Brunswick Valley Landcare

Newsletter

Conserving and restoring from forest to foreshore



We hope you are enjoying this verdant time of the year, abundant in new growth and flower blooms. Perhaps you've been enchanted by a post dusk visit of fireflies, spent time marvelling at whale mothers and their playful new calves, been lulled by a cicada chorus or run screaming from a swooping magpie - it's all going on. We live in a beautiful place, shared by so many awesome and diverse species. September also happens to be biodiversity month.

In this issue: BVL community planting day and an update on the Roving Landcare Program, a feature article from Andy Baker on Open forest fire management. This month's critter is the Firefly, tree profile is the splendid Red Carabeen, written by local botanist Graham Watson, and one of the many weeds to keep an eye on is Madeira vine. As always, some great events, grant opportunities and articles of interest.

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.

NSW GOVERNMENT

Landcare New South Wales

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

COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING EVENT 27TH SEPT

Thank you to all who joined us for the community tree planting last Sunday at Durrumbul. It was a beautiful day in the sunshine with many great conversations and new friendships formed over buckets of mulch, cake eating and the dreamy live music of Smokey Fields. Over 60 people came and planted more than 900 trees.

We had blue skies all morning as we planted, mulched and tree guarded and then, right on cue, the sky clouded over and mother nature took over to water in the plants for the next 24 hours. The timing was perfect for the rain and the trees will be off to a great start.

A massive thank you to our project manager, Harry Hackett, who has been working tirelessly, against all odds, to get this planting happening since it was scheduled for Mother's day in May. Also thank you to all of the legendary BVL committee members and regular volunteers for their mammoth effort in preparing the site, providing food, teaching and guiding in the planting and providing such a welcoming atmosphere.

BVL gratefully acknowledges the generous support of Vicki Brooke, The Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce, the Australian Government Department of Social Services Volunteer Grants program, Little Valley Distribution,The Echo, Bay FM, Woolworths, Dinos IGA and community donations raised over the last years.













BVL NEWS

ROVING LANDCARE PROGRAM (18 - 30 YRS)



The Roving Landcare Program pilot is up and running! It was a great first session at Araucaria Community in Broken Head. The morning started with a walk and talk with landowner, and very experienced plant ecologist, Annette McKinley, and was followed by a tree planting, facilitated by Bob Smeuninx from Bushland Restoration Services, who has led the restoration on this property for over 20 years.

Araucaria provides an important connection between established rainforest to the east (including Broken Head Nature Reserve) and vegetation communities to the west. In the last 30 years the property has been transformed from a bare cow paddock into a thriving ecosystem and critical coastal wildlife corridor by dedicated landowners with an amazing vision. We were all so grateful for the insights, knowledge sharing and generosity of the Annette, David and Bob and had a great time contributing our bit towards the project.







Roving Landcare events - still to come

3rd October - Riparian Restoration with Bangalow Land and River Care Landcare group.
10th October - Subtropical rainforest and riparian restoration in Wilsons Creek.
17th October - Bird monitoring and wetland bird talk with Jan Olley and the Byron Bird Buddies
24th October - Guided bush walk with local ecologist Justin Mallee in Wanganui
31st October - Plant ID Workshop at Pattsville Environment Park
7th November - Grassland restoration at Byrangery Grass Reserve
14th November - Planting preparation and farm tour at Dingo Lane Farms, Myocum
21st November - Dunecare restoration with Casuarina Beach Dunecare
28th November- Walgun (Cape Byron) guided Aboriginal tour with Bundjalung woman Delta Kay

If you are interested in joining the program.

Register your interest here.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Bringing good fire back to Byron Shire's open ecosystems

by Andy Baker, President, Northern Rivers Fire and Biodiversity Consortium (NRFABCON)



Photo caption: Good fire on private property at Broken Head, August 2026. Photo © Andy Baker.

It may seem surprising, but around three-quarters of Byron Shire's threatened animals rely on habitats that need regular fire to stay healthy. Fire has shaped life on Earth for over 400 million years, not long after plants colonised land. The pattern of regular fire across the landscape creates vibrant patchworks of open and closed ecosystems that, prior to colonisation, were further enhanced by fine-scale Aboriginal mosaic burning.

Fire in our eucalypt and paperbark forests, heathlands and grasslands keeps the canopy open, allowing sunlight to sustain rich understoreys of ferns, grasses and shrubs, which in turn provide unique habitat for a wide diversity of animals such as the Long-nosed Potoroo and Wallum Sedge Frog. Fire also sustains the eucalypt canopy that provides food and shelter for the Koala, Glossy Black-Cockatoo and Greater Glider.

