



Newsletter

Conserving and restoring from forest to foreshore

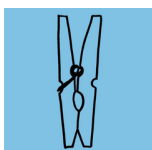


Image - iNaturalist © Tom Field

Couldn't resist image of this little cutie feeding on a flowering *Xanthorrhoea*, or Grass Tree, for our September cover.

Did you know that there are six species of Grass Tree occurring in the Byron Shire? You can read more in this month's Plant Profile on Pages 13-14.

BRUNSWICK VALLEY LANDCARE IS A REGISTERED CHARITY ON PEGS AND GRILL'D



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



Grill'd Local Matters have chosen Brunswick Valley Landcare to be one of the three local community groups for this month. So if you grab a burger at Grill'd Byron Bay we'd love it if you chose us.



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

Field Day fun



Image: NCRLN L-R Mel from NSW Reconstruction Authority, Alison Ratcliffe BVL, Presenter Jo Green & Fiona Berry, Caring for Catchments Project Officer

We've had fun field day times the last couple of Fridays, firstly with the Yelgun Riparian Restoration day on 29 August, co-hosted by Yelgun Landcare, BVL & North Coast Regional Landcare Network. Attendees were treated to a tour of the recently planted "Caring for Catchments" project site, as well as a 2017 planting on the same property, further downstream on Yelgun Creek. Our two experts leading the tours were Jo Green, botanist and Restoration Ecologist, and Liam Collyer-Coyne, Bush Regenerator from Wanganui Green, the team working this site. Landholders Ryan & Olivia Collins were also on-hand to share their insights from having initiated these two restoration projects. Jo talked attendees through application of our recently published Revegetating Streams in the Brunswick Catchment brochure, which advises landholders on how to select plant species to create structure and consider biodiversity when restoring riparian vegetation.



Left: the two planting sites, and above: the Field Day team. Images: NCRLN.

Continued over.....

BVL NEWS

Field Day fun continued



Then on Friday 5 September BVL supported Tyagarah Landcare and the community of Gondwana Sanctuary with their Simpsons Creek Floodplain Corridor Field Day. Presenters Jo Green and Dave Rawlins were joined by Bela & Gyan from Gondwana Sanctuary to tour this Caring for Catchments project restoration site. At this site, also being worked by the Wanganui Green team, the restoration objectives are to convert a camphor-dominated paddock full of setaria grass back to rainforest, whilst stabilising the banks of Simpsons Creek through enrichment planting of 1000 trees to increase resilience against future flooding.

Understanding your local reference plant community and how to prioritise treatment of invasive weeds in re-establishing that plant community were key features of Jo and Dave's presentations. The community of Gondwana have been on their restoration journey for 35+ years so were were also lucky to tour other historical restoration sites at Gondwana to learn from what had worked and what hadn't. Bela shared aerial map of the property as it was back in the 80's to highlight just how much work has been undertaken by this unstoppable community - impressive!



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BVL NEWS

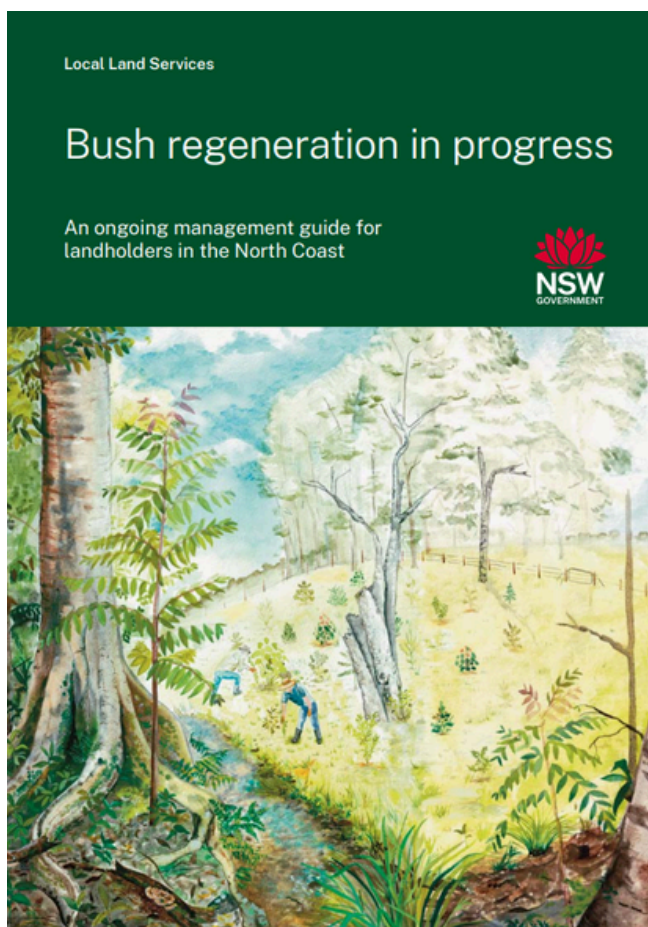


Images courtesy of Bela Allen & Alison Ratcliffe



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New Bush Regeneration Manual available



