



Newsletter

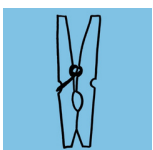
Conserving and restoring from forest to foreshore



In this issue: BVL news - Mothers day tree planting event Sept 27th, an article by long term BVL committee member Sue Haining about the conservation journey of her land, an invitation to nominate for the BVL committee and more. There is news from the Byron Farmers Network and Byron Shire Council, information on Avian bird Flu. The tree of the month is the critically endangered Swamp Turpentine, species profile is the Grey-headed Flying-fox, weed profile is Glory Lily. And as always we have compiled some great grant opportunities and events to check out. 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

RESCHEDULED MOTHER'S DAY TREE PLANTING EVENT 27TH SEPT

Here we go again – take 2 – let's plant some trees in honour of all our mums, including mother earth. BVL's rescheduled Mother's Day tree planting is back on Sunday 27 September, 2026.

It's the 15th such annual community planting event.

It's also been the third consecutive year we've had to postpone due to extreme wet conditions. May is no longer what it used to be.....

Date: Sunday 27 September, 2026

Time: 9am - 12pm

Site: 6 Durrumbul Rd Main Arm, behind Durrumbul School, Turn off Main Arm Rd onto Durrumbul Rd.

You'll be treated to live music by the very cool Smokey Fields who'll have you grooving as you plant. Famed BBQ, drinks & home-baked treats will be available, along with a very special community vibe. Don't know much about planting trees or which trees to plant? Our incredibly knowledgeable, expert Landcare volunteers will be on hand to have you covered.

At this year's site in Main Arm, we'll be restoring an important vegetation community type, Lower Richmond Hills Dry-Subtropical Rainforest. The landholders at this Community Title property have been caring for and restoring their land since 1985.

Long-time resident Ros Elliot told us "In 1985 we decided to plant several thousand trees on cattle grazing pasture as we wanted stationary lifeforms that didn't break fences, raid gardens etc like the cattle we were agisting. This forest now has koala visiting, goanna, swamp wallaby, pythons etc."

Ros has been a dedicated bush regenerator and advocate for community restoration and Landcare since the 1980's. In the early 1990's she helped form the Durrumbul Landcare Group, mentored many Landcare groups and was the Chairperson on the Brunswick Catchment Management Committee. She was also the Brunswick Valley Landcare Coordinator from its formation in 1996/97 until 2003.

"In late 1980's early 1990's the idea of Landcare came to the valley. I personally thought it a wonderful philosophy for community to work together on environmental restoration projects, learn about the environmental issues and vegetation of the valley, as well as new settlers to the valley to meet each other. I decided to focus on the riverine environment wellbeing. I door knocked up and down the Main Arm River several kilometres talking with people about keeping cattle out of creeks and reforesting the banks. We neighbours formed Durrumbul Landcare Group. We had working bees to plant riverine species. More community members heard what Durrumbul Landcare were doing and quickly asked to form other locality groups. I mentored them. I loved Landcare /Catchment Management in the 1990's because the passion for environmental repair was truly from the ground up." said Ros.

BRUNSWICK VALLEY LANDCARE'S

RESCHEDULED MOTHER'S DAY TREE PLANTING 27TH SEPT

This year looks to be another brilliantly connected local effort. The BVL team are excited about running this fun planting day for all the family, helping people learn about our unique ecosystems and species and how we, as a community, care for them. The only other ingredient needed for a special day is you - and your mum. BVL gratefully acknowledges the generous support of Little Valley Distribution, The Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce, the Australian Government Department of Social Services Volunteer Grants program, The Echo, Bay FM, Woolworths, Dinos IGA and community donations raised over the last years - thanks to all our wonderful donors.

Make sure you dress for the weather be it sun or showers. Bring a hat, sunscreen, gloves, raincoat, sturdy boots, water bottle and keep cup. BVL has a Facebook event page that's live, head there to let us know if you're coming to assist us with numbers for catering. Please follow directions on the day to designated parking areas, for your own safety.

Since its inception in 2003, Brunswick Valley Landcare has grown into a cornerstone of community-driven conservation and education in the Byron Shire. With a membership base of over 250 individuals and a reach extending to 1,100 people through our informative monthly newsletters, we are an enduring grass roots organisation delivering real environmental change. Join us.



