



Newsletter

Conserving and restoring from forest to foreshore



It really is a special time of year. The mix of Autumn rain and bursts of sunshine making everything so lush and green. It's perfect planting weather too—cooler temperatures help roots establish without the stress of summer heat, and the soil stays nicely moist.

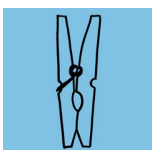
In this edition we celebrate the grassroots volunteer effort of the Brunswick Valley Landcare locality groups, who have for many decades regenerated sites across the shire, turning degraded land back to thriving biodiversity. You will also find information for field days, community plantings, events and workshops.

We trust you will find something of interest herein and go forth inspired to be part of a wonderful community caring for our precious environment.

from the BVL Team

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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

CELEBRATING BVL VOLUNTEERS

2026 is the UN International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development, recognising and highlighting the significant contributions volunteers make toward the UN Sustainable Development Goals (IVY2026).

This month as part of getting to know my (fairly new) job as landcare coordinator, I started to visit the sites of the 14 locality groups that Brunswick Valley Landcare support across the shire and meet some of the amazing volunteers that are the stewards of these sites.

Brunswick Valley Landcare locality groups meet regularly at various locations across the shire, often on public land. Their work includes removing weeds and rubbish; planting and maintaining native vegetation; establishing native food gardens; installing artificial habitats; upgrading pathways; installing botanical signage; and much more. They are dedicated custodians who care deeply for, and advocate strongly on behalf of, their individual patches. Some of these groups have been active for decades, contributing thousands of volunteer hours to restoration and transforming degraded lands into thriving ecosystems.

Thanks to these volunteers, there are now littoral and subtropical rainforests where there were once monocultures of exotic grasses and eroded riverbanks. There are nature reserves, wildlife refuges, and ecological corridors where there were once bare grassy hills.

These groups are supporting our shire's biodiversity and creating a lasting legacy of care. I was truly inspired by the people I met and the sites these dedicated volunteers are regenerating.

If you would like to join one of these groups, they are always happy to welcome new members, and could really do with some more help.

The rewards are many—emotionally, socially, and environmentally. It's a great way to deepen your connection to place and community, and to learn about your local ecology. There is a wealth of knowledge within these groups on native plant species, wildlife, weeds, restoration planning, and a fair amount of local history as well.

A list of regular working bees can be found at the end of each newsletter and on the Brunswick Valley Landcare [website](#):



CELEBRATING BVL VOLUNTEERS

Peaceful subtropical rainforest havens, full of bird song - right in the centre of Ocean Shores.



I highly recommend a walk through Yalla Kool Reserve walking track, which is accessed from Warrambool Rd. Ocean Shores. Also, just over the road from this track is Devines Hill lookout, which is accessed through a little rainforest path next to the water tank. The path takes you up to the top of the hill, where you can take in panoramic vistas from South Golden Beach to Byron Bay. Devines Hill and Yalla Kool have both been restored by volunteers from the same BVL locality group.



Taste wild currents, *Antidesma erostre*, in fruit now at the new Yalla Kool native food garden.

BVL NEWS

MONITORING OF MOTHERS DAY PLANTINGS

Since 2014, Brunswick Valley Landcare's annual Mother's Day planting event has been a cherished tradition, bringing the community together to celebrate mums while caring for the environment. Each year, hundreds gather on public and private properties in and around Mullumbimby to plant thousands of trees, enjoy live music and food, and share an outdoor celebration—honouring both our mums and our Mother Earth.

Following each planting, Brunswick Valley Landcare maintains the sites for three years, after which full custodianship is handed over to the landowners.

In February–March 2026, Brunswick Valley Landcare commissioned monitoring audits for all of the mother's day planting sites. The aim of these audits is to assess how the plantings are performing—identify which species are thriving and which have struggled, evaluate maintenance practices, and understand the impact of specific weeds on tree health. The monitoring also seeks to identify broader themes, including site conditions at establishment, soil quality, optimal spacing, species diversity, and the timing of plantings.



Teak Tree Farm Mothers Day Planting 2019



Continued over.....

BVL NEWS

MONITORING OF MOTHERS DAY PLANTINGS

We are committed to continued learning and innovation, and to deepening our understanding of the many factors that contribute to successful plantings. No two sites are the same, and both environmental and human influences play a role in their outcomes. We look forward to the insights from this report as we continue to strengthen our knowledge and build thriving future forests together as a community.



Teak Tree Farm planting 7 years on !



Mothers Day planting site audits being conducted by Jo Green and Aly Ratcliffe from Earthscapes

There are some field trips to selected Mother's Day Planting sites planned for later this year!

Stay tuned !

BVL NEWS

NORTH COAST LOCAL LAND SERVICES LAND LITERACY WORKSHOPS



Valley, Harry and Stephanie from Brunswick Valley Landcare recently took part in a free, three-part Land Literacy Workshop, run by North Coast Local Land Services (NCLLS). They were practical and useful sessions and a good opportunity to meet a diverse bunch of local landholders working in regenerative agriculture and ecosystem rehabilitation across the region.