Across Byron Shire today, however, fire has become rare, and most of our open ecosystems haven't burnt in more than 50 years. Without fire, our open habitats are rapidly closing over, shading out understorey plant communities and displacing key fauna habitat. These dense forests also promote severe crown fires if fire does return. If we wish to maintain our open habitat biodiversity for future generations, regular fire must be urgently restored to these ecosystems.

Continued..

Where NRFABCON comes in

NRFABCON is a volunteer-led network working for ecologically sustainable fire management across the Northern Rivers. We bring together landholders, Landcare and bush regeneration groups, fire agencies, Traditional Custodians, councils and researchers. We paused after the 2022 floods, but we are now rebuilding with the aim of restoring good fire to open ecosystems across our region. Our focus now is on supporting good fire projects on the ground, running field days and workshops, sharing fire ecology science and pushing for better fire policy.

Get involved

Whether you manage land or just love the bush, here's how to learn more and get involved.

• Join NRFABCON: **nrfabcon.org.au/contact**, or subscribe for updates: **nrfabcon.org.au/subscribe**

• Browse our **resources,** including a Good Fire Restoration Plan Template for your property

• Read **Good Fire – Healthy Country,** a plain-English guide to fire and biodiversity in our region

• See where good fire is happening: **Good Fire Projects Map**

• Byron Shire landholders can register interest in ecological and cultural burning with Council: **byron.nsw.gov.au**





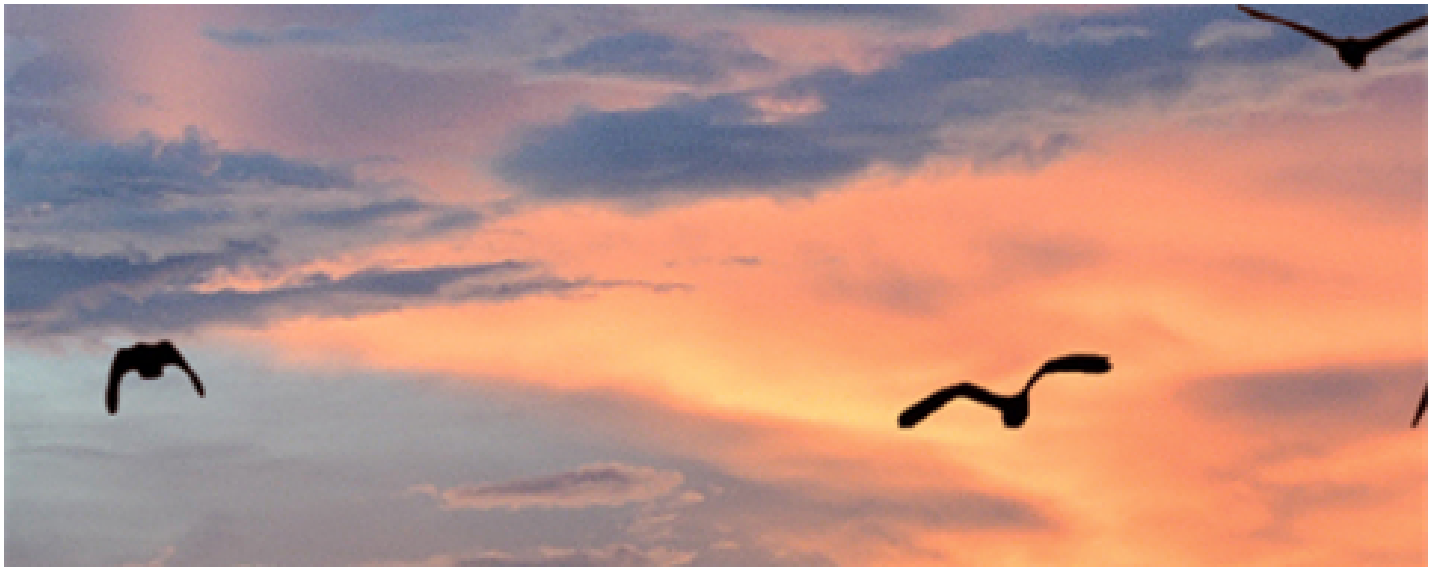


Photos above are from a cultural burn on a private landowner's property in Kooyum Range. Taken by Valley Lipcer August 2026

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL NEWS

BIRD FLU – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

PUBLISHED ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2026



While there are a number of H5 bird flu detections in NSW, including one in Coffs Harbour, no cases have so far been found in the Byron Shire.
People are asked to keep an eye out for sick or dead birds and to report any suspected cases immediately to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.
The bird flu response in NSW is being led by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD).
Council is following advice and taking guidance from the DPIRD and the Australian Government.
DPIRD has provided guidelines for the disposal of carcasses and Council's outdoor staff are prepared to follow these guidelines and remove carcasses from public areas as quickly as possible to reduce the risk of the spread of disease.