Above is the 2026 Mother's day planting site circa 1980s. It's got a lot more native vegetation now, and there will even more after the planting this September !

BVL NEWS

THANK YOU FOR VISITING US AT THE FARMERS' MARKETS THIS LANDCARE WEEK !



2026 NATIONAL LANDCARE SURVEY



Landcare Week 2026 Survey Report Findings



Thank you to everyone who came by to chat to us at the Farmers' markets during Landcare Week. Also thank you to the all markets for hosting us !

At New Brighton market, local residents Tommy and Anne, gathered a lot of interest from people wanting to form a New Brighton/ South Golden Beach Dunecare group and we met some very passionate landholders in the north of the shire.

At Byron market, Veda, from The Byron Dunecare Green and Clean Awareness Team, joined us and onboarded a few new volunteers. Hot topics were Indian Minors and the Baywood Chase lake. Mark Duncan from Byron Shire Council also joined us to get community input into the Draft Agriculture Action Plan.

At the Mullum market we discussed deep existential problems over chai, gave out heaps of plant guides, talked birds with Jan from Byron Bird Buddies and met some very cool young people.

There are so many people in the shire doing great work for our environment and it was well worth the early starts and marquee wrangling to meet some of them and to make new connections.

COULD YOU BE THE NEXT COMMITTEE MEMBER OF BVL ?

Are you someone who has a passion for the environment and would like to play a part in leading grassroots community conservation projects of Brunswick Valley Landcare ?

The Annual General Meeting is coming up and we'll be looking for new members to join the team. We currently have a diverse and dynamic group from various professional fields; an academic and political economist, a town planner, a botanist, a chemistry and maths wizz, a bush regenerator, a business owner, an educator and a geologist: all ensuring a rich exchange of ideas and leading all kinds of interesting environmental and community projects. The committee meet once a month and have various optional sub groups that lead different projects.

If you're interested, please contact us at brunswickvalleylandcare@gmail.com to express your interest. We look forward to welcoming new voices to our team!

A Tale of Two Generations: Nyah

An article by Sue Haining, a long time Committee Member of Brunswick Valley Landcare



Firstly (and always) I acknowledge the the First Nations, Bundjalung people of this precious place, their intrinsic presence here has guided two generations of stewardship. The property name "Nyah", a Bundjalung word, means to "see deeply" in every sense of that.

THEN: (1976 - 2006) Tracts of kikuyu grass, pugged gullies full of lantana, freckle face, tropical petunia, croftons, mist and blue billy goat weed were what greeted her at first glance (problematic under power lines) and of course lets not forget camphor laurel, endless camphor and other large woody weeds; privet, coral trees etc; but she she could see the good bones of long past cultural management and the potential hidden beneath. The steep ridge country and deep gullies, less useful and more onerous for those early returned servicemen tasked with clearing wholesale or having the land removed were slowly recovering unassisted, although laced with old banana tracks and flying fox wires. Felled forest giants unable to be practically removed, slowly disintegrating back into the earth, providing nutrients and habitat.

In 1976 a dedicated artist, conservationist and lobbyist, Sue Hainsworth acquired two soldier settler acreages in the Brunswick Valley (It became a conservation property from that moment), she was passionate, disciplined and dogged in her exploration, seed gathering, growing, planting, nurturing and weeding, endless weeding - there are therapeutic benefits to those repetitive tasks - regeneration. Astute research formalised actions - seed gathering licences, National Parks visits and discovery of endangered species led with time and huge dedication to the formalisation of the conservation status of the property in 1997(a grant from National Parks gave a welcome boost to on ground work in the early 2000's). Throughout this time, her niece a young uni student, another Sue, visited, participated, watched, learned and grew to love the place. Throughout the passing of the first 30 years, the property benefitted from the work and knowledge of regenerators who were, and some still are, local legends in the field.

In 2006 the "student" continued the property's conservation story, initially remotely with the support of regenerators who had already been working there previously. Once finally on the ground, work continued.

A Tale of Two Generations: Nyah continued...

