird Buddies**.  
[byronbirdbuddy@gmail.com](mailto:byronbirdbuddy@gmail.com)

As far as plants go, mistletoe is quite remarkable because it relies exclusively on birds to spread its seeds.

"The mistletoe bird feeds off the berries of the mistletoe plant, and in return for this constant food source, the birds have evolved to be the perfect carrier and distributor of the seeds within, since it eats the seeds and then deposits them on the branch of another tree, usually within minutes," said Dr Barrett.

However, the mistletoe bird is relative newcomer and only arrived in Australia about one to two million years ago from Asia. So how did mistletoe make its way from Australia to the rest of the world?

"Mistletoe got to Asia from Australia somewhere in the order of about 25 million years ago during a time when Australia and Asia were still quite separated, but the first islands were being pushed up between them."

There were only pigeons and cuckoos in Australia around during this time and they are the only birds really capable of fly between 500-1000km.

The theory is that due to the high sugar content in mistletoe fruit, it's likely it sustained them on their long cross ocean voyages between Australia and Asia.

You can read more on Dr Barrett's work, including fascinating information on traditional uses of mistletoe by First Nations people. There's also a podcast available, visit:

<https://www.botanicgardens.org.au/discover-and-learn/watch-listen-read/mistletoe-festive-freaky-parasite>

Dr David Watson from Charles Sturt University has excellent information on mistletoe's role in Australia's ecosystem, available here: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-12-20/the-misunderstood-magical-mistletoes-of-australia/11505510>





# SNIPPETS

## **How sharing stories about river restoration can inspire others to take care of waterways**

Article published by The Conversation, November 29, 2024

Water is the lifeblood of our planet. But in Aotearoa New Zealand, a staggering two-thirds of the rivers monitored for water quality are classified as unswimmable. Only 2% of large lakes are deemed to be in "good health". Many people care deeply about the land and water, and their intricate, collective knowledge is a powerful force for change. Collective storytelling as a tool for freshwater restoration

Full story here: <https://theconversation.com/how-sharing-stories-about-river-restoration-can-inspire-others-to-take-care-of-waterways-241359>

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## **Dancing turtles help us understand how they navigate around the world**

Article by Chris Simms, published by New Scientist, February 12, 2025

Some turtles "dance" when they anticipate food, which gives us clues as to how they navigate from A to B. Full story here:

<https://www.newscientist.com/article/2468029-dancing-turtles-help-us-understand-how-they-navigate-around-the-world/>

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## **'University of Queensland researchers say study could show how rainforests will react to climate change**

Article Julius Dennis published by ABC News 17 February 2025

The study shows how trees "survive and thrive" in different climates.

Researchers looked at more than 300 tree species between Gladstone and Ballina.

Researchers say the study can be used to make future predictions about what rainforests will look like in a warmer future.

Full story here: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-02-17/university-of-queensland-rainforest-study-climate-change/104936512>

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## **Making a Home for Science Saving Rainforests**

Article by Big Scrub Conservancy published December 24, 2024

Earlier this year, we took possession of 38-acres in McLeans Ridges which will become the home of Science Saving Rainforests and the Conservancy. Since then we've launched into action, starting to prepare the site for the plantation of genetically-diverse rainforest trees and working on a master plan for the landscaping and educational facilities that will also occupy the land.

Full story here:

<https://bigscrubrainforest.org/news/ssr-update-making-a-home-for-science-saving-rainforests/>

Science Saving Rainforests Project: <https://bigscrubrainforest.org/science-saving-rainforests/>

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# EVENTS & WORKSHOPS



**The Mullumbimby and District Neighbourhood Centre (MDNC)** has launched its 2025 community conversations with the series Mullum Together.

Exploring what matters to residents and how to achieve it collaboratively, the calendar of community discussions invites a diversity of voices which are not often heard to help shape the community's future.

Sessions are scheduled for **February 5, 10, 20 and 24, and March 7, 12, 17, and 22.**

Sessions are limited to 10 people per conversation.

To book a seat at the table, call Mel at 0499 983 757 or Courtney at 0499 457 466, or email [communitydevelopment@mdnc.org.au](mailto:communitydevelopment@mdnc.org.au)



**Thursday 27 February, 2025 9.30am - 11.30am [QLD time]**

Just over the border at Griffith University, Gold Coast (also available as an online session), this free workshop is being offered by The Glossy Black Conservancy.

Female Glossy Black-Cockatoos are fondly referred to as Flossies. Individual Flossies can be identified by their distinctive yellow feather patterns. The Flossy Finders project is an initiative with two primary objectives: to inspire citizen scientists to participate in hands-on data collection and to uncover valuable new insights into Glossy Black-Cockatoo populations.

The workshop will cover:

- ✓ Techniques for photographing wildlife safely and ethically
- ✓ Insights into the specific shots needed for identifying individual Glossies
- ✓ Pro photography tips for capturing incredible wildlife images
- ✓ A chance to contribute your work to the Flossy Finders project

To reserve your spot head to: [bit.ly/FFWorkshop\\_Register](https://bit.ly/FFWorkshop_Register)

For those registering to attend online, a link will be sent a day or two prior to the seminar.



