



Newsletter

Conserving and restoring from forest to foreshore



2026 is off and racing...

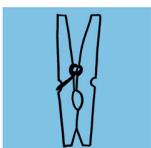
Hopefully you have had the chance of a break over the holiday season and are currently managing to beat the heat, whilst still getting plenty of Landcaring done.

It's been booming Bunya time around these parts - check out our featured Plant profile of the month, *Araucaria bidwilli*, the Bunya Pine. This month we have really enjoyed doing a deeper dive into their story (and tastiness!).

Hope you find something of interest herein, from the BVL Team



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

Heartbreaking start to 2026 for Victoria



Sorry to start with a bummer, but it's been impossible to ignore the fires that gripped Victoria over summer. It's estimated that over 404,000ha have burnt, a total area more than five times the size of Singapore. It is thought to be of same scale as the Black Summer fires of 2009.

The impact on communities with loss of homes, structures, livestock and livelihoods has been immense. Reported less, but no less devastating, has been the the impact on native fauna and flora not simply through direct fire impact, but also the extended period of extreme heat. Forests have been lost. Wildlife Victoria says it received a record number of calls as members of the public sought help for fire and heat-affected animals. Victoria's Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), the lead agency for wildlife welfare response in emergency events, said teams had been deployed to locate injured wildlife on firegrounds across the state.

Victoria's bat populations have been particularly vulnerable in the severe heat that catalysed the blazes. Tamsyn Hogarth from Fly By Night, a volunteer organisation that specialises in assisting microbats and grey-headed flying foxes said: "It's pretty devastating. It's pretty much a whole generation of pups that's gone in some camps".

It will be generations of forests and fauna in recovery, for the long haul.

A small piece of positive news coming out of Landcare Australia: In response to the bushfires across Victoria in January 2026, Landcare Australia is contributing \$100,000 to kickstart post-bushfire landscape restoration efforts, made possible through a bequest. These funds will go directly to the community-led projects on the ground that make lasting change possible. But so much more is needed. Landcare Australia invites the support of individuals, philanthropic partners, corporations, and government organisations to join in strengthening recovery efforts. If you would like to support Victoria's bushfire recovery or learn more about how your donation will make a difference, contact: enquiries@landcareaustralia.com.au

Please consider giving, if you can.

And keep on Landcaring with great heart - this is why we do what we do, right?

It's never been more important that we collectively care and connect, to make a difference.



BVL NEWS

BVL projects in development - your donations at work!



BVL has been especially fortunate in receiving some generous donations last year, building off what's been amazing community support over many years. Thanks to every one of you who have made a contribution.

In 2026, BVL has plans to roll out a number of projects and events putting these donation dollars to work for the benefit of biodiversity, restoration, conservation and education in the Byron Shire.

First up will be the **Pollinator Project**, launching in March. We're excited about this one! The plight of the European honey bee populations in the face of verova mite spells big trouble for the future of our food security and the ecosystem services honey bees provide in producing the fresh fruit, vegetables and crops we all need. It's time we gave more attention to the many Australian native species of pollinators - and not just native bees! Butterflies, moths, wasps, hoverflies, there's a heap of them.

We're going to invite citizen scientists to join us in collecting data to document the diversity of pollinator species living in our gardens, fields, and bushland. Let's ensure we have plenty of quality good habitat for them in the future. Watch this space, details coming soon. Special mention to Flow Hive's "Billions of Blossoms" campaign for your support in helping realise this project.

Following that, we're going to be asking "What's in the box?" BVL's Wildlife Safe Havens program - rolled out over many years and super-charged as a post-bushfire habitat response - has installed nest boxes & hollows across Byron Shire for arboreal hollow-dependant species. Understanding what's in the box is key to evaluating the success of hollow installation strategy and what more needs to be done. We'll keep you updated with results from upcoming monitoring surveys.



BVL NEWS

Vale Shaun Eastment

Sadly, we have lost a Landcare legend. This notice and beautiful tributes to Shaun are republished in full, with the kind permission of Richmond Landcare and contributing authors



It is with heavy hearts that we share the sad news of the passing of Shaun Eastment.

Shaun was President of Lennox Head Landcare from 2017 to present. Shaun commenced with Richmond Landcare in 2018, and served as Deputy Chairperson in 2020, commencing as Chairperson in December 2020 to October 2023.

She sadly passed away on Monday 12th January 2026.

Shaun was a much loved member of the Landcare community. She will be remembered as a warm and passionate person and a dedicated and committed Landcarer who contributed significantly to Landcare in our region. Shaun will be dearly missed by us all. Our thoughts are with Shaun's family and loved ones during this hard time.

