



Newsletter

Conserving and restoring from forest to foreshore

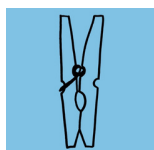


Image: Priya Bracken, Lilia Matthews and Hannah Davies, BVL youth advisory committee members.

In this issue: Suffolk Park Landcare Groups, a new Roving Landcare Group for young adults, Landcare Week info stalls at the Farmers' Markets, A Caring for Catchments Field day. The Weed of the Month is Coral Berry (*Ardisia crenata*), Critter Corner is the Southern Pink Underwing Moth. There is news from the Byron Farmers Network and some great opportunities and events. 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

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

SUFFOLK PARK DUNE AND LANDCARE GROUP

For over four decades, the Suffolk Park Dune and Landcare group has been working together to protect and restore the natural beauty of our region. From coastal dunes to creeklines and community spaces, we've partnered with locals, Byron Shire Council and other environmental groups to care for our precious Tallow Beach.

Our main work for 2026 will be bringing back healthy dune vegetation to 8 damaged public beach accessways at Tallow Beach that have been reinstated after Cyclone Alfred. With fencing help from Bushland Restoration Services we are fencing to protect the plantings & natural regeneration that adjoin these accessways. So far this year we have completed, re-veg & fencing at 3 of the 8 beach accessways at Tallows Beach that were severely damaged by cyclone Alfred. We will also:

- Establish a half-monthly small working bees along the hind dune bikeway removing our new nemesis at Suffolk Park Gloriosa Lily, which we are hand removing (v time consuming!).
- Continue to protect the dunes & also smaller pockets of valuable vegetation in Suffolk Park (that are not included in management plans) by removing environmental weeds & stopping their spread
- Continue to source naturally occurring rainforest & sclerophyll plants and seeds for our nursery from service corridors & other public spaces where they are unlikely to survive.
- Work with Byron Bird Buddies to increase awareness & protection for shorebirds & dune nesting birds.



Examples of post cyclone repair where we are replacing salt hardy vegetation behind the erosion scarp to shield littoral rainforest from salt winds & associated die back. We have fenced the scarp, erected signage , planted coast Wattles & Banksia integrifolia @ 3 sites so far this year after BSC repaired beach access ramps.

We would love to extend an invitation to volunteers beyond the residential area and make environmental volunteering opportunities more accessible in Byron Bay. Volunteering at Tallow Beach is a great way for people to gain hands on learning in weed and plant id, coastal and dune restoration techniques, connect with community and the local environment. Our working bees are relaxed, hands-on, and rewarding. No experience needed, just bring your curiosity and willingness to get your hands dirty.

Suffolk Park Dune and Landcare group met the last Sunday of each month 8-10 am
Location: working bee locations advised by email reminders to participants each month

Contact: Rebekah 0428942903 Miles 0403206190

BVL NEWS

SUFFOLK PARK LOCALITY GROUP CONT...

What Suffolk Park Dune and Landcare Group have achieved together in 4 decades.

- Restored 12 hectares of native vegetation at Tallow Beach -replanting in damaged areas of the sand mined landscape & supporting Littoral Rainforest expansion in areas of greater resilience
- Reduced invasive eco-system damaging weeds to support & promote bio-diversity
- Prevented spread of weeds to adjacent high quality reserves.
- Fulfilled prime aims of the 2004 Vegetation Management Plan for the dunes at Suffolk Park (returning canopy & reducing weeds). We are now at the maintenance stage, requiring lighter but more varied tasks for volunteers
- Increased the quantity & quality of habitat for wildlife -baseline species count from 2004 has grown for both fauna & flora
- Built a strong welcoming community of local volunteers as well as working with visitors & students from secondary & tertiary settings



Kids at work planting Banksias & hauling away Umbrella Tree weeds



Group at work mulching & restoring a small Littoral Rainforest remnant on a beach accessway after removing thickets of Ground Asparagus, Fishbone Fern, Winter Senna as well as Umbrella Trees.

BVL NEWS

TAMARIND DRIVE LOCALITY GROUP

'We had beautiful weather for our planting last Saturday with 10 participants enjoying the day while planting appropriately 100 plants around Pepperbush park.' From Lachy



Some pics from the planting

BVL NEWS

A NEW ROVING LANDCARE PROGRAM FOR YOUNG ADULTS AGED 18–30.



Pictured above are 3 members of the youth advisory committee: Priya Bracken (studying an Advanced Bachelor of Science majoring in Biodiversity and Conservation Biology), Liliah Matthews and Hannah Davies (studying a Bachelor of Environmental Science and Management) and at the University of Newcastle .

From September to December this year, Brunswick Valley Landcare and Tweed Valley Landcare will be running an environmental volunteering experience designed for people aged 18–30.