NSW Local Land Services have just published a new guide for landholders on the North Coast. It's a pretty comprehensive booklet, covering everything from the principles of ecological restoration practice, management strategies, how to plan out your project in stages and right down to the specifics of weed control methods relevant to some of the common weed suspects in our region. It also comes with some really clear and useful diagrams & images.

It's been put together by an incredibly knowledgeable team - written and researched by Genevieve Murphy at LLS. Reviewers and contributors: John Blatch, David Dreher, Emily Headlam, Mark Dunphy, Tristan Mules, Nan Nicholson, Jesse Vandenbosch, Amber Murphy, Rhonda James, Hannah Rice-Hayes, Kate Steel, Dean Richards, Dr Sophie Pryor, Ashley Donges, Ben Herington.

How do you get a copy? Easy:

- hard copies are available from Byron Shire Council front desk
- have your copy posted if you're willing to pay for postage - to arrange, just email info@brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au
- or you can download a digital copy via the BVL website, link below: <https://brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/resources/kits-guides/bush-regeneration/>



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BVL NEWS

Biosecurity Emergency Order Update



The NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (the department) published Biosecurity (Fire Ant) Emergency Order (No. 11) 2025 on 13 August 2025. This supersedes Biosecurity (Fire Ant) Emergency Order (No. 10) 2025, made on 16 July 2025.

The Biosecurity Emergency has been extended for a further six months to 12 February 2026. This acknowledges that there is still a very real risk of fire ants moving into and establishing in NSW and allows NSW DPIRD to remain focused on prevention, surveillance and tracing to address this risk. This order contains some significant changes that people need to be aware of.

You can find the complete Order detail at NSW DPIE site, link here: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/noindex/2025-08/approved-biosecurity-fire-ant-emergency-order-no-12-2025.pdf>

Tweed Heads detection update

Treatment, surveillance and tracing continues following the detection of fire ants at Tweed Heads on 2 July 2025.

Officers from the NSW Fire Ant Team have inspected 523 high risk sites since 2 July using human and odour detection dog teams, predominantly in the area out to 5km from the nest.

Residents who have received fire ant carriers on their properties are urged to check for signs of fire ants. The early stages of fire ant colonies are hidden underground. It can take several months after fire ants arrive until signs of infestation are visible.

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BVL NEWS

Have your say

HREC Project No: 19364

Have your say on Natural Flood Management in your catchments and rivers

The NSW government is partnering with Macquarie University to hear from the community about ways to manage flooding using natural solutions.

This research will help shape future flood resilience strategies for our catchments and rivers. Natural Flood Management (NFM) uses nature-based approaches to slow floodwaters, reduce erosion, and lower flood risks.

Examples include:

- Revegetating riverbanks
- Restoring floodplain wetlands
- Improving soil, water, and vegetation management

How You Can Get Involved

You can take part in:

- A short, anonymous online survey (15-20 minutes) and/or
- A one-to-one interview to share your experiences in more detail

Why your voice matters

With extreme weather events becoming more common, it's important to understand how communities view these strategies.

We want to hear from:

- People affected by riverine flooding
- Those involved in flood, river, or catchment management
- Anyone interested in local flood solutions

All responses are anonymous and the project has ethics approval from Macquarie University.

Contact information



Michael Rupic

PhD Candidate -
Environmental Sciences
michael.rupic@hdr.mq.edu.au

Help shape the future of flood resilience in your community. Get involved today!

To participate in this survey, please click the link [here](https://tinyurl.com/2ynyn7zn)! Or, copy/paste the link into your browser!

Survey Link:

<https://tinyurl.com/2ynyn7zn>

<https://tinyurl.com/2ynyn7zn>

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BVL NEWS

Carbon credits from native reforestation: Greening Australia

Curious to learn more, we popped along to this workshop last Friday, hosted at a property in Federal where the landholders have signed up to Greening Australia's carbon credits program. It was well attended, including some of the leading lights in Big Scrub restoration, local bush regenerators, Landcarers and private landholders alike.

We had opportunity to tour the ambitious Big Scrub carbon planting site - more than 60,000 stems of 70 different rainforest plant species have been planted. Greening Australia, a national organisation, did their research well, consulting with the Big Scrub Conservancy to develop the right restoration plan for this site.