The course was designed to help participants better understand their land and to improve both ecological health and productive potential. It covered practical ways to assess and monitor natural assets; such as vegetation, soils, waterways and overall landscape condition and useful guidelines for property planning. Attendees also gained valuable insights into emerging environmental markets.

A highlight of the program was getting out in the field with trips to local farms and riparian restoration sites, as well as a workshop in camera trapping for conservation and pest management.

We're excited to be exploring opportunities to collaborate with North Coast Local Land Services to deliver tailored workshops for our members later this year. Watch this space!

** Land Literacy is a Natural Resource Management (NRM) extension program focused on building knowledge, skills and practice change for land managers interested in enhancing on-farm natural assets.*

To keep up to date with more workshops by Local Land Services check out their [website](#)



BVL NEWS

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY



A massive thanks to the wonderful people who rallied together in the rainy and muggy weather on March 1st to clean up rubbish in the shire.

Over 300 kg of rubbish was collected, soft plastics such as bags, confectionery wrappers and cigarette butts were some of the most frequently found items.

A local group, led by passionate landcarer Mary Fox removed rubbish from two areas, Mullumbimby Creek behind the Timber Slab Factory and Brunswick River above the Mullumbimby Cemetery. They found old fences with barb and chicken wire old enough to have grown into the trees, big heavy tarps, pallets, tables and chairs.

Byron Shire Council send the data collected from our local Clean Up Australia Day events to contribute to Australia's Annual Litter Report with the information used to strengthen national efforts to combat litter and safeguard our natural environment.

People can find out more about Council's initiatives at Waste and Litter Education Campaigns on the Byron Shire website.



NEWS

HELP GET SGARS SECOND-GENERATION ANTICOAGULANT RODENTICIDES (SGARS), OFF RETAIL SHELVES. THEY ARE KILLING VULNERABLE WILDLIFE.



**Action: Email your Local Council
about their SGAR use**

The public retail sale of SGARs has been regulated in the US, Canada and EU for years. But Australian regulations lag behind, and SGARs are available for anyone to purchase from supermarkets, hardware shops, and online throughout Australia.

After a huge public awareness campaign and thousands of submissions to The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA), they last week recommended their removal from retail shelves. To make this a reality, the APVMA's recommendation must now be signed off by Julie Collins, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and assistant Minister Anthony Chisholm.

Your help is urgently needed to help to write to Ministers Collins and Chisholm today, there is more information and an email format letter on the Birdlife Australia Website.

<https://birdlife.org.au/protect-aussie-birds-from-deadly-sgar-rat-poisons/>

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NEWS

UPDATE ON RAT POISONS FROM BIRDLIFE AUSTRALIA, MARCH 2026



SOME KEY POINTS

- Mechanical means such as your typical live traps and snap traps (use these indoors only) as bought at the hardware are still a very effective, non toxic way of controlling rodents.
- 2nd generation poisons are lethal to our wildlife, especially birds.
- Avoid throwaway pellets or pastes and don't place them in the open and in carports etc.
- Avoid poisons containing brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difelthione, difenacoum, flocumafum.
- Better products to buy exist, such as Ratsak Natural.
- Always read the labels and if you have to use poison, use responsibly.

Below is a link to a detailed article on rodent control alternatives. Which poisons to avoid and which ones to use if necessary.

<https://www.actforbirds.org/what-to-buy-and-avoid>

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EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

There are some great events and workshops on offer this month - koala tree plantings, a seed collecting workshop for our local seed bank, community events, art exhibitions, nature immersion workshops, a field day at a local farm to learn about soil health monitoring and landscape rehydration, a talk by Byron Bird Buddies about local birdlife in your garden and a citizen science project for the Glossy Black Cockatoos. There are also some great conservation and bush regeneration courses through NSW Tafe and the Biodiversity Conservation Trust.

See you out there!



REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

News from the Byron Farmers Network

Farm Walk at Banyula: Soil health monitoring and landscape rehydration - free event

Banyula and the Byron Shire Council agriculture team are hosting a farm walk at Clunes to explore the importance of soil monitoring in identifying physical and biological constraints to production. See how Natural Sequence Farming techniques have been applied to provide landscape function and soil health outcomes. Discover and learn about the Soilmentor app and how it is being used by a group of landholders as part of Byron Shires Slow the Flow project funded under the Northern Rivers Watershed Initiative. Project participants are using similar tests to the Northern Rivers Soil Health Card termed the “regen soil indicators” assessing soil constraints along with the physical and biological condition of their soils and implementing soil improvement action plans.

When: Wednesday 8th April - 2.00pm to 4.30pm

Where: Clunes. Meeting location to be confirmed closer to the date

Bookings and more info: <https://events.humanitix.com/farm-walk-at-banyula-soil-health-monitoring-and-landscape-rehydration>

Reminder - Call out to the Byron Farmers Network for Landshare Farmers - we are updating our register of interested farmers and landholders.

Many landholders have shown interest in arrangements with landless farmers and a vision to make their land more productive, contributing to local food security while making connections with the next generation of farmers. We are updating our register of interested “Landshare Farmers” in order to evaluate the potential for programs that can activate new farming enterprises in our shire. If you are a “landholder looking for a farmer”, or a “farmer looking for land” please let us know by providing details below when replying to this email. Alternatively, please feel free to make contact by phone or email to discuss any opportunities or give feedback for future support programs.