The program is free to attend and will be held across diverse ecological sites throughout Byron and Tweed Shires on Saturdays 9 -1pm. Activities will include: hands-on bush regeneration, seed collecting, environmental monitoring activities and a series of walks, workshops and talks with local ecologists, scientists and Indigenous knowledge holders.

It's an opportunity to build practical skills, connect with inspiring local Landcarers and professional bush regenerators, contribute to local environmental restoration projects, and learn about our shire's amazing ecology, alongside awesome people.

All ages and experience levels welcome; but places are limited.

For more detail on the program, and information on how to apply, contact.
valley@brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au



This initiative is made possible through the NSW Landcare Enabling Program, supported by the NSW Government.

BVL NEWS

COME AND VISIT US AT THE FARMERS MARKETS THIS AUGUST 3-9



Brunswick Valley Landcare will have an information table at the New Brighton, Byron Bay and Mullumbimby Farmers' Markets as part of this years Landcare week (3-9 August)

Come and have a chat and meet members of the BVL Committee, our local Landcare Coordinator, the Byron Bird Buddies, and volunteers from some of our locality groups. Learn what we've been up to around the Shire, tell us about your restoration projects (or dream new ones up with us), share your stories and experience, or ask advice. If you're new to the area, find out how to get involved and become part of the Landcare community. We'll also have some great planting guides and local resources available.

JOIN US FOR A 'CARING FOR CATCHMENTS' FIELD DAY ON AUGUST 14TH



Bush Regen legends Rochelle Merdith & Severine Sandsmark will walk us through the restoration techniques they've applied to a Caring for Catchments, riparian restoration project site on the main arm of the Brunswick river.

Friday 14 August 2026

8.30am - 11.30am

FREE event, morning tea included.

Meet 8.30 at Tallowood Field carpark to carpool: Plover Parkway, Tallowood Estate

Registrations essential, places are limited:

<https://collections.humanitix.com/bvl-events>

Please bring a water bottle and wear a hat and sturdy shoes, dress for weather conditions.

BVL is delivering this project for North Coast Regional Landcare Network with funding from the Australian Government through the Northern Rivers Recovery and Resilience Program 2022-23 administered by NSW Reconstruction Authority.

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

FROM THE BYRON FARMERS NETWORK

If you're a farmer - or a landholder - or you have interest in food security and the future of agriculture in the Byron Shire - Council wants to hear from you!

We're inviting input, ideas and insights from our landholders, farmers and everyone with an interest in food security and the agricultural landscape of the Byron Shire. We would love to hear from all producers, from small-scale growers to larger operators.

We want to hear from all rural landholders and the broader community about the challenges they're facing as well as where they see the opportunities.

To take part in the consultation, complete Council's online survey via Your Say Byron Shire:

LINK **[Help inform the Draft Agriculture Action Plan | Your Say Byron Shire](#)**

You can also contact the Customer Service Team on 6676 7000, or visit Council's Mullumbimby offices to complete a hard copy survey.

If you prefer to have a yarn, we will also be available for an in-person chat and to assist with any questions at two farmers markets:

- Thursday 6 August - Byron Farmers Markets
- Friday 7 August - Mullumbimby Farmers Markets

All feedback received will help shape a new 10-year Byron Shire Agriculture Action Plan which will be developed later this year. A draft of this Plan will go back out to the community for further comment.

Have Your Say on the future agriculture landscape of Byron Shire via Council's website until 23 August 2026.

Soils for Life - Practice Guide – Grazing for Soil and Landscape Regeneration - plus more updated resources that support the regeneration of soils, communities and landscapes.

This guide offers an introduction to regenerative grazing approaches that seek to meet livestock production needs while building soil health, improving landscape function, and supporting personal, environmental, and business goals. Through a series of practical case studies, farmers share their experiences and demonstrate how regenerative grazing practices can be adapted to different farming systems, landscapes, and seasonal conditions. The guide also includes links to additional resources and learning opportunities for those interested in further exploring regenerative grazing principles and their application on-farm.

[Grazing guide: Regenerative Grazing | Soil and Landscape Regeneration Guide](#)

[Other Soils for Life guides and projects: Our Work - Soils For Life](#)

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL NEWS

STATE FUNDING TO HELP WITH WAR ON WEEDS IN SANDHILLS WETLANDS PRECINCT



Published on 27 July 2026

Byron Shire Council has welcomed a NSW Government grant to help with weed control in the Sandhills Wetlands precinct at Byron Bay.

The \$40,650 grant from the Crown Reserves Improvement Fund will add some extra fire power to Council's Bush Regeneration team which has the big job of weed eradication and control in 1.7 hectares of bush bordering the newly restored wetlands.