NOW: (2006 - 2026) This wonderful place has taught me so much, immersed in a small patch (25 hectares) of significant ecosystems, regenerating both naturally and assisted, surrounded by bird, frog song and peace (Oh, sorry, and the occasional temporary Australian roaring up the road on a noisy, fumey motorbike and the ever growing list of new weeds - most have connection in this peaceful valley of neighbours who care about the environment). The work has continued slowly and unobtrusively, employing workers when money has allowed. A Wires Koala grant planted 150 trees on the ridges in significant koala and glossy black cockatoo habitat in 2020 and the installation of a koala watering station.

Gaining a grant from the Biodiversity Conservation Trust at the end of 2023 has once again exponentially boosted the improvements to the ecosystems/habitats on the property. For these past three years this place has been lucky to have a powerhouse regenerator and her small team boost recovery:

- Injection of large woody weed species possible with returning natural canopy and seed beds
- Removal of arising weeds such as kahili ginger, coral berry, devils fig as well as continuing with those established long term
- The restoration and replanting of a short but significant tract of gully leading into lowland subtropical rainforest including the onerous removal of Laurel Clock vine, a highly tenacious weed
- Installation of over a dozen habitat nesting boxes by another dedicated local to suit animals ranging from micro bats and gliders, to bird species such as owls and endangered glossy black cockatoos
- Continuing small steps to extend the regeneration of ephemeral gully systems under powerlines with pockets of vegetation low enough to avoid removal but suppress weed regrowth.

Gully restoration: Feb '22 floods with laurel clock vine/causeway destruction;
Feb '25 repaired causeway & weed removal; Feb'26 replanted thriving!



2020 Wires koala planting on top ridges: 150 trees planted.
2025: only one tree lost, great success rate

A Tale of Two Generations: Nyah continued...

So much of conservation/regeneration work is small incremental steps where the repair and regeneration sneaks up assisted by quiet but persistent landholder dedicationand then "suddenly" the place is thriving. Vegetation, insects, amphibians, birds, mammals (of course the big picture of global warming, climate change and biodiversity/species extinction is always present and sadly I see less of the larger marsupials these days) but if we communities and individuals, with support from the amazing volunteers in local landcare and broader government and non government organisations can keep value adding to our small precious parcels of refugia then there will always be hope for the continuation of the precious biodiversity upon which our planet relies to continue and regrow.

1978 and Now with great regeneration you can just see Mt Boogerum top right and the house bottom far right



WATCH

LANDCARE ON THE NORTH COAST



Watch a highlight reel of some of the great projects that are happening throughout our landcare networks on the North Coast. Video link. <https://link.landcarensw.org.au/North-Coast-Landcare>

With 3,000 plus volunteers, over 200 Landcare groups and 11 Landcare networks, Landcare on the North Coast is delivering real outcomes for landscapes, waterways and biodiversity. Some of the many Landcare projects on the North Coast that are highlighted in this video are:

Caring for Catchments: supports communities to restore riparian landscapes, improve biodiversity & deliver practical, nature-based solutions for healthier, flood-resilient catchments

Rainforest Restoration with Macleay Landcare Network: protect & restore critical rainforest habitats, this initiative targets areas supporting endangered flora & fauna

Maclean Nursery: supports adoption of sustainable farming practices by providing native plants for habitat corridors, riparian buffers & cane farm restoration

Aboriginal Partnerships & Community of Practice Collaboration: partnerships to integrate Traditional ecological knowledge into land management

OzFish Wilsons River Restoration: Wilsons River Landcare Group are restoring the health of the Wilsons River via fish habitat enhancement, riverbank stabilisation & water quality monitoring

Yamba – Ballina: Ballina Coastcare are addressing the urgent issue of coastal erosion, involves restoring mangrove ecosystems along the Yamba to Ballina corridor

Video produced by Nviro Media.

This initiative is made possible by the NSW Landcare Enabling Program, a collaboration between Local Land Services and Landcare NSW supported by the NSW Government.

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

FROM THE BYRON FARMERS NETWORK

Your Say Byron Shire – Help inform the Draft Agriculture Action Plan

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. Feedback closes 30th August. To take part in the consultation, complete Council's online survey via Your Say Byron Shire: [Help inform the Draft Agriculture Action Plan](#) .| [Your Say Byron Shire](#).

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

Deep Winter is 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.

