



# Newsletter

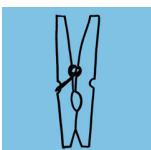
Conserving and restoring from forest to foreshore



**Waiting for Alfred.....**

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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

All of us at BVL hope that you weathered the impacts of Alfred ok.

We're grateful for the warnings, the time to prepare and all the work that relevant agencies, both state & local, performed in keeping people safe.

A massive volunteer effort, again - a shout out to all of the emergency service and community volunteers out there, filling sandbags, organising local networks, responding to calls, checking in on neighbours, feeding hungry workers. Thank you.

The time, however, did seem to drag as Cyclone Alfred stalled, slowed then stalled again in its path. Whilst the predicted major flooding did not eventuate, the clean up continues. A lot of trees down.

If you haven't already seen further information on where to go in acquiring forms of assistance, the below may be of help:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/emergency/tropical-cyclone-alfred-recovery-updates/grants-payments-and-financial-support>

## Landcare NSW Natural Disaster Resource Hub

The last few years in the Northern Rivers have been direct lived experience of the turmoil a changing climate creates. The preceding years too, one could argue. Drought, fires, extreme rainfall events, floods, landslips, and now the risk of cyclonic events. It can feel a little exhausting. But there is one thing Landcarers do very well - respond to what's in front of them, share experiences, expertise and knowledge as a community and take practical measures together in the face of what threatens our natural and human environment.

Note image R:  
Screenshot  
image, not a live  
link - you'll find  
the Resource  
Hub link directly  
below



<https://landcarensw.org.au/natural-disasters/>

Landcare NSW has developed an online Natural Disaster Resource Hub. If you haven't seen it yet, please check it out. The Hub features a suite of videos and Fact Sheet resources featuring nature-based solutions - sustainable strategies that harness the power of nature - to reduce disaster risks and help adapt to changing conditions. If you have questions after reviewing material, get in touch with us.



# BVL NEWS

## Blackwater

In the wake of organic debris moved about by swollen streams, creeks and rivers, one additional thing came to our attention: the post-flood phenomenon of blackwater. In 2020 Rous County Council & Ballina Shire Council published a technical note on blackwater, based on a collaborative research project in specific reference to the Richmond River Estuary, conducted under Dr Leigh Sullivan (Authors C. Clay, S. Acret & L.A. Sullivan 2020).

Whilst the terms of reference are specifically in relation to conditions of the Richmond River and floodplains, the phenomenon of blackwater is not exclusive to that system.

### What is blackwater?

- On the Richmond floodplain, blackwater is usually dark in colour (due to the breakdown of plants and other organic matter) and contains little or no oxygen.
- The organic matter in blackwater can consume large amounts of dissolved oxygen, and if mixed into rivers and creeks can deoxygenate waterways.
- Blackwater has a very unpleasant smell.

The Rous County Council & Ballina Shire Technical data sheet is available via the link below. It steps you through the harmful impacts of blackwater and mitigation strategies to minimise its formation:

<https://rous.nsw.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Technical-note-Blackwater-ARC-Project-May-2020-1.pdf>

Direct impacts of blackwater on aquatic species in the Richmond following Cyclone Alfred have already been reported to OzFish, featured in Guardian Aust article:

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2025/mar/16/thousands-of-fish-die-in-cyclone-hit-northern-rivers-amid-reports-of-eels-and-crabs-fleeing-blackwater>

Further information is also available from the NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/publications/about-blackwater>



Image courtesy of OzFish



# BVL NEWS

## John's Forest - celebrated



Pictured, L-R: Jo Green, Diana Hughes, John Purssey, Alex Eunson, Annie Mullins



Pictured, Annie Mullins with Linda Meades, Ruth Laxton, Jo McMurtry, David Kemp, Jo Green and John Purssey.

Article contributed by Jo Green

John's Forest is a patch of subtropical rainforest on the creek between the Bowling Club and Mullumbimby High School. The site has beautiful remnant trees, including a Red Pear Fruit (*Mischocarpus australis*) and Coolamon (*Syzygium moorei*).

John's Forest was first identified by John Bailey as a very special piece of riparian rainforest. In the early 2000's, John researched and managed to reverse the decision to clear it and put demountable classrooms there or bottle returns, car parks and the like.