"While we have done an incredible amount of work restoring the Sandhills Wetlands, the adjacent areas are heavily infested with weeds and in need of urgent attention," Mr Robertson, Acting Manager Works, said.

"Sixty-one weed species were recorded in the area as part of the Environmental Impact Study for the Sandhills Wetlands project.

"The grant will be the start of a major focus on bush regeneration in that area that will see the invasion of weeds brought under control, creating the space for native species to thrive.

"Weeds do not respect boundaries and there will be a much broader benefit to the wetlands and other parts of Byron Bay, with the improvement of habitat for native birds and animals," Mr Robertson said.

The Crown Reserves Improvement Fund is designed to support land managers, like Byron Shire Council, maintain and improve public reserves in NSW.

"These projects are about making sure Crown land continues to deliver for communities, whether that's through better facilities, safer access or protecting the natural environment people rely on," NSW Minister for Lands and Property, Steve Kamper, said.

"Crown reserves are part of the fabric of towns and regions across NSW, supporting community life, recreation and local economies.

"By investing in these projects and opening a new funding round, we are continuing to support communities to care for and improve the places they rely on every day," Minister Kamper said.

OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS

Deep Winter Agrarian Gathering – presented by Agroecology and Food Sovereignty Alliance –
Murwillumbah Showgrounds 11th - 13th September 2026

Deep Winter brings together small and medium-scale farmers and allies for a joyful weekend of connection. A chance to step back from the season's work, share what's challenging us and what's working, and think collectively about how we strengthen agroecology and food sovereignty in our region. This gathering is intended as a true meeting of the community, growers, seed savers, cooks, land carers, activists, and friends. All built around food sovereignty, land stewardship, skill sharing, and resilience. It's a slow, seasonal, and thoughtful event, with plenty of room for storytelling, honest conversation, and practical planning, including discussion on themes such as agroecology, regenerative agriculture, seed sovereignty, Indigenous land stewardship, local food economies, cooperative models, and climate resilience.

**AGROECOLOGY AND FOOD
SOVEREIGNTY ALLIANCE PRESENTS:**

**DEEP WINTER
AGRARIAN
GATHERING**



11-13TH SEPTEMBER 2026

MURWILLUMBAH SHOWGROUNDS

◆ **\$35 FARMERS \$45 FRIENDS OF FARMERS \$20 FARM TOURS** ◆

A gathering of farmers and allies to participate in a collective discussion on our challenges and successes, and share knowledge, experiences and strategy, to deepen our thinking and strengthen the movement for agroecology and food sovereignty in the Australian landscape.



FOR TICKET INFORMATION- SCAN QR CODE



OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS

LOCAL ARTISTS INVITED TO APPLY FOR CLIMATE CONVERSATIONS 2027



Byron Shire Council is inviting Northern Rivers artists to submit expressions of interest for Climate Conversations 2027, a biennial Lone Goat Gallery initiative that supports creative responses to climate change through community engagement and contemporary art.

One successful applicant will receive a \$5,000 artist fee to develop new work and present a one-month project at Lone Goat Gallery in Byron Bay in 2027. Additional funding of up to \$2,000 is also available to support the delivery of public programs connected to the project.

Climate Conversations offers an artistic platform for collaboration with communities, exploring how we can adapt, reorganise, and evolve in response to climate change.

“Artists are uniquely placed to open up new ways of thinking, spark discussion and help communities imagine resilient futures,” Council’s Gallerist Sarah Harvey said.

“We really encourage proposals from artists or artists teams that are collaborative, community-focused and participatory in nature,” she said.

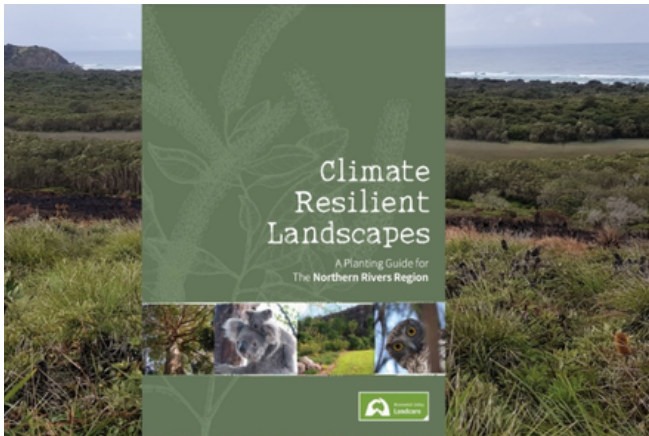
Climate Conversations aims to engage and create space for the Northern Rivers community to discuss and reflect on ideas relating to sustainability, resilience, climate change adaptation and mitigation. Artists can engage communities in innovative ways to change behaviours and should consider how their project might involve community members through workshops, partnerships, creative collaborations and other participatory activities.