When: 11th-13th September 2026

Where: Murwillumbah Showgrounds

More info: [Deep Winter 2026 Event — Deep Winter Agrarian Gathering](#)

Bookings: <https://events.humanitix.com/deep-winter-agrarian-gathering-2026>

3.Public Meeting – Securing the premium meat supply chain for the Northern Rivers – Thursday 10th September - 5-6.30pm at The Farm

Learn the results of a community-led survey conducted with farmers, butchers and other stakeholders across the Northern Rivers to help understand the concerns around diminishing access to local abattoir facilities. Survey closes: 30th August 2026. [Complete the survey here](#). Advocates and industry representatives will provide background and updates, with the key goal of forming working groups for implementing the next steps.

Where: The Garlic Shed at The Farm

When: Thursday 10th September 5pm - 6.30pm

Bookings and more info: [Public Meeting: Securing the Premium Meat Supply Chain for the Northern Rivers](#)

4.Save the Date – Soil Health to “Slow the Flow” Community Field Day at Banyula, Clunes – 9am to 1pm - Wednesday 23rd September

The Byron Shire Agriculture Team will be joined by SoilCare for this hands-on field day exploring soil health, landscape hydration, flood mitigation, and catchment resilience. Learn and explore soil health indicators by moving through various in-field soil monitoring stations. There will also be to an opportunity to delve into the fascinating world of soil biology through a practical demo of a soil biology microscopy scan. Stay tuned for more details and registration links soon.

Koalas are on the move for breeding season

Published on 19 August 2026



From August to December, koalas are on the move in search of mates and new territory. Although usually solitary and spending most of their time in trees, during breeding season koalas become more active and mobile.

This is a high-risk time for local koala populations with increased likelihood of vehicle strikes and dog attacks.

"The breeding season is a critical time for koalas, and it's also when drivers need to be extra aware of wildlife on our roads," Jane Baldwin, Council's Koala Project Officer, said. "As koalas move through the landscape looking for mates, they are more likely to cross roads, particularly during the evening and early morning hours."

"Vehicle activated signs are once again operating on Broken Head Road and Coolamon Scenic Drive to remind motorists that they are travelling through koala hotspots and to slow down and stay alert for wildlife, particularly during breeding season," Ms Baldwin said.

"We're fortunate to share our region with these iconic native marsupials, and we all have a role to play in helping keep them safe," she said.

People can report a sick or injured koala, 24 hours a day, to Friends of the Koala on **02 6622 1233**.

OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS

We had a packed house of excited bird nerds at the Mullumbimby Drill Hall this month when BVL and Byron Bird Buddies brought Andrew the Bird Guy to Mullumbimby to present his talk 'Gondwanan Rainforests and the Origin of Songbirds'.



If you missed out, Andrew runs lots workshops (see the next one below). His website is well worth a deep dive into as well, full of very entertaining anecdotes and field observations.

Highly recommended is this section on the categories of different kinds of bird calls
<https://andrewthebirdguy.com/bird-calls/>

FOREST VOICES
BIRD LANGUAGE RETREAT
MOUNT HYLAND, NORTH COAST NSW
24 - 27 September, 2026

LEARN TO:

- Interpret bird voices
- Make sense of bird behaviour
- Expand your sensory awareness
- track predator movements through alarm calls

 andrewthebirdguy.com
Less than 10 spaces left!



OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS

LANDCARE THROUGH THE LENS

Across Australia, people experience landcare in many ways. From caring for bushland, waterways and coastlines, to restoring landscapes and soils on farms, creating habitat for threatened species, learning from First Nations people or spending time outdoors with your community – every landcare experience tells a story.

Share a landcare photo and why it's important to you

Submit a photo that reflects your personal experience of landcare and share why it is important to you (in 100 words or less). Your image will help us showcase the diverse ways Australians are caring for the environment in their local areas and inspire others to do the same.

Your chance to win for your group!

You'll also have the chance to win \$1,000 for your landcare group or community-led environmental group. Submissions close on Monday 31 August, and the winner will be announced on Tuesday 15 September 2026.

MORE info <https://landcareaustralia.org.au/resources/campaigns/landcare-week/landcare-through-the-lens/>

THE GLOSSY FESTIVAL AT KINGSCLIFF



ARTS EVENTS

SCULPTURE IN THE LISMORE RAINFOREST BOTANIC GARDENS



FRIENDS OF THE LISMORE RAINFOREST BOTANIC GARDENS

(Re)Create

Sculpture in the Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens

Opening ★★★★★
Sunday 20th September
10am | Free entry!