Reflections on Shaun - Hedy Bryant

When I started at RLI in October 2021 Shaun provided a comprehensive and thoughtful staged induction – she connected me to the whole. She demonstrated strategic leadership, insight and knowledge about Landcare and showed her passion for making a difference. Her knowledge of bush regeneration, plants and volunteer engagement at the local level coupled with her Richmond Landcare networking skills and knowledge made her a unique chair. Shaun also created policies and procedures reflecting best practice in governance and workplace operations. Certainly, it was Shaun's leadership that enabled RLI to grow into the organisation that it is today. Most of all I miss her as a friend and comrade.

Hedy Bryant, current RLI Chair

In memory of Shaun Eastment - Hannah Rice-Hayes

Shaun Eastment was a long-term Landcarer and a quietly formidable presence in our community. Calm, thoughtful and endlessly curious, she brought patience and generosity to her work — but she also didn't tolerate fluff for long. If I ever got carried away with an idea, Shaun had an unmatched ability to bring things gently but firmly back to earth with a perfectly timed quip or a raised eyebrow. Message received.

For many years Shaun tag-teamed as Chair of Richmond Landcare with Jim Kinkead, and together they were an absolute powerhouse. Her clarity of thought and no-fuss leadership helped steer Richmond Landcare through some of its biggest moments of change — from floods to structural shifts — always with collaboration, integrity and calm resolve. She was humble, selfless and deeply practical: a leader who focused on doing the work well, rather than being seen.

Through Richmond Landcare, Shaun contributed enormously to Landcare across the North Coast, though her true love was Lennox Landcare. For years, she quite literally dedicated her backyard to growing plants for use and sale by the group, and helped take Landcare to the broader community with strategy and style — from much-loved Love Lennox plant stalls to what is surely the best Landcare website on the North Coast.

Continued over.....

BVL NEWS

Whether through weekly working bees (and the mandatory café cuppa afterwards), Shaun knew how to pull people together for the environment in ways that felt welcoming, grounded and genuinely fun.

A scientist, an exceptional communicator and a natural teacher, Shaun represented Lennox and the local environment wherever she could — through the Lennox Residents Association, Ballina Shire coastal groups, Richmond Landcare and beyond. Many of us know our landcare and professional practice is stronger because of her influence, and our lives richer for having worked alongside such a wonderful, dry-witted, deeply caring human. Shaun will be greatly missed, and always warmly remembered.

My heart goes out to Shaun’s family and friends; and to Kelly, Mal, Spider and all the Lennox Landcare clan.

Vale Shaun, and thank you.



Words for Shaun - Kelly Saunderson on behalf of Lennox Head Landcare

Shaun has been a part of Lennox Head Landcare for 15 years, and 12 of those years she served as President. Often barefoot and always up for an interesting chat, she brought an authentic presence to everything she did.

She helped build the warm and inclusive culture of Lennox Head Landcare. Under her guidance Lennox Head Landcare grew not only in numbers, but in vibrancy and strength.

Shaun was particularly passionate about growing habitat for wildlife in home gardens, driving propagation and community plant stalls to get native plants — and knowledge — out into the community. She was also deeply committed to protecting coastal dunes, educating people about their value and the role they play in caring for our coastline.

Shaun often worked quietly behind the scenes, bringing her considered perspective to conversations with government, agencies, and local decision-makers, always advocating for the best outcome for both community and nature.

We loved Shaun for her passion, her foresight and her heart. She will be greatly missed by Lennox Head Landcare members and remembered for the lasting contribution she made to our community.



BVL NEWS

University of Wollongong survey: Enhancing coastal weed management capabilities



This survey is for people who manage coastal weeds anywhere in Australia. For the purpose of this research, coastal means within 5 kilometres of the shoreline.

Researchers from University of Wollongong have been contracted by NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service with funding from the Commonwealth Government to investigate how coastal weeds are currently being managed across Australia, understand what best practice partnerships look like, and identify the existing research needs of stakeholders.

Closes 7 March

The survey is confidential, takes approximately 15 minutes to complete, and includes both multiple choice and optional free text questions.

To participate, start your survey [here](#)



NSW Saving our Species news



Image: Elsie Percival

Rufous scrub-bird DNA project aims to safeguard ancient and elusive songbird

A tiny songbird species living in pockets of high-altitude rainforest since the time of the dinosaurs is having its DNA sequenced in a bid to safeguard its dwindling population.

The Rufous scrub-bird is one of the world's oldest surviving species of songbird, but scientists believe fewer than 2,000 of the birds remain.