Expressions of interest are now open to all Northern Rivers artists and creatives. For more information and to apply, visit Byron Shire Council’s website or

www.lonegoatgallery.com/climate-conversations.

PLANT PROFILE

PLANTS OF THE MONTH - LOCAL PLANTING GUIDES



Native Species Planting Guide

A native plant database to aid in selection of locally occurring species across the Tweed and Byron Shire Council Areas. For use by home gardeners, landscape restoration professionals, nurseries, landscape architects, garden clubs, town planners, Council planning and assessment staff and individuals wanting to use local species that will prove easier to establish and maintain with minimal input while enhancing the habitat of local fauna.

Tweed Shire

Byron Shire

New to the area and curious about what native plants to grow? Designing a new garden? Want to know what plants to plant in your riparian areas or restoration sites? Trying to find plants to attract and support wildlife and pollinators? Want to build a garden that is climate resilient? There are heaps of great resources around to help your research.

For a customised list based on your specific location, try the native plant database covering locally occurring species across the Tweed and Byron Shire Council areas.

It's built for home gardeners, landscape restoration professionals, nurseries, landscape architects, garden clubs, town planners, and Council staff alike, helping everyone choose local species that are easier to establish and maintain, while giving local fauna a boost.

The online guide allows the user to view a colour photograph of each plant and explore its characteristic features to improve the chances of a successful planting in any setting. The guide includes more than 1550 locally occurring native species including their physical attributes (height, habit and flower colour), environmental tolerances (sun, frost, salt and wind hardiness), ecological relationships (key fauna food, butterfly and bird attracting), soil types where they occur and broad landscape locations. Species are also assigned to vegetation mapping types and have a nursery 'availability' score.

<https://info.tweed.nsw.gov.au/NativeSpeciesPlantingGuide>

Or dig into some of the great guides BVL has produced over the years.

Brunswick Valley Landcare offers several highly specific planting guides tailored for the Byron Shire. These resources help locals select the right native species for wildlife attraction, riparian restoration, and climate resilience.

The main planting guides and resources include:

Climate Resilient Landscapes Booklet: A 40-page guide focused on plant species resilient to extreme climates, bushfires, and floods in the Northern Rivers. You can download the guide directly on the [Brunswick Valley Landcare Booklets & Guides](#)

My Local Native Garden: A popular guide featuring general garden design, basic planting methods, and species for local biodiversity. View and download the digital version via the [My Local Native Garden Booklet](#).

Riparian and Creek Planting: If you live near a riverbank, use the catchment-specific details provided in the [Brunswick Valley Landcare Riparian Guide](#) for toe, mid, and upper bank planting.

Physical copies of these booklets are generally available for a gold coin donation at the Byron Shire Council Offices in Mullumbimby or contact valley@brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au the Brunswick Valley Landcare coordinator.

WEED OF THE MONTH

Coral Berry (*Ardisia crenata*)



Photo credits © Thomas Mesaglio



Photo credits © Thomas Mesaglio



Photo credit © © Bryce Watts-Parker

Coral berry is in full fruit at the moment, and has really taken off in places around Wilsons Creek, dominating the whole forest floor. If you haven't got time to get to all the plants in one go, try snipping off the berries into a plastic bag and disposing of them in your red bin, at least they won't multiply this season, and you can buy yourself some time to treat the plants themselves at a later date.

Weed Profile: : Coral Berry (*Ardisia crenata*)

Family: Myrsinaceae

Origin: NE India, China to Japan

Impact

Coral berry is regarded as an environmental weed in NSW and Queensland, and is recorded weedy from the Mullumbimby area to Sydney. It is particularly invasive in rainforests and other closed forests, largely because its seeds will germinate in low light conditions under a dense forest canopy. Overseas, dense infestations have been shown to reduce forest-floor light levels significantly, potentially shading out seedlings and preventing the regeneration of native plants.

Location

Coral berry is naturalised in remnant rainforests in north-eastern New South Wales, including near Mullumbimby, and has escaped cultivation as a common indoor plant due to its low light requirements.

Characteristics

Evergreen, compact shrub 1-2m high with a bushy head. Leaves dark glossy green above, paler and dull below, elliptic to slightly oblanceolate, 5-12cm long, 1.5-3.5cm wide, with serrated and crinkled margins. Flowers rather inconspicuous, white and starry, petals 4mm long, borne in many-flowered umbels through summer and autumn. Fruit a scarlet red globose berry, 5-8mm diameter, long lasting and usually persisting through winter. Roots shallow and fibrous.