Sculptures using found, recycled and natural objects on show throughout the Gardens till Sunday 18th October.

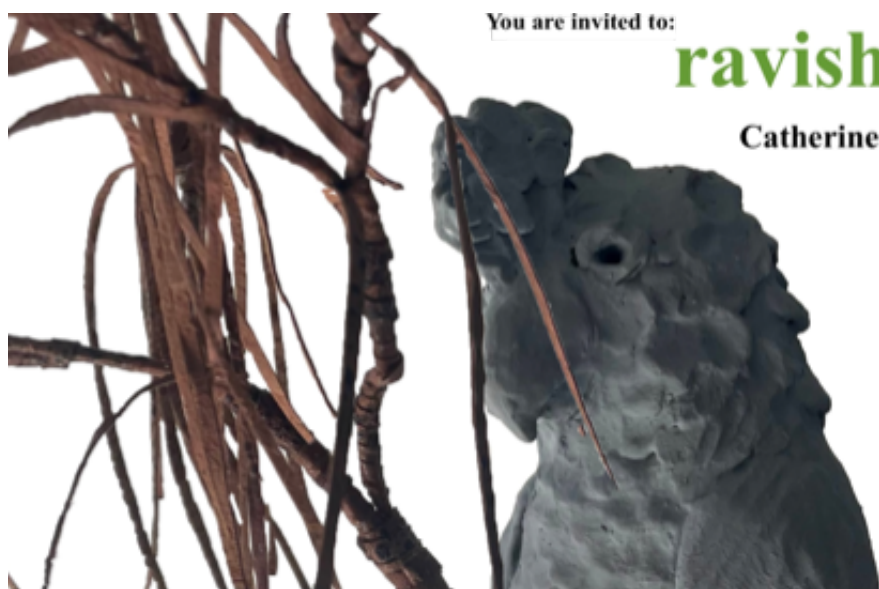
Bring a picnic!
Come and vote for your favourite sculpture.

GATES OPEN
Weekdays: 7.30am – 3.30pm | Weekends: 9am – 4 pm
Closed: Monday 5th October

Guided walks of Gardens for groups
email: publicity@friendlrbg.com.au

lismore city council
Firewheel Rainforest Nursery
waste

RAVISHING EDEN' - A JOINT SHOW BY CATHERINE LANE AND LINELLE STEPTO



You are invited to:

ravishing Eden

Catherine Lane Linelle Stepto

Lennox Arts Collective
2/74 Ballina St
Lennox Head

opening drinks
Friday September 4th
5.30-7.30pm

gallery open 10am-3pm daily

GRANTS

THE CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS PROGRAM

The Conservation Partnership Agreements program is now open. Up to \$15,000 in grants, per year for 3 years | Minimum 20ha

If you have at least 20ha of native vegetation in moderate to good condition, you may be eligible to establish a conservation area with a Conservation Partners Agreement. This agreement is permanent and is registered on your land title for you and future owners.

Eligible landholders can apply for up to \$15,000 in grant funding per year, for 3 years to do on-ground conservation works like weed control. You can apply again for another grant term after that.

More Information: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/environment-land-and-water/conservation-on-private-land/compare-and-apply/conservation-agreements-grant-opportunities>

NRCF 2026-2027 ANNUAL COMMUNITY GRANTS

From Monday 31 August, community organisations and groups across the Northern Rivers can apply for funding to support community-led projects that strengthen our region. Whether you're delivering a new community program, improving local facilities or strengthening your organisation's capacity, there may be an NRCF grant opportunity for you.

Two grant streams will be available, with grants of up to \$15,000:

Local Impact Grants - Supporting activities, programs, services and organisational capacity that create positive social and environmental change.

- Community Infrastructure Fund - Supporting the purchase, repair or improvement of assets and infrastructure that help create more connected and inclusive communities.

Applications open Monday 31 August and close Sunday 20 September 2026.

Find out more and read the Grant Guidelines here: <https://nrcf.org.au/grants/community-grants-program-2026/>

WEED OF THE MONTH

Glory lily (*Gloriosa superba*)



Caption: Glory lily flower with seed pods.

