



Newsletter

Conserving and restoring from forest to foreshore



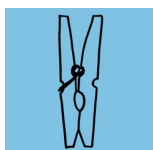
In this edition we share news from the Broken Head Coastal Corridor project, along with a look back at ten years of Mullumbimby Town Landcare from John Tan. Weed profiles come from Annette McKinley's observations of emergent weeds around Broken Head, and *Acmena ingens* (MYRTACEAE) or Red Apple is the tree of the month, look out for the abundance of pink fruit dropping across the shire's rainforests right now. There are details on some grant opportunities and a World Environment Day event in Murwillumbah. You'll also find information on Farm Planning for Agroforestry with world-renowned farm planner Darren Doherty, Seeds of Resilience: Farming in a New Climate Era at Wollongbar, updates from Byron Shire Council on dune work at New Brighton, River Fest opportunities, community water testing, and much more.

We trust something here inspires you to get outside and be part of this wonderful community caring for the land.

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

MOTHER'S DAY COMMUNITY PLANTING DAY- POSTPONED

Unfortunately the ground and access to the site were too wet for the team to prepare for this year's Mother's Day planting in the lead up to May 10th. We still plan to go ahead with this awesome day and celebrate our mums and Mother Earth as soon as we can make it work to come together and plant trees with the usual fun and style. We will make sure you all know about the new date when we have one.

RAINFOREST PLANTING DAY IN BROKEN HEAD

Broken Head Locality group - Broken Head Coastal Corridor project

On 16 May, the Broken Head Coastal Corridor project hosted a community tree planting event to expand the floodplain riparian rainforest along a stretch of Midgen Creek. The planting was part of a 4 year restoration project funded through a NSW Environmental Trust grant for Midgen Flat.

The planting area had been slashed by Alex, the landholder, ahead of the event, and the Bushland Restoration Services team had pre-drilled the holes beforehand, making it an easy day on the ground. Twelve Broken Head locals turned out to help, a good result given that a Glossy Black-Cockatoo habitat planting on an adjacent property the previous day had drawn heavily on local volunteer energy, and the morning was rainy. Luckily the rain held off just long enough for the group to finish planting and then kindly watered in the plants.

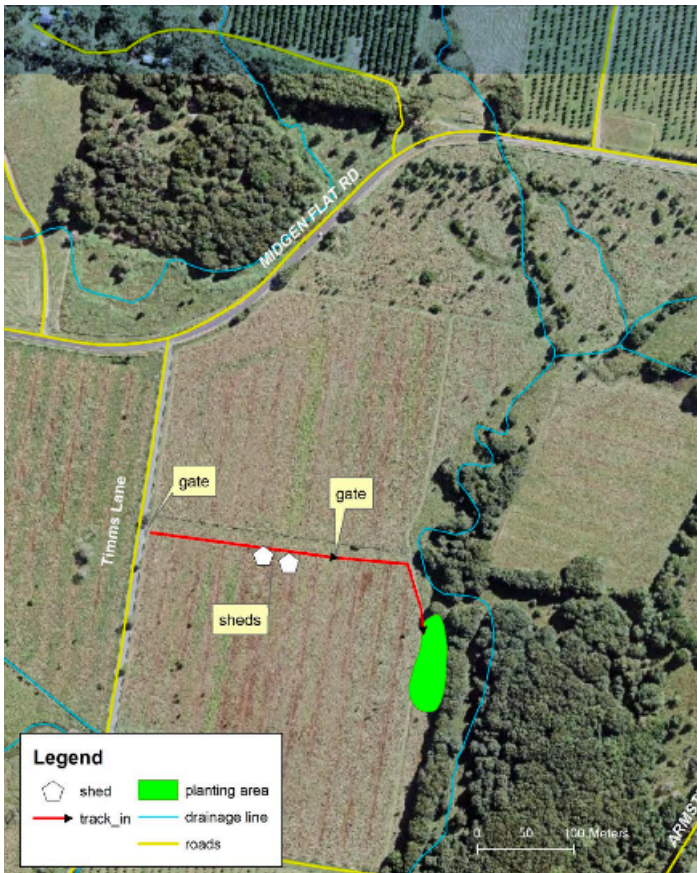
Now in Stage 3, the project builds on two earlier Environmental Trust projects — Stage 1 (2014–2017) and Stage 2 (2018–2021) — both of which were successful enough to inspire neighbouring landholders to become involved in the current stage. Working across seven properties in the Midgen Creek catchment in Byron Shire, the project combines fencing, assisted regeneration and planting to improve water quality, create and improve habitat, and strengthen linkages to support threatened species. Its broader aim is to improve the condition and connectivity of a critical wildlife corridor from the high biodiversity coastal areas of Broken Head to the Coopers Shoot ridge, including the isolated Hogans Bluff Big Scrub rainforest remnant. Increased ecosystem health and connectivity will in turn help mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Despite some significant setbacks from extreme weather events, including flooding, the project has been very successful. More than 6,000 trees have been planted and over 10 hectares of vegetation have received primary weed control followed by three years of follow-up treatment, leaving riparian plantings well established in the upper reaches of the corridor. Equally important has been the shift in community awareness, the seven participating landholders and many of their Broken Head neighbours now have a deeper understanding of the area's biodiversity values and the threats posed by weeds and vegetation fragmentation. Inspired by the project's results, several landholders now exploring further funding opportunities to extend the riparian corridor downstream towards North Creek.