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

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Come along to this hands-on workshop at Mullumbimby Community Gardens to learn the art of processing sclerophyll seeds & contribute valuable seed to the North Coast Regional Seedbank project.



SEED PROCESSING Workshop

Join us for a hands-on workshop to process sclerophyll seeds collected for the North Coast Regional Seedbank.

Wednesday 2 April 2026
10am - 1pm
Mullumbimby Community Gardens,
156 Stuart St, Mullumbimby NSW 2482

[REGISTER HERE](#)



<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1554195>

[Learn more about the North Coast Regional Seed Bank](#)

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EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

COMMUNITY EVENT



Main Arm Disaster Recovery
presents

Get it Together

A community day at Kohinur Hall

2pm – 6pm Saturday April 11

- √ Meet our community with woodfired pizza and delicious cakes
- √ Learn about emergency food supplies and tasty ways to prepare it with our Valley's food whizz Liz Jackson
- √ Chat about how to stay safe in our Valley and to embrace the challenging times ahead
- √ Get connected to the resources and prepare for storms, floods and fires
- √ See UHF operation, chainsaw and generator maintenance and emergency supplies displays
- √ Engage with the RFS, SES, Landcare, Upper Main Arm Community Association, Main Arm Residents Association and Main Arm Disaster Recovery.

Our Community Pizza Oven will be cranking

Enjoy Liz Jackson's sweet treats, tea and coffee

and good tunes with Taz on the deck

Organising Crew



This event is funded through the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal

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EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

2 DAY BUSHLAND MANAGEMENT COURSE AT TAFE NSW

This course teaches some great skills, essential for working in the bushland regeneration industry and would be perfectly suited for Landcare members.



TAFE NSW is currently offering this Statement in Bushland Management course at Wollongbar campus over 2 consecutive Tuesdays the 5th and the 12th of May 2026.

Units taught in this course –

800001303B – Maintaining Native Ecosystem Areas

800001303A – Identify Plants in Native Bush Areas

Course fee:\$380.00

If you wish to enrol in the new course, please click the below link and follow the instructions.

<https://www.tafensw.edu.au/direct-enrol/26WLB-0003>

If you have any queries email: natalie.walsh24@tafensw.edu.au



STUDY PRIVATE LAND CONSERVATION FOR FREE ONLINE

Did you know that you can study private land conservation and management online for free through the Biodiversity Conservation Trust? Explore a range of land management e-learning courses online to support your conservation goals. [Find out more on the Biodiversity Conservation Trust website.](#)



EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

THE GREAT GLOSSY COUNT

Glossy Black-Cockatoos need you!



Image credit: Jasmine Connors

Join in a nationwide wildlife effort this May when the Great Glossy Count returns as a citizen science event focussed on collecting data to help us protect the South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo — one of Australia’s most distinctive and threatened bird species. Glossy Black-Cockatoos are listed as Vulnerable under Australian conservation law and continue to face serious threats from habitat loss. Glossies depend almost entirely on the seeds of native she-oak trees for food, so understanding where they live and feed is essential for conservation action.

Volunteer citizen scientists receive training and resources to support participation and the event takes place across parts of Queensland, NSW, Victoria and ACT.

Register now: <https://bit.ly/greatglossycount>

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Get to know other citizen scientists and sharpen your Glossy ID skills at this free training session.



GREAT GLOSSY COUNT WORKSHOPS

 **Glossy ID -
Ballina**

Learn how to locate and identify Glossy Black-Cockatoos and their feed trees in the wild.

**17
APRIL**

🕒 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM
📍 Ballina Surf Club, 65
Lighthouse Beach Parade

FOR REGISTRATION & FURTHER INFO:
🌐 glossyblack.org.au/great-glossy-count

This workshop is designed to help volunteers feel confident identifying Glossies and their feed trees ahead of the Great Glossy Count, happening on Saturday and Sunday, 16–17 May 2026. You'll learn key techniques and tips before heading out into the field.

In this session you will learn:

- How to identify Glossy Black-Cockatoos by sight and sound
- Tips for distinguishing males, females, and juveniles
- Insights into Glossy ecology and behaviour
- How to recognise and record important feed trees
- How to age-class chewings (orts) in the field
- How to use the Birdata app for recording sightings during the Count
- Field safety and best practices for surveying

Whether you're new to birdwatching or want to improve your survey skills, this workshop will help you make the most of the 2026 Great Glossy Count!

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

APRIL TREE PLANTING FOR KOALAS

Bangalow Koalas will be planting 1500 more Hope Trees on Friday 10th April in Myocum.