Photographer: Kim Hignell

This month we profile the prolific Glory lily, The Suffolk Park Dunecare group's current 'nemesis'.

Family: Colchicaceae

Origin: Native to Africa and Asia

Glory lily is a perennial herb with climbing or scrambling stems up to 4 m long, using tendrils on the leaf tips to clasp onto other plants and structures. It dies back each winter and reshoots in spring from tubers and fleshy rhizomes (creeping underground stems); new plants grown from tubers can flower within 9 weeks. In full sun it can form dense infestations, producing up to 70 stems per square metre. It grows mainly in coastal sand dunes, coastal lowland areas, coastal scrub, salt marsh and littoral rainforest along the NSW coast from north of Sydney to south-east Queensland. As with many weeds in the area, they start off as an ornamental garden plants, and then spread into natural bushland, in this case predominantly the coastal dunes and littoral rainforest.

Leaves are 6–20 cm long and 1.5–4 cm wide, spear-shaped with tendrils 10–20 mm long at the tip, shiny and hairless with many parallel veins, stalkless, and present from October to May.

Flowers have 6 petals, 50–80 mm long, yellow and orange or red, with wavy edges that curve inward toward the tip. There are 6 prominent stamens below the petals, 30–70 mm long, with bright yellow or orange anthers on the tips.

Fruit is a green capsule ripening to dark brown or black, 4–10 cm long and 1–2 cm in diameter, splitting into 3 segments when ripe. Seeds are round, 4–5 mm in diameter, orange-reddish when young and brown and hard when mature.

Tubers are horizontal, bent into a V or L shape, and fibrous.



Caption: Glory lily flowers have distinctive stamens that are below the petals.
 Photographer: Andrew Storrer



Caption: Glory lily plants at different stages of growth.
 Photographer: Alison Ratcliffe

Toxicity

All parts of the plant are poisonous, containing colchicine and gloriosine alkaloids, and remain toxic even dried or cooked. In humans, poisoning causes tingling and numbness of the lips, tongue and throat, burning mouth, difficulty swallowing, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhoea and blood in faeces, low blood pressure and body temperature, and in severe cases convulsions, paralysis and death from respiratory paralysis. Touching the tubers can cause numbness and tingling of the skin.

Dispersal

Each plant can produce over 1,000 seeds, which remain in the soil over winter and germinate in spring; seeds may be spread by birds. The plant also spreads by tuber and rhizome fragments, with garden waste dumping the main way it has reached new areas.

Impact: Glory lily outcompetes native plants in coastal areas, including sand dunes, saltmarsh and littoral rainforests. Infestations often increase greatly after bitou bush (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera* ssp. *rotundata*) has been controlled in coastal areas. It is also very toxic to people and animals.

Control

Successful weed control relies on follow up after the initial efforts. This means looking for and killing regrowth or new seedlings. Using a combination of control methods is usually more successful. Wear protective clothing, avoid skin contact, and be careful not to move seeds or rhizome fragments into clean areas - clean tools and clothing after working on fruiting plants. Safely dispose of plants.

Physical removal

Small seedlings can be dug out.

Chemical control

Glory lily usually requires follow-up herbicide treatments to kill the plants.

Spot spraying

Apply to all foliage to the point of visible wetness.

Cut stem/stem scraping method

Cut stems and apply herbicide to the stem within 15 seconds of cutting.

Sources: NSW WeedWise (<https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weed/GloryLily/>)

More information

- [PlantNET NSW FloraOnline, *Gloriosa superba*. Royal Botanical Gardens and Domain Trust.](#)
- [Weed futures: Determining current and future weed threats in Australia, *Gloriosa superba*. Macquarie University.](#)
- [Intertidal Marine Vegetation Strategies: Weed management guide](#)

PLANT PROFILE

Scrub Turpentine (*Rhodamnia rubescens*)



photo © Greg Tasne



© jusarm

This month BVL had a phone call from a local resident reporting the find of a small stand of brush turpentine (*Rhodamnia rubescens*) on her land. Luckily she recognised it and can report it, as well as go about the steps to protect it. Here's a bit more info about this tree, which has critically endangered status from both NSW and The Commonwealth due to the pathogen myrtle rust threatening it's existence.