Scale is the key here - Greening Australia work with sites at a minimum of 10-15ha. Through their nature-based solutions business Canopy (with the required financial services licence) they apply the 'reforestation by environmental plantings' method to help landholders revegetate cleared land in order to access the carbon market, where credits (ACCUs) are issued based on the carbon those plants absorb and store. Apparently less than 1% of Australia's carbon market is made up of credits from biodiverse environmental plantings. The planting and three years' worth of maintenance by professional regen contractors is covered. It may not be for everybody but it was certainly interesting to learn about this approach to bringing back the Big Scrub Rainforest. You can source further information at the Greening Australia site, link [here](#)



Images: Harry Hackett

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NSW Saving our Species: September is Biodiversity month



Find out how you can get involved

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/news/act-this-biodiversity-month>

One act can make a great impact

Maybe you're a keen green thumb with a desire to get your hands dirty by planting trees for threatened bird species. Maybe you're a digital storyteller with a love for sharing messages of conservation and hope. Or perhaps you're an entrepreneur or a key player in an organisation that wants to make a difference but isn't sure where to start.

This webpage showcases the many ways you can act this Biodiversity Month – and any day of the year – to help keep our natural environment and species thriving.

You can also enter into a prize draw.

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Exploring the competition between vigorous native vines and trees

Article courtesy of SEQLD Land for Wildlife network, by Nick Clancy, Sunshine Coast Council LFW Officer

We came upon this thoughtful article and thought it worth the read for relevance to our own bioregion just over the border.

Most readers will be aware of the damage that introduced 'canopy-killer' vines such as Madeira vine (*Anredera cordifolia*) and Cats Claw Creeper (*Dolichandra unguis-cati*) can inflict on natural areas. They are perhaps the worst of a growing number of introduced invasive vine species that have become naturalised in south-east Queensland (SEQ). These are the 'transformer' weeds that keep many Land for Wildlife property owners busy on weekends. But what about native vines? Can native vines become problematic? After all, they can climb up and over trees too. Can they smother and kill trees like their weedy counterparts or are they part of an equilibrium in a finely balanced natural ecosystem?

Read the full article [here](#)

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Byron Shire Council News

Belongil and Tallow floodplains in the spotlight

Media release published 12 September



Residents in Byron Bay and Suffolk Park who have been affected by flooding are being asked to share their experiences, photos and videos with Council. The information will be used to inform the update of the Belongil and Tallow Floodplain Risk Management Plan and Study.

The documents will guide the development of flood management strategies in the catchments, including planning controls, emergency management, and the development of a prioritised list of projects to address current and future flood risks. "Many properties in Belongil, Byron Bay and Suffolk Park were flooded in March 2022, which was the largest flood ever experienced in these catchments," Josh Wilde, Project Manager, said.

"Council has now calibrated its flood modelling to this event, but before we go any further, we need to first get community feedback on the flood maps to ensure they accurately reflect the flooding that occurred. "Many people provided Council with information about the extent of the flooding in the months following the event.

"We want to have in-depth conversations with these people, as well as others who may not have spoken to anyone about recent flood events," Mr Wilde said.

"This is not just about flooding in 2022; we want to hear about any flooding experiences people have had and gather ideas on how to resolve these issues, which can all be considered in the study."

"We also want to hear people's ideas on how to better prevent, manage, or reduce flooding impacts in our community," Mr Wilde said.

Staff will be at the Byron Farmers Market on 18 September and 25 September to speak with people and answer questions. People can share their stories and information at [Your Say Byron Shire](#) on Council's website until 18 October.

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CRITTER CORNER!

Mitchell's Rainforest Snail *Thersites mitchellae*



Image: Dr John Staniscic from Facts About Snails <https://factsaboutsnaills.com/>

Mitchell's Rainforest Snail is a large native land snail with a shell up to 55 mm wide and 50 mm high, triangular in profile, and with a thickened lip. The shell is deep reddish chestnut to black in colour with two prominent yellow bands. The body colour is black with a thin lighter line along the back.

Distribution:

Mitchell's Rainforest Snail is restricted to lowland subtropical rainforest and swamp sclerophyll forest with a rainforest understorey, typically on alluvial soils with a basaltic influence. It has a very limited range in North Coast NSW, found in remnant vegetation on the coastal plain between the Richmond River and Tweed River. It has also been recorded from some adjacent mid-elevation areas including Wilsons River and Mount Jerusalem. Recordings have also been observed at Cumbebin Wetland area at Byron Bay.

It is apparently absent from other rainforest types in the area, such as littoral rainforest (Staniscic 1998). This type of correlation with particular rainforest communities is common in many land snail species in eastern Australia (Staniscic 1994).