Koala Tree Planting

Fri 10th April 2026
Myocum

Time 9.00am start

Trees 1500

RSVP Bookings are essential, email to book your place today at:

president@bangalowkoalas.com.au



EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

BIRDS IN GARDENS TALK BY BYRON BIRD BUDDIES



Birds in Gardens

Join Byron Bird Buddies at The Paddock Project for a talk on local birds in local gardens

Wednesday April 29 at 3pm

The Paddock Project 64 Argyle St, Mullumbimby



BYRON BIRD BUDDIES

Program update

Byron Bird Buddies have some great bird monitoring events and workshops on this month

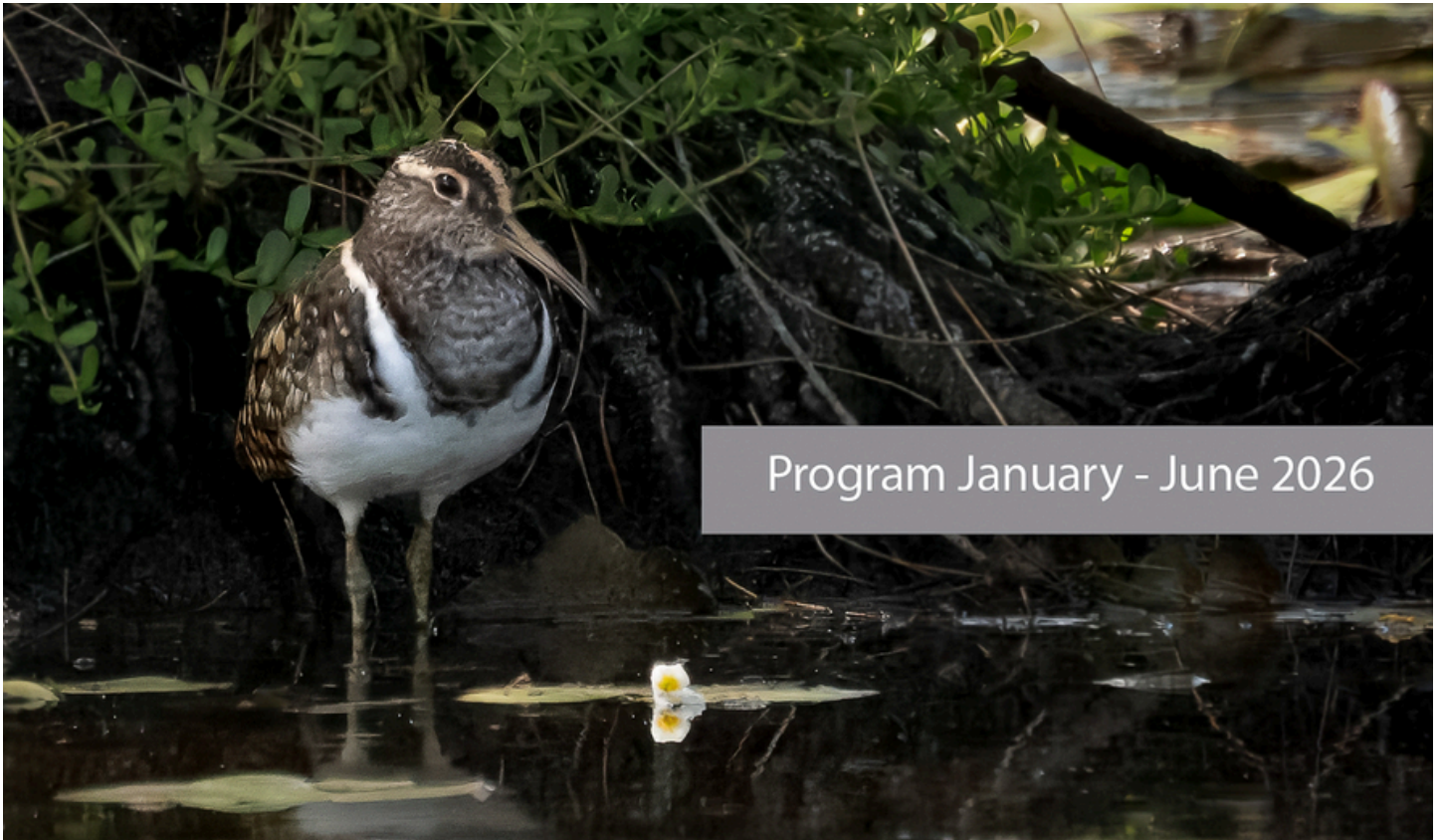


Image: Painted Snipe by Hans Wohlmuth at Coombabah Lakelands Conservation Area.

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.

Here is a link to their most recent program.

BBB MARCH - JUNE 2026 - Byron Bird Buddies



EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

EXHIBITION : A Forest of Koalas

Byron Bay Public School students with Amanda Bromfield
On exhibition: 28 March until 2 May 2026 at Lone Goat Gallery.