Annual Shearwater migration
Liz Caddick, Council's Acting Manager Environmental and Economic Planning, said this is the time of year when dead or dying short-tailed shearwaters on their annual migration often wash up on local beaches.
"This is very common and is a natural occurrence that happens almost every year," Ms Caddick said.
"These birds have had a long, hard flight from North America and some of them die from exhaustion.
"If people see dead shearwaters on the beach it's likely they haven't died from bird flu but it's better to be safe so avoid contact with the bird and report it immediately," Ms Caddick said.

What to do if you see a sick or dead bird

- Avoid contact with the bird and keep well clear.
- Record what you see and the location.

Report it

- Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.
- Report sick or dead wild birds via the NSW Government's website

More information about bird flu can be found on Council's website.

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL NEWS

COASTAL CLEAN-UP AHEAD OF TURTLE NESTING SEASON

With turtles soon returning to nest along the coast, the community is invited to join a coastal clean-up in Brunswick Heads on Saturday 3 October to help ensure beaches are free from harmful rubbish to create a safer environment for turtles and other marine wildlife.

Target the Trash for The Turtles – A Coastal Clean-Up, is being delivered by Byron Shire Council in partnership with NSW Turtle Watch, Brunswick Heads Progress Association, Reflections Holiday Park and Clean Up Australia as part of the Great Spring Clean campaign.

Volunteers will meet at the NSW Turtle Watch information stall at the Brunswick Heads Community Markets at 10am, before collecting litter from local beaches and coastal areas, helping to reduce rubbish on the beach ahead of the nesting season.

Community members of all ages are welcome to participate. Gloves, bags and clean-up equipment will be provided. Registered participants also have the chance to win some lucky door prizes, generously donated by local businesses.

"Marine debris can pose serious risks to turtles through entanglement and ingestion. By removing litter before nesting season gets underway, volunteers are helping create safer coastal habitats for turtles and other wildlife," Anika Brown, Council's Litter Prevention Officer, said.

"Every piece of litter removed from our beaches and waterways helps protect marine life and keeps

our coastline healthy and beautiful. This event is a fantastic way for residents and visitors to work together and make a positive impact ahead of turtle nesting season," Ms Brown said.

"These events are a simple but powerful way for people to make a positive impact in their community and help reduce the amount of litter entering our environment," Ms Brown, said. For more information and to register, visit the What's On page on Council's website.



Northern NSW beaches are becoming increasingly recognised for critical habitat for 2 threatened marine turtle species, the vulnerable green turtle (Chelonia mydas) and the endangered loggerhead turtle (Caretta caretta).

For more information on how you can be involved in citizen science projects to help these turtles locally.

CLICK HERE

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

FROM THE BYRON FARMERS NETWORK

Regenerative Agriculture Small Grants – Expressions of interest now open

We are pleased to announce that expressions of interest for the Byron Shire Council Regenerative Agriculture Small Grants Program for 2026-27 is now open.The grants of up to $3,000 provide opportunities for local producers and assistance in adopting regenerative land management practices. Farmers are invited to apply for funding for on farm activities that will improve both productive capacity and biodiversity of their land whilst supporting the community to build healthy and resilient food networks. If you have an idea of a project that fits the program objectives and would like to discuss the proposal you can contact council's Agriculture Extension Officer Mark Duncan at mduncan@byron.nsw.gov.au or by phone on 02 6626 7375. More details can be found by visiting the Byron Shire Council website and the following link Regenerative Agriculture Small Grants Program.

Applications close: 26th October, 2026.

Complete Grant Application: here

More info and program guidelines: Regenerative Agriculture Small Grants Guidelines

Agritourism Summit 2026 – Create new income streams and build more resilient business – 2-day event in Murwillumbah

Through interactive discussions, working sessions and on-farm experiences, you will identify new revenue opportunities for your farm and create a personalised roadmap for growth. Learn directly from farmers, producers and tourism operators who have successfully diversified their business and unlocked new income streams.

When: 20th - 21st October, 2026

Where: M-Arts Precinct & The Regent Cinema, Murwillumbah

Bookings and more info: Home 2026 - Agritourism Summit

SAVE THE DATE - Native Cabinet Timber Spacing Trial and Camphor Conversion field visit at Whian Whian – 14th October – 1pm to 7pm

Subtropical Farm Forestry Association, Whian Whian Landcare along with Byron Shire Council and Lismore City Council are hosting a project walk and BBQ at Whian Whian. The afternoon activities will include a site visit to a Southern Cross University rainforest cabinet timber spacing trial planting and a chance to see the progression and learnings of a camphor conversion project in action. This will be a free event supported by all our project partners.