It can occur in slightly higher ground around the edges of wetlands with palms and fig trees are particularly favoured habitat, although there is some speculation that a previous sighting at a Wilsons River site (elevation 230 m) is result of an accidental translocation. Stotts Island Nature Reserve, in the Tweed River near Murwillumbah, provides the largest single area of remaining habitat and largest known population of the species.

continued over.....

CRITTER CORNER

Mitchell's Rainforest Snail *Thersites mitchellae*

Habitat and ecology

Mitchell's Rainforest Snails are typically found amongst leaf litter on the forest floor, and occasionally under bark in trees. They are active at night and feed on leaf litter, fungi and lichen. Little information is available on the ecology of Mitchell's Rainforest Snail. Its restriction to rainforest and swamp forest, a trait shared with 90% of eastern Australian land snail species, suggests a dependence on high moisture levels, low fire frequency and a well developed leaf litter layer. Breeding behaviour has only been observed once, with a clutch of 70 small, round, white eggs laid below the surface of leaf litter in November (Murphy pers. obs.). Key habitat components for Mitchell's Rainforest Snail are a well-developed leaf litter layer (providing food, shelter and breeding sites) and an intact forest canopy (maintaining a moist microclimate and providing a source of leaf litter).

Conservation Status

Its status has declined from common to extremely rare. The Mitchell's Rainforest Snail is classed Endangered in NSW and Critically Endangered under the Commonwealth EPBC Act. Habitat loss through land clearing for development and agriculture is a major threat. Predation by birds and introduced mammals has been identified as a possible threat to Mitchell's Rainforest Snail (NSW Scientific Committee 1997; Australian Museum 2001). Mitchell's Rainforest Snail is preyed upon by the Noisy Pitta *Pitta versicolor* in Stotts Island Nature Reserve (Stanisic 2000) - Pittas crack the shells on rock or other hard surface, using it like an anvil. Introduced rats feed on land snails (Sherley et al. 1998; Ponder and Chapman 1999), and may prey on Mitchell's Rainforest Snail.

Science listening for snails

In reading up on Mitchell's Rainforest Snails, we came upon an interesting piece of research conducted by Southern Cross University researcher Dr Jonathan Parkyn in 2014, whose work involved using radio transmitters to detect the snails and monitor their movements.

"The results from our study demonstrate that this snail is capable of relatively long-range movements within suitable habitat under favourable climatic conditions. This suggests that snails may be capable of colonising new habitat patches if appropriate connectivity is available between habitats, and this has important implications for future attempts to restore habitat for this critically endangered land snail." <https://www.scu.edu.au/news/2014/the-secret-life-of-a-rainforest-snail.php>

How can you help?

- Look out for the Mitchells rainforest snail.
- Report any sightings to your local Council.
- Support a local Landcare group or bush regeneration team to rehabilitate habitat.
- Retain and protect areas of rainforest, swamp forest and forest on wetland margins. Even small areas of habitat can be valuable.
- Avoid the use of snail baits, pesticides and herbicides in or near known and potential habitat.
- Fence rainforest remnants and wetland margins to exclude grazing by stock.
- Undertake weed control in known and potential habitat ensuring minimal disturbance of leaf litter and fallen logs.

Information sourced from NSW SoS, Dr John Stanisic from Facts About Snails, NPWS Approved Mitchell's Snail Recovery Plan, Tweed Museum & Southern Cross University, Dr Jonathan Parkyn

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PLANT PROFILE

Xanthorrhoea spp Grass Tree



Images - iNaturalist © itara © Tom Field © hamiltonphillipa <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>

Grass Trees are an iconic tree in all Australian states and territories, especially on the east and west coast. *Xanthorrhoea* is a genus of 66 flowering plants that are only found in Australia. They are very slow growing and long lived with some species known to be 350 to 450 years old!

Bundjalung, Githabul, Yaegl and Gumbaynggirr people were known to have eaten the edible roots and the flower stem, which is full of sweet nectar, which was combined with water to make a sweet drink. A range of tools could also be made, including a drill to create fire by friction, a lightweight spear, and the resin contained in the trunk, which is highly useful for a number of purposes, including glue.

Grass tree leaves are narrow, linear and stiff. Where present, old leaves often hang down and form a 'skirt' around the base of the trunk. The length of the skirt is a good indication of the time since the last fire – the longer the skirt, the longer the duration without fire. Most *Xanthorrhoea* have an amazing ability to regenerate after fire, but there are a couple of species in Victoria that are killed by fire.