Mullumbimby Town Landcare worked at the site for many years, with contributions from Landcarers Carole Gamble, Jude Alcorn and John Purssey. More recently it has been regenified (a new term meaning 'high level regeneration of native species' by the Byron Shire Council Bush Regen Team. The site is virtually weed free with lovely native groundcovers. It is small but there are some fantastic old trees and the patch connects to the "Trees for Fish" planting and other riparian restoration sites along Mullumbimby Creek.

Saving this patch of bush was crucial to the riparian connection all along Mullumbimby Creek and Saltwater Creek to Mullumbimby. Hence the reason for a sign to ensure the patch remains recognised for its specialness into the future.

Recently, the site has been identified under native title, Arakwal of Bundjalung.

A morning tea for the launch of the sign and appreciation of the Forest was held on Feb 23rd with about 20 friends of John Bailey and Landcare in attendance. Jo Green and Annie Mullins spoke about the site history and thanked all for attending. Then followed an exploration of the site, along the creek and to look at the amazing regeneration and native species. John's ashes were spread across the site.

A special thank you to all who donated towards production of the sign and to John Tann, Merrick Alderton and Alex Eunson for installation of the sign and to the Byron Shire Council Bush Regeneration Team Dave, John, Sean and Curtis for the new fence and continued maintenance of the riparian zone along Mullumbimby Creek.



# BVL NEWS

## Rainforest Connection Conference June 2024 **Conservation | Restoration | Innovation**

Conference content now available



Image: NSW DCCEEW

2024's Rainforest Connections Conference back in June was the first held in over two decades, dedicated to the restoration, rehabilitation, and management of Australia's unique rainforest habitats. The event connected 300+ delegates from a wide range of backgrounds including scientists, program managers, on-ground practitioners, community members and specialists implementing projects in the field.

Rainforest Connections organisers, NSW Government in partnership with Saving our Species, have now made Conference Speakers' presentation slides available. Without accompanying Speaker's content, some require a little more interpretation than others but no doubt, you'll find plenty of inspo for further reading.

Make yourself a cuppa and settle in. You may wish to dedicate a weekend or two....

To navigate your way through the full program of specialist topics visit:

<https://rainforestconnections.com.au/program>

To find slide presentations available to view or download visit:

<https://rainforestconnections.com.au/presentations>



# BVL & Byron Shire Council NEWS

## Mullum's Heritage Park upgrades unveiled

Content sourced from BSC Media Release published 3 March, with BVL's President Pete & Harry in attendance

An \$850,000 upgrade of sections of Heritage Park is almost complete and was unveiled on March 3.

The Byron Shire Council received \$500,000 for this project from the Community Assets Program, jointly funded by the Australian and NSW Governments under the Disaster Recovery Arrangements.

The project included seating and a renewed accessible pathway and boardwalk through the park and along the river, linking the entrance at Brunswick Terrace to the playground at Mill Street. With an additional \$350,000 investment, Council funded improvements to Heritage Park with new play equipment designed to test the climbing skill of older children, as well as smaller features to stimulate and encourage imaginative and nature-based play.

When you next visit, keep your eyes peeled for some new artwork features in the Arboretum too.



Above: Mayor Ndiaye & Richmond MP Justine Elliot on hand for the the ribbon cutting (Image: BSC ); Above R: Heritage Park Landcare crew w Peter Maslen; Below L: speeches; below R: don't forget to look up! (Images: Harry Hackett)



# Projects update

## Riparian Restoration Planting at Dingo Lane Farms

Plantings have commenced under the Northern Rivers Watershed Initiative (NRWI), a catchment and estuary restoration program developed by Rous County Council and led by Byron Shire Council in the Brunswick Catchment, supported by BVL in aspects of project delivery.

At this site, livestock have been fenced out of a farm dam and adjacent creek lines. Planting of 550 trees and 300 lomandra within the fenced area will further improve water infiltration and water quality, will slow water flows and increase water storage capacity, as well as creating wildlife habitat and a linkage between the adjacent remnant and planted vegetation. Huge thanks to the friends of Dingo Lane Farms who volunteered their time to plant. We all got very spoiled with morning tea.....



....continued over.....



Images: Duncan James & Harry Hackett





# BVL NEWS



Gold Coast Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre  
Sunday September 21 - 24, 2025

The theme for the 2025 National Landcare Conference is Landcare: Nature, Agriculture, Land and People Positive which affirms the inclusivity of landcare, showcasing that the landcare ethos is truly for everyone.

