



Newsletter

Conserving and restoring from forest to foreshore



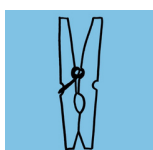
Image credit: Bronwyn Kershaw/DCCEEW

In this issue, we bring you news from the two Ocean Shores locality groups, a bunch of great events on for NAIDOC Week, Regenerative Agriculture, Agroforestry and Permaculture tours and workshops, updates on current grants and information on ORRCA's Whale Census Day on Sunday 28 June. We also say a sad farewell to two conservation legends, Tony Parkes and Mignon (Minnie) Halford, whose contributions to this landscape will be felt for years to come. On the species front, we have a profile on the strange little pouched frog, calling in full chorus right now, plus information on how to report feral animal sightings through FeralScan. Plant Profile of the month is Coastal Banksia *Banksia integrifolia* and Weed Profile is Trad,*Tradescantia fluminens*. 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.



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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

OCEAN SHORES LOCALITY GROUP

It was a stunning morning on top of Devine's Hill lookout last week. The Ocean Shores Locality Group planted 40 small native shrubs and grasses on the edges of the hilltop. The plantings have been kept low to preserve the views out to the ocean, but will still be important in providing food and shelter for local wildlife and pollinators, and suppressing the weeds. A new volunteer joined the group this week, and there's always room for more. It's a lot of fun!



The Ocean Shores locality group meets **every Thursday from 8.30 to 11am**, at Devines Hill or at Yallakool Reserve, Ocean Shores. email info@brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au to find out more.

WATERLILY PARK LANDCARE GROUP

The Waterlily Park Landcare Group is another Brunswick Valley Landcare locality group in Ocean Shores. They meet in the park each Wednesday morning between 8.00am and 10.00am, and the first Saturday morning of each month to remove non-native plants and replace them with natives throughout the park. They also meet on the last Sunday of each month between 1.30 - 3.00pm to do "Kayak v Weed" sessions where they clear out Salvinia weed from the lake.

Check out the Waterlily Park facebook book page, where you can find out about what they've been digging up and planting and how to get involved. They love to welcome to new volunteers.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1428459912219154>



Some pics from the latest "Kayak v Weed" sessions, getting on top of the last bits of Salvinia in the lake

BVL NEWS

MOTHERS DAY PLANTING UPDATE



The glorious winter sunshine is welcome but this rainfall persists. Our host site for this years Mother's Day community tree planting still remains way too waterlogged for slashing and other essential site prep work to be completed. The July forecast is showing strong chance of more rain here - as soon as we get a another clear spell and the conditions are right, we'll be in like a shot to re-kickstart planning. Hang tight mums and planters! We'll get there in the end.

COMING UP SOON.....Watch this space

ANDREW 'THE BIRD GUY' TURNBILL'S *GONDWANAN RAINFORESTS AND THE ORIGINS OF SONGBIRDS*



Saturday 1 August, 2026

Brunswick Valley Landcare and Byron Bird Buddies present: Andrew the Bird Guy Turnbull's "Gondwanan Rainforests and the Origins of Songbirds".

Andrew will be in Mullumbimby for a delightful afternoon delving into the fascinating story of Australian songbirds from ancient origins to present day.

This event will be ticketed and include afternoon tea plus a Q&A session with Andrew.

Booking details to be released soon.

AUGUST FIELD DAY - CARING FOR CATCHMENT RIPARIAN RESTORATION

One other opportunity that will be landing in August is a field day as part of BVL's Caring for Catchments Riparian Restoration Project, which is coming to a close in coming months. It will be a unique opportunity to tour this site guided by the Bush Regenerators restoring it. We'll hear about the restoration methodology applied, what's worked, what's been a challenge. And of course round it out with a good ole Landcare cuppa and morning tea provided. Planning and weather-watching are underway, event details to come.

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

NEWS FROM THE BYRON FARMERS NETWORK

An array of field trips, workshops, webinars, and farm tours happening in our region

1. **Beyond the Farm Gate – Turning produce, waste and ideas into viable products and tourism attractions – Hosted by Vitality Farms - 25th June – 30th July**

This five-week Lunch & Learn webinar series starts 25th June. If you grow it, raise it, make it or have land and ideas you have not yet done anything with, this series is for you.

Over five Thursdays, Vitality Farms Northern Rivers is bringing together producers, growers, makers and food businesses from across the region to explore one question together: what could become something more?

Bookings and more info: [Beyond the Farm Gate: Turning Produce, Waste and Ideas into Viable Products & Tourism Attractions](#)

2. **Food Forest Tour at The Farm with Growing Roots Permaculture – Sunday 5th July**

Explore and be inspired by a developing Food Forest at The Farm that is managed as a working market garden and a living classroom for hands-on training courses in Regenerative Farming for the last 6 years. Bunya and the team have transformed over an acre of pasture into a diverse, intensively cropped Food Forest combining production of annual vegetables with long term fruit, nut and timber trees – to support human needs as well as those of the local wildlife – whilst supporting the overall function of the local ecosystem.