LONE GOAT GALLERY 

f @ LONEGOATGALLERY
LONEGOATGALLERY.COM



Amanda Bromfield Dollar and Door (detail) 2022, image courtesy the artist

A FOREST OF KOALAS BYRON BAY PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH AMANDA BROMFIELD

28 MARCH – 2 MAY 2026

OPENING 5 – 7PM FRIDAY 27 MARCH

VISIT THE GALLERY:

WEDNESDAY – SATURDAY, 10AM – 4PM
28 LAWSON STREET, BYRON BAY



Education



BYRON
SHIRE
COUNCIL

A Forest of Koalas is a striking new exhibition that brings together the creativity and environmental commitment of Byron Bay Primary School students in a powerful art installation. Comprised of more than five hundred handmade ceramic koalas, the installation fills the Lone Goat Gallery, transforming the space into a symbolic forest that speaks to care, hope, and action for Australia's endangered koalas

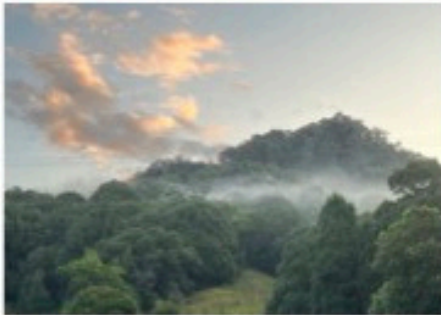
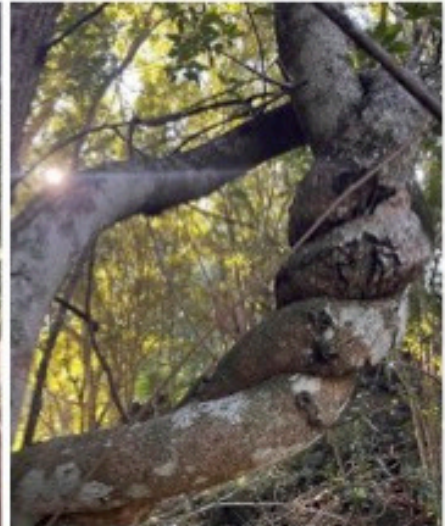


EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

WORKSHOP

Immersion In The Landscape

A Day Of Connection & Listening To Nature
Saturday 2. May 2026



Join me for a gentle and nourishing day of exploring and deepening our relationship with the natural world. Through different experiments and processes you will be invited into to a closer connection with both the human and the more than human world around us. I will guide you through different ways of creative expression and conversations in and with nature, working in pairs, on your own and in the whole group. No prior experience or great fitness necessary. Location is close to Mullumbimby, address on registration.

To register & for more information:

Gestalt Therapist &
Textile Artist

Kirsten Ingemar

Ph. 0412824012

Email:

kirsteningemar@gmail.com

9.30 - 4pm \$100 per person



CRITTER CORNER

RICHMOND BIRD WING BUTTERFLY *Ornithoptera richmondia*

This month's critter corner is dedicated to the power of volunteer conservation initiatives, one of which has helped stabilise populations of this endangered species, through the cultivation of the feed vines, the restoration of their rainforest habitat and extensive public awareness campaigns.

There is ongoing conservation project in our shire for the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly. *Bringing-back the Bundjalung Project: The Richmond Birdwing Butterfly Corridor*, an initiative of the Upper Main Arm Landcare Locality Group.

If you are in Main Arm on April 11th for the Mairn Arm Disaster Recovery Event come by the Brunswick Valley Landcare stall to chat about the great work they do and learn how to get involved.



Male Richmond Birdwings (left photos) are slightly smaller in size than females but have stunning iridescent green upperwings, which can be seen in flight or sometimes when feeding. The male in the top photo has torn wings indicating that he is in the later stages of his adult life. The female Richmond Birdwing (right photos) is the largest butterfly in SEQ. Photos by Deborah Metters.

The Bundjalung (butterfly) is the totem of the Bundjalung people, an indication of the abundance of butterflies once found in the Northern Rivers.

With a wingspan of up to 16 centimetres, the Richmond birdwing butterfly is one of Australia's largest butterflies. The female lays eggs on the underside of leaves of only two native vines: the lowland Richmond birdwing vine (*Pararistolochia praevenosa*) and the mountain aristolochia (*Pararistolochia laheyana*) (>600m). Larvae are dependent on the vines for food and caterpillars only leave the vines to develop into pupal and adult stages.

CRITTER CORNER CONTINUED

RICHMOND BIRD WING BUTTERFLY *Ornithoptera richmondia*

The species was once common from the Mary River in Queensland to the Clarence River in New South Wales and west to the Great Dividing Range. However, since the early 1900s the butterfly's range contracted due to significant clearing of its preferred rainforest habitat, mainly for agriculture. Also devastating was the release, by the nursery industry, of the exotic Dutchman's pipe vine, which tended to replace the native *Pararastolochia* vines as the preferred host on which females laid their eggs. Unfortunately, eggs laid on the exotic vine species die.

Today, the Richmond birdwing butterfly's distribution is fragmented, with the species occurring in two main areas: on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland and, in the south, from Ormeau in Queensland to Wardell in north-east New South Wales. There is a small population in the Brunswick Valley at Upper Main Arm.

Since 1990, a number of conservation initiatives, mainly in SE Queensland, where the butterfly is classified as endangered, have helped stabilise populations of the species principally through the cultivation of their feed vines and the restoration of their rainforest habitat.

Description

The adult male birdwing has a wingspan of about 12-13cm and is basically black, with green stripes and spots on both sides of the wings, and patches of green on the hind wings. The adult female is up to 14-16 cm, and black with white patches on both wings and a yellow band on the lower edge of the hind wings.

Both males and females have a distinctive red patch on the body beneath the base of the wings and a green stripe on top of the thorax.