The four-year grant timeframe has proven particularly well suited to this kind of restoration work. It allows for meaningful follow-up over multiple seasons, and when the project concludes, landholders are left with a manageable, well-established site rather than a landscape mid-way through recovery — a model worth noting for future funding rounds.

BVL NEWS

RAINFOREST PLANTING DAY IN BROKEN HEAD



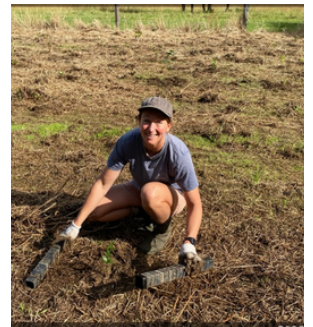
Broken Head Coastal Corridor project recent planting site.



The planting area slashed and holes pre-drilled.



Alex admiring the 250 floodplain rainforest plants.



A good turn out from Broken Head locals despite the weather.



An excellent morning tea/coffee in Alex and Katie's new shed.

BVL NEWS

MULLUM TOWN LOCALITY GROUP



Merrick and John in the trees

This month I walked and talked Saltwater creek and Mullumbimby creek with Merrick and John, two passionate and very fun local landcarers from Mullum Town Landcare. It was a muddy and soggy morning, but we had a beautiful meandering walk from the Mullumbimby Post office through to John's Forest, after which we detoured behind the swimming pool to where Saltwater creek starts. Here we found some gorgeous old trees, large strands of mangrove ferns, heaps flood debris, quite a few historical botanical signs and, ofcourse, a lot more mud. We then headed back across the road to the bank opposite the Mullumbimby Historical Society and walked along to the Mullumbimby Community Gardens. It's well worth the adventure exploring these hidden creeks and thriving riparian restoration wrapping around the town. Thank you to the legends who have worked on revegetating the creek for over 30 years and those who continue to tirelessly do so.

Following are some words from John Tan about how he and Merrick came to join Mullum Town Landcare group 10 years ago and why they are still chipping away.



Hidden ecological treasures of Mullumbimby Town.

Continued over.....

BVL NEWS

10 YEARS OF MULLUM TOWN LANDCARE

Merrick and I started on the same day. We drove up at the same time - an old van and an old station wagon. River Terrace, behind the Post Office. The Landcare group had just knocked off a bamboo infestation. John was adamant that none should come back, and every month he would bring his trusty mattock and dig up the new shoots.

Rita and I planted a strangler fig in the fork of a poinciana; we figured they would battle it out for a hundred years.

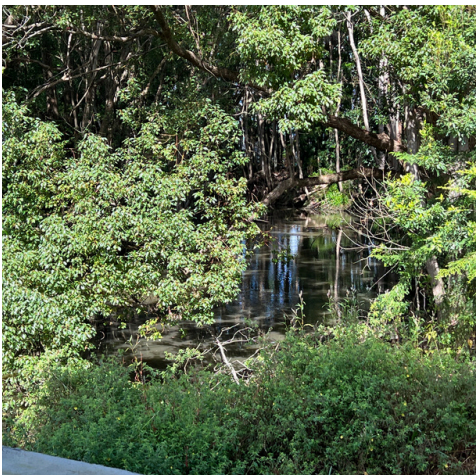
You've got to be careful what you cut down in town. Off in the back blocks you can choose what exotic to leave and what to remove, but in town there will be someone around who loves those trees. We all do. We plant exotics around our houses - pretty, shady, functional - but they're also the ones that get away into the bush and cause trouble.

Coming back to town we are not in the bush, often closer to peoples' backyards. On the very rare occasion when you cut down an exotic plant or tree that someone likes, we hear about it and someone will follow up, usually diplomatic Pete, so the matter is sorted. And in the words of Maxwell Smart.."sorry about that Chief!"

Is it about the trees you plant? The weeds you remove? The landscape you reshape? In the end, it's about the group. The members who come, and go. The ones who turn up, month after month, with a story to tell, a cake they've made, some oranges they've grown.

We're a bit haphazard, and a bit free-range. We choose a part of town that looks a bit sad and spend a year or two slowly changing the way it behaves. Then we move on, leaving that site in a hopefully low-maintenance state. Of course, these narrow corridors of bushland always need a bit of TLC, and from time to time we go back and pull some weeds. It's a good reminder of how much longer-term change a small group can achieve.

We're now working along Saltwater Creek, near the Mullumbimby Museum. There are some challenges there - and plenty to do. Join us on the last Sunday of the month.



REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

NEWS FROM THE BYRON FARMERS NETWORK

1. Farm Planning for Agroforestry – with Darren Doherty - Federal Hall – Thursday 4th June

Byron Shire Council are hosting world renown farm planner Darren Doherty for this 2-part agroforestry presentation. As farmers look to increase resilience, profitability, and environmental market opportunities, agroforestry has never been more relevant. The first session will provide valuable insights into Darren's globally recognised approach to farm planning, in particular agroforestry systems. The 2nd session will be a practical exercise examining a local agroforestry planning scenario for a 20-hectare mixed enterprise property. Bookings are essential.