When: Sunday 5th July – 1.30pm to 4pm

Where: The Farm, 11 Ewingsdale Road, Ewingsdale

More info and bookings: [Sun July 5 Food Forest Tour @ The Farm, Byron Bay 1:30pm - 4:00pm — Growing Roots Permaculture](#)

3. **Coexisting with our Dingos – Farming solutions and cultural knowledge – Sunday 12th July**

For landholders interested in learning more about using guardian donkeys to protect livestock, Nick from Belvedere Farm in SE Queensland ([Belvedere Farm](#) | [Local, Ethical, Regenerative Food](#)) will be discussing his experiences on Sunday July 12th at The Farm, Ewingsdale.

Tickets available via Eventbrite:

When: Sunday 12th July – 9am to 12 noon

Where: The Farm Byron Bay – 11 Ewingsdale Road

Bookings and more info: [Coexisting with our Dingoes. Farming solutions and Cultural knowledge. Tickets, Sunday 12 July • 9 AM - 12 PM | Eventbrite](#)

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

NEWS FROM THE BYRON FARMERS NETWORK

4. Farms of the Future – Agtech Fundamentals Workshops – Thursday 23rd July

The NSW Government Farms of the Future team will be in the local area for an in-person workshop designed to equip farmers with the knowledge and confidence to manage their operations with Agtech and improved farm connectivity.

Over 1,300 farmers have already completed Monitoring your farm with Agtech to better understand farm connectivity and the benefits of new technologies, now it's your turn. At this practical workshop, you'll learn how to: Understand your connectivity options; identify opportunities to use Agtech; choose the right Agtech devices for your farm; research solutions and engage with trusted suppliers. You will also map your property, identify key pain points, and explore technology and connectivity solutions that work for your operation, leaving with a clear, practical plan to move forward with Agtech confidently.

When: Thursday 23rd July – 9am to 3pm

Where: Mullumbimby Civic Hall – 22 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby

Bookings and more info: <https://bit.ly/3LGk0Zg>

5. Nimbin agroforestry bus trip – Timber, Carbon and Biodiversity - Thursday 30th July

First up we will explore the medium scale family run enterprise Super Forest Plantations where we will discover best practice species to site matching, establishment techniques, appropriate and timely silvicultural interventions, mixed species plantations, cattle integration in silvopasture systems, and on farm product development of durable hardwoods. In the afternoon, we will tour the neighbouring Seven Generations Forestry (7 Gens) a company formed by like-minded individuals in 2022 with the express purpose of purchasing and reforesting 200 acres of degraded farmland near Nimbin. 7 Gens has planted over 20,000 trees since 2022 for a range of different purposes including rainforest restoration, creekbank revegetation, hardwood and softwood forestry, carbon farming and food forestry.

When: Thursday 30th July – 8am to 5pm

Where: Bus trip to Blue Knob (near Nimbin) picking up at Bangalow, Clunes and Lismore

Bookings and more info: <https://events.humanitix.com/nimbin-agroforestry-field-trip-timber-carbon-and-biodiversity>

VALE Tony Parkes

It's true that time waits for no-one, eventually, but the legend that is Tony Parkes sure kept Father Time waiting.

Tony's recent passing at 96 years old caps a lifelong commitment to Landcare and in particular, the Big Scrub rainforest of Nthn NSW. His passion was planting trees.

Leading by example, the former chemist, turned investment banker, Tony and late wife Rowena, established home on acreage in Binna Burra and set about replanting the site with rainforest, most of it removed by decades of clearing.

Co-founding Big Scrub Landcare, and subsequently the Big Scrub Conservancy and Foundation, Tony leaves a lasting legacy. He was focused, passionate and committed, working to the very end. His name is synonymous with these initiatives.

To Tony's family, friends and the wider community, we salute his achievements.
Farewell Dr. Parkes. Know that the work goes on.

Read an article here on Tony Parkes' life and contribution to The Big Scrub Foundation and his extraordinary legacy that will continue to shape rainforest conservation and restoration for generations to come. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2026-06-13/tony-parkes-big-scrub-rainforest-conservationist-dies/104846556>