**QUICK - Early Bird registrations close Tuesday 1 April**

<https://nationallandcareconference.org.au/>

**Call for Abstracts is open until 17 April**

Call for Abstracts Streams are:

- \* Nature Repair and Climate Adaptation
- \* Technology and Innovation for Landcare
  - \* Community-Driven Landcare
- \* Restoring Biodiversity Across Landscapes
  - \* Sustainable Agriculture and Soil Health
  - \* NextGen Landcare

The call for abstracts campaign is open to volunteers, landcare groups and other community-led environmental groups, Traditional Owners and First Nations organisations, land and sea Indigenous rangers, landholders and farmers, researchers and academics, government organisations, and young adults. Also eligible are organisations involved in protecting, enhancing, restoring and educating others about the natural environment in their local community through sustainable land management and conservation activities.

This year's conference kicks off with a NextGen Landcare Summit for people aged 18-35 years as a free event for young adults. People aged 35 years or over the delegate ticket is \$100. This event is a platform for emerging leaders to showcase fresh perspectives and how we can drive the landcare movement forward.

First Nations Landcare Gathering

The First Nations Landcare Working Group, the advisory group to the Landcare Australia Board, will host this special event on the Gold Coast, a free event for First Nations Peoples.

<https://nationallandcareconference.org.au/>



# Byron Shire Council News

## Results from Clean Up Australia Day are in

Media release published 20 March

At the beginning of March, Council, Positive Change for Marine Life (PCFML) and local eco-warriors participated in a Clean Up Australia Day event at Brunswick Heads. The results are now in and over 1,100 pieces of rubbish (weighing around 100kg) were collected, as part of the event!

Jordyn de Boer, Council's Litter and Illegal Dumping Prevention Officer, said that hundreds of pieces of plastic waste were among the items collected. "Hard, soft and mixed plastic items accounted for about half of the items collected in Brunswick Heads at the start of March. Things like bottle caps, food containers, and dog poo bags and toys, were some of the top items found," Ms de Boer said.

Some of the other key items collected included:

- Over 185 cigarette butts
- Almost 150 metal items, including over 50 aluminium cans
- Over 100 paper/carboard items
- Over 30 glass bottles
- Many fishing related items including buoys, floats, lines, and sinkers

"Litter like this can wash into our waterways, which can cause great harm to our marine life. Cigarette butts were again one of the top items found, after plastics, which is so disappointing. "We also encourage our dog owners to be responsible for their pet's waste, and to those that are fishing, please be responsible! "Basically, our message to everyone is just to put your items in the bin, after enjoying our parks, rivers and beaches," she said.

Lucy Jepson, PCFML's Community and Partnerships Coordinator, said that that single use items, are still highly relied upon, and sadly they are often left behind. "Single-use items are still widely used, and unfortunately, they often end up as litter," Ms Jepson said.

"You may have noticed more rubbish around after the cyclone. It's a reminder of the impact our everyday choices can have. By choosing reusable options and ensuring waste is disposed of properly, we can all help reduce litter and protect our environment," she said.

Council and PCFML would like to thank everyone that participated in the event and other events throughout the shire. There were 10 other events registered. This included local community groups, schools and local businesses. Byron Bird Buddies collected around 100kg of waste near the Brunswick River.

"Data collected from these events will contribute to broader efforts in tackling litter in order to protect our beautiful environment," said Ms de Boer.

"We're already tackling it with programs like [Move to Reuse](#), which encourages people to go back to basics and replace single use items with reusables. People can find out more about Council's waste initiatives on Council's website," she said.



# REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

## Understanding connection between soil fungi and orchard health

*article courtesy of US source: Understanding Ag, written by Chuck Schembre*

All orchard crops –fruit trees, nut crops, grapes and berries– are perennial plants which have developed a strong symbiotic relationship with fungal life, both in the soil and the plant canopy.

Without a healthy and diverse microbial community of fungi, perennial crops cannot develop a strong immune system and natural defenses against disease and pest. The physiology of trees, including photosynthesis, the uptake of nutrients, the synthesis of proteins and carbohydrates, and ability to resist disease and pests have evolved in coexistence with the presence of mycorrhizae and saprophytic fungi, among many other soil microbial species.

What may be of most importance is the role of soil fungi, and their role in providing perennial crops many forms of trace elements which are foundational to complete plant nutrition and plant health function.