When: Wednesday 14th October

Time: 1pm to 7pm

Where: Whian Whian

More information and booking details to be provided soon.

OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS

CARING FOR CATCHMENTS – PUBLIC EXHIBITION



The Caring for Catchments project is having a public exhibition at Lismore Regional Gallery on 15/10/26. This interactive exhibition highlights over four years of Nature-Based Solutions across 35 projects in four Northern Rivers catchments and is on display for one day only. You can view the exhibition between 11am and 4pm; it will take approximately one hour to walk through.

Experience the power of community-led catchment resilience at the Caring for Catchments Project Exhibition, an immersive visual showcase celebrating the repair and restoration of our landscapes across the Yabirri (Tweed), Durrumbul (Brunswick), Baluun (Richmond) and Briemba (Clarence) following the floods.

Hosted by the North Coast Regional Landcare Network and designed in collaboration with Living Lab Northern Rivers, this interactive exhibition highlights over four years of Nature-Based Solutions across 35 projects in four Northern Rivers catchments.

The landmark Caring for Catchments project aims to build long-term flood resilience, improve catchment health enhance biodiversity through riparian restoration and grow knowledge and connection through environmental and cultural education, funded by the Australian Government and NSW Reconstruction Authority.

Come witness the incredible community achievements in landscape restoration, natural resource education, cultural connection and strategic flood resilience action.
Drop in anytime; the exhibition takes approximately one hour to view.
If you have any questions regarding this event please email cfc@northcoastlandcare.org.au

Further details about the event : https://www.facebook.com/share/1Dc5tBj29Z/.

OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS



One River Many Voices - RiverFest is here!

Join us for a month-long celebration of the rivers, cultures, and communities of the Northern Rivers. The festival brings together Custodians, community groups, conservation organisations, artists, and educators to honour our river systems through storytelling, public events, and a shared commitment to protection and restoration.

This year's Riverfest launches in **Ballina on Sunday 27 September, World Rivers Day** — where the Richmond River meets the sea and the tributaries of the upper catchments converge. The festival then flows upstream, with events across the region, culminating in **Lismore on Saturday 24 October**.

Explore the program 💙 www.richmondriverfest.com



A NEW SEED COLLECTING APP. AND WEBTOOL FOR RESILIENT AND GENETICALLY DIVERSE SEED COLLECTION



Last month the Research Centre for Ecosystem Resilience, Botanic Gardens of Sydney, presented a workshop in Lismore on how to use the **Restore and Renew webtool** to guide seed sourcing for resilient climate-ready restoration.

The workshop highlighted the importance of incorporating genetic information and climate projections into our planning of restoration projects at all scales, from localised efforts on private land to large-scale government-led restoration and was followed by a demonstration of the Restore and Renew webtool and ReCER field App.

Here's a link to an informative video on how and why to use the Restore and Renew webtool when seed collecting to ensure the best genetic diversity and climate resilience.

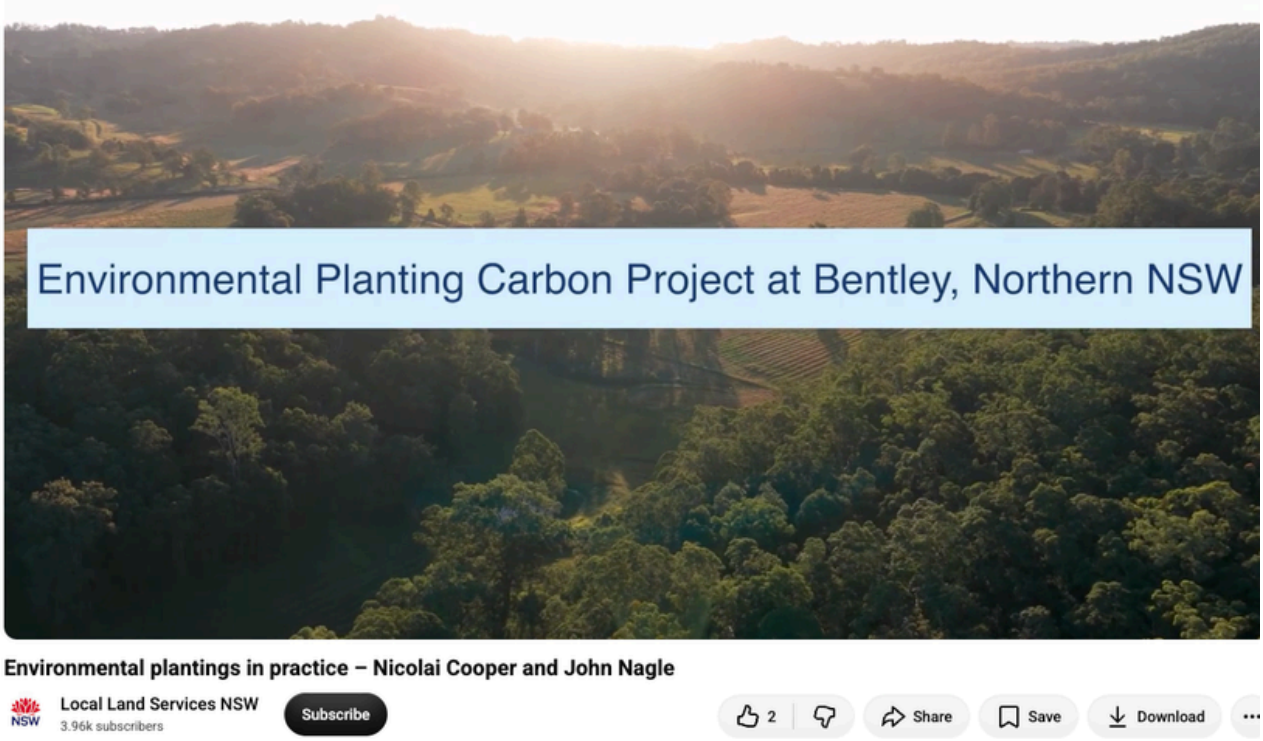
https://youtu.be/9qJNrU2e2nM?si=tOoK0LzDyEU253of