Dispersal

Seed spread by water, animals (foxes, rats and birds), humans, contaminated soil (earthmoving equipment, car tyres etc), and garden refuse dumping.

Control

Hand pull/dig, scrape and paint, foliar spray.

Similar Species

Easily confused with Shoebutton Ardisia (*Ardisia elliptica*), a related weed described as a much smaller shrub with dark, shiny leaves with distinctive wavy margins, which also grows in dark areas and produces bright red fruit.

Sources: PlantNET (NSW Flora Online), Brisbane City Council Weed Identification Tool, NSW WeedWise

CRITTER CORNER

Southern Pink Underwing Moth, *Phyllodes imperialis*



Photo credits © Jeremy Jone



Pink underwing moth (Phyllodes imperialis). Image: David White

Southern Pink Underwing Moth *Phyllodes imperialis* southern subspecies is named for the brilliant pink patches on its dark hindwing (which also have eight white spots on the trailing edge). The grey/brown forewings are approximately 6cm long with white spots on the underside. When at rest the moth resembles a dead leaf. Young caterpillars are dull brown. However, as they mature they develop a dramatic 'head' display when alarmed: two large 'eye' spots and a double row of white 'teeth'. The pupal stage is a bronze-coloured 5cm case consisting of silk and leaves surrounded by metallic brown bands.

Adult Southern Pink Underwing Moths require the low light conditions of the rainforest in order to breed. Potential breeding habitat is restricted to areas where the caterpillar's food plant, a native rainforest vine, *Carronia multisepalea*, occurs in subtropical rainforest. The vine frequently occurs in association with another vine, *Pararistolochia praevenosa*, the principal food plant for the Richmond birdwing butterfly, *Ornithoptera richmondia*. Adults feed on the soft fruits of native rainforest plants, including *Ficus* and *Syzygium* and possibly also on fruits of cultivated plants in the vicinity of rainforest.

The Southern Pink Underwing Moth is found in subtropical rainforest below about 600 m elevation. It is distributed from Nambour in south-eastern Queensland to Bellingen in northern NSW. In NSW it is known to occur in a small number of localities from the QLD border to Wardell, and there is a disjunct population in the Bellingen area.

More Information

Learn more about the Southern Pink Underwing Moth

<https://threatenedspecies.bionet.nsw.gov.au/profile?id=10625>

Download the SPUM Instars Identification Guide: [SPUM instars LR.pdf](#)

Threatened Species of the Wilsons and Coopers Creek PDF.

This a list of locally occurring threatened species and some more in-depth information on some of the most interesting species. (can be downloaded from the Brunswick valley Landcare website).

<https://brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/resources/kits-guides/wildlife/>

CRITTER CORNER

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT MOTHS FOR NATIONAL MOTH WEEK

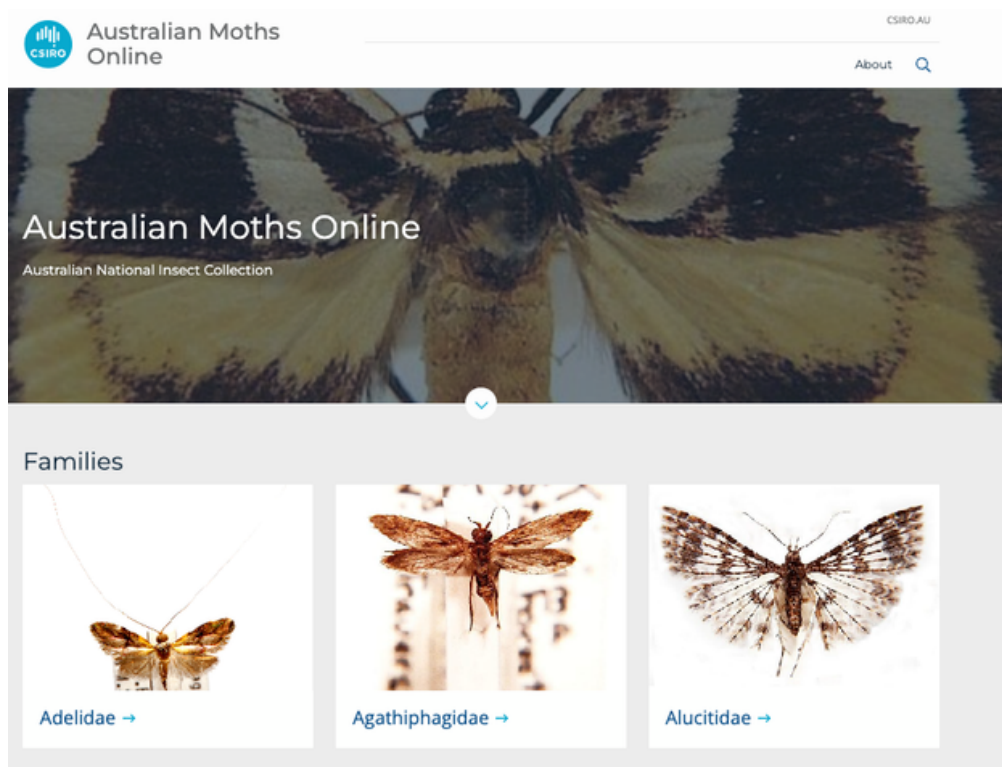
It was National Moth Week this month (July 18 to July 26) 2026. So lets learn more and celebrate this rarely noticed insect. Did you know that Australia has around 22 000 species of moths (the second largest group of insects).