When: Thursday 4th June – 1pm to 5pm

Where: Federal Hall – 466 Federal Drive, Federal.

Bookings and more info: [Farm Planning for Agroforestry with Darren Doherty](#).

2. Seeds of Resilience: Farming in a new Climate Era – Wollongbar - Tuesday 2nd June

Delivered by SoilCare Inc. this 2-hour session is part of the Orchard Resilience Project. A line-up of fantastic speakers sharing knowledge and practical approaches to farming under a changing climate, so it's one not to be missed.

When: Tuesday 2nd June – 10am to 12 noon

Location: NSW DPIRD, Wollongbar

Bookings and more info: [Seeds of Resilience: Farming in a New Climate Era](#)

GRANTS

There are several funding opportunities currently open that are relevant to landholders, community groups and conservation volunteers across the Brunswick Valley.

For Individual Landholders

NSW BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION TRUST: Rainforest Conservation Offer - information sessions – Byron Bay – Wednesday 3rd June.

For any landholders with large, good quality rainforest remnants on their land, the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust have just opened their North Coast Rainforest Conservation EOI. This program is an opportunity for eligible landholders to receive annual payments to protect and manage important rainforest remnants. One on one information sessions for Byron landholders are available on Wednesday 3rd June. For more info and to register, visit <https://www.nsw.gov.au/environment-land-and-water/conservation-on-private-land/rainforest-conservation-opportunity>

When: Wednesday 3rd June – 9am to 4.20pm

Where: Cavanbah Centre Byron Bay – Multifunction room 2

Bookings: Tickets for Byron Bay - Rainforest conservation offer information sessions

GRANTS

For Community Groups & Organisations

1. THE TREES FOR BEES COMMUNITY TREE GRANTS

This grant supports the planting of bee-friendly trees in extended gardens, community-owned land, school grounds, sporting club precincts and urban corridors. The program provides funding to community groups and organisations to increase vital habitat, providing spaces for bees to forage, live and breed.

The 2026 Trees for Bees Community Tree Grants are now open for applications. This year, 40 grants of \$500 are available for not-for-profit organisations, school groups, Landcare groups, community organisations and sustainability groups. Applications require a brief summary of the bee-friendly planting proposal, planting area and planting dates.

The Trees for Bees Community Tree Grants are proudly supported by Flow® and Rabobank's Rabo Community Fund.

MORE DETAILS

<https://www.wheenbeefoundation.org.au/our-work/projects/community-tree-grants/>



2. ROUS COMMUNITY GRANTS

The inaugural Rous County Council (Rous) Community Grants program will be opening for applications soon.

This program is designed to support activities, programs, and events that deliver a clear public benefit and align with Rous' purpose and responsibilities.

Grants are available from \$1,000 up to \$2,500 (excluding GST).

Applications will be open on Rous' website from Monday 1 June 2026 to Sunday 28 June 2026 (11.59pm).

MORE DETAILS

<https://rous.nsw.gov.au/community-grants>

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL NEWS

NEW BRIGHTON SAND DUNES



Work on New Brighton sand dunes to start this winter. Work on rebuilding the eroded sand dunes at New Brighton will start this winter. The dunes were significantly impacted by Tropical Cyclone (TC) Alfred in March 2025, and Council has now received funding to commence restoration work.

Beach goers will see machines working on the beach for two to four weeks, moving sand from the tidal zone further up to where the dunes have eroded. The work will be done between Park Street and North Head Road with the aim being to mimic nature by taking some of the sand that has built up in recent months in the tidal zone and pushing it further up the beach.

“If left alone, the tides, waves and wind, will eventually push the sand up the beach to reform the dunes so we are just speeding up the natural process,” Chloe Dowsett, Council’s Coastal and Biodiversity Coordinator, said.

“The work is commonly called beach scraping or sand harvesting, and it’s a proven, low-risk, cost effective way to rebuild dunes that have been damaged by erosion.

“Most importantly it’s scientifically regarded as having low environmental impact on the beach and marine environments. We have consulted widely with relevant land managers, public authorities, key groups and Traditional Owners about the project.

“As part of restoration work two beach access ways, south of Strand Avenue will be permanently closed. This won’t impact the public too much as the nearest access ways will be less than a hundred metres away.

“By reducing the number of access ways, dunes will be more stable and resilient,” she said. When the sand is in place the dunes will be fenced and planted with appropriate native vegetation and access paths provided for people to get on and off the beach.

Public access to the beach and some beach access ways will be closed during work due to heavy machinery on the beach. However, it will be done in stages so that some beach access remains.

“Please keep off the dunes and only use formal beach access paths that are open both during work, and after it is completed,” Ms Dowsett said.

Restoration work will cost \$200,000 and is funded by the NSW Government through the Coastal and Estuary Grants Program, and Council.

Dune Restoration Project – New Brighton



Later this year Council will be restoring dunes at New Brighton. Work will take up to four weeks and take place between Park Street and North Head Road.