Full story available here:

[https://understandingag.com/understanding-the-connection-between-soil-fungi-and-orchard-health/?fbclid=IwY2xjawJEdrxleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHQU0IIzytoKuY--ltfktmPtXvOVuVJlsn-bH\\_zcqiM9qNJE8Rz8wcCY1nA\\_aem\\_1teRirmkjfD\\_iNKmKYbSDQ](https://understandingag.com/understanding-the-connection-between-soil-fungi-and-orchard-health/?fbclid=IwY2xjawJEdrxleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHQU0IIzytoKuY--ltfktmPtXvOVuVJlsn-bH_zcqiM9qNJE8Rz8wcCY1nA_aem_1teRirmkjfD_iNKmKYbSDQ)

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## Save the date - Sunday 11 May 2025

BVL's 14th Annual Mother's Day planting

Details coming soon



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# CRITTER CORNER!

## Leafcutter Bee

Genus *Megachile* of Family *Megachilidae*



Image: Bruce Hulbert, Aust Museum



How neat is that?? Image: Erica Siegel

### **Habitat & distribution**

There are about 27 species of leafcutter bees in Australia. They are found in all states and mainland territories, in both coastal and drier inland areas. A single species is found on Lord Howe Island. Leafcutters are solitary bees. They can be found in a variety of habitats - urban gardens, forests, woodlands, and heathlands.

### **I.D.**

Different species of leafcutter bees have different markings. They range in size from 6-15 mm and most are black with white or orange-gold stripes of hair on their abdomen.

Male Leafcutter bees have highly modified feet with a number of dark markings.

Females usually have stout mandibles for cutting leaves, large heads in proportion to the body, and stout parallel-sided abdomens.

Leafcutter bees carry dry pollen on special bristles under their abdomen.

Bee watchers often first discover leafcutter bees when they notice rows of neat circular or elongated cuts on the edges of some leaves in their garden. Leafcutter bees use the discs of leaf to build their nests. They particularly like the soft leaves of desmodiums, sennas, roses, ginger, bauhinia, buddleia and bananas. They very quickly snip the leaf and then carry it in between their legs to their nest site.

I happened to notice one at my place as she approached a chair on the verandah and made her way into her chosen nest cavity - the small opening of fabric covering metal side strut of a camping chair!

*continued over.....*

# CRITTER CORNER

## Leafcutter Bee

Genus *Megachile* of Family *Megachilidae*



Images: L: she's on approach; Centre: adjusting position for entry; R: in she goes with precious leaf cargo

### Breeding behaviours:

It is believed that during courtship the male leafcutter bee passes his feet over the female's eyes in a rubbing motion. She uses the patterns to identify the male as the correct species and potential mate.

### Nesting:

Leafcutter bees may nest in many different spaces such as existing holes in timber or masonry, hollow stems, gaps in door/ window frames, old folded towels left outside, rock walls and outdoor furniture. They may also use artificial bee nests consisting of varies size holes drilled in untreated hardwood and/ or bundles of hollow stems (e.g. bamboo), hung in trees.

Each female builds her own nest. The cut leaves are used to make a tube as a nest for the eggs or to line an existing hole with it. The leaves are cut in various shapes, round and elongated, to suit the construction of the cell for the egg. The cell is then stocked with a mixture of nectar and pollen in which the leafcutter bee lays her eggs.

She lays female eggs first and the last couple are male. More circular leaves are cut to close off the cell. She then moves on to constructing the next cell until the hole or tube is filled with cells. The hole is then plugged with rough leaf cuttings.

When the eggs hatch, tiny larvae eat the provisions and, when fully grown, they spin silky cocoons and then develop into pupae, finally emerging as adult bees. Male eggs mature earlier and the adult male bee breaks open the nest to emerge first. Immature bees may hibernate through winter and finish developing into adults the next spring.



A leafcutter bee nest 6-8cm length showing the neatly layered leaf discs



# PLANT PROFILE

## Water Gum *Tristaniopsis laurina*



Images, Left & Centre: Murray Fagg, RBG Melbourne; Right: Heather Miles Aust. Plant Society

We've been spending a LOT of time lately along stream, creek and river edges on the two riparian restoration projects currently underway, Caring for Catchments and the Northern Rivers Watershed Initiative. These trees, Water Gums, never fail to impress. They're an incredible riparian species, growing in rainforest and sclerophyll forest types, on freshwater creeklines in gullies.