The senior threatened species officer with the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water, Brian Hawkins, said the DNA project aimed to pinpoint genetic differences between five isolated colonies of the bird.

"They are almost impossible to see because they live in really dense understorey vegetation in Gondwanan-type rainforest," Dr Hawkins said.

"And they are even harder to catch."

The colonies range from the Barrington Tops National Park north-west of Newcastle to the Border Ranges National Park in north-east NSW and south-east Queensland.

Read the full story [here](#) featured in ABC online, published 2 January.



More excellent and informative content form the NSW Saving Our Species team:

Grey Headed Flying foxes – pollinators of the forests and more

Hear from Mathew Mo about how much our native forests need them.

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/FLkfWtKeSgM>

Saving our Species: International Day of Women and Girls in Science

February 11 was International Day of Women and Girls in Science. The Saving our Species team put this together to celebrate some of the dedicated women working to protect threatened species through the [#SavingOurSpecies](#) program. Learn about their passion for conservation, and enjoy some nature-related fun, as they share their wisdom to support the next generation.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FRN-fyNx9jE>



REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

Harnessing nature: advancing conservation biological control in Tasmanian apple orchards



The open flowers of common tea tree provide abundant and accessible nectar to many insects, including beneficial predators and parasitoids. Photo: Peter de Lange, iNaturalist NZ, <https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/photos/57833486>

Researchers at the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture are working on several initiatives that support an integrated, more ecological-based approach to managing key pests in the orchard. Conservation biological control (CBC) is the strategic protection and enhancement of natural enemies that keep pest populations in check. Unlike classical biological control (which involves importing exotic predators and parasitoids), CBC focuses on attracting and supporting beneficial insects by creating the right environment for them to thrive and prey upon their enemies.

The wild natural enemies that occur in apple and pear orchards include earwigs, lacewings, ladybird beetles, hoverflies and parasitic wasps. Natural enemies often require nectar and pollen to survive and reproduce. By providing the right plants and habitat, growers can encourage these insects to stay longer, move into orchards and control pests more effectively. For growers, this means potential to reduce chemical inputs.

Why predators matter in orchards

Predatory insects can make a significant dent in populations of damaging pests like woolly apple aphid, spider mite, light brown apple moth and codling moth. However, these beneficials often struggle to survive in conventional orchards due to a lack of food resources (especially nectar) and pesticide use.

By planting flowering species that provide year-round nectar and pollen, and situating them in safe zones away from spraying, growers can help establish robust predator populations that disperse naturally into orchards. Not only does this improve pest control, but it also strengthens overall orchard biodiversity and resilience. Read the full story [here](#).



REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

News from the Byron Farmers Network

Farm visits and farm yarns: opportunities to have input into the review of the Byron Shire Agriculture Action Plan

This year we will be conducting a review of our Agriculture Action Plan which will guide our support for agriculture in the Byron Shire. Over the next few months, we are offering land custodians and farmers a free farm visit or phone call to discuss how we can help improve agriculture in the Byron Shire. It is also a chance to discuss any challenges and opportunities in adopting agro-ecological farming approaches.

You can view the current plan here [Byron Shire Agriculture Action Plan](#)

Contact Mark: mduncan@byron.nsw.gov.au to book a time.

Tree Farmer: A New Resource for North Coast Landholders & Advisors

The Subtropical Farm Forestry Association (SFFA), in partnership with North Coast Regional Landcare (NCRLN), has launched Tree Farmer, a regional knowledge hub to help North Coast landholders navigate Australia's evolving Natural Capital and Environmental Markets. Whether you're planting trees, restoring rainforest, managing biodiversity or just curious about Natural Capital and Environmental Markets, Tree Farmer provides clear, locally relevant information. As part of the initiative, Tree Farmer is offering two free learning opportunities led by Natural Capital and Environmental Markets expert Meaghan Burkett. Choose a three-month Learning Network or a self-paced online course, available for landholders and farmers, or for advisors, educators and policy professionals. Attendance is free, but places are limited.

More detail on the courses: [Tree Farmer Course Info Pack](#)

Register: your interest [here](#). Registrations close at 10:00pm on Sunday 8 March 2026.

Living Earth Biology workshop at The Paddock Project - Why soil stops responding and what to do next

John Bond from Living Earth Biology will deliver this practical and grounded session for gardeners and growers who feel stuck and want clarity on how to move forward when growth slows, soil dries out quickly, disease shows up, and inputs that once work no longer do.

When: Saturday 14th May, 10am – 3pm

Where: The Paddock Project, Mullumbimby

More info and bookings: [Tickets for Why Soil Stops Responding and What to Do Next](#)



Byron Shire Council News

Trees in Bangalow to be replaced

Media release published 2 February 2026



Council will shortly be removing and replacing trees in Bangalow's town centre, as part of the Bangalow Street Tree Succession Plan.