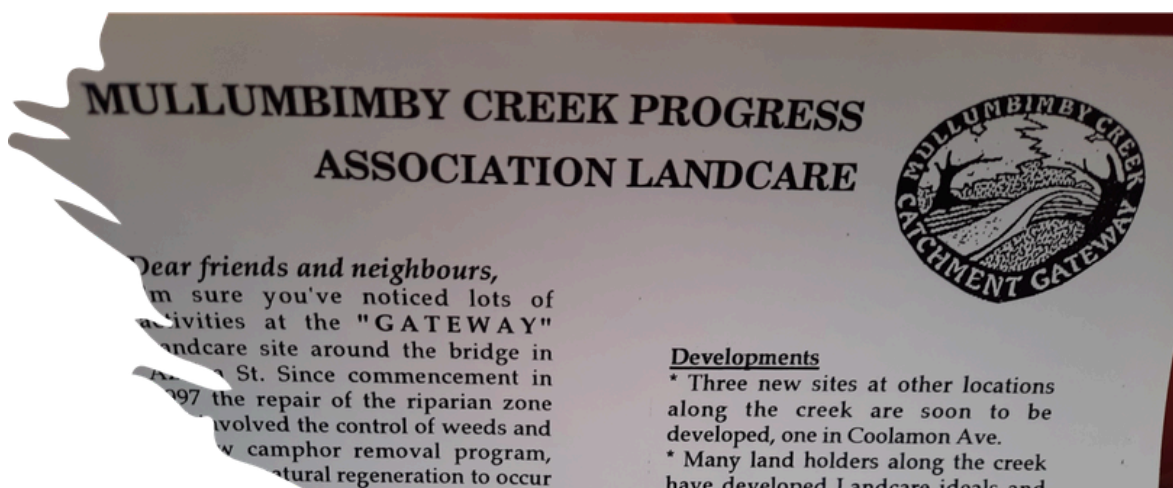
VALE Mignon (Minnie) Halford

It is with great sadness that we note the passing (2nd June 2026) of Minyon (Minnie) Halford of Upper Mullumbimby Creek.

Minnie is fondly remembered for her wonderful life, and many talents, not least her amazing contributions to Landcare in Byron Shire. In 1995 a new Landcare group started in Mullumbimby Creek. Minnie had taken the initiative, and with other locals, had started the Mullum Creek Progress Association Landcare group. The focus site was at the Azalea St Bridge, and Left bank Rd, later to be known as the Gateway Project. This was a foundation group of Brunswick Valley Landcare Inc.

There were many social endeavours including Minnie, in the character of Marilyn Manson. Dressed in outlandish clothes and gorgeous hats, Minnie attracted crowds to the Gateway site, to enjoy her comedy routine. The Landcare group continued with many social gatherings to attract environmental attention and importantly, Minnie assisted with the organisation of water quality testing and revegetation to improve the water quality of the Creek.

A much loved community member and friend to the community of Mullumbimby Creek. From the BVL community, our sympathy and best wishes to Mark and the extended family.



EVENTS

NAIDOC WEEK - REMEMBERING WATER



This coming NAIDOC week, you are invited to attend an interactive and immersive community event to showcase the completion of this work Remembering Water. Come along, listen, and hear these invaluable stories from Bundjalung water keepers and Indigenous practitioners, shedding light on how our waterways have been, continue to be, and should be cared for properly.

Tuesday 7th July, 2026, at The Koori Mail , Lismore

Link: <https://allevents.in/lismore/remembering-water-showcase/200030121099719>

BOWERBIRD COLLECTIVE - LIFE ON LAND'S EDGE



From the creators of *Where Song Began* (***** *Limelight Magazine*) & *Songs of Disappearance* (#2 on the ARIA Charts), this performance will take you on an epic journey alongside migratory birds as they connect continents and cultures. A cinematic concert experience, *Life on Land's Edge* draws on art, science, and music from across the ages. Spectacular footage and soundscapes set the scene for two of Australia's most adventurous musicians. Be immersed in one of nature's greatest stories.

Byron Theatre July 18 7.30pm

<https://www.byroncentre.com.au/theatre-events/life-on-lands-edge>

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL - NAIDOC WEEK



Join the Bundjalung of Byron Bay (Arakwal people) and Byron Shire Council to celebrate NAIDOC Week in Byron Bay on Wednesday 8 July at a free community family day from 10am to 2pm. The event will kick off with a march from Railway Park to Denning Park at 10am, and festivities will continue at Denning Park. Here there will be a Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony, cultural dances, stalls, an elders' tent, and more. Stay for a free BBQ lunch.

MORE INFORMATION

About NAIDOC Week - 50 Years of Deadly

For five decades, NAIDOC Week has celebrated the voices of our communities — steady, unapologetic, and proud. Each year, its themes have called for truth, celebrated culture, honoured resistance, and reminded the nation of who we are.

50 Years of Deadly marks a milestone. It's a tribute to the people who built this movement. The Elders who stood firm, the organisers who made space, the artists who turned resistance into expression, and the communities who keep showing up, year after year.

NAIDOC has always been more than a week — it's a platform, a protest, a celebration, and a statement of survival.

This moment is about looking back at the stories, the marches, the languages, the art, the leadership. At the strength it took to get here. It's about recognising how far we've come, not by chance, but because generations of people refused to be silenced.

It's also about the here and now, who we are today. Grounded in culture. Strong in our identity. Leading change across every field, from health and education to media, business, and the arts. We're telling our own stories, in our own way, on our own terms.

And it's about the future. The next 50 years. The young ones growing up proud. The return of language. The return to Country. The fight for justice continuing with new tools, new voices, and the same fire.

50 Years of Deadly is a marker, not just of time passed, but of the momentum still building. It's proof of what our people build when culture leads and community comes first. NAIDOC belongs to mob. It always has.

We honour what came before by continuing the work.

This is our story. This is our celebration. This is our future.

Still deadly. Always.