RECER APP – Restore and Renew App.
There is also now a free ReCER Field Collection app to collect seed provenance data for yourself or leaf samples for genetic analysis by ReCER. The app was initially designed to collect metadata for leaf samples destined for DNA analysis, but has been updated to also be used by seed collectors to record comprehensive and accurate seed provenance data in the field with ease using a digital device (smart phones and tablets. **MORE INFO**



Leaf samples collected for genetic analysis, packaged in barcoded envelopes. Important information about where each sample was collected from was recorded with the ReCER Field Collections app.

WATCH



Environmental plantings in practice – Nicolai Cooper and John Nagle

In this NSW Government's North Coast Farming Forum presentation, Nicolai Cooper and John Nagle share practical examples of how environmental plantings are delivering benefits for both farm businesses and the natural environment. They are joined by Hilary Connors and Simon Holloway from the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's Net Zero team, who discuss the Living Carbon program and share examples of environmental plantings larger than 10 hectares that have been registered to generate carbon credits.

If you haven't got the time to watch the full presentation, there is a very well produced 5 minute short video at 3.15 minutes in, that gives a great intro and overview on the program.

https://youtu.be/nVhADnuIQyg?si=2QK9CwfkzL3m39h1

Learn more about the Climate Smart Agriculture Program.

GRANTS



DOES YOUR VOLUNTEER GROUP NEED FUNDING?
Expressions of Interest for the 2026 Stronger Communities Programme Round 10 are now open!

Grants of between $2,500 and $20,000 will be available to assist eligible not-for-profit community organisations.

Grants can be used for projects that provide social benefit for our local communities.

Eligible volunteer groups and organisations are encouraged to apply.

For more information or to request an EOI, please send an email to justine.elliot.mp@aph.gov.au or call my office on 07 5523 4371.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST CLOSE: FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2026

Bupa Foundation – Community Grants Program

The Bupa Foundation Community Grants Program supports local organisations and charities creating healthier people, healthier communities and a healthier planet.
Through grants of $10,000, $25,000 and $50,000, we invest in initiatives that improve health and wellbeing in the communities across Australia and New Zealand.
We are proud to back organisations with the ideas, capability and commitment to create positive, lasting change for the people and places they serve.
Applications for the 2026 Community Grants Program are now open.

Bupa Foundation community grants | The Bupa Foundation | Health Promotion Charity | Bupa

GRANTS



The second Seed Giving Circle Grant Round is now open!

Seed Giving Circle have **up to $10,000 to distribute** this round to grassroots organisations, projects and people creating regenerative, environmental and climate impact across the Northern Rivers.

If you know a local environmental or climate action project or organisation that could use support, **please share the application with them and help us spread the word.**
What's next
Grant applications: Open now until 4 October 2026
Shortlisting: Early October by the Seed Giving Circle Grants Committee
Seed Giving Circle voting: October - November
Grantees announced: Late November
Grant Application Form

Environmental Education 2026 - Tier 1 | NSW Government

The Environmental Education grants program funds projects that build skills and drive change in people behaviour and practices to improve the environment.