Habitat

The Richmond birdwing butterfly in its natural state breeds in moist subtropical rainforests wherever the two food plants occur. The butterfly will adapt to planted food plants in disturbed habitats such as gardens.

Habitats are nearly always on rich soils, such as those of volcanic origin (e.g. basalt-derived) or of alluvial origin (e.g. in riparian zones near watercourses).

Depending on food plant availability, habitats are distinctly lowland (to 600 m altitude) near the coast or occasionally and seasonally at altitudes above 600 m on the New South Wales/Queensland border ranges.



Male (left) and female (right)



CRITTER CORNER CONTINUED

RICHMOND BIRD WING BUTTERFLY *Ornithoptera richmondia*

Food and food plants

Adult butterflies will feed on nectar from flowers of many native plants, including native frangipani (*Hymenosporum flavum*), pavetta (*Pavetta australiensis*), black bean (*Castanospermum australe*) and lilly pillies (*Syzygium* species), as well as several exotic flowers, e.g. buddleia, pentas, honeysuckle, bougainvillea, impatiens and hibiscus. They prefer white and red blooms to other colours. The caterpillars (or larvae) only feed naturally on two species of vines — the lowland Richmond birdwing vine (*Pararistolochia praevenosa*) and the mountain aristolochia (*Pararistolochia laheyana*).

Sourced from Wildlife Queensland <https://wildlife.org.au/news-resources/educational-resources/species-profiles/invertebrates/richmond-birdwing-butterfly/>

Links to more information

Bringing back the Richmond Birdwing Land for Wildlife SE Queensland
<https://www.lfwseq.org.au/bringing-back-the-richmond-birdwing/>

Cultivation of the Birdwing Butterfly Vine
https://wildlife.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Cultivation_Birdwing_Vine_Factsheet.pdf

Richmond Birdwing Conservation Network
https://landcare.nsw.gov.au/groups/richmond-birdwing-conservation-network/Richmond_Birdwing_Butterfly

Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland
<https://wildlife.org.au/news-resources/educational-resources/species-profiles/invertebrates/richmond-birdwing-butterfly/>

Weeds Australia – Dutchman’s Pipe
<https://weeds.org.au/profiles/aristolochia-dutchmans-pipe/>

Northern Rivers Natives
<https://northernriversnatives.com.au/>

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PLANT PROFILE

RICHMOND BIRD WING BUTTERFLY VINE

Aristolochia praevenosa



Sourced from Inaturalist, photo credit Friends of Parks Queensland

Description:

The Richmond Birdwing Butterfly Vine (*Aristolochia praevenosa*, also known as *Pararistolochia praevenosa*) is a vigorous, perennial woody climber (liana) native to Australia. It climbs by twining and scrambling over surrounding vegetation, with stems that are slender when young and become thicker and woody as they mature. The leaves are large, glossy, and dark green, typically ovate to broadly elliptical with a slightly heart-shaped base, and are paler underneath with fine hairs along the veins.

The plant produces distinctive curved, tubular (pipe-shaped) flowers approximately 2–3 cm long. These are usually cream to yellowish in colour with prominent purple or maroon veining and markings. The flowers are adapted to attract pollinating insects. The fruit is an elongated, ribbed capsule that splits open when mature to release numerous flat seeds.

Habitat:

Aristolochia praevenosa grows naturally in subtropical and tropical rainforest environments. It prefers moist, sheltered conditions and is commonly found in areas with fertile soils, including those derived from basalt. The vine typically grows in lowland and upland rainforest, where it climbs into the canopy or spreads across dense vegetation.

Distribution:

This species is native to eastern Australia, occurring from north-eastern New South Wales into south-eastern and northern Queensland. In New South Wales, it is mainly found in subtropical rainforest areas north of the Lismore region, extending into Queensland where it inhabits suitable coastal and hinterland rainforest habitats.

PLANT PROFILE

RICHMOND BIRD WING BUTTERFLY VINE

Aristolochia praevenosa

Ecological Importance:

Aristolochia praevenosa plays a critical ecological role as the primary food plant for the larvae of the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly (*Ornithoptera richmondia*). The caterpillars rely exclusively on this vine for survival, feeding on its leaves throughout their development. As a result, the presence of this species is essential for maintaining populations of the butterfly, which is considered threatened in parts of its range. The vine also contributes to rainforest ecosystem health by supporting biodiversity and providing habitat structure within dense vegetation. Conservation and restoration of *Aristolochia praevenosa* are vital for protecting the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly and sustaining healthy rainforest ecosystems.



Sourced from Inaturalist, photo credit anushavid



Sourced from Inaturalist, photo credit Friends of Parks Queensland

WEED AFFECTING RICHMOND BIRD WING BUTTERFLY

The imposter vine – Dutchman’s Pipe, *Aristolochia elegans*



Dutchman’s Pipe. *Aristolochia elegans*. Source: Weeds Australia

Five non-native *Aristolochia* species are currently recorded as naturalised: Dutchman’s Pipe (*A. elegans*), Pelican Flower (*A. grandiflora*), Indian Birthwort (*A. indica*), Fragrant Dutchman’s Pipe (*A. odoratissima*), and Gaping Dutchman’s Pipe (*A. ringens*). All are perennial vines with distinctive curved, tubular flowers that are often unusually coloured and patterned. Among them, Dutchman’s Pipe is the most widespread in Australia, occurring from Cairns south to Burleigh Heads in Queensland, with scattered records extending into New South Wales, including the north-east of the state.