GRANTS

There are several funding opportunities currently open that are relevant to landholders, community groups and conservation volunteers across the Brunswick Valley. Some of them are closing very soon !

Australia Post

2026 Community Grants Program

Open until 6 July



Australia Post Community Grants program supports projects that connect people to improve mental wellbeing in local communities.

Local community groups play an important role in creating positive change in people's lives. To help them deliver for their communities, Australia Post awards Community Grants of up to \$10,000 each year to fund community-led, local projects.

Australia Post is proud to offer additional grants totalling up to \$250,000 to support disaster-impacted communities across Australia. These funds will be dedicated to projects that enhance mental wellbeing by fostering connection and building resilience within communities recovering from a natural disaster or a major storm event.

To be eligible for an Australia Post Community Grant, projects must:

1. Improve mental health and mental wellbeing outcomes of a community
2. Help people meaningfully connect
3. Be locally-led and locally-delivered.

For applications relating to disaster-related projects **only**, an additional criterion applies:

4. Support a disaster-impacted community for improved connection, wellbeing and/ or resilience.

[MORE INFORMATION HERE](#)

GRANTS



Applications close Monday 13 July 2026, 5pm AEST

As part of Bupa's 'Healthy Cities Challenge', Landcare Australia and Bupa have partnered to deliver the 2026 Healthy Cities Landcare Grants. The Challenge's goal is simple, the more movement by participants, the more nature regeneration projects will be funded making our cities greener and healthier.

Together, we will support environmental community groups and organisations to establish native plants (trees, shrubs and groundcovers) across Australia in urban and peri-urban landscapes. Project locations must be in high community use areas to support positive health outcomes for people and the planet.

Each application must contribute to the establishment of native plants and host community events open to the public.

Eligible Planting Sites

The Bupa Healthy Cities Landcare grant planting sites must be:

- located in an urban or peri-urban area where people live, work, or regularly visit;
- be accessible to the public and provide a clear community benefit;
- in high community use areas suitable for recreational physical activity such as walking and cycling;
- include a minimum of 500 plants; and
- project sites must have landholder consent.

Grant Outcomes

Projects must plant native species that will improve the extent, condition and connectivity of native vegetation in urban and peri-urban areas.

Project planting activities will contribute to the following:

- reconnecting areas of important natural habitat in the urban and peri-urban landscape;
- encouraging greater community participation in landcare and outdoor recreation activities;
- improving the amenity and liveability of cities/towns by creating urban green space; and
- contributing to the health and wellbeing of local community members.

Grant recipients should engage local community volunteers, which can include Scouts/Guides, schools, and other community groups, to help deliver the on-ground revegetation activities.

Grant Funding Available

Grant applications should be for a minimum of \$5,000 to a maximum of \$25,000 (ex-GST).

[**MORE INFORMATION HERE**](#)

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL NEWS

BIG WAVES ARE DOING SOME DAMAGE ON BYRON SHIRE BEACHES

Published on 29 May 2026



The big swells over the last week are leaving their mark on Byron Shire beaches with huge losses of sand and severely eroded dunes in some areas.

The most impacted beaches are New Brighton and Suffolk Park. Beach access paths have also been damaged and in places there is now a very steep drop to get onto the beach.

“Signs have been put up to warn people that some access paths are closed because of the steep drop and these beaches can be quite dangerous if the tide is high and waves are rushing up to the foot of the eroded dune face,” Malcolm Robertson, Acting Manager Works, said.

“People should also not sit, walk or play near eroded dunes because there is always the risk of collapse,” he said.

Staff have been busy picking up old car tyres from the beach at Suffolk Park after they were washed out of the dunes. Over a number of years property owners have been using the tyres on the dunes in front of their homes to make steps for private beach access or for landscaping.

“These tyres are an environmental problem and while Council is picking them up, this comes at a cost to ratepayers,” Mr Robertson said.

“This is an ongoing problem for Council and our Bush Regeneration team is always talking to property owners about the impact of doing unauthorised work in sensitive environments like our coast areas,” he said.

People who see tyres on the beach can report it on Council’s website or call 6626 7000.

BVL locality group, Suffolk Park Dune Care, will have their next working bee on Sunday 28th June at 8.00-10.00am. They will be meeting at Gaggin Park on Alcorn Street and will focus on planting at Gaggin Park beach access and replacing the large tuckeroo tree that recently fell down in the park. All tools will be supplied.

CRITTER CORNER

THE POUCHED FROG (ASSA DARLINGTONI)



' The male has a pouch on both sides of its body, into which the tadpoles wriggle before developing and then emerging as tiny, fully formed frogs.'

Lately when in my garden and regen areas I have been hearing a soft, dry "eh-eh-eh-eh-eh" rising from all around in the leaf litter. I recorded the call last year and uploaded it to the FrogID app, after a few weeks their team emailed me back to verify the call as one of the smallest and strangest local frogs: the pouched frog.