Populations of many species of grass tree have been devastated by Cinnamon Fungus. This rots the roots and causes dieback. The disease caused by this introduced plant root pathogen is often difficult to detect, and its impact can be considerable before detection. In Australia Cinnamon Fungus infection threatens several plants with extinction. Further threats include: land clearance for agriculture and urban development; inappropriate burning; overharvesting of foliage and illegal removal of the plants from their natural habitat for sale as garden plants (the species has very sensitive roots and the chance of grass trees growing after translocation is fraught).

Grass trees may take several years to flower. Flowers form on a spear-like spike, which can be up to 4 m long! Flowers are arranged in a spiral up the spike, and produce a great amount of nectar, attracting a wide variety of insects, birds and mammals. Once pollinated, the flowers form a tough, pointed fruit capsule that's typically matt-black. One flowering stem of the *X. johnsonii* grass tree can produce up to 10,000 seeds! After flowering, they will often lay dormant for long periods of time, so if it looks dead, just be patient.

It is a myth that you should flood a new grass tree when you plant it. They generally require 30 L - 60L per week for the first 2 summer seasons, and they are then self-sufficient. It is important to try and keep as much of the soil as you can from the original pot as they have a root system, where microbes called mycorrhiza surround the roots in a symbiotic relationship, which helps the plant take up nutrients.

Only ever source grass trees from a licensed supplier. They should come with a tag that indicates they have been harvested legally from the wild or cultivated under a specific license.

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PLANT PROFILE - CONT

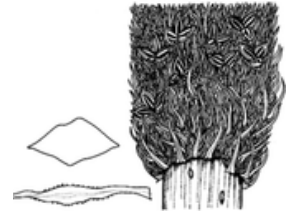
Xanthorrhoea spp Grass Tree

Xanthorrhoea comes from the Greek *xanthos*, which means 'yellow or golden' and *rhoea* which means 'flowing or to flow' and refers to the yellow gum or resin that flows from the stem.

There are six species of *Xanthorrhoea* found in Byron Shire with a further two subspecies as they do hybridise. The main way to identify *Xanthorrhoea* is by looking at the cross-section of the leaves (from where they grow). The flower spike and scape (stem of the flower spike) are also useful because they vary a lot and size of leaves (width). The drawings show the cross sections of the leaves and scape.

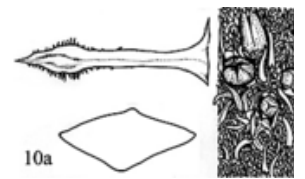
Xanthorrhoea australis Austral Grass Tree

Trunk to 3m tall, often branched, 1-many crowns of erect tufting leaves, spreading with age; old leaves often reflexed, crown \pm spherical. Leaf cross-section is a rough diamond shape, and the colour of the leaves is a bluish-green. Grows in dry sclerophyll forest.



Xanthorrhoea glauca subs *glauca* Blue-leaved Grass Tree

Trunk 1–5 m high, branched or single; crowns 1–many, \pm spherical. On steep slopes and ridges, mainly in rich basaltic soils and, at some sites, in serpentine soils, and in deep coastal sand. Populations on the coastal dunes from Byron Bay to Newcastle hybridise with *X. fulva* and *X. latifolia* in distinct short-range hybrid swarms.



Xanthorrhoea johnsonii Forest or Johnsons Grass Tree

Trunk 0.1–5 m high; stem and crown usually 1; young leaves in spreading upright tuft; old leaves often strongly reflexed. Usually grows in sclerophyll forest and heath in well-drained sites. Extremely variable.

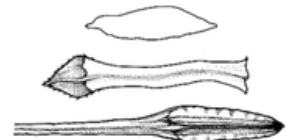


Xanthorrhoea latifolia

Trunk absent or up to 3.6 m high; stem branched or single; crowns 1–many, each with spreading mature leaves; young leaves in \pm erect tuft. Usually grows in sandy or gravelly soil in coastal regions.

Xanthorrhoea latifolia subsp. *maxima*

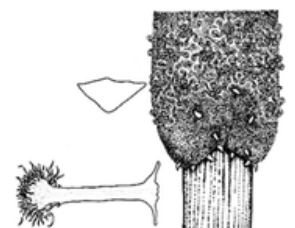
Grows in wet sclerophyll forest on the summit of Mt Warning and at Minyon Falls and Mebbin State Forest.



Grass Trees without trunks

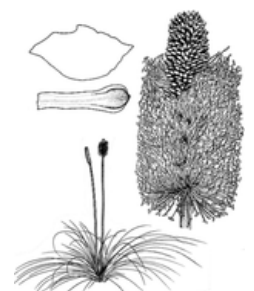
Xanthorrhoea fulva Wallum Grass Tree

Trunk absent with the stems branched below ground. one to many ; crowns 1-many, each a stiff erect tuft. Grows in periodically waterlogged sites in sand in coastal areas, quite often in scribbly gum communities.