PLANT PROFILE

Rhodamnia rubescens, the **scrub stringybark**, **brush turpentine**, or **brown malletwood**, is an evergreen rainforest tree of the myrtle family Myrtaceae.

Shrub or small tree to 25 m high with reddish/brown, fissured bark. Young stems densely covered in fine hairs. Leaves 5–10 cm long, 2–5 cm wide, upper surface green and sparsely hairy, lower surface paler and sparsely to densely hairy. Leaves strongly 3-veined from base with moderately dense, translucent oil dots. Petiole 4–9 mm long. Inflorescences 1–3 per axil, usually 3-flowered with petals 4–6 mm diam. and white. Fruit globose, 5–8 mm diam., red turning black.

Distribution

Occurs in coastal districts north from Batemans Bay in New South Wales, approximately 280 km south of Sydney, to areas inland of Bundaberg in Queensland. Populations of *R. rubescens* typically occur in coastal regions and occasionally extend inland onto escarpments up to 600 m a.s.l. in areas with rainfall of 1,000-1,600 mm.

Habitat and ecology

- Found in littoral, warm temperate and subtropical rainforest and wet sclerophyll forest usually on volcanic and sedimentary soils.

PLANT PROFILE

Threats

- Decline in health and loss of mature plants and a lack of seed-based recruitment due to infection by *Austropuccinia psidii* (Myrtle Rust).
- Degradation of habitat and competition from transformer weed species.
- Clearing from rural, agricultural and urban development leading to edge effects, degradation and further fragmentation.
- Habitat degradation and clearing due to forestry operations.
- Too frequent/intense fire destroying habitat and individual plants.
- Damage caused by inappropriate use of four-wheel drive vehicles.
- Road and track development and maintenance.



© Martin Bennett



© jusarm



© Jeygan Sanganithy



© omalanthus

CRITTER CORNER

Grey-headed Flying-fox (Pteropus poliocephalus)



Species Profile: Grey-headed Flying-fox (Pteropus poliocephalus)

Conservation status: Vulnerable in NSW (listed 4 May 2001) and Vulnerable under Commonwealth legislation.

Description

Flying-foxes are nomadic mammals that travel across large areas of Australia, feeding on native blossoms and fruits, spreading seeds and pollinating native plants. The grey-headed flying-fox (Pteropus poliocephalus) is easily recognisable by its rusty reddish-coloured collar, grey head and hairy legs. Adults have an average wingspan up to one metre and can weigh up to one kilogram. The grey-headed flying-fox is also the most vulnerable species because it competes with humans for prime coastal habitat along the south-east Queensland, NSW and Victorian coasts.

Flying-fox camps

A flying-fox camp is a patch of trees that flying-foxes are found in during the day. Being social animals, they congregate in these camps to roost, find a mate and feed their young. Flying-fox mothers typically give birth to one baby every year. Newborns are entirely dependent on their mothers in the first few months of life. They cling to her when she flies out from camp to feed at night. After a few weeks, mothers leave their young overnight in the camps while they go out to feed.

Source and alot more information

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/native-animals/native-animal-facts/land-mammals/flying-foxes#flyingfox-camps>

Both Grey-headed and Black Flying-foxes are regular visitors to Byron Shire, with 20 known camps across the region. Council manages five of these directly — at Mullumbimby (Garden Ave), Bangalow (Paddy's Creek and Byron Creek camps), Byron Bay (Middleton Street) and Suffolk Park (Beech camp).

Since 2012, Council has monitored Grey-headed and Black Flying-fox populations four times a year (February, May, August and November) as part of the National Flying-Fox Monitoring Program. Habitat restoration has been a key part of camp management: between 2019 and 2023, more than 80 hectares of Eucalyptus forest was restored, benefiting both flying-foxes and koalas. At the managed camps specifically, 2.3 hectares of new habitat has been planted and 5 hectares restored, alongside pest animal control and erosion management.

Learn more about our local flying foxes and how to protect them on Byron Shire Council's website.