Key information

- **Status:** Open
- **Grant amount:** Up to $60,000
- **Application opened:** 21 September 2026
- **Application closes:** 9 November 2026, 11:59 pm

Program objective

The Environmental Education program funds projects that build people's skills and capacity to adopt sustainable behaviours, and contribute to protecting and improving the environment

Our projects:

- work with their target audience to co-design and pilot engagement strategies
- create effective strategic partnerships that strengthen project outcomes
- measure and demonstrate the impact of their project activities

This program is administered by Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

PLANT PROFILE

Red Carabeen (Karrabina benthamiana)

by Graham Watson

Red Carabeen (Karrabina benthamiana) is one of our finest local rainforest trees. This tree grows to an impressive 35 metres high with a trunk diameter of well over a metre. The 'red' in the common name refers to the attractive dark pink heartwood and 'carabeen' is the anglicisation of the indigenous name caribin.

The species was first botanically named Geissois benthamiana in 1851, by he who named almost everything, the great Victorian botanist Ferdinand von Mueller (1825-1896) but who, in 1866, changed the specific epithet to benthamii. The genus Geissois had been created by the French botanist Jacques Labillardière (1755-1834) in 1825. Labillardière is remembered for writing the first general description of the flora of Australia in 1816. The specific epithet honoured George Bentham (1800-1884) who was described by the eminent Queensland botanist, F.M. Bailey (1827-1915), as the greatest botanist of the nineteenth century. It was not until 2013 that English botanist and world authority on the Family Cunoniaceæ, Helen Hopkins, recognised the floristic differences between Australian members of the genus and those occurring throughout the Pacific. She moved the Australian species to the new genus Karrabina and gave Red Carabeen its new name.

Red Carabeen is essentially a New South Wales tree but is found as far north as Mt Tamborine. It is reasonably widespread from the Taree hinterland in both subtropical and warm temperate rainforest. It reaches its most prolific expression in the Border Ranges where the brilliant pink of its new growth lights up ridges and hillsides. It is a frequently encountered canopy species in our valleys as well. The tree has a dark brownish-grey and smoothish trunk and can sometimes be identified by the presence of rows of horizontal wrinkles. As the tree approaches old age, it can develop very prominent buttresses a bit similar to those that we see on the Yellow Carabeen (Sloanea woollsii).



This large Red Carabeen tree at Huonbrook towers over young regenerating rainforest

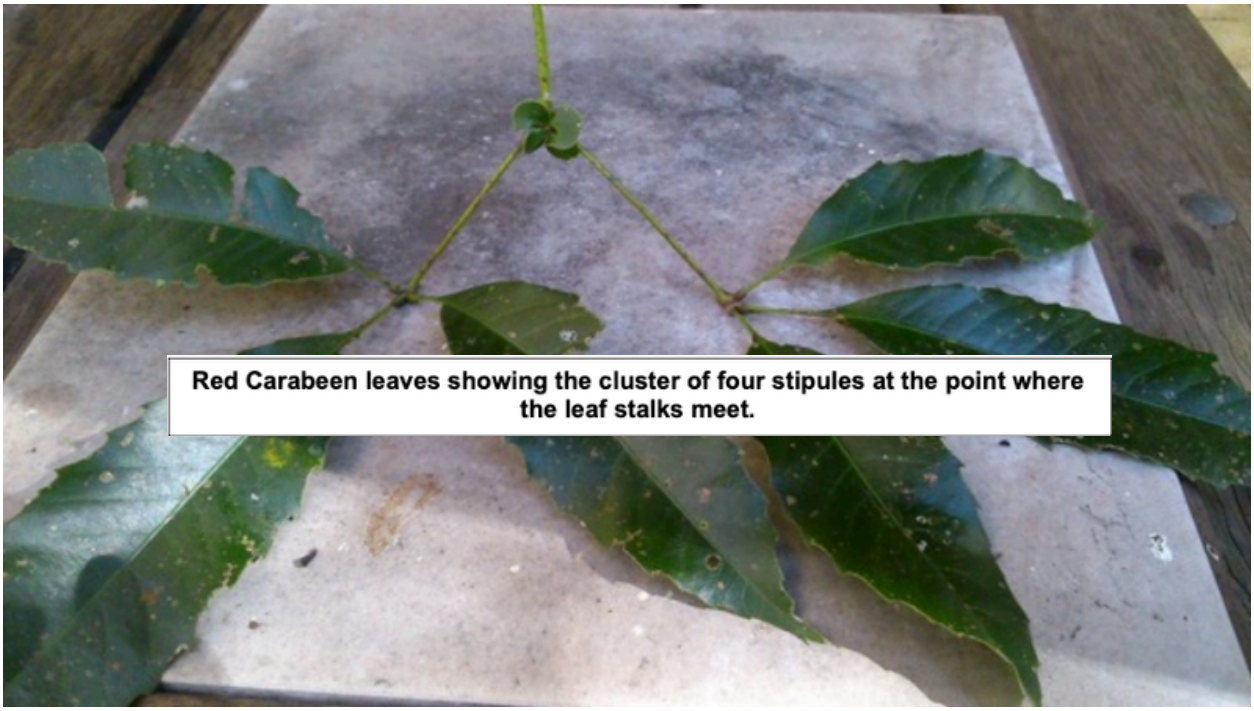
When in flower in early summer, this tree provides a spectacular display of creamy-yellow racemes, like small macadamia flowers. Tell-tale trunk and flower characteristics aside, it is easiest to identify this tree by examining the foliage. The leaves are opposite to each other on stalks of up to 30mm in length. At the end of the stalk there are three leaflets on shorter stalklets. The leaflets are bright green to begin with but gradually darken as they age, they have toothed margins and are 100-150 mm long. Finally, the key feature that separates this pecies from all others is the presence of four reinform (kidney-shaped) toothed stipules at the point where the opposite leaf stalks join the branchlet. The stipules can be up to 20 mm across.