The Liquidambar trees near The Cellar - Bangalow and the Leopard Tree near the Bangalow Post Office will be the first to be removed and replaced with native species. In particular, the Leopard Tree on Byron Street needs to be removed as soon as possible due to a wood fungus infection that could result in the tree falling.

Jim Roberts, Acting Manager Open Spaces and Facilities, said that the main aim of the adopted plan is to stop ongoing damage to buildings and pavement in Bangalow.

"There are several heritage buildings in Bangalow that have already been damaged by tree roots. We are initially replacing three trees with native species planted in dedicated root containment pits. This will stop any ongoing damage, while still providing shade and maintaining Bangalow's leafy character," said Mr Roberts.

"The trees replacing those being removed are Weeping Lilli Pilli on Byron Street and Ivory Curl on Station Street and will be around four metres high when planted. They will grow up to ten metres high eventually," said Mr Roberts.

The Bangalow Street Tree Succession Plan was adopted by Council following community feedback received in 2024.

"Council was hoping to remove and replace trees last year, but we were waiting on the detailed design to be completed. We are confident that stage one of the plan will be completed by June this year," said Mr Roberts.

The next steps of the succession plan will take place over the coming years and includes gradually replacing six other trees in the town centre in two future stages.

"Stage two of the succession plan will occur once the trees that are planted this year are established and have grown to six metres. We are rolling this out in stages so that an element of shade is kept in the main street at all times," said Mr Roberts.



CRITTER CORNER

Lewin's Honeyeater *Meliphaga lewinii*

This month's critter is inspired by a delightful few weeks over summer, by a birdbath....



It's interesting the small ripples caused when a neighbour moves out of your street. And in this case, taking their garden bird bath with them!

I've had a bird bath sitting in a sheltered part of the garden for 2 years and planted habitat around it to encourage birds to feel safe using it - sadly, without much activity to date. At the end of last year, after the neighbour next door moved, change happened. Through the heat of late December - early January a pair of Lewin's Honeyeaters started appearing. Every day. Multiple times a day. It's hard to tell the male & female of the species apart, but because this pair became such regular visitors, quite close up, you could distinguish them by their behaviours. The male, slightly larger, was more bold in his approach and bathing style, and would always fly to the same tree before taking his time to dip into the water, fanning his feathers, and preening. The female had a slightly more cautious approach, always landing on a different tree before taking a quicker dip and flying to nearby foliage to sit and preen.

I've regularly heard Lewin's Honeyeaters around but rarely had the chance to view them up close - I always thought them to be quite shy. Neither of these birds seemed to mind human presence at all and it was a such delight to be visited by them each day, like clockwork. They would rarely come together, rather taking turns. What was going on? A special day came in mid-to-late January when two Lewin's appeared - but something was different. The second bird was smaller again and after listening to it's call it became clear that it was the pair's new fledgling. The parents started bringing it to teach it where its water source is. Welcome Junior! Next page you'll find more on these interesting little locals. And a good reminder that if you create the habitat, eventually something will use it. Patience.....

CRITTER CORNER

Lewin's Honeyeater *Meliphaga lewinii*

Description:

The Lewin's Honeyeater is small to medium in size. It is dark greenish grey in colour, with a creamy yellow gape (fleshy corners of the mouth). It has large, yellowish crescent-shaped ear patches. In flight, the pale yellow edges of the flight feathers can be seen. The bill is black and the eye is blue-grey. Both sexes are similar in appearance. Young Lewin's Honeyeaters are similar to the adults, but have brown eyes.

Distribution:

Lewin's Honeyeater prefers the wetter parts of eastern Australia, from northern Queensland to central Victoria.

Habitat:

Lewin's Honeyeater is found in both rainforest and wet sclerophyll forest, and often wanders into more open woodland. It is a common bird, and its call is often heard in these areas.

Seasonal movements: Sedentary; some altitudinal migration to lower areas in winter.

Feeding:

Lewin's Honeyeaters feed mostly on fruits, favouring berries and small fruits, but also eat insects and nectar. Birds are normally seen alone, but may form loose groups of up to 10 birds. They feed in the upper branches and on the trunks of trees. Some insects are caught in flight.

Breeding:

The nest is a large cup of vegetation and other materials, bound together with spider web and lined with soft material. The eggs are oval in shape. It is unclear what roles each parent performs in nest building and incubation, but both care for the young birds.