Here's a bit more about this intriguing little frog

Description

A small species of frog reaching up to 2 cm in body length. It has a brown or dark brown back, with darker patches. There is often a V-shaped marking between the eyes. There is a black stripe from behind the eye to the groin. The belly is cream-coloured, with brown mottling. The pupil is horizontal and the iris is gold. Fingers and toes are unwebbed, both without discs. The male has a pouch on both sides of its body, into which the tadpoles wriggle before developing and then emerging as tiny, fully formed frogs.

Distribution

Relict species occupying disparate and retracted mesic forest refugia mainly within north-east NSW but extends into far south-east Queensland. Occurs in dense but scattered colonies. There are five isolated populations: Dorrigo Plateau, Gibraltar Range, Border Ranges and two in south-east Queensland.

Habitat and ecology

- Pouched frogs live in cool, moist rainforest, including Antarctic Beech, or moist eucalypt forest in mountainous areas, mostly above 800 m but have been found as low as 300m.
- They spend most of the time in damp leaf litter, or under rocks and rotten logs.

CRITTER CORNER

THE POUCHED FROG (ASSA DARLINGTONI)

Breeding Biology

Eggs are laid on land under wet leaf litter and rocks. Tadpoles can reach a total length of up to nearly 1.5 cm and are white in colour. After hatching from their eggs, they wriggle into pouches on the sides of the male frog and complete their development inside before little frogs emerge, a process that takes two to three months. Breeds during spring to autumn.

Similar Species

Most similar to *Assa wollumbin*, but populations outside Mount Wollumbin (Mount Warning) belong to *Assa darlingtoni*. Also looks similar to *Crinia parinsignifera*, *Crinia signifera*, *Crinia tinnula*, *Phyllorhina loveridgei*, *Phyllorhina richmondensis* and *Phyllorhina sphagnicolus* in its distribution, but the *Phyllorhina* species have thicker arms and different back patterns, and the *Crinia* species have a rougher belly texture.

Sources: <http://frogid.net.au/frogs/assa-darlingtoni/> and <https://threatenedspecies.bionet.nsw.gov.au/profile?id=10070>

The pouched frog is found only in rainforest and moist eucalypt forest from south-east Queensland down to the Northern Rivers and is listed as Vulnerable. Research has shown it is slow to return to sites once canopy cover is lost — even after the leaf litter regrows.

Go gently in the leaf litter, knowing now that there could be a dedicated little frog dad in those leaves, growing his pouch of babies !

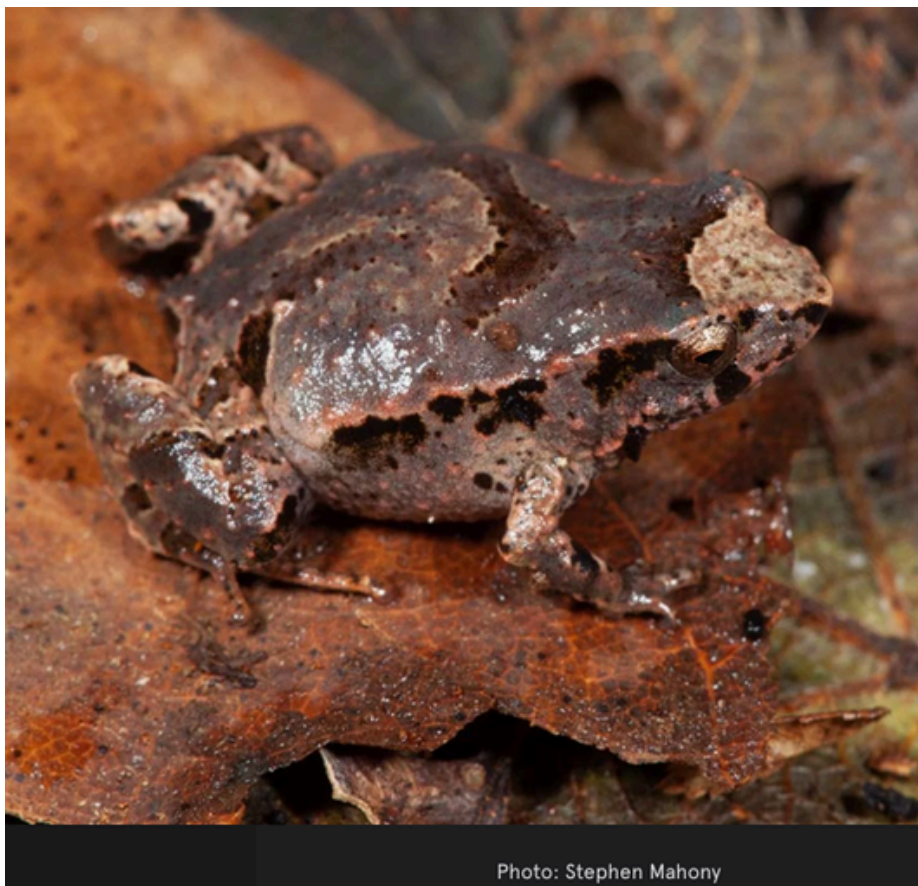


Photo: Stephen Mahony

LEAVE YOUR LEAF LITTER

FERALSCAN

Across the Byron Shire feral animals, such as cats and Indian mynas, are hurting and killing our wildlife.