At times, some parts of the beach and beach access ways will be closed due to heavy machinery on the beach. Work will be done in stages.

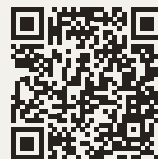
Permanent closure of beach access ways

As part of this project Council will be permanently closing two beach access ways as indicated on the map. Reducing the number of access ways helps dune stability and resilience.

More information

For more information visit Council's website at:

[www.byron.nsw.gov.au/
NB-Beach-Scraping](http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/NB-Beach-Scraping)



Proudly funded by



Restoration work is funded by NSW Government and Council.

** There is community interest in restarting/reigniting a Dunecare group in New Brighton after this work. Get in touch with valley@brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au if you are interested to be part of the group or learning more and we'll keep you up to date.

BYRONS HIRE COUNCIL NEWS

SANDHILLS WETLANDS



Sandhills Wetlands project wins prestigious National Trust award Byron Shire Council's Sandhills Wetlands restoration project has won the Landscape section of the 2026 National Trust (NSW) Heritage Awards. The Awards showcase outstanding heritage projects, people, innovations, and achievements from across the state. Phil Holloway, Director Infrastructure Services, said the award was recognition of what is one of the Council's most important cultural, environmental and drainage projects. The original wetlands, on a 1.8-hectare site in the heart of Byron Bay, were destroyed by sandmining in the 1960s and for many years the site was overgrown, degraded and attracted anti-social behaviour.

"The project restored the ecological function of the wetlands, reinstated the natural landscape and honoured cultural heritage," Mr Holloway said.

"The project was co-designed with Arakwal and supported by Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council and Crown Lands.

"The wetlands are also designed to reduce the impact of flooding in the Byron Bay town centre.

"On behalf of Council I thank the National Trust (NSW) for this prestigious award and for recognising the immense worth of the Sandhills Wetlands restoration project," Mr Holloway said.

The restoration of the Sandhills Wetlands was funded by the Australian Government through the Northern Rivers Recovery and Resilience Program, the NSW Government through the Public Spaces Legacy Program and Council.

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

NSW LANDCARE AND LOCAL LAND SERVICES CONFERENCE



The Sum of It All

NSW Landcare & Local Land Services Conference
Corowa | 27-29 October 2026

The NSW Landcare and Local Land Services Conference is a biennial, state-wide event that brings together individuals committed to sustainable land management, community engagement, and environmental stewardship across New South Wales.

In 2026, the conference will be held in Corowa from 27-29 October, providing a platform to foster collaboration, strengthen networks, and highlight the positive outcomes achieved through collective action.

This premier gathering unites Landcare volunteers and professionals, farmers, environmental practitioners, researchers, government partners, and community groups from across New South Wales to share knowledge, celebrate cultural heritage, strengthen connections, and inspire action for thriving landscapes and communities

**TO FIND OUT MORE OR TO SUBMIT AN EOI
TO PRESENT GO TO
<https://www.nswlandcareconference.com/>**

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY FESTIVAL

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY FESTIVAL

Free Event

Murwillumbah Showgrounds
Sunday 7th June
10am - 3pm
On Bundjalung Country

Festival MC'd by Sam Refshauge - Community Resilience Organisation Plan C

Speakers & Presentations feat. Joëlle Gergis & Mandy Nolan

Environmental groups
Earth building & Landcare demos
HOOPLA CIRCUS!
Natural fibre weaving
Sunflower solar trailer
Native plants
Live music with JEROME WILLIAMS & GARRY KAFOA
Art & Kids Activities
Food vans & more!

Waste Wise Event
BYO bottle, cup and cutlery
on-site wash-up station

Printing courtesy of Justine Elliotts office

This year's UN theme is all about climate resilience. Celebrate the planet and the dedication of environmental groups from across the region and enjoy a day of community connection at the Murwillumbah Showgrounds.



EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

CITIZEN SCIENCE WATER TESTING

The rivers and creeks are calling you! Join an upcoming EcoHealth Workshop. Right now, the Richmond River catchment is sitting on a C- grade in the [Richmond River Ecohealth Report Card](#).



Over the next two months, there will be a series of citizen science water testing events led by Dr Brendan Cox, freshwater ecologist and Richmond Riverkeeper committee member.

No experience needed. No science degree required. Just register and show up.

You'll spend the morning:

- collecting and identifying water bugs, tiny creatures that tell us a lot about creek health, and
- dropping a BRUV (baited remote underwater video camera) in the water to see what fish, turtles or other hungry creatures like eels might be around.

The data you collect goes into the [Richmond River Ecohealth Report Card](#) and helps us track whether things are getting better or worse.

Workshops run 10am to 2pm.

- Saturday 7 June — Upper Coopers Creek, Huonbrook [Get tickets](#)
- Saturday 27 June — Upper Eden Creek, via Kyogle [Get tickets](#)
- Saturday 11 July — Tucki Creek, Goonellabah [Get tickets](#)
- Saturday 25 July — Mulgum Creek, Nimbin [Get tickets](#)

Refreshments are provided.

Cost - flexible ticket options.

Location details will be sent on registration.



EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

RICHMOND RIVER FEST EOI



Host an event at

Richmond River Fest

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

NOW OPEN!

Calling community and industry groups, schools, councils, businesses, landcare groups, artists & more!

27 September - 25 October 2026

CONTACT

info@richmondriver.org.au

This festival has received support from the Australian Government through the Emergency Response Fund, administered by NSW Reconstruction Authority's Northern Rivers Recovery and Resilience Program 2022-23. Delivered by North Coast Regional Landcare Network through the Caring for Catchments project.

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

STATE & TERRITORY LANDCARE AWARDS

Do you know someone who deserves recognition for their work caring for our land, water, animals and ecosystems? Now is the time to put their name forward.



The 2026 NSW Landcare Awards celebrate the individuals, groups and organisations making a real difference on the ground.

- Volunteers for landcare groups other environmental community groups
- Sustainable farmers, farming systems groups and primary producer groups
- Agricultural co-operatives, industry associations
- Traditional Owners, First Nations organisations and Indigenous land and sea Rangers
- Landcare groups, networks and other community-led environmental groups
- Landholders and/or land managers
- Urban landcare groups including 'Friends of' and bushcare groups
- Coastcare, Rivercare, Dunecare groups and individuals
- Environmental community care groups
- Natural resource management agencies
- Local government
- NGOs
- Research agencies and academics
- Junior Landcare (early learning centres, day care centres, primary and secondary schools, Scouts and Girls Guides)
- Young adult groups and individuals
- Persons who are deceased can be nominated posthumously

Nominations are free, open to self-nominations, and take just minutes to complete. If someone in your community is doing extraordinary work — quietly or otherwise — this is your chance to make sure they get the recognition they deserve.

Nominations close Friday 31 July 2026 at 11.59pm AEST.

Nominate now: <https://landcareaustralia.org.au/landcare-conference-and-landcare-awards/state-territory-landcare-awards-and-national-landcare-awards/>



PLANT PROFILE

Acmena ingens (also known as *Syzygium ingens*)



COMMON NAME: Red Apple · Southern Satinash · Big Scrub Lilly Pilly **FAMILY:** Myrtaceae

ORIGIN: Native North-eastern NSW to south-eastern Qld (endemic to eastern Australia) **HABITAT** Subtropical rainforest on volcanic soils; Big Scrub region

HABIT: Medium to large evergreen rainforest tree to 40m

About This Plant

Red Apple (*Acmena ingens*, also known as *Syzygium ingens*) is one of the most ecologically significant and locally distinctive rainforest trees of northern NSW. Unlike many of its lilly pilly relatives, this species has a naturally restricted range — growing on volcanic basalt soils from near Casino in the Northern Rivers region of NSW north to Gympie in south-east Queensland. It is a true signature species of the Big Scrub, the vast subtropical rainforest that once blanketed much of the Byron and Lismore hinterland before European clearing. Restoring Red Apple to degraded rainforest landscapes in this region is therefore not just ecologically valuable — it is a direct act of recovery for one of Australia's most reduced ecosystems, of which less than one percent of the original extent now remains.

The genus name *Acmena* comes from the Greek *Acmenae*, the nymphs of Venus, referencing the beauty of the flowers and fruit. The species epithet *ingens* comes from the Latin for enormous or vast — a reference to the great size mature trees can achieve. First formally described in 1861 by Charles Moore from collections made in northern NSW, it has been known under several names, with *Acmena ingens* retained by the National Herbarium of New South Wales.

Quick ID Guide

HEIGHT Up to 40m in natural habitat; typically 10–15m in cultivation and restoration **LEAVES** Opposite, narrow elliptic to oblong, 7–18cm long, 2–5cm wide; glossy dark green above, paler below; raised mid-rib on underside; prominent pointed tip; new growth flushes vivid red; reddish petiole 2–8mm long; oil dots visible in young growth **FLOWERS** White, fluffy, honey-scented panicles at branch tips; flowers November–December (early summer) **FRUIT** Large, spherical red berry, 25–40mm diameter; white flesh enclosing a single large seed; matures May–September (autumn–winter); edible and can be used to make sauces and jam **BARK** Smooth, straight, greyish to fawn; older trees develop prominent fluted buttresses at the base **STEMS** Upright, cylindrical trunk; dense spreading canopy **ROOTS** Deep; develops buttressed base with age; suited to rich volcanic basalt soils **GROWTH** Fast-growing in good conditions; full sun to partial shade.

PLANT PROFILE

Acmena ingens

Ecological Value

Red Apple is an outstanding wildlife tree and a cornerstone species for Big Scrub rainforest restoration in the Byron, Lismore, Tweed and Ballina LGAs. Its large, fleshy red fruit is a critical food source for frugivorous birds in the autumn and winter months when many other species are not fruiting. Birds recorded eating the fruit include the Wompoo Fruit-Dove, Topknot Pigeon, Green Catbird, Pied Currawong and Eastern Rosella — a suite of species that also disperse seed into surrounding bushland, supporting natural regeneration.