Xanthorrhoea macronema Bottle Brush Grass Tree

Trunk absent; stem sometimes branched below ground; crowns 1-many, in a loosely upright or deflexed tuft. Grows in sclerophyll forest on coastal sands and ranges. Distinctive in its habit, with long thin scape and short brush-like spike, large cream to yellow flowers with inner tepals much larger than other species, long-pointed fruit with persistent styles and rounded glossy seed. Leaves longer (1–2 m) than in most species,



Botanical Drawings from - [PlantNET](#)

Ssp information sourced from [PlantNET](#), [Native Species Planting Guide](#), [Bush Heritage](#), and [Revive the Northern Rivers](#).

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SNIPPETS

Making younger trees age faster could create more homes for wildlife – and it can be done without chainsaws

Article published in The Conversation 8 September 2025

For wildlife, not all trees are equal. Large old trees have many horizontal and dead limbs for perching, and many fissures or hollows for sheltering. By contrast, younger trees have far fewer such features or lack them entirely. More than 300 species of Australian mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians rely on on habitat structures in older trees. But these large old trees are getting rarer around the world.

Australia has already lost many of its giants and they're still falling due to farming, logging and urbanisation. Full story here: <https://theconversation.com/making-younger-trees-age-faster-could-create-more-homes-for-wildlife-and-it-can-be-done-without-chainsaws-262522>

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More wet weather: BoM spring forecast predicts rain for eastern half of Australia

Article by Graham Readfern published in Guardian Australia 28 August 2025

Record ocean heat likely to increase storm severity while increased cloud cover expected to keep night-time temperatures above average over almost entire country. Spring looks set to be wetter than usual for Australia's entire eastern half, according to the Bureau of Meteorology's latest long-range forecast, after data showed record heat in the ocean around the continent in July.

Full story here:

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2025/aug/28/bom-spring-weather-forecast-outlook-rain-wet-australia>

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Residents encouraged to attract native bees amid varroa mite spread

Article by Amelia Waters & Elyse Armanini published by ABC News 16 September 2025

So, why is it important now more than ever to help promote pollination in your own backyard? The deadly honey bee parasite, varroa mite, was detected in South Australia for the first time earlier this month. It made the state the fifth jurisdiction to detect the pest after a discovery was made in the Riverland during a beehive consignment surveillance check.

Native bees cannot be hosts of varroa mite, according to the CSIRO.

Full story here:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-09-16/backyard-owners-encouraged-to-attract-native-bees-gardening/105767140>

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Precious cargo - cliff dwelling wallabies carried to their new vertical home

Published by Parks Victoria 15 August 2025

A skilled team of Wildlife Unlimited field ecologists, Parks Victoria rangers, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) conservation scientists, Traditional Owners and wildlife sanctuary partners has once again pulled off a remarkable feat.

<https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/news/2025/08/12/22/42/precious-cargo-cliff-dwelling-wallabies-carried-to-their-new-vertical-home>

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GRANTS

Northern Rivers Community Foundation 2025/2026 Annual Community Grants



Applications for this local grants round are closing soon on 22 September.

The Annual Community Grants Program is NRCF's flagship philanthropic offering. The Program supports not-for-profit community groups and/or organisations across the 7 LGAs of the Northern Rivers that strengthen and enhance our regional communities by addressing social disadvantage and environmental sustainability.

The Community Grants Program is funded ongoing through investment income from the Corpus as part of NRCF's annual obligation to distribute grants out of its Sub Funds. In addition, the grants program is funded from flow through donations from individual philanthropists and private foundations.

These grants are also made possible thanks to our generous grant program partners Paul Ramsay Foundation, The James Frizelle Charitable Foundation, Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal, and Global Giving.

Grant guidelines and full application details available [here](#)



GRANTS

REMINDER: Byron Shire Council Regenerative Agriculture Small Grants are open now



Images - Byron Shire Council - Riki and Maddie Eketone run a small cow-calf operation of Nguni.

We are pleased to announce that the Byron Shire Council Regenerative Agriculture Small Grants Program for 2025-26 is now open.

The grants of up to \$3,500 provide opportunities for local producers and landholders to help them adopt regenerative land management practices. Farmers and landholders are invited to apply for funding for on farm activities that will improve both productive capacity and biodiversity of their land.

If you have an idea of a project that fits the program objectives and would like to discuss the proposal on farm, you can book a site visit by emailing Mark at mduncan@byron.nsw.gov.au or by phone on 0266267375.