Feral cats are one of Australia's most devastating introduced predators, collectively killing over a billion native animals every year, while Indian mynas aggressively take over tree hollows and nest boxes, evicting native birds, possums and gliders and destroying their eggs and chicks in the process.

With anecdotal sightings and conversations about both these species across the Shire, we thought we'd introduce FeralScan to our readers. An easy to use app that gives us a way to turn those individual observations into a shared picture. The more of us who record what we're seeing, the clearer the map becomes, and the better equipped we all are to protect the wildlife that calls this place home.

FeralScan is a free and secure community platform (website and smartphone App) that allows you to report pest animal sightings. This data helps NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and Local Land Services to prioritise areas to manage.

https://feralscan.org.au/mynascan/content/myna_handyresources

https://feralscan.org.au/feralcatscan/content/feralcat_handyresource



Record Myna activity in MynaScan

What else can residents do to help control the impact of Indian Minors ?

- prevent access to food waste, compost, uneaten pet food
- feed pets inside
- remove bird feeders
- create a native bird-friendly garden by planting native plants, removing weeds and providing a bird bath
- turn outside lights off at night to prevent attracting insects
- repair eaves and gaps in your roof to prevent nesting.

Byron Shire Council have an Indian Myna Trap Loan Program for residents. Contact Biodiversity Officer for more information on 02 6626 7000.



Record Feral Cat activity in FeralCatScan

Feral cats are one of the most destructive introduced species in Australian history. Collectively, feral cats kill an estimated 1.4 billion native animals every year in Australia — a toll roughly equivalent to the number of animals lost in the catastrophic 2019–20 bushfires. On average, each individual feral cat kills 390 mammals, 225 reptiles and 130 birds annually. Other research puts the average even higher, at around 740 animals per feral cat per year.

Feral cats have played a leading role in most of Australia's 34 mammal extinctions since 1788, and are a major reason populations of at least 123 other threatened native species are declining. Australia leads the world with 34 mammal species wiped out and a further 74 land mammal species under threat — feral cats are a primary driver of that record.

Cats now inhabit 99.9% of Australia's total land area. On a yearly average, an estimated 2.8 million feral cats roam the continent, but that number can balloon to 5.6 million in years of heavy rainfall when prey is abundant and breeding success is high.

It's not just "feral" cats

Pet cats add to the toll too. Roaming pet cats kill 390 million animals per year in Australia, an average of 186 animals — mostly native species — per roaming domestic cat. That figure includes 110 native animals per cat each year: 40 reptiles, 38 birds and 32 mammals. Because pet cats are so much more densely packed in towns than feral cats are in the bush, pet cats kill 30–50 times more animals per square kilometre than feral cats in the bush. In the Byron Shire, pet and semi-feral cats overlap with bushland edges and wildlife corridors.

Sources and further reading.

- Legge, S., Woinarski, J.C.Z., Dickman, C. et al. Cats in Australia: Companion and Killer (CSIRO Publishing, 2019) — summarised via ANU Reporter: <https://reporter.anu.edu.au/all-stories/cats-kill-more-than-1-5-billion-native-animals-per-year>
- Smithsonian Magazine, "Australia's Cats Kill Two Billion Animals Annually": <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/australias-cats-kill-two-billion-animals-annually-180977235/>
- Live Science, "Cats in Australia Kill Over 2 Billion Wild Animals Each Year": <https://www.livescience.com/65915-australia-cats-wildlife-killers.html>
- Nature, "Australia's feral cats kill more than 800 million mammals every year" (Murphy et al., Biological Conservation, 2019): <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-02001-z>
- Legge, S., Woinarski, J.C.Z., Dickman, C. et al. "We need to worry about Bella and Charlie: the impacts of pet cats on Australian wildlife," Wildlife Research (2020) — summarised via NESP Threatened Species Recovery Hub: <https://www.nespthreatenedspecies.edu.au/news-and-media/latest-news/one-cat-one-year-110-native-animals-lock-up-your-pet-it-s-a-killing-machine>
- University of Sydney, "Lock up your pet cat, it's a killing machine": <https://www.sydney.edu.au/news-opinion/news/2020/05/15/lock-up-your-pet-cat-its-a-killing-machine.html>

PLANT PROFILE

Coastal Banksia *Banksia integrifolia*



photo credits: Bryce Watts-Parker

Coastal Banksia, *Banksia integrifolia*, is in full flower right now. Its golden spikes are lighting up the coast, and all around there is the sound happy honeyeaters and lorikeets getting a delicious nectar feed.

Description

Coastal Banksia is a hardy, fast-growing native that ranges from a low, gnarled coastal shrub to a tall tree reaching up to 25 metres in sheltered sites. Its leaves are dark green and glossy above with a silvery-white, finely hairy underside, arranged in whorls along the branches. From autumn through winter, it produces cylindrical, bottlebrush-like flower spikes in pale lemon to gold, rich in nectar. These give way to persistent woody seed cones that remain on the tree, sometimes for years, giving older specimens their distinctive rugged, sculptural look. Mature trees can live well over a century and are notably resistant to *Phytophthora cinnamomi* (root rot), a disease that affects many other native plants.