The fluffy cream flowers produced in early summer attract native bees, butterflies and other beneficial insects. Red Apple is a host plant for the Common Red-eye butterfly (*Chaetocneme beata*) and the Eastern Flat butterfly (*Netrocoryne repanda*), making it a valuable addition to any planting aimed at supporting native invertebrate communities. Its dense, year-round canopy provides nesting and shelter habitat for small birds, and as the tree matures, the developing buttress system at the base creates microhabitat for reptiles, frogs and ground-dwelling invertebrates. It is listed as a butterfly plant, bird and bee plant, and bushtucker plant across multiple native nursery and restoration databases.

Growing & Planting

Red Apple is best suited to rainforest restoration, habitat corridor planting, and large-scale revegetation across the volcanic soils of northern NSW. It is a good choice for farms, reserves and parks where a substantial canopy tree is desired. **Propagation:** Collect fresh fruit May–September; soak seed in water for 2 days to remove pulp and kill insect larvae; sow fresh — germination is variable from a few weeks to several months; cuttings also strike readily **Planting:** Space 5–8m apart in restoration contexts; suitable for large gardens, farms, reserves and wildlife corridors; too large for small suburban gardens



Photo: *jeanpaulboerekamps_Inaturalist*



Photo: *jeanpaulboerekamps_Inaturalist*



Robyn Whyte

WEED OF THE MONTH

Cyperus prolifer Lam. | Family: Cyperaceae

Common Names: Dwarf Papyrus. Mini Papyrus, Miniature Papyrus

I was alerted to this weed by a Broken Head resident who told me it is taking over in areas of their wetland. Unfortunately it continues to be sold in many local nurseries as a pond plant, creating a persistent source of new garden escapes into natural waterways. We need to be very vigilant of the plants we bring home to our gardens, please do some research before you buy new garden plants and if you find out its a potential weed don't buy it (and spread the word).



Profile: Dwarf Papyrus is a rhizomatous perennial sedge native to eastern Africa. It was historically cultivated to make paper and used as a minor food source, and has been widely sold in Australian nurseries as an ornamental pond and water garden plant. It has escaped cultivation and is now established in wetlands, waterways and drainage lines across south-east Queensland and northern NSW, where it is increasing in both occurrence and density. It is a smaller version of the related invasive sedge Papyrus (*Cyperus papyrus*). The species name *prolifer* — meaning prolific producer — reflects its capacity to reproduce rapidly by both seed and vegetative spread.

Why It's a Problem: Dwarf Papyrus is a significant threat to riparian and wetland ecosystems in northern NSW. Once established, it spreads rapidly and is very difficult to remove.

Key impacts include:

- Out-competes native sedges, rushes and emergent aquatic vegetation in a short period of time, fundamentally changing the character of wetland communities
- Dense rhizome mats physically exclude native riparian ground flora and prevent natural regeneration
- Reduces light and oxygen availability to submerged native aquatic plants
- Degrades habitat for frogs, water birds, aquatic invertebrates and other wetland-dependent wildlife that rely on diverse native vegetation structure
- Spreads downstream via water-dispersed seed and rhizome fragments, establishing new infestations along entire catchments

WEED OF THE MONTH CONTINUED

Cyperus prolifer Lam. | Family: Cyperaceae

Dispersal:

Dwarf Papyrus spreads through several pathways:

- Water — seeds and rhizome fragments are carried downstream, establishing new populations along creek and river systems in northern NSW including the Brunswick, Richmond and Tweed catchments
- Vegetative layering — stems lean and root at the inflorescence when they contact wet soil or mud
- Garden escape — still sold in nurseries as a pond plant and enters natural waterways when water garden contents are dumped or overflow.
- Equipment and machinery — rhizome fragments and seed can be moved on vehicles, footwear and tools operating in infested areas



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND CONTROL METHODS

NSW WeedWise — weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au ·

Land for Wildlife SEQ — lfwseq.org.au/weed-profile-dwarf-papyrus ·

WEED PROFILE

Melastoma candidum | Family: Melastomataceae

Common names: Asian Melastoma, Indian Rhododendron

Are you planting a native melastoma (blue tongue) or an invasive weed?



Asian Melastoma (above) is a robust, fast-growing shrub that has escaped from cultivation and is spreading through bushland, rainforest margins, wetland edges and disturbed areas across northern NSW. It is easily confused with the native Blue Tongue (*Melastoma malabathricum*), the only melastoma species naturally occurring in Australia, and is frequently sold in nurseries mislabelled as the native. Once established, Asian Melastoma forms dense thickets that crowd out native vegetation and can hybridise with Blue Tongue, threatening the genetic integrity of the native species. In Hawaii its spread became so severe that moth species were released as biological control agents.

Blue Tongue - NATIVE

Leaves: Generally 3 distinct longitudinal veins and 2 less distinct intramarginal veins. Leaves hairy but thinner than Asian Melastome. Leaf stalks purple or white with short hairs.

Flowers: Pinkish purple flower (also a white form). Five petals about 20-30mm long. Flowers all year round.

Fruit: Red and green outside, purple on inside, hairy to 10mm.

Habit: Shrub 1-2 metres high, growing in moist areas such as gullies and freshwater wetlands.