Fun Fact:

The tip of the Lewin's Honeyeater's tongue is divided into four tiny sections which resemble a feathery 'paintbrush' allowing it to lap up large quantities of nectar at a time.



A Lewin's Honeyeater nest, constructed from vegetation, twigs, bark, and moss, bound together with spider web and lined with soft material like plant down. Neat!

Content sourced from Birdlife's Birds in Backyards and The Australian Museum



BYRON BIRD BUDDIES

Program update

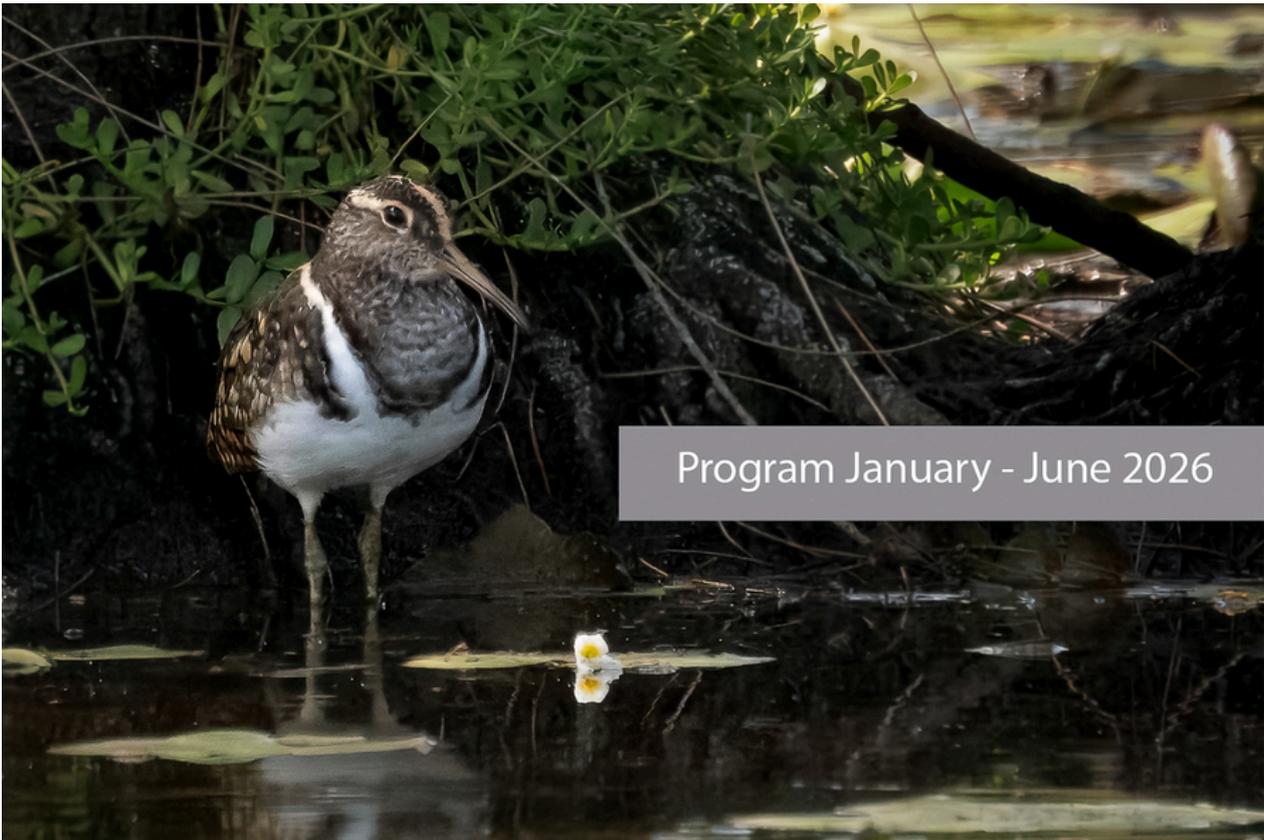


Image: Painted Snipe Painted Snipe by Hans Wohlmuth at Coombabah Lakelands Conservation Area.

We've been loving seeing Byron Bird Buddies' Bird Features appearing in The Echo over last few months. A portion of the Albert's Lyrebird feature made a recent week's issue but here is the full version, written by Rosy Whelan.

Keep up the good work Rosy!

<https://www.byronbirdbuddies.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Lyrebird-with-Pics.pdf>

Surveys and Outings: Newcomers are welcome whether experienced birders or beginners. Enjoy one of Australia's best bird regions and participate in citizen science conservation, monitoring and education.

Contact: Call Jan on 0428 864 378 or email byronbirdbuddy@gmail.com (Please note that the program may change at short notice due to local conditions or weather.)