Habitat

True to its name, Coastal Banksia is most at home in sandy seaside environments, frontline dunes, exposed sea cliffs, and coastal headlands - where it tolerates salt-laden winds, drought and poor soils with ease. Further inland and in more sheltered positions, including along riparian corridors and in open woodland, it grows taller and straighter. It prefers full sun to part shade and well-drained sandy or loamy soils, and regenerates readily after fire, making it a resilient presence across our local dune systems and forest margins.

Distribution

Coastal Banksia occurs along almost the entire east coast of Australia, from southern Queensland down through New South Wales and into Victoria, with populations recorded as far north as the Fraser Coast. It is one of the most widely distributed Banksia species in the country. Here in the Northern Rivers, it is a familiar sight along our beaches, headlands and coastal forests, from the immediate foreshore through to the sandy hinterland soils slightly further inland.

Ecological Importance

Coastal Banksia is a cornerstone species for wildlife along our coastline. Its nectar-rich flowers, produced through the cooler months when other food sources are scarce, are a vital resource for honeyeaters, lorikeets, flying foxes, bees and other pollinating insects. The dense whorled foliage and gnarled branching offer shelter and nesting sites for birds and small mammals, while its deep root system helps stabilise dunes and prevent coastal erosion. Because of its salt tolerance, fast growth and hardiness, it is also widely used in coastal revegetation and bush regeneration work, often acting as a nurse plant that provides shelter for more sensitive species establishing nearby.

Sources: Australian Native Plants Society, Atlas of Living Australia (ALA), PlantNET – NSW Flora Online.



TRAD

Tradescantia fluminens



Description

Ground cover with shiny green leaves and white flowers. Perennial, prostrate +/- succulent herb with sparse fibrous roots; stems branching, rooting at the joints. Leaves almost stalkless, hairless with prominent mid-vein; lamina ovate-lanceolate. Flowers 15-20 per inflorescence.

Flowering time

Spring to Summer; later in warmer parts of NSW.

How is it spread

Any stem fragments that has a node will grow, these can be as small as 1cm. Stem fragments are spread by people, water, contaminated soil, vehicles and machinery, sticking to animal hooves.

Habitat

Widespread in high rainfall areas. Prefers fertilized damp soils and can survive in seasonally waterlogged soils

Origin

Tropical rainforests of South America.

Impacts

Forms dense mats that smothers and outcompetes native ground covers and can prevent germination of tree species. Shade tolerant so can establish in healthier forest. Can contribute to flooding by clogging watercourses and drains. **Can cause severe allergic skin reactions in animals and occasionally people.**

Similar species



Scurvy Weed *Commelina cyanea* has blue flowers, thicker stems, narrower leaves and has a denser root system. **Native.**



Aneilema biflorum has smaller, finer leaves and flowers with a finely wavy margin on the leaf. **Native.**

Other Weed *Tradescantia* species (*T. zebrina* and *T. cerinthoides*) are purplish or sometimes striped leaves.

Control Methods

PHYSICAL REMOVAL

By hand Small infestations can be pulled out, but all stems and roots must be removed to avoid re-growth.

Raking and Rolling Thick patches can be raked and rolled into bundles where there are no desirable plants.

Plastic sheeting In warm areas, lay plastic over the trad infestation for 2–6 weeks in warm weather. After removing the plastic, check for and control regrowth.

Disposal of all plant parts carefully. In hot weather bundles of trad can be covered by plastic sheets for 2–6 weeks. Ensure that the trad is in a flood free area that will not be disturbed. Check and control any regrowth. Contact your local council for advice on how to dispose of this weed.

Bio control

The leaf-smut fungus *Kordyana brasiliensis* has been successfully trailed in New Zealand and CSIRO and the NSW government have been doing trail releases over the past few years.

CHEMICAL CONTROL

Combine herbicide with a wetting agent.

Repeated follow-up treatments are required.

Spot spraying is suitable for dense infestations that are not too close to other desirable plants. Apply herbicide to actively growing plants.

Ensure that all the foliage is covered.

Weed wipers apply herbicide directly onto leaves. This can better target the chemical and minimise damage to other species.

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 [11916](#) Expires 31/03/2025

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.

More information

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



CITIZEN SCIENCE



ORRCA is calling on communities across the east coast of Australia to once again take part in one of the country's longest-running citizen science initiatives.

On Sunday 28 June 2026, ORRCA will host its 27th annual Whale Census Day, with official census sites spanning the NSW coastline and participation open to whale watchers anywhere along Australia's east coast.

This year, ORRCA is introducing an updated census model featuring 24 official abundance sites strategically positioned along the NSW coastline, with a synchronised two-hour count taking place between 10am and 12pm.

Participants who cannot attend an abundance site can still participate from any coastal location along Australia's east coast, collecting whale sighting and behavioural data from sunrise to sunset.