Asian Melastoma - NON NATIVE

Leaves: Generally 5 distinct longitudinal veins and 2 less distinct intramarginal veins. Leaves hairy but thicker and stiffer than Blue Tongue.

Leaf stalks purple or white with long hairs.

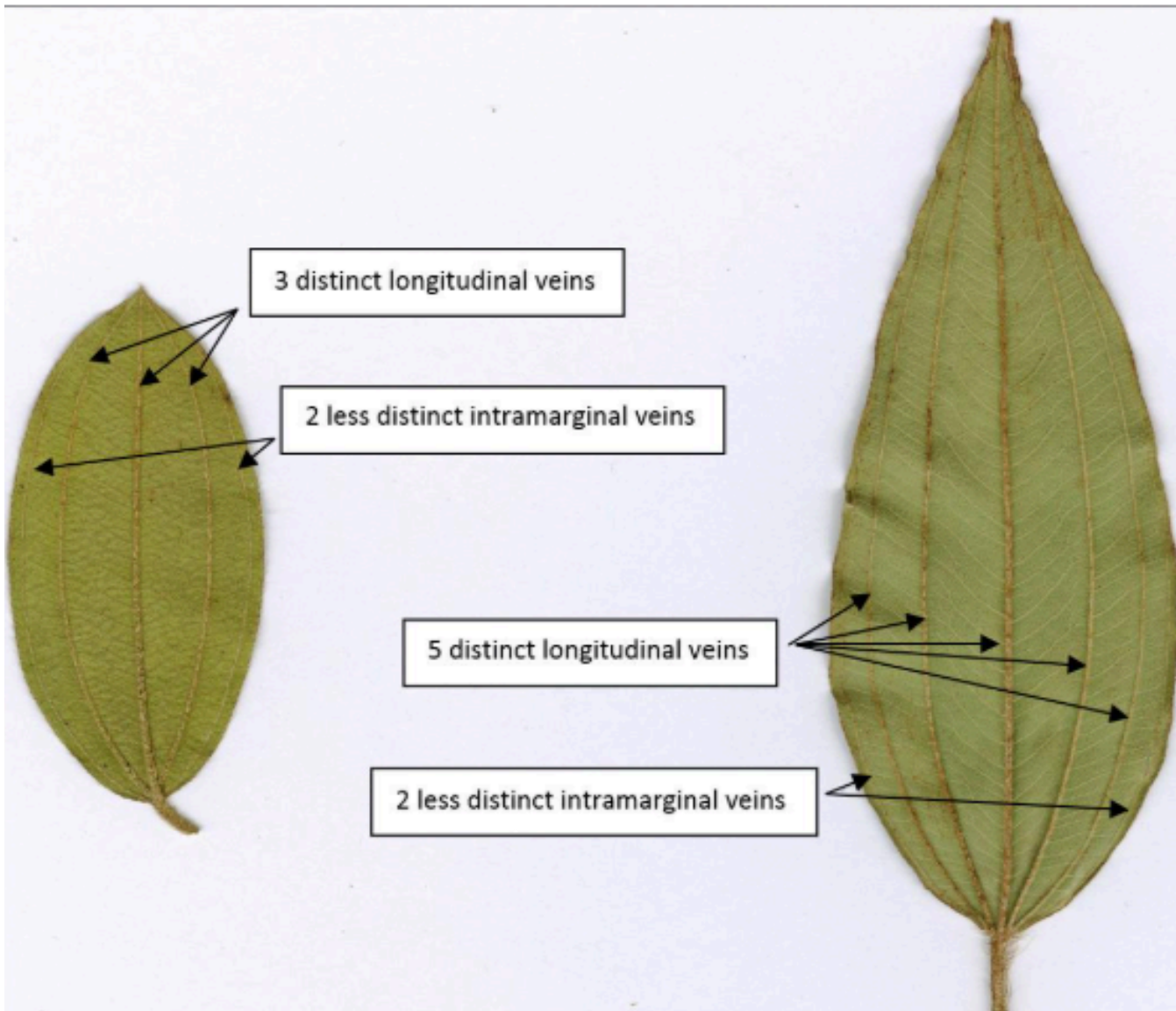
Flowers: More purple and a larger flower than the native Blue Tongue.

Five petals about 25-32mm long.

Fruit: Bright raspberry red in colour.

Habit: Grows to 2 metres high and is more dense and robust than the native Blue Tongue.

When purchasing Blue Tongue, examine the veins on the leaves. It is important to examine several mature leaves to confirm the number of veins present as there can be some variation. Only the introduced species will have five distinct longitudinal veins.



Sources:

Sunshine Coast Council / Theresa Malin (sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au)

Land for Wildlife SEQ

NSW WeedWise / Local Land Services

iNaturalist

Atlas of Living Australia

LISTEN AND WATCH

FIRST NATIONS FILM FESTIVAL 2026

The First Nations Film Festival returns for 2026, aligning with National Reconciliation Week's theme, All In. This year calls on all Australians to step beyond awareness and take meaningful action.

Reconciliation is not a spectator sport—it asks each of us to step away from the sidelines and engage wholeheartedly. As we mark the 25th anniversary of Reconciliation Australia, this moment invites deeper reflection, understanding, and commitment.