Water Gums, also known as Kanooka, are part of the *Myrtaceae* family. They're a medium-sized tree reaching 35m height when trunk is straight but they often have a crooked, leaning habit. Great canopy for shading streams and waterways.

Distribution: moist, well-drained sites along the east coast of Australia, from the Brisbane River in Queensland, through coastal New South Wales to the Gippsland region of Victoria.

Alex Floyd describes the trunk as "often channelled or irregular in shape. Outer Bark: Light grey, shedding in thin papery flakes or strips. Underbark cream with plum patches, then brown and cream alternate layers, very thin. Outer surface of live bark with cream-brown and light green blotches." Water gums are impressively beautiful to look at - and do their fair share of heavy lifting in holding riparian bank structure. Australian Plant Society notes: "It can be seen with its roots entirely in moving water. In some locations, it can completely dominate the bed of creeks and streams, creating a matrix of stems and branches in amongst sandstone (*or other substrate*) boulders."



Leaves are broader towards the tip with the upper surface a bright, shiny green with under-surface much paler, described as either "felty" or "hairy".

Flowers are small, but spectacularly bright yellow, organised in small clusters. Summer flowering.

Note: different species to Giant Water Gum, *Syzygium francissi*, usually prominently buttressed at base.



# SNIPPETS

## Is cardboard mulch toxic?

*Article published by Mother Earth News online 2024*

Is cardboard mulch toxic? Recent research shows PFAS can accumulate in crop vegetables. A simple home test can reduce risks when mulching with cardboard boxes....

Full story here: <https://www.motherearthnews.com/organic-gardening/>

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## Coffins made from invasive vine a sustainable alternative to wood

*Article published ABC North Coast 18 March, 2025 Hannah Ross*

Death rituals are designed to help the living heal and reflect on the passing of a loved one. But for Leah Terry, the funeral of her best friend left her feeling sad and traumatised.... Hoping to reflect further on her friend's death, Ms Terry signed up for a coffin weaving workshop in northern New South Wales run by basket weaver Zimmi Forest....who cats claw creeper vine as weaving material.

Full story here:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-03-18/woven-coffins-sustainable-death-ritual-alternative-using-weeds/104995298>

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## UNDRR Report

### **Nature-based solutions for comprehensive disaster and climate risk management: Toolkit for integrated planning and implementation of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation**

*Source: United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Bonn Office*

The toolkit on nature-based solutions for comprehensive disaster and climate risk management (CRM-NbS Toolkit) aims to support countries in making nature-based solutions (NbS) an integral part of planning under the comprehensive disaster and climate risk management (CRM) approach considering both disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change.

<https://www.undrr.org/publication/nature-based-solutions-comprehensive-disaster-and-climate-risk-management-toolkit>

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## Bunya Not Boom

*Article by Esther Beaton published Aust National Geographic online 24 February 2025*

Bunya pines are culturally significant for First Nations peoples in South East Queensland, and their nuts are now a trending superfood. But the story of this prehistoric plant begins way back in the Jurassic period.

One Sunday morning, during morning tea with my local Landcare group, I announced: "I have a special treat for you today – bunya nut crepes!" Everyone froze, wary I was about to poison them. Like many Australians, they believed native seeds and nuts were toxic, requiring extensive leaching and processing before becoming safe to eat.

Full story here:

<https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/topics/history-culture/2025/>

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# EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

**FIRE ANT  
INFORMATION EVENING**

**MULLUMBIMBY**

Sunday 30th March  
6pm - 8.30pm  
Mullumbimby RSL

*All community members  
are urged to attend*

## This Sunday 30 March

This gathering is to inform and alert community members as to what could be coming our way, along with the experiences of people from SE Qld and now Murwillumbah, around the implementation of this eradication program.

David Warth from Byron Shire Council will be presenting a protocol that will avoid the broad scale use of poison baits in our area.

## Byron Shire Farmers Network & SoilCare NSW present

SoilCare Inc.

Roots So Deep is a four-part documentary series all about inventive farmers and maverick scientists asking if an underutilised way to graze cattle, that mimics the way bison once roamed the land, can help get farmers out of debt, restore our depleted soils, rebuild wildlife habitat and draw down carbon? Cattle have been seen as eco-villains for a long time. What if they can help save us from catastrophic climate change?

**ROOTS so DEEP**

**YOU CAN SEE THE DEVIL DOWN THERE**

WATCH THE TRAILER!