Large buttresses just beginning on this 100 year-old specimen at Huonbrook



Another large tree at Huonbrook showing rows of horizontal wrinkles on part of the trunk



Red Carabeen leaves showing the cluster of four stipules at the point where the leaf stalks meet.

The Red Carabeen is very handsome but very slow-growing tree so if you plan to add the species to a rainforest tree plot, start as soon as possible!

WEED OF THE MONTH

MADEIRA VINE

Anredera cordifoli

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL







Description

Twining invasive climbing vine with stems to about 20 m long, producing tubers on roots and aerial tubers on stems. Leaves are fleshy, bright green and heart-shaped. Small fragrant white flowers are arranged in drooping “lamb’s tails”. Invasion and establishment of exotic vines and scramblers has been identified as a key threatening process for many vulnerable and endangered species in NSW. Madeira vine is of the main species listed as a threat.

Flowering time

Late summer to early autumn

How is it spread

Sprouting of aerial tubers,tubers produced on roots and from stem sections in contact with moist ground. Spread by water, soil movement, birds, rats, dumped garden refuse. In Australia itrarelyproduces seeds.

Impacts

Smothers and weighs down trees including the canopy of tall trees.

Habitat

Creek banks and disturbed sites. Tolerant of dense shade.

Control Methods

Established infestations of Madeira Vine require a long term integrated approach involving hand based control methods, spraying and regular follow-up.

PHYSICAL REMOVAL

Tuberlings and tubers can be carefully dug up and bagged to dispose of all parts of the plant as they will regrow if in contact with the soil or they are exposed to sunlight.

If there is stress on the host plants, cut and pull the madeira vines from the canopy. When pulling the vines aerial tubers easily fall off the stems. Lay tarps or cloths on the ground to collect the aerial tubers to prevent the infestation from spreading. Cut vines can survive in the tree canopy and continue to drop tubers for up to two years. It is important to remove as much plant material as possible.

updated June 2024

MADEIRA VINE

Control Methods cont...

CHEMICAL CONTROL

Spot sprayingis suitable for seedlings and for stems alongthe ground or over structures. Apply herbicide to all foliage to the point of visible wetness. If plants do not have tubers and are climbing on desirable plants, pull them off gently and spray them on the ground.

Foliar spraying may be used after the stems have been treated using scrape and paint techniques. It can also be used as an initial treatment, followed by scrape and paint of remaining living stems. Follow up by spraying sprouting tubers when 2 to 8 leaves.

Splatter gun can be used for dense infestations of madeira vine that are difficult to reach. The specialised nozzle produces large droplets. This allows plants up to 10 m away to be sprayed with limited chance of spray drift. Spray small amounts of concentrated herbicide on the weed, taking care not to spray the leaves of native plants. Not necessary to cover all of the foliage.

Stem scraping is suitable for vines of any size and for those with aerial tubers. It is the safest management option in sensitive environments. It is labour intensive, as every vine stem has to be treated individually. Scrape sections of the vine down to the white fibrous layer and paint the exposed area with concentrated herbicide within 15 seconds. Repeat the process as high up the stem as possible. If possible, scrape both sides of the stem. Do not ringbark the stem as this will prevent the herbicide spreading through the plant. Remove and collect tubers along the stem near where they are to be scraped as they can easily fall off when the vines are being treated.

Best Season

Best results for spraying in warmer time of year.

Cut stump method for young vines without aerial tubers.Tubers may continue to sprout for several years. Cut stems and apply herbicide to both sides within 15 seconds. Biological control

The leaf-feeding beetle Plectonycha correntina has been released in NSW and Queensland. The beetle has established and caused significant damage to madeira vine at many of the release sites. Both the adult beetles and the larvae feed on the leaves. Leaf- feeding reduces the plant's ability to photosynthesise and depletes the energy stores in the tubers. Only use the beetles in flood-free and frost-free areas.