What to bring: Wear sturdy shoes and bring water, hat, sunscreen, insect repellent and morning tea, lunch or a plate to presentation meetings.

BBB PROGRAM JANUARY – JUNE 2026 CLICK [HERE](#)



GRANTS



FRRR ABC Heywire Youth Innovation Grants – EOIs close 11 March

FRRR and our donor partners collaborate with ABC Heywire to help empower communities and young people to take action on issues that matter most to them, as identified at the annual Heywire Regional Youth Summit.

Grants of up to \$10,000 are available for communities and young people across Australia to design local solutions addressing the six issues identified at the Heywire Summit.

Applicants are required to submit a brief Expression of Interest (EOI). EOIs will be shortlisted by the young people who identified these issues at the Summit. Shortlisted applicants will then be invited to submit a full application.

For program guidelines and more info, follow this [link](#)

FRRR Community-led Climate Solutions – applications close 5pm 12 March

The Community Led Climate Solutions grant program supports not-for-profit organisations across remote, rural and regional Australia to drive local climate solutions that reduce emissions through education, engagement and action on:

- Clean energy;
- Circular economies;
- Decarbonisation;
- Sustainable agriculture and food systems;
- Biodiverse ecosystems; or
- Just transitions*

The program is collaboratively funded by donors committed to enabling communities to address the impacts of climate change locally for positive and sustainable environmental, social and economic outcomes.

*Just transitions: For the purposes of this grant program, this term refers to ensuring that no one is left behind in the transition to low-carbon and environmentally sustainable economies and societies.

For program guidelines and more info, follow this [link](#)



LISTEN

If you havent come across Emergence Magazine and their podcast series, check it out - some fascinating listening. Images below are just a sample of two recent topics, link to site is below:

[Emergence Podcasts](#)



Learning to Listen to Plants A Conversation with Monica Gagliano

▶ **PLAY** 65 min | January 13, 2026



When the Earth Started to Sing by David G. Haskell

▶ **PLAY** 39 min | February 28, 2022



PLANT PROFILE

Bunya Pine *Araucaria bidwillii*



Above: The Bunya Mountains, QLD; R: a Mullum Bunya, by the river as a street tree



Derivation of name: *Araucaria*; After the province of Arauco in Chile.

bidwillii: After John Carne Bidwill (1815-1853), a botanical collector of the 1840 – 1850 period.

Araucaria is a genus of conifers consisting of about 18 species. There are three Australian members of the genus; *A. bidwillii*, *A. cunninghamii* (the hoop pine from Queensland and New South Wales) and *A. heterophylla* (the Norfolk Island pine).

Habitat & Distribution: In Subtropical Rainforest between the Bunya Mountains and Nambour and Gympie, QLD and south to the Esk district, also in small isolated patches in North QLD on Mt Lewis Tableland and near Ravenshoe. [But some more on this below.....]

Description: *Araucaria bidwillii* is a tall tree growing 30-45 metres in height, with a straight, rough-barked trunk, and a very distinctive symmetrical, dome-shaped crown. It is an emergent species in subtropical rainforest and is confined to Queensland, where it occurs mainly between Nambour and Gympie and west to the Bunya Mountains, with a small occurrence in north Queensland on Mt. Lewis and at Cunnabullen Falls. The glossy green leaves are lance-shaped, sharply pointed and about 50 mm long. The male cones are narrow, cylindrical structures to about 20 cm long on the ends of short branchlets. They usually appear in autumn. The large, female fruiting cones are very large (football sized) and generally mature in summer through to early autumn but they are not formed every year (generally once every three years). Both the male and female cones are shed from the tree and can be a hazard to anyone underneath. Because of their size and weight, the female cones are particularly dangerous but the male cones are also capable of causing injury, particularly when they fall from the top of a large tree. The bunya pine is widely cultivated in many areas and, despite its sub-tropical/tropical origins, is hardy in colder districts of Australia. Reports indicate bunya pines growing and fruiting in cold climates such as Bright in the Victorian Alps (where plantings about 100 years old exist) and at Mt Martha, some 60 km south of Melbourne on the Mornington Peninsula. These locations are certainly a long way from “home” in Queensland, both climatically and geographically. The species adapts to a range of soils but will not succeed in those which remain waterlogged for long periods.

Continued over.....

PLANT PROFILE

Bunya Pine *Araucaria bidwillii*

Bunya Pine story and in Culture

I've always been curious about how the Bunyas spread to other regions of Australia. As conifers, they are pollinated by wind, not insects. The Museums of History NSW document that owners of large 19th-century estates often planted tall trees around the house or homestead so they could orient themselves from the surrounding area. At Rouse Hill Estate, NW Sydney, Bunya pines were planted between the 1850s and 1880s to also create welcome shade for people and livestock, and to embellish the hillside with eye-catching greenery.