Community screening of  
**'ROOTS SO DEEP' in the Northern Rivers**

**BYRON BAY  
THE FARM**  
Thu 3 April, 4.30-8pm

**\$22.50** The ticket includes an on-farm, grass-fed and finished beef burger and a beer.  
(Price including booking fee Eventbrite)

**MURWILLUMBAH  
THE CITADEL**  
Wed 30 April, 5.30pm

**\$10** General Admission  
**\$5** Tweed Landcare & SoilCare Members / Tweed Shire Council Sustainable Agriculture Program subscribers - discount code applies

**Book your tickets now!**

Proudly presented by SoilCare Inc.

Exclusive Doco Screening: "Roots So Deep" is a docu-series that meets farmers on both sides of the fence – the folks practicing rotational grazing and their neighbours following the generations-old method of grazing. Over 5 years, a team of scientists measure the outcomes both ecologically and financially on both sides of the fence. The findings are astounding.

Byron screening at **The Farm on the 3rd April** – Tickets are \$22.50 and include a beer and grass fed beef burger grown by our local producers.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/roots-so-deep-film-feed-and-a-future-for-farming-tickets-1263093018219>

Murwillumbah screening **30 April** hosted by Tweed Landcare, Tweed Shire Council & Soilcare.



# EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

## April activities for the koalas



**BANGALOW KOALAS**

### Koala Tree Planting Ewingsdale

Wed 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025

**Time** 9.00am start  
**Where** Ewingsdale - 1000 trees  
**RSVP** Bookings are essential, email to book your spot today at:  
[president@bangalowkoalas.com.au](mailto:president@bangalowkoalas.com.au)



**BANGALOW KOALAS**

### Koala Tree Planting Coraki

Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025

**Time** 10.00am start  
**Where** Coraki - 1000 trees  
**RSVP** Bookings are essential, email to book your spot today at:  
[president@bangalowkoalas.com.au](mailto:president@bangalowkoalas.com.au)



Supported by




## Landholder & Koala Health Workshop

Bangalow Koalas is running a Landholder & Koala Health Workshop for interested landholders in the Byron, Ballina, Lismore, Richmond Valley and Tweed Shires.

- Interested in joining our wildlife corridor
- Planting koala food trees and other native species
- How to distinguish between a sick and healthy koala

**Guest speakers**

Linda Sparrow - Bangalow Koalas  
 Linda Swankie - Ecologist/Rescuer  
 Seamus Faithfull - Environmental scientist and bush regenerator

**Date** – Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024 - 12 noon - 2.00pm  
**Where** – Bangalow  
**RSVP** – Bookings are essential with limited spaces. So book your spot today by emailing [president@bangalowkoalas.com.au](mailto:president@bangalowkoalas.com.au)



Bookings: [president@bangalowkoalas.com.au](mailto:president@bangalowkoalas.com.au)

# WEED OF THE MONTH

## Freckle Face *Hypoestes phyllostachya*

Sources: Brisbane City Council Weed Identification Tool and NSW WeedWise

Freckle Face, also known as Polka Dot plant, is a tricky customer - it's regarded as an environmental weed in parts of Queensland and New South Wales, but also as a "sleeper weed" or potential environmental weed in other parts of Australia.

Brisbane City Council's Weed I.D. tool: "it has escaped cultivation as a garden plant and has become naturalised along waterways, in riparian areas, in open woodlands and on rainforest margins in the warmer and wetter parts of eastern Australia. This species prefers shaded habitats and can form dense carpets of vegetation in the understorey of native bushland. It is currently of greatest concern in south-eastern Queensland, where it is listed among the top 200 most invasive plants species, and appears on numerous local environmental weed lists in this region."

NSW WeedWise notes that it has been found in endangered subtropical rainforests.



Images: Sheldon Navie

**Flowers:** spring - autumn

**Reproduction & Dispersal:** This species reproduces mainly by seed, which are spread by water, animals and in mud. Plants can grow from stems or root fragments which are spread by dumping of garden waste. Mowing or slashing can also spread the plant fragments.

### CONTROL

Physical removal: Single plants and small infestations can be controlled by hand pulling plants in damp and loose soil. Plants can be dug out. Remove all of the stem and as much of the root as possible otherwise plants might regrow.

Chemical control: Spot spray using herbicides and a surfactant. Ensure all of the leaves are covered and spray when plants are actively growing.

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



# 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)**