All sightings will be recorded digitally through ORRCA's online reporting platform, with further information provided to registered participants prior to the event. To find out more and register your participation go to ORRCA's website: www.orrca.org.au/census

Last year's Whale Census recorded the highest number of whale sightings in the event's history, with:

- Over 600 official volunteer counters
- 5,995 whale sightings recorded
- 159 coastal observation sites covered
- Sightings including Humpback Whales, Bryde's Whales and Minke Whales.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

WATCH AND LISTEN

'Restoration and Linkage of Wilsons and Coopers Creeks including Upper Coopers Creek Extension'.

This is a very beautiful new video produced by Goonengerry Landcare Group about their Environmental Trust Project 'Restoration and Linkage of Wilsons and Coopers Creeks including Upper Coopers Creek Extension'. Some stunning footage of the shire's majestic hinterland, great ecological insights and inspiring visions from Goonengerry Landcare Group, landowners and bush regenerators working on the ground.

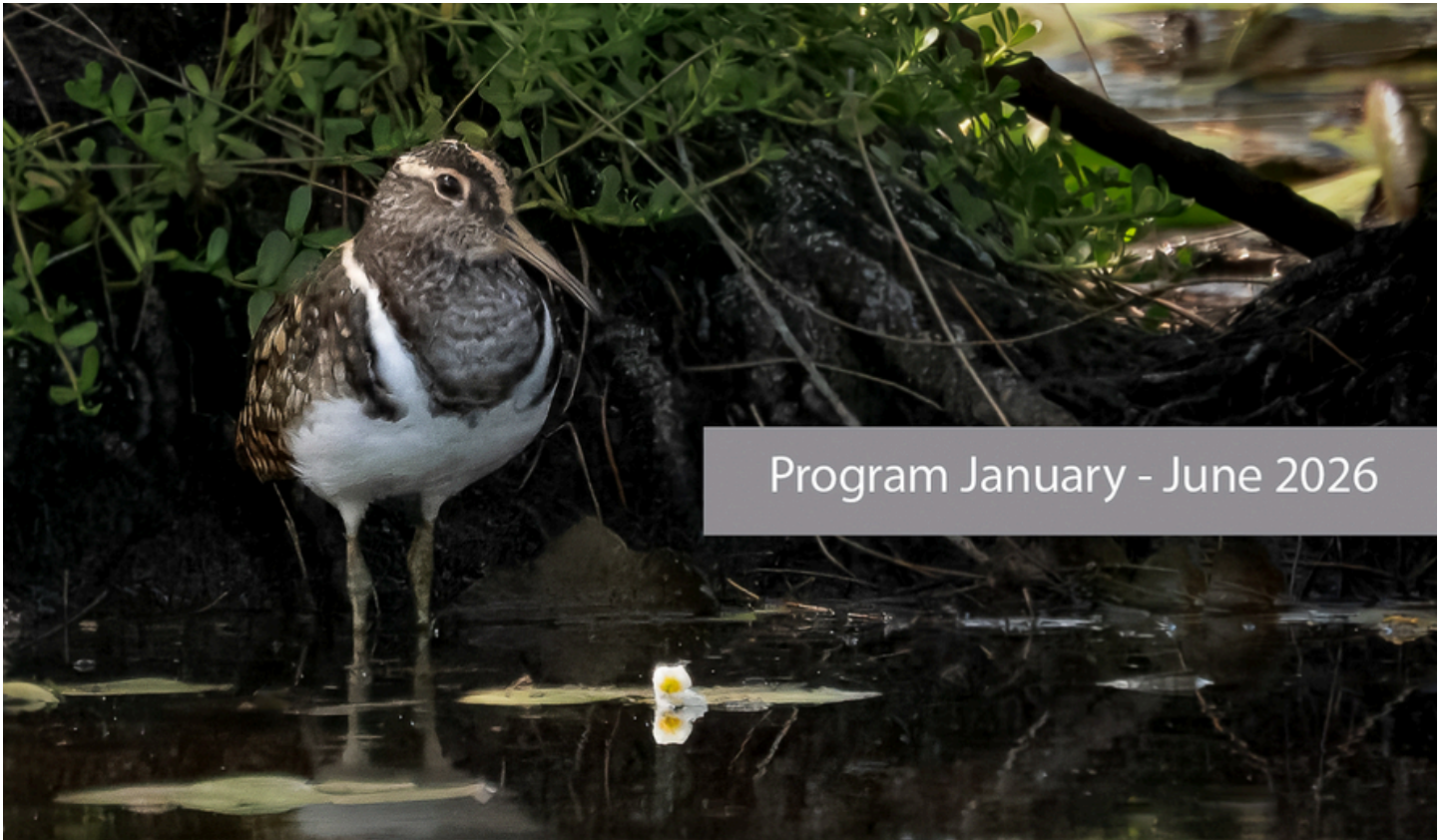


<https://goonengerrylandcare.org/2026/04/21/wilsons-and-coopers-creek-update/>

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.greateasternranges.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 <https://wilsonscreekhuonbrooklandcare.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