Continued over.....

The imposter vine – Dutchman’s Pipe, *Aristolochia elegans*

Why is it a weed and what are its impacts?

Dutchman’s Pipe is suspected to be poisonous to livestock, including cattle, horses, and domestic fowl. In native ecosystems, its rapid growth and prolific seeding enable it to significantly impact biodiversity. It can invade remnant bushland and form dense masses that outcompete native species for light, space, and nutrients, ultimately degrading ecosystem structure and reducing overall biodiversity.

Non-native *Aristolochia* species closely resemble native members of the Aristolochiaceae family, which are important food plants for the larvae of Australian Birdwing butterflies, including the Richmond Birdwing (*Ornithoptera richmondia*) and the Cairns Birdwing (*Ornithoptera euphorion*). However, these introduced species are toxic to the larvae, making them a deadly substitute and contributing to the decline of the Richmond Birdwing within its natural range. All five *Aristolochia* species produce flat, lightweight seeds, some with papery wings that aid dispersal. In particular, Dutchman’s Pipe seeds are easily spread by wind and water, facilitating their invasion into new areas.

How To Manage It?

Non-chemical physical control: Small plants can be controlled by removing above ground parts and digging up the root base, ensuring crowns (where stem and roots join) and roots are removed. However, care needs to be taken as the plants are poisonous and all parts of the plant should not be handled without gloves (McClymont 1998; Save Our Waterways Now 2008).

Mechanical control: Larger vines that extend up into the canopy can be difficult to dig out without causing a lot of disturbance to adjacent native seedlings. An alternative method is to cut through vine stems at chest height and leave them to die in the canopy. This is done preferably before the vine has set seed. Any fruit within reach should be collected and removed from the site. The basal section of stem is cut and scraped back towards the main root and then an appropriate herbicide is applied to the scraped stem section. This increases the surface area of exposed plant vascular tissue available for absorption of the applied herbicide (McClymont 1998).

Chemical control: Foliar spraying is usually ineffective against large vines because leaves are covered by a waxy cuticle that prevents herbicide penetration. However, young plants and regrowth shoots are more susceptible to herbicide application (McClymont 1998).

Please see the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority for chemical information <http://www.apvma.gov.au>

Continued over.....

WEED OF THE MONTH

Below is information on an invasive new weed that has been observed across the shire. This was sent to BVL by a concerned resident.

SNAKE HERB OR *DYSCHORISTE NAGCHANA*



!! Important immediate advice

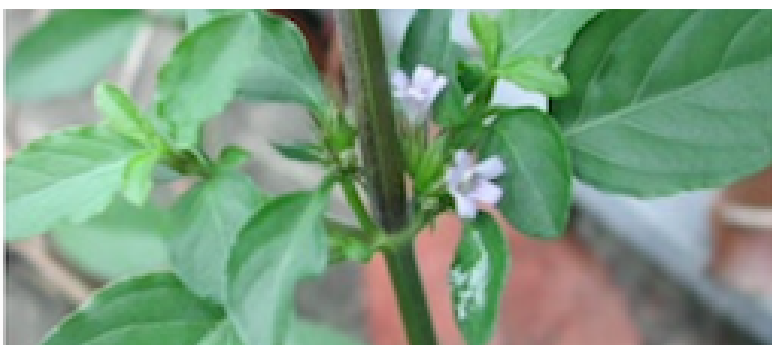
- Do not mow, slash or whipper-snip this weed. This spreads it rapidly.
- Identify and remove very small patches early if possible.
- Bag and remove all plant material, do not compost.

The weed *Dyschoriste nagchana* is an emerging invasive weed in NSW. It began as a problem in Brisbane and surrounding areas where it is an established weed and has been moving south since around 2019. Scenic Rim Council has issued warnings to residents, and the Royal Botanic Garden's PlantNet also has some records of it in NSW.

How to recognise it. *Dyschoriste nagchana* is a creeping lawn and pasture weed that can look similar to other weeds, especially when mixed through grass. Things to look for:

- Small, spreading plant
- Opposite, oval-shaped leaves with noticeable veins and wavy edges
- Small purple tubular flowers attached directly to the main stem
- Dense patches forming within lawn or pasture grasses
- Thick mats of stems and roots when you try to lift it

When disturbed (for example by mowing or whipper-snipping), it spreads quickly by fragments and seed. This is why small patches can rapidly turn into large infestations that completely replace grass or native groundcovers.



Continued over.....

WEED OF THE MONTH

SNAKE HERB OR *DYSCHORISTE NAGCHANA*

What happened on our community

We first noticed a very large outbreak on an unoccupied share here (nearly a hectare in scale). We have been doing urgent research since and seeking advice from council, Landcare, TAFE contacts, local mowing contractors and farmers to better understand management options. We have now identified 8 outbreaks on Durumbul Holdings, ranging from very small patches to areas of around 2 acres. At this stage we don't know exactly how it arrived, but it most likely reached the property around two years ago via a couple of different external contract mowers. Inadequate mower hygiene is a known pathway for spreading weeds like this. In the warm, wet conditions since then it has spread rapidly.