New genomic research by a team at Sydney's Botanic Gardens and Macquarie University has revealed that Aboriginal peoples increased the spread of a tree species that held cultural and culinary significance (such as the Bunya) as a response to colonisation. They found genetic patterns that suggest pre-colonial movement of bunya pine in southeast Queensland was localised or of low intensity and that movement of the bunya pine intensified in the area following European colonisation.

<https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/article/genomic-tools-show-innovative-indigenous-agriculture/tqmlq28tm>

Another article shares this team's research on the deliberate spread of bunya, as well as Black Bean *Castanospermum australe* by Bundjalung people, following the Nguthungulli Songline:

<https://theconversation.com/walking-the-trees-we-traced-how-first-nations-groups-moved-bunya-pine-and-black-bean-trees-229914>

State Library of QLD has documented some of the history of this unique and intriguing tree, and is quite an interesting read:

<https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/blog/bountiful-bunyas-charismatic-tree-fascinating-history>

Whilst the Bunyas are not thought to be at risk in the wild, they are facing threats. Here's an ABC story about the impacts of phytophthora, or dieback, on the ancient bunyas in QLD and the efforts of the Bunya Rangers to protect them: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2019-12-10/ancient-bunya-pines-dying-from-plant-disease/11766594>



Individual seed pods within the Bunya cone scales. Photo Scott Hill © Sydney Living Museums

Information sourced from:

[Aust Native Plant Society](#), Rainforest Plants of Australia app, and other cited sources

.....

SNIPPETS

We discovered microbes in bark ‘eat’ climate gases. This will change the way we think about trees

Article by published by The Conversation January 9, 2026

We all know trees are climate heroes. They pull carbon dioxide out of the air, release the oxygen we breathe, and help combat climate change. Now, for the first time, our research has uncovered the hidden world of the tiny organisms living in the bark of trees. We discovered they are quietly helping to purify the air we breathe and remove greenhouse gases.

Full story here: [The Conversation](#)

Ten Sydney Harbours’ worth of threatened species habitat approved for destruction in 2025, report finds

Article by Donna Lu published in The Guardian Australia January 14, 2026

Australian Conservation Foundation analysis finds amount of habitat approved by Albanese government for land-clearing hit a 15-year high last year. More than 57,000 hectares of threatened species habitat was approved for destruction by the Australian government in 2025 – the most in 15 years, according to analysis by the Australian Conservation Foundation.

The ACF’s latest annual “extinction wrapped” report has revealed that the threatened species habitat greenlit for land-clearing was about 10 times the size of Sydney Harbour – more than double the 2024 figure, and over five times the 10,426 hectares approved for razing in 2023.

Full story here: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2026/jan/13/threatened-species-habitat-destruction-australia-15-year-high>

Wildlife corridor to span busy motorway in landmark project

Article by Kerry Fuller and Rory McDonald published in ABC online February 22, 2026

High above the traffic, a concrete bridge is being transformed into a thoroughfare designed not for cars, but for wildlife.

An estimated 40,000 vehicles a day pass beneath Cawleys Bridge, unaware it could one day help reconnect ecosystems split apart by the road below.

The M1 Princes Motorway, near the Illawarra-Heathcote corridor, is one of the state's busiest commuter routes and an almost impossible barrier for animals trying to move between habitats. Now the long-overlooked structure is being turned into a living corridor, allowing animals to safely cross from one side of the landscape to the other.

Full story here: [ABC online](#)

EVENT

Sunday 1 March 2026

GET YOUR

2026

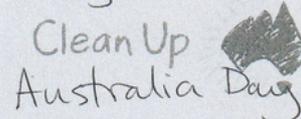
GLOVES ON



RIVER CARE

GIVE BACK TO THE PLACE WE CALL HOME

9am Mullumbimby Creek, corner Azalea St + ^{Left Bank R}
EVENT: 10-30 Brunswick River, dirt road between Azalea St
LOCATION: and Eugenia St uphill from Presbyterian Section
of Mullum Cemetery
DATE: Sunday March 1 **TIME:** _____
CONTACT: Mary 0421 701949



CLEANUP.ORG.AU

Morning tea provided

For info, please call Mary on 0421 701 949

.....

WORKSHOP SERIES

March 2026

Local Land Services



Land literacy - understanding land, soils and natural assets

Join North Coast LLS for this three day workshop series and gain the knowledge and tools to better understand, assess, and improve the natural assets on your land.