More details can be found by visiting the Byron Shire Council website and the following link [Regenerative Agriculture Small Grants Program](#).

Applications close on the 3rd October.



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EVENTS & WORKSHOPS



Sunday, 21 September 2025 | 6:00pm-8:30pm | Event Cinemas Pacific Fair, Broadbeach, QLD Limited tickets left

For the first time ever, the Landcare Short Film Festival will be held as part of the 2025 National Landcare Conference and is a national celebration of the passion, projects, and people driving environmental change across Australia.

Join us for an unforgettable evening of storytelling, inspiration, where the screen comes alive with powerful stories of environmental action and community spirit from across Australia. The Landcare Short Film Festival is the perfect opportunity to celebrate the spirit of landcare and connect with passionate landcarers from around the country. Enjoy an uplifting night of inspiration, connection, and community. This is more than a film night, it's a celebration of landcare in all its forms! <https://events.humanitix.com/landcare-short-film-festival>

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“Soil Health is Your Wealth” talk with Graeme Sait of Nutri-Tech Solutions at Mullumbimby Civic Memorial Hall 26 September

The Byron Shire Councils Regen Ag department is hosting renowned regenerative agriculture author and educator Graeme Sait for a half day talk at the Mullumbimby Civic Memorial Hall. The FREE presentation will cover the importance of soil health in the production of nutrient dense food for healthy communities and regenerative landscapes.

More information can be found at the link below and bookings are essential.

When: 26th September, 8am – 12 noon

Where: Mullumbimby Civic Memorial Hall

More info & bookings: <https://events.humanitix.com/soil-health-is-your-wealth-talk-with-graeme-sait-of-nutri-tech-solutions>

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BYRON BIRD BUDDIES



Image BBB: Brown Goshawk by Bruce McNaughton

Byron Bird Buddies (BBB) -

www.byronbirdbuddies.com.au

Program Update September 2025

Byron Bird Buddies – bird monitoring, education & conservation projects in Byron Shire. BBB is a Special Interest Group of Brunswick Valley Landcare (BVL). Membership of BBB is by joining BVL <https://brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/get-involved/become-a-member/>

General Info - This program may change, but will be up-dated as much as possible. If you wish to attend any outing, please phone or email the contact provided. If it's raining the event may also be cancelled. The Calendar also includes outing dates for other groups in the Northern Rivers (if known), any questions please contact the number provided.

What To Bring - Always wear covered shoes and bring water, hat, sunscreen and insect repellent and something to eat for morning or afternoon tea and lunch if it's over the lunch period.

Contact - for all BBB Activities - byronbirdbuddy@gmail.com Mobile 0428864378. **All are welcome.**

Wet Weather Policy – Take a risk or phone 0428864378

Saturday 20th 8am start at Seapeace and Belongil	National Snipe Count – Seapeace Belongil Ponds meet in the Belongil carpark end of Bayshore Drive – 8am the to the Byron Wetlands Teams to be organise – Please register byronbirdbuddy@gmail.com	BBB – time & sites to be decided Learn more about the project https://lathamssnipeproject.wordpress.com/
Tuesday 23rd 8am	Old New Brighton Rd – Advised to register byronbirdbuddy@gmail.com	BBB – for NPWS – (APP)
Tuesday 30th Can either start at 6am or 8am 06.00 start or 8am start	Dawn Chorus survey. Private property at Montecollum for property details. Must Register. Contact byronbirdbuddy@gmail.com	BBB – private property- need to be in place -

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WEED OF THE MONTH

Chinese burr *Triumfetta rhomboidea*

Sources: [Brisbane City Council Weed Identification Tool](#), [PlantNET](#), [Central QLD Coastal Landcare](#)



Otherwise known as Burr bush, Diamond burbark, Triumfetta weed, Hibiscus burr, Paroquet burr, or the annoying sticky spikey pain in the a***e!

Identification - Erect shrub with hairy stems, stellate hairs mixed with simple hairs.

Leaves simple, alternate, densely hairy, variable in shape and size; unlobed or shallowly 3-lobed, ovate to broadly ovate or rhomboid-ovate, 40-130 x 30-110mm, margins irregularly toothed; both surfaces with mixture of simple and star hairs, lower surface paler than above and more densely hairy. Stipules triangular, 1-6mm long.

Stems brown with tough bark.