# WEED OF THE MONTH

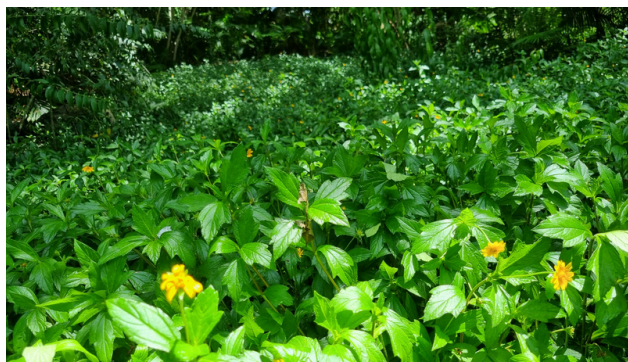
## Singapore Daisy *Sphagneticola trilobata*

Sources: Brisbane City Council Weed Identification Tool and NSW WeedWise

A recent trip from Northern Rivers to Brisbane highlighted just how rampant Singapore daisy is. Singapore daisy (*Sphagneticola trilobata*) is regarded as a significant environmental weed in Queensland, and a minor or potential environmental weed in New South Wales and Western Australia. In Queensland it was recently listed as a priority environmental weed in three Natural Resource Management regions. This species is also listed in the Global Invasive Species Database (GISD) and is regarded to be among the top 100 of the world's worst invasive alien species.

Singapore daisy spreads quickly, mostly by plant fragments, and:

- smothers other low growing plants
- competes with vegetable crops, reducing yields
- outcompetes native plants, especially in forests
- reduces food and habitat for native animals



### Habitat:

A weed of urban bushland, closed forests, forest margins, open woodlands, waterways, lake margins, wetlands, roadsides, disturbed sites, waste areas, vacant lots, and coastal sand dunes in tropical and sub-tropical regions. It may also encroach into lawns, footpaths and parks from nearby gardens. So basically, EVERYWHERE!!!

**IMPORTANT:** Stem fragments readily take root where they come into contact with the ground and can develop into new plants. Such segments are commonly spread in dumped garden waste, by mowing and slashing, and during floods.

**CONTROL:** NSW WeedWise advises that successful weed control relies on follow up after the initial efforts. This means looking for and killing regrowth or new seedlings. Using a combination of control methods (physical and chemical) is usually more successful.

NSW WeedWise advice is available here: <https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/SingaporeDaisy>

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# WORKING BEES

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

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

Bangalow Land and Rivercare, Bangalow

WHEN: every Saturday 8:30am

WHERE: find out from

CONTACT: Noelene Plummer [bangalowlandcare@gmail.com](mailto:bangalowlandcare@gmail.com) 0431 20 0638 6687 4470

Friends of Lilli Pilli (Byron Bay)

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

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

CONTACT: Deb Jorgensen [deborah.jorgensen60@gmail.com](mailto:deborah.jorgensen60@gmail.com) 0434 254 802

Green and Clean Awareness Team, Byron Bay

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

WHERE: Meet Main Beach, Byron Bay

CONTACT: Peter Farmakis [peter.farmakis@gmail.com](mailto:peter.farmakis@gmail.com) 0488 715 565

Heritage Park Landcare, Mullumbimby

WHEN: Saturdays 9:00am – 11:00 am

WHERE: Heritage Park, Mullumbimby

CONTACT: Diana Hughes [bromspot@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:ianparer@hotmail.com)

Mullum Town Landcare, Mullumbimby

WHEN: Morning of last Sunday of the month

WHERE: find out from John Tann

CONTACT: John Tann [johntann99@gmail.com](mailto:johntann99@gmail.com)

Ocean Shores Landcare, Ocean Shores

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

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

CONTACT: David Kemp [dnkemp77@gmail.com](mailto:dnkemp77@gmail.com) 0427 650 861

Suffolk Park Dunecare

WHEN: 8.30 - 10.30 every fourth Sunday of the month

WHERE: find out from:

CONTACT: Rebekah O'Flaherty [rebekahoflaherty@gmail.com](mailto:rebekahoflaherty@gmail.com) 0428 942 903

Tallowood Ridge Locality Landcare

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

WHERE: Tallowood Ridge Estate, Mullumbimby

CONTACT: Joanne McMurtry [jmcmurtry@bigpond.com](mailto:jmcmurtry@bigpond.com)

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

# LINKS

- Arakwal <http://arakwal.com.au/>
- Australian Association of Bush Regenerators <http://aabr.org.au>
- Border Rangers Alliance [http://www.greasterranges.org.au/border\\_ranges/overview/overview](http://www.greasterranges.org.au/border_ranges/overview/overview)
- Bangalow Koalas <http://www.bangalowkoalas.com.au/>
- Bangalow River and Landcare <http://www.bangalowlandcare.org.au/>
- Big Scrub Landcare <https://www.bigscrubrainforest.org.au/>
- Brunswick Valley Landcare <http://www.brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/>
- Byron Bird Buddies <http://www.byronbirdbuddies.com.au/>
- Byron Community College <http://www.byroncollege.org.au/>
- Byron Shire Council <http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/>
- EnviTE [www.envite.org.au](http://www.envite.org.au)
- Environmental Trust <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/envtrust.htm>
- Friends of the Koala [www.friendsofthekoala.org](http://www.friendsofthekoala.org)
- Federal Landcare Inc [federalandcare@gmail.com](mailto:federalandcare@gmail.com)
- 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/>

**For information about Landcare or other natural resource issues in Byron shire please contact**



**Landcare Coordinator, Alison Ratcliffe 0421 244 640**  
[info@brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au](mailto:info@brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au)

**[www.brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au](http://www.brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au)**