Herbicide

To view permits or product labels go to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority website www.apvma.gov.au. PERMIT9907Expires31/03/2025

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.

Prohibition on certain dealings

Must not be imported into the state, sold, bartered, exchanged or offered for sale.

The content provided here is for information purposes only and is taken from the Biosecurity Act 2015 and its subordinate legislation, and the Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans

More information

https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/MadeiraVine

updated June 2024

This opportunity is supported by Byron Shire Council and jointly funded by the Australian and NSW Governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding arrangements.

CRITTER CORNER

Fireflies:Family Lampyridae



photo credit: Tony Bush

Just after sunset these last few weeks we have been treated to beautiful displays of blinking fireflies shining their light for potential mates. All along the bottom of the garden, through the hoop pine forest and in the rainforest gullies, magical and enchanting visitors for just a few weeks every year.

Here's a bit of information about Fireflies, sourced from Entomologist Lesley Ballantyne's website https://lesleyballantyne.com/australian-fireflies. Ballantyne is affiliated with Charles Sturt University and has studied fireflies since 1961.

There are about 25 species of Australia Firefly living in the forests and mangroves along the coasts of NSW, Queensland and the Northern Territory. The species most likely to be seen in our region is Atyphella scintillans. It is found in south-east Queensland and north-east NSW, in rainforest or remnant rainforest, often near the coast. Adults are 6.6 to almost 10 mm long. The males fly; the females cannot.

Fireflies are beetles. Like other beetles, their front wings are hardened (these are called elytra) and are not used for flying. They fly with their second pair of wings, and they are not strong fliers. The light is made in special light organs on the underside of the tip of the abdomen. It is remarkably efficient: almost 98% light and only 2% heat.

The light is all about finding a mate. When you see lots of fireflies flying and flashing, they are almost all males. The females tend to stay on the ground, watching the displays and choosing which male to respond to. A firefly's life cycle is similar to a butterfly's, and it can take up to two years to go from egg to adult. Most of that time is spent as a larva, and firefly larvae generally feed on snails. Adults live for only a few days and do not feed at all. In any one place, the fireflies may only be seen for two to three weeks each year before the females lay their eggs and the cycle begins again.

Their larvae feed on small snails and slugs and earthworms which live in moist leaf litter, so their distribution is tied to the incidence of areas that have abundant sources of the larval food.

CRITTER CORNER

Fireflies:Family Lampyridae



© esmcdonald



© Nick Lambert

A fascinating description of how firefly lavae feeds by Lesley Ballantyne.

'Fireflies do have a mouth and very specialised jaws that allow them to actually drink the juices of their prey. They have a pair of jaws (mandibles) which are curved and slender and have a long hollow tube that runs along inside the jaws opening just behind the pointed tip. These channels are connected to the salivary glands and also to their alimentary system, so it is possible for the firefly to actually inject both saliva and digestive enzymes into their prey via their jaws. Like spiders they actually immobilise their prey first! A firefly larva feeding on a snail may nip and nip repeatedly, with the snail retreating into its shell at each nip, and the firefly larva waiting patiently on the shell for it to relax and come out of its shell again. It may be that larvae collaborate in nipping and paralysing if the prey is large. Finally all that nipping and injecting of substances paralyses the snail which is then incapable of retreating into it shell and it is consumed live! The larva can now inject digestive enzymes via those channels in its jaws into the snail host, and liquefy the material which can then be sucked up along those same channels'

Source: Facebook Guide 8 How do fireflies feed.pdf

More Info
https://lesleyballantyne.com/
https://www.facebook.com/groups/firefliesofaustralia.

' We are hoping through this Facebook page to discover many more areas where fireflies might be found. Some are spread over wide areas when you only see a couple of specimens at the one time. Others, especially if they have females that can't fly, will be restricted to quite small areas and these are the ones that might emerge all together in very large numbers and create such wonderful displays.' Lesley Ballantyne

*There are 8, 600 members on this facebook page !

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

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.lls.nsw.gov.au
- North Coast Local Land Services http://northcoast.lls.nsw.gov.au/
- Border Ranges Richmond Valley Landcare www.brrvln.org.au
- Mullumbimby Community Gardens http://mullumcommunitygarden.wordpress.com/
- North Coast Nature http://www.northcoastnature.org.au/
- Richmond Landcare Inc. http://www.richmondlandcare.org/
- Rous County Council (formerly Far North Coast Weeds) http://rous.nsw.gov.au/
- Soilcare http://www.soilcare.org
- Tweed Landcare Inc. http://www.tweedlandcare.org.au/
- Wilson's Creek Huonbrook Landcare https://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