The First Nations Film Festival now features two powerful collections — available to stream until June 10!

<https://www.fanforcetv.com/pages/fnff26>

6-SEASON CULTURAL CALENDAR OF THE BUNDJALUNG NATION.

Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council, in collaboration with Tweed Regional Museum has developed a 6-season cultural calendar of the Bundjalung Nation. In collaboration with the local Aboriginal community, it uses cultural knowledge to represent seasonal markers throughout a year. The site includes audio's describing the seasons.

We are going into June/July Season. Waringu. The cold season.

To listen to the audio about each season and to find out how to buy a calendar visit the link below.

<https://museum.tweed.nsw.gov.au/explore/aboriginal-cultural-heritage/seasons-calendar>





ALL

IN

NATIONAL
RECONCILIATION
WEEK 2026

27 MAY – 3 JUNE

FOR RECONCILIATION

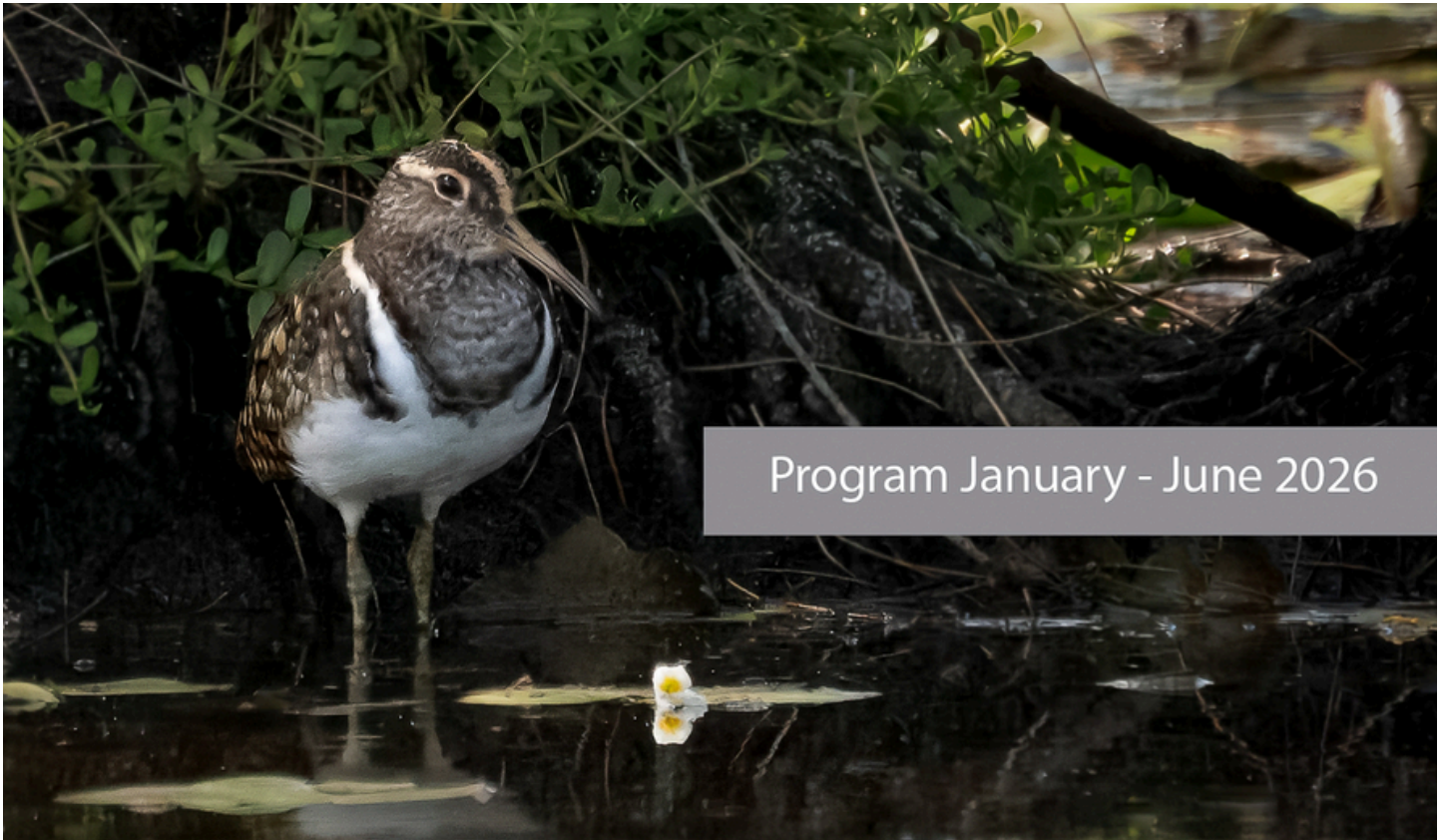
#NRW2026

RECONCILIATION.ORG.AU

BYRON BIRD BUDDIES

Program update

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



Program January - June 2026

Image: Painted Snipe 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

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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.greateasterranges.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.lls.nsw.gov.au
- North Coast Local Land Services <http://northcoast.lls.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 <https://wilsonscreekhunbrooklandcare.org.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