For information and photos of some of the many moth families in Australia you can go to this guide.

[Australian Moths Online Australian National Insect Collection.
https://moths.csiro.au/](https://moths.csiro.au/)

And check out this article on the ALA website with wildlife photographer and citizen scientist Jono Dashper who found a surprising amount of moth diversity in his suburban backyard this year. His photos are incredible.

[Link to article here](#)



OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS

RESTORE AND RENEW WEBTOOL WORKSHOP

The Research Centre for Ecosystem Resilience (Botanic Gardens of Sydney) invites restoration practitioners, planners, and policy makers to a half-day workshop introducing the Restore and Renew webtool, which supports climate-ready restoration planning by incorporating genetic information and climate projections.

This Lismore workshop will be delivered in collaboration with Friends of the Koala, with a focus on open forest restoration.

The workshop will cover how to use the webtool to guide seed sourcing decisions for resilient, climate-adapted restoration projects, from small-scale private land initiatives through to large landscape programs.

An optional afternoon session will also introduce the ReCER Field Collection app, supporting:

- Seed provenance data collection in the field
- Leaf sampling for genetic analysis (including training opportunities for collecting leaf samples from restoration sites)
- Improved metadata capture for seed and genetic material used in restoration planning
- leaf sample collection for genetic analysis from restoration sites

Registration:

The registration page is now live here:

<https://events.humanitix.com/restore-and-renew-webtool>

Using the Restore and Renew webtool to guide seed sourcing for resilient restoration



Climate change and habitat fragmentation are affecting restoration success.

Learn how to incorporate genetic information and climate projections when planning restoration projects at all scales, from localised efforts on private land to large-scale government-led restoration.

Various dates, venues and themes:

- Research Centre for Ecosystem Resilience, Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney, 13th August. In collaboration with Cultural and Ecosystem Adaptation DCCEEW with a major programs focus.
- Lismore, 19th August. In collaboration with Friends of the Koala with a Eucalypt restoration focus.
- Firewheel rainforest Nursery, Dorrroughby, 29th October. In collaboration with Big Scrub Rainforest Conservancy with a rainforest restoration focus.
- North Coast Regional Botanic Garden, Coffs Harbour, 30th October. In collaboration with North Coast Regional Seed Bank Network and Saving our Species DCCEEW with a seed bank focus.



Book now

Scan the QR code for more information and to book online.

OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS

AHC31424 CERTIFICATE III IN CONSERVATION AND ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT
(ONLINE) THROUGH THE NSW SMART AND SKILLED PROGRAM



COULD YOU BE ELIGIBLE FOR A
FULLY FUNDED
CONSERVATION TRAINING?

AHC31424 CERTIFICATE III IN CONSERVATION AND
ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

Fully Funded Conservation Training May Be Available for
Eligible Domestic Students in Selected NSW Regions.
SUBMIT YOUR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TODAY.

*Eligibility, Terms, and Conditions may apply. | Envirotech Education | ACN: 133701578 | RTO ID: 31871 | CRICOS Provider Code: 03094J

Eligible NSW residents may be able to access fully funded training for the nationally recognised AHC31424 Certificate III in Conservation and Ecosystem Management through the NSW Smart and Skilled program.

Develop practical and theoretical knowledge in conservation, ecosystem restoration, site rehabilitation, and the management of natural and marine environments to support work or further study in the conservation and ecosystem management industry. (You may be able to get your practical experience with a BVL project credited to this course as well)

Submit your Expression of Interest today and our team can assess your eligibility and help you explore your training options: <https://share.hsforms.com/1mHygd2QjQdGqHgudVYVGng21uia>

*Funding availability is subject to participant eligibility, available places, and the NSW Smart and Skilled program requirements.