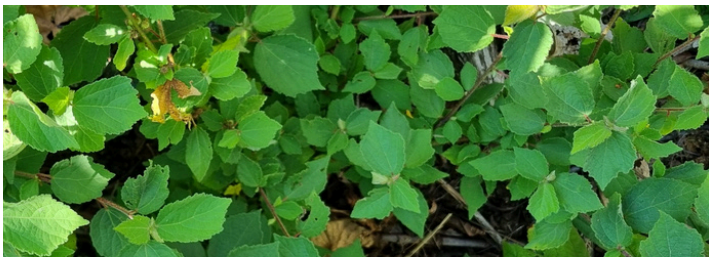
Flowers yellow 5-petalled, 3-6mm long; borne in leaf-opposed 1-3 flowered clusters along upper branches.

Seed capsules covered in hooked spines that adhere strongly to animal fur, clothing. 4-5mm across, subglobose, stellate hairy outside, setose; setae c. 2mm long, hooked at tip.

Distribution: An introduced widespread pantropic weed of uncertain origin. Not common in NSW and but becoming more common north of Byron Bay. Not seen frequently until about 4 years ago. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 800 m. Grows on agricultural land and in disturbed areas, particularly roadside, in lowland and upland rainforest. The plant has spread widely through the tropics and has become a noxious weed in many areas.

Natural History & Notes: Food plant for the larval stages of the Peacock Jewel Butterfly.

Impacts: It has been shown to prevent the establishment of native species in disturbed forest sites.



Images: A Ratcliffe

Reproduction & Dispersal: the sticky burrs burrs attach to 'everything' which means it is easily transported to new sites. Water and floods also disperse the seeds. Seeds can build up in the soil seed bank and germinate in profusion after disturbance.

Control: **foliar** spray or CSP - see links to websites above for how to control. As they spread by seed controlling before they set seed is important and good hygiene of work clothes is essential.

Similar species: in appearance to the pink-flowered urena burr *Urena lobata* that has burrs that break into wedge-shaped segments and the underside of leaves with 1 or more glands on the main vein.

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Landcare working bees

For all Landcare Working Bees please wear protective clothing - long pants, long-sleeved shirt, closed-in shoes, hat, gloves & bring water, sunscreen, & insect repellent.

Please always contact the group coordinators before attending a working bee as plans do change!

JOIN US



Bangalow Land and Rivercare, Bangalow

WHEN: every Saturday 8:30am

CONTACT: Noelene Plummer bangalowlandcare@gmail.com 0431 200 638

Green and Clean Awareness Team, Main Beach Byron Bay

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

CONTACT: Peter Farmakis peter.farmakis@gmail.com 0488 715 565

Friends of Lilli Pilli, Byron Bay

WHEN: 1st Saturday of the month 3.30 pm

CONTACT: Deb Jorgensen deborah.jorgensen60@gmail.com

Maslem Arboretum, Heritage Park Landcare, Mullumbimby

WHEN: Saturdays 9:00am – 11:00 am

CONTACT: Diana Hughes bromspot@gmail.com

Mullum Town Landcare, Mullumbimby

WHEN: last Sunday morning of the month

CONTACT: John Tann johntann99@gmail.com

Ocean Shores Landcare, Yallakool Reserve and Devines Hill Ocean Shores

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

CONTACT: David Kemp dnkemp77@gmail.com 0427 650 861

Suffolk Park Dunecare

WHEN: Fourth Sunday of the month 8:30am – 10:30am

CONTACT: Rebekah O'Flaherty rebekahoflaherty@gmail.com

Tyagarah Landcare, Grays Lane Tyagarah

WHEN: Each Thursday 9:00am – 11:00am

CONTACT: Bela Allen bela.allen@yahoo.com 6684 7113

Waterlilly Park Care Group, Waterlilly Park Ocean Shores

WHEN: Each Wednesday 8:00 am - 10.00 am

CONTACT: Ian Barker barker5057@gmail.com 0403 001 946

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

Byron Bird Buddies

WHEN: monthly program of surveys and walks
for more info visit www.byronbirdbuddies.com.au

CONTACT: byronbirdbuddy@gmail.com 0428 864 378

CAN'T FIND A GROUP NEAR YOU?

We have many other groups who meet on an ad hoc basis (contact us for more details) or if there isn't an existing group in your neighbourhood or you are interested in looking after a particular area, BVL can help you to form a locality group under the BVL umbrella.

LINKS

- Arakwal <http://arakwal.com.au/>
- Australian Association of Bush Regenerators <http://aabr.org.au>
- Border Rangers Alliance http://www.greasternranges.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
- Environmental Trust <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/envtrust.htm>
- Friends of the Koala www.friendsofthekoala.org
- Federal Landcare Inc federalandcare@gmail.com
- Local Land Services www.northcoast.ils.nsw.gov.au
- North Coast Local Land Services <http://northcoast.ils.nsw.gov.au/>
- Border Ranges Richmond Valley Landcare www.brrvln.org.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

www.brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au



0421 244 640



info@brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au