What we understand so far

Reliable information is still limited, but what we understand so far is:

- This is primarily a weed of lawns, pastures, roadsides and parklands.
- It thrives in full sun and part shade, particularly in wet areas. In humid conditions it can also grow in drier areas, including ridgelines.
- Under deep forest canopy with heavy leaf mulch it appears unable to grow. It is also struggling to spread in thick lantana and molasses grass.
- It easily outcompetes dense pasture grasses including setaria, paspalum, kikuyu, couch, buffalo and carpet grass
- It spreads very effectively through mechanical disturbance. Mowing and whipper-snipping create propagules that spread the plant, meaning it cannot be mown out.
- It also spreads via explosive seed capsules and seeds with a mucilaginous coating, which allows them to survive dry periods
- The plant spreads through above-ground stolons and underground tuberous rhizomes, meaning it can appear to be under control and then suddenly re-emerge
- Local expertise on eradication is currently very limited, for professionals working in the Northern Rivers for 20 years+, this is an entirely novel weed situation
- Complete eradication has been achieved in some cases, but it requires a very large investment of time and/or money, depending on the size of the outbreak.

Useful Links

<https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Guidelines-for-contractors-grains.pdf>

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/arrive-clean-leave-clean.pdf>

[Good Treatment Case Study](https://greenwayweedsolutions.com/blogs/content/dyschoriste-depressa-weed-hygiene-case-study)

<https://greenwayweedsolutions.com/blogs/content/dyschoriste-depressa-weed-hygiene-case-study>

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SNIPPETS

SOME INTERESTING SOIL RELATED ARTICLES

Charcoal-Eating Fungi Flourish After Fires. Uncovering Their Genetic Secrets Could Help Rebuild Burned Ecosystems.

Article by S by Kunjal Bastola in Smithsonian Magazine, March 13, 2026,

Sydney Glassman, a microbial ecologist at the University of California, Riverside, who has been studying mycorrhizal fungi for more than a decade, stumbled upon this post-fire occurrence by accident. "Not once, but twice during my PhD, my plots burned down in catastrophic mega fires," she says. "So I ended up having the situation where I had sampling pre- and post- a mega fire. ... And what we found was that certain fungi are really increased in abundance after a fire."

These hardy organisms ~~are known as pyrophilous fungi--also called fire-loving or burn fungi--~~ because of their fascinating ability to thrive in the aftermath of conflagrations. While other fungi, plants and bacteria might die after a blaze, these species flourish. They degrade pyrogenic matter—the carbon-rich residue left behind by a fire, such as charcoal, soot and ash—and help rebuild the forest.

By breaking down the compounds in charcoal, "they play this really important functional role in releasing nutrients that plants can use, improving the structure, or recreating the original soil structure, and allowing water to filter through the soil," says Erin Spear, a mycologist at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute.

[Read the full article.](#)

Reducing run-off from macadamia farms improves soil, but more needed to boost waterways.

Article by Kim Honan and Lauren Bohane, February 17, 2026

A new study, led by Southern Cross University (SCU), has backed the practices by measuring the water quality benefits of using Integrated Orchard Management (IOM) on side-by-side macadamia orchards at Alstonville. The study found water infiltration from rainfall events improved significantly, reducing the amount lost to surface run-off by about 70 per cent.

The orchard using IOM techniques also had 95 per cent less soil loss and 70 per cent less fertiliser run-off than the non-IOM plot.

AMS industry development manager Leoni Kojetin said the majority of macadamia growers were now using IOM to some extent. "Our internal benchmarking studies show that those farms that adopt these practices are more productive, they have a higher quality product that they produce, they're more profitable ... and they are more resilient to those extreme events," she said.

[Read the full article.](#)



LISTEN

A great local podcast **We are the River Keeper.**

The latest podcast episode from their new season - Connect to Protect with Marc Yaggi, CEO Global Waterkeeper Alliance.



Marc Yaggi is a man brimming with stories. As the Chief Executive Officer of Waterkeeper Alliance, an organisation based in New York but with members and allies all over the globe, Marc serves as a leading voice for a global movement dedicated to securing clean, healthy, and abundant water for all people and the planet. He is connected to hundreds of people around the world doing extraordinary things and his connections, connects them all.

His commitment to environmental advocacy, is unwavering, he is calm, inspiring and on this mission. With a strong focus on the impact of the climate crisis on water quality and availability, Marc is committed to addressing the most significant issue of our time - climate change.

Waterkeeper Alliance has amassed monumental legal and advocacy victories, some of which you'll hear about in this episode that will make your heart sing and hopefully further stoke your fire for action.

[Listen here](#)

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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

Organic Landcare

WHEN: Fortnightly, every second Saturday.

CONTACT: Nadia de Souza Pietramale organiclandcareinc@gmail.com 0478272300

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.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, Valley Lipcer

www.brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au



0421 244 640



info@brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au