PEST ALERT

GRANULATE AMBROSIA BEETLE (XYLOSANDRUS CRASSIUSCULUS)

An outbreak of Granulate Ambrosia Beetle (*Xylosandrus crassiusculus*) has recently been found attacking a mature stand of Camphor Laurel (*Cinnamomum camphora*) in the Northern Rivers. It was first detected in Queensland in 2011, with the first Northern Rivers detections recorded in 2022.

So far, there is only one known site in the Northern Rivers where it is impacting camphor laurel, although it has also turned up as a by-catch in surveillance traps at a number of other locations.

Dave Mattinson will be recording any detections, and if more sites are confirmed there may be an opportunity to run a workshop for Landcare groups and other interested community members on how to collect samples for diagnosis. At this stage, we're hoping it remains largely confined to camphor laurel. However, it has been shown to affect some native species in the Northern Rivers, as well as commercial crops, so it's something worth keeping on our radar.

If you notice anything unusual in your area that may be related, please take photos and send to Dave Mattinson on 0460 694 424 or email dave.mattinson@lls.nsw.gov.au.

See attached pest alert flyer for more information which includes photos of the spaghetti like saw dust strands emerging from a Camphor Laurel. It is worth noting that the only known site affecting Camphors in the Northern Rivers is in the Byron Shire in the Nashua area.



Granulate ambrosia beetle

An outbreak of granulate ambrosia beetle (*Xylosandrus crassiusculus*) has recently been found attacking a mature stand of camphor laurel (*Cinnamomum camphora*) in the Northern Rivers (pictured right). Host trees will have symptoms such as wilting and branch dieback. Tree death can be rapid.

Granulate ambrosia beetle (GAB) is an invasive beetle that is now considered established in NSW. It is very similar to polyphagous shot hole borer (*Euwallacea fornicatus*) which has been incredibly destructive to amenity trees in Perth, Western Australia.

Because the beetle has a very broad host range, it has the potential to affect environmental, agricultural and urban landscapes

North Coast Local Land Services is attempting to build a picture of the spread of this new pest in both forest and agricultural settings.



What is Granulate ambrosia beetle

Granulate ambrosia beetle (*Xylosandrus crassiusculus*) is a tiny wood-boring beetle that attacks a wide range of woody plants. The female beetles can attack healthy trees however they tend to prefer weakened and stressed plants.

The building population is a risk to a range of industries including macadamia, avocado, pecan, custard apple, forestry and tree nurseries.

Although many landholders may welcome its impact on camphor laurel, GAB have also been found attacking Australian native species including *Eucalyptus*, *Grevillea robusta*, red cedar and *Acacia* spp.



Figure 1. Adult granulate ambrosia beetle

What to look for

Granulate ambrosia beetles bore into a susceptible host and inoculate the tunnels with a symbiotic fungus. This fungus interferes with xylem tissue which impacts vascular transport, resulting in symptoms which include symptoms including foliage wilting, dieback and tree death.

Visual indicators for GAB damage include:

- bore holes are 1-2mm, noticeably smaller compared to other bark beetles (see below).
- cylindrical strands of sawdust and excrement (frass) coming out of bore holes on the trunk or branches (see top right).
- brown coloured sap exuding from the bore holes.
- severe infestations can result in 'sawdust' build up at the base of the host tree.



What should I do?

If you suspect granulate ambrosia beetle:

- inspect nearby susceptible trees
- record the location and affected plant species
- take clear photographs of symptoms
- avoid moving infested timber off-site
- contact Local Land Services



Next steps

While this is an emerging issue, your contribution will help inform growers at risk from this pest and assist us in making an early response plan.

If you suspect granulate ambrosia beetle, please take photos and contact Dave Mattinson on 0460 694 424 or email dave.mattinson@lils.nsw.gov.au



For more information on identification and management, view the NSW DPIRD the webpage by scanning the QR code.

Actions to minimise risks

Put in place biosecurity best practice actions to prevent the entry, establishment and spread of pests and diseases:

- Practice "Come clean, Go clean".
- Manage people, machinery, equipment, plant and soil material coming on and off your property. This can be done by implementing a Biosecurity Management Plan for your farm.
- Monitor crops regularly for signs of borer damage.
- Keep records.

BYRON BIRD BUDDIES

Program update

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



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.

[FOR BBB PROGRAM JULY – DECEMBER 2026 CLICK HERE](#)

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AVIAN INFLUENZA (BIRD FLU)

WHAT IS AVIAN INFLUENZA?

Avian Influenza, or bird flu, is an infectious disease of birds caused by strains of the Influenza A virus. It primarily affects poultry and wild birds and can be spread to mammals, including humans. H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b (or H5 bird flu) is a strain of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) that is being closely monitored by Australian authorities due to the potential risk of spread in Australia. In recent years, large-scale outbreaks of the H5N1 strain of bird flu have killed millions of wild birds and tens of thousands of mammals around the world. Australia had its first detections of H5 bird flu in June 2026 in a Brown Skua, found on Western Australia's southern coast.

[CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION FROM BIRDLIFE AUSTRALIA - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS](#)



What should I do if I see or find a sick or dead bird?

AVOID

Avoid contact with sick or dead wildlife and their environment. Do not allow pets to touch or eat sick or dead wildlife.



RECORD

Record what you see, the location the animal was found, and take photos or video if possible, without approaching the bird (see below).



REPORT

Report any unusual illness or death in wild birds and other wildlife immediately via the **Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.**

GRANTS

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



Backing the Future

Backing the Future

Applications now open for projects in Rural, Regional and Remote NSW!

Key Dates

NSW Grant Round: Open 13 July to 19 August 2026

Grantseeker Webinar: 12pm Tuesday, 28 July. [Register here](#).

Every year, Backing the Future provides up to 20, \$50,000 grants to back projects in NSW and QLD that are:

- individual-led projects;
- trialling and delivering new ideas
- supporting young people aged 12-30.

We are eager to support early-stage work that might not otherwise be eligible for philanthropic funding. For this reason, Backing the Future does not accept applications from registered charities or organisations.

We also encourage applications from young people themselves. If you are over 18 and have a great idea to back other young people in your community, we would love to hear from you.

MORE INFORMATION HERE

Click [here](https://vfff.org.au/backing-the-future/) for program guidelines. <https://vfff.org.au/backing-the-future/>

READ OF THE MONTH

FROM JEAN RENOUF



(Picture from the *Unspeakable* book cover)

Hello everyone, I'm very excited to announce that, after two years in the making, my new book is here!

My dear friend and colleague Richard Hil and I wrote *Unspeakable*, which is about facing the climate catastrophe already arriving in Australia, and what each of us can still do from inside it.

In it, we look at why it is so difficult to name the challenges ahead of us, and at what we can do once we do name them. We came to see climate catastrophe as more than a scientific or technical problem. It is also a crisis of meaning and relationship, one that reaches into grief, power and inequality as much as into the practical work of mitigation, adaptation, resilience and regeneration, and it turns on how communities respond when the institutions meant to protect them falter.

Alongside that reckoning, we wanted to offer real, tangible and immediately applicable ways that anyone might act now, without waiting for government or their workplace, to live through the climate disruptions already underway.

Every chapter opens with a story, and you will no doubt recognise many of our common friends, including but not limited to Jeremy Tager, Cat Barker, Bobbi Allan, Virginia Waters and Bec McNaught. The article itself begins with an excerpt from the book's opening chapter.

As Greg Mullings AO AFSM, former Commissioner, Fire & Rescue NSW, put it: "*Unspeakable* is a must read."

I hope this has stirred your curiosity, because the truth is we need a national conversation about the reality we now face. If you would like to know more, I have written a piece introducing the book, which you can read here:

<https://www.jeanrenouf.com/insights/speaking-the-unspeakable>

PODCASTS / WEBINARS

We Are The Riverkeepers Podcast: How we ended up here with Adele Wessell.

Associate Professor of History, Adele Wessell approaches the river a little differently. Having lived in the Northern Rivers for 30 years and teaching history at Southern Cross University over that time, she's developed a multi-layered relationship with the Richmond in Northern NSW on Widjabal Wia-bal Country.

Hers is personal, as well as professional and steeped in stories of the past – Indigenous and Colonial. She is a founding member of as well as the Richmond River Historical Society and has completed a number of projects on local history... including the development of the . It's in the storytelling itself that Adele sees a pathway to connection, and the subsequent care for the river that follows, when that connection is made.

In this episode hear the extraordinary story of the Red Cedars - the reasons for their large scale extraction might surprise you - the actions that caused the wounds that the river carries today.

[LISTEN HERE](#)

Webinar: Science of Seeds, Stories of Country, Food for the Future

Tuesday, 18 August 2026
11:00am–12:00pm (AEST)

Celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Science Day during National Science Week with a special live virtual yarning circle exploring this year's theme, Seeds of Science: Nurturing Knowledge for All.

Bringing together respected First Nations knowledge holders, farmers and scientists, including Bruce Pascoe, Rayleen Brown, Jacob Birch, Kerrie Saunders, Joshua Gilbert and the Wattleseed Collective, this conversation will explore native seeds and grains, traditional food systems, food sovereignty and the enduring science of caring for Country.

Perfect for learners, educators and the broader community, this free webinar offers a unique opportunity to deepen your understanding of First Nations agricultural science and the knowledge systems that continue to shape a more sustainable future.

[MORE INFO HERE](#)

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 Ranges 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.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://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