<https://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Environment-Resilience/Biodiversity/Native-Wildlife-Plants/Flying-Foxes/Protecting-Flying-Foxes>

H5 BIRD FLU (H5N1 AVIAN INFLUENZA)

H5 bird flu (H5N1 Avian Influenza) in Australia

H5 bird flu (H5N1, a strain of highly pathogenic avian influenza) is an infectious disease that can affect wild, farmed and pet birds. The virus has now been detected in Australia. H5 bird flu is a nationally notifiable disease meaning if you suspect an animal is showing signs of the disease, you must report it immediately. This resource page will help you stay informed and up to date as the situation develops.

[More information](#) from Birdlife Australia

WEBINARS ABOUT H5 BIRD FLU

- WHA video - [H5 Bird Flu in Wildlife](#) (Nov 2024, 16 minutes), an educational webinar developed for government wildlife managers which includes a general H5 Bird Flu update.
- Biodiversity Council webinar - [H5N1 Bird Flu and Australian Wildlife](#) (July 2026).
- International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council - [H5 Bird Flu \(HPAI\) Info Sharing Session for Wildlife Carers](#) (Aug 2026). The session brought together speakers from North America, Taiwan, Brazil and Australia, each sharing their experience at different stages of responding to HPAI in wildlife rehabilitation.
- Webinar series - [How to protect wildlife from avian flu in UNESCO World Heritage sites, Biosphere Reserves and Ramsar sites.](#) Includes recordings of presentations by field workers and policy makers overseas, as well as links to further information for wildlife managers (Apr/May 2024).

If you suspect a wild animal may be infected with H5 bird flu

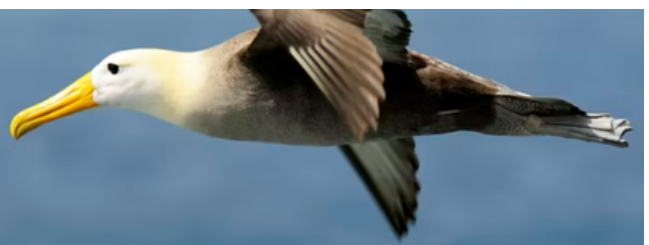
AVOID contact with sick or dead wildlife and their environment. Observe from a distance and keep pets away.

RECORD what you see, the location the animal was found, and take photos or video if it is safe to do so.

REPORT any unusual sickness or mass mortality events in wildlife via the **Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888**.

Avian influenza is a **nationally notifiable disease** meaning if you suspect an animal is showing signs of the disease, you must report it.

Reporting will alert authorities so they can evaluate the need for testing or other investigation. Even if testing is not undertaken, all reports help inform our understanding of the disease and how to manage it.



I feel deep sadness about bird flu and environmental loss. Is this normal?

Published: August 7, 2026 2.32pm AEST

SOURCED FROM THE CONVERSATION Published: August 7, 2026

Australia's beloved animals are again under threat as the H5N1 strain of bird flu spreads, with more mass deaths expected. Scientists are bracing for another wave of ecological loss and are particularly concerned about rare and threatened species.

It's normal to find this news overwhelming, especially in the wake of a growing list of environmental disasters: from algal blooms to coral bleaching, and floods and fires that devastate wildlife and ecosystems.

We research ecological grief – the deep sadness people feel about the loss of nature – and climate emotions – human feelings in response to the climate crisis. We have listened to hundreds of people talk about their feelings about our environment, and their fears and hopes for its future. Some describe sadness, anger or concern. Others try to avoid bad news.

These responses are rarely simple. They are often rooted in particular places and species we love, and in the memories, identities and relationships attached to them. Because of this, grief can co-exist with feelings like awe, pride, belonging and care.

Here, we share some ways to make space for your feelings and find connection and support.

[Read more](#)

CREATIVE ACTS FOR CLIMATE FEELINGS: A FREE ART ACTIVITY BOOKLET

A creative approach to exploring climate-related emotions through art and play for primary school aged children.

"Creative Acts for Climate Feelings" is a free art activity booklet designed for primary school-aged children, their parents or guardians, and educators. It offers a creative approach to exploring climate-related emotions through art and play.

These activities were developed by mental health and arts researchers Chloe Watfern, Diane Macdonald, and Priya Vaughan, with support from experts at the Ecological Emotions Research Lab at The University of Sydney.

For more information and to download the resources

<https://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au/resources-support/creative-resources/creative-acts-climate/>

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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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