These workshops are designed for land managers seeking to enhance their understanding of land condition, natural assets, and emerging environmental opportunities.

Come along to:

- Learn from leading practitioners and subject matter experts.
- Gain insights into assessing ecological health, leveraging mapping tools, and navigating environmental markets.
- Understand landscape capability, limitations and catchment processes.
- Identify pathways to improve land productivity and sustainability through informed management.

Morning tea, lunch and refreshments will be provided each day.

Dates and times

Wednesday 11 March 2026

Wednesday 18 March 2026

Wednesday 25 March 2026

9:00am – 3:30pm each day.

Location

DPIRD Wollongbar Site, 1243 Bruxner Highway, Wollongbar

RSVP

Register Online or scan the QR code

Contact

Vincent Parisi
vince.parisi@lls.nsw.gov.au
0427 714 938



vince.parisi@lls.nsw.gov.au



EVENT

Sunday 22 March 2026

NATIONWIDE

MARCH FOR FORESTS



22.03.26

**10 AM • THE QUAD
110 MAGELLAN STREET
→ MARCH**

**TAKE ACTION
WITH US**

LISMORE



BOB BROWN FOUNDATION



WEED OF THE MONTH

Continuing our revisitation of the Top-6 Post Flood weed Fact Sheet series produced in 2024, this month it's....

NIGHT FLOWERING JASMINE



Cestrum nocturnum



Description

Multi-stemmed perennial large shrub or small tree to 4m high with white round berries. Sparsely hairy new growth. Leaves narrow-ovate to elliptic, 10-15 cm long, 4-7 cm wide, with hairy lower midrib. Flowers greenish yellow, in congested spike-like racemes at the end of short stems, releasing strong perfume at night. Fruit green when young, white when ripe.

Flowering time

Spring to Summer

Impacts

Readily colonises disturbed areas and under-stories of open forest where it forms thickets out-competing native plants. **All parts of this plant are poisonous to humans and livestock. Perfume can cause breathing difficulties.**

Habitat

A weed of waterways, riparian vegetation, wetlands and the margins of waterbodies.

Origin

West Indies, Central America

How is it spread

By seed plants can produce thousands of seeds each year. Seeds are more viable after passing the gut of an animal and seedlings are often found under trees where birds have perched. Seeds may also spread via contaminated soil, in floodwaters and by people dumping garden waste.

By plant parts stems or root fragments can regrow.

Similar species



- Green cestrum / Green Poison Berry *Cestrum parqui* which has yellow flowers and black fruit.



- Red cestrum / Elegant Poison Berry *Cestrum elegans* which has red flowers and red fruit.

Continued over....

WEED OF THE MONTH



NIGHT FLOWERING JASMINE

Control Methods

PHYSICAL REMOVAL

By hand Dig out small plants or use a tree popper. Do not leave stems in contact with the soil because they may sprout.

CHEMICAL CONTROL

Spot spraying to thoroughly cover all of the foliage. Spraying will not kill the fruit. If possible collect the fruit and dispose of it.

Basal barking apply herbicide mixed with diesel to cover the lower stem, all the way around.

Splatter gun can be used for dense infestations of weeds that are difficult to reach. The specialised nozzle produces large droplets that allow plants up to 10 m away to be sprayed with limited chance of spray drift. Spray small amounts of concentrated herbicide on the weeds. It is not necessary to cover all of the foliage.

Cut stump method cut the main stem and apply herbicide to the stump within 15 seconds of cutting.

Weed wipers to apply herbicide directly onto leaves. This can be used for small infestations and will minimise damage to other species.

Best Season

All year but best prior to fruiting.

Biosecurity Duty

All pest plants are regulated with a general biosecurity duty to prevent, eliminate or minimise any biosecurity risk they may pose. Any person who deals with any plant, who knows (or ought to know) of any biosecurity risk, has a duty to ensure the risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised, so far as is reasonably practicable.

Herbicide

WARNING - ALWAYS READ THE LABEL

Users of agricultural or veterinary chemical products must always read the label and any permit, before using the product, and strictly comply with the directions on the label and the conditions of any permit. Users are not absolved from compliance with the directions on the label or the conditions of the permit by reason of any statement made or not made in this information. To view permits or product labels go to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority website www.apvma.gov.au. See [Using herbicides](#) for more information.

PERMIT [9907](#) Expires 31/03/2025

More information

<https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/LadyOfTheNight>



Weed Wise



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

Waterlily Park Care Group, Waterlily 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.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
- 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.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, Valley Lipcer

www.brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au



0421 244 640



info@brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au

