Brunswick Valley Landcare

Newsletter

Conserving and restoring from forest to foreshore



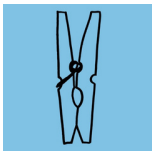
In this issue: BVL AGM notification and a call out for new committee members; a BVL event and community conversation at the Byron theatre '50 years of Conservation and Landcare: The Future of our Forests', a lot of cool Glossy news, an update on the Roving Landcare Program, a feature article from Rainforest Warrior author Stephen Wyatt and an article from Rebekah O'Flaherty (Suffolk Park Land and Dune Care Co-ordinator) about a proposed natural burial conservation site. A collection of some showy trees in flower right now and a weed profile on Cat's Claw Creeper. As always some great events, grant opportunities and news 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

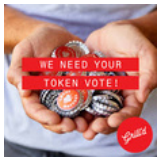
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from the BVL Team

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.

BRUNSWICK VALLEY LANDCARE INVITES YOU!



Brunswick Valley Landcare invites you to join us for an important community conversation. We'll look back to the fights for native forests of the 70's & 80s, to the Landcare movement that emerged in their wake, and to the present day's conservation challenges. We've invited a panel of special guests to share their perspectives:

- Mark Dunphy, President Big Scrub Rainforest Conservancy
- Celine Steinfeld, CEO of The Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists
- Charlie Arnott, one of Australia's leading advocates for regenerative farming
- Delta Kay, Arakwal woman and Country As Teacher Educator
- Jayden Gunn, NextGen Landcare and member of mid-Lachlan Landcare
- Mindy Woods, Bundjalung Woman, Karkalla chef and Landcare NSW Ambassador

A Q&A will follow the Panel's discussion.

This event idea was sparked by Stephen Wyatt's 2024 book "Rainforest Warriors: The Hippies Were Right" which tells the story of the cultural and environmental movement behind the 1979 Terania Creek blockade that saved the ancient Gondwanan Rainforests from logging.
https://www.rainforestwarriors.net

Saturday 28 November at Byron Theatre - venue doors & bar open from 3pm for a book signing with Stephen Wyatt
Theatre doors open at 3.40pm
4pm event start, ending approx 5.30pm
Please note: the bar will not be open after the Q&A - but don't let that stop the conversations flowing over to another location afterwards
ticketing link https://www.byroncentre.com.au/theatre-events/brunswick-valley-landcare-presents-50-years-of-conservation-landcare



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 the grassroots community conservation projects of Brunswick Valley Landcare ?

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 would like to nominate for the committee, email: brunswickvalleylandcare@gmail.com. Nominations will close November 29th

We look forward to welcoming new voices to our team!

Bursting with Glossy news !

Conservation Volunteers Australia launched the Northern Rivers' inaugural Glossy Festival in Kingscliff on September 19, celebrating all things Glossy Black-Cockatoo. We were privileged to receive a Welcome to her Country from Elder and Goodjinburra descendant Aunty Dale Williams and son Ernest Williams. Aunty Dale spoke of her people's deep connection to Black Cockatoos, two yellow-tailed black-cockatoos flew over that morning, dropping two feathers.

It was a great turn out for a packed day of speakers and activities. BVL was there representing with Byron Bird Buddies. The Women Rangers from Minyumai Indigenous Protected area, aka Gehrr Squad, came all the way up visiting from Bandjalang Country, with Delta Kay supporting from Arakwal Country. Gehrr Squad had their own fan club, selling out of their awesome Gehrr Squad t-shirts featuring artwork by Aunty Simone. Tweed Council was there, Tweed Landcare, Tweed Wildlife Rescuers, Byron Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, The Caldera Centre. Gloria the Glossy even made a special appearance. MC Sam Morris from the Glossy Black Conservancy was generous MC for the day, supported by her son. Muso Keegan Sparke kicked off the chill beachside tunes. We were treated to a range of fascinating talks – Professor Guy Castley from Griffith Uni, Spenser Hitchen from Save Sunrise Glossies, Maitland Wilson of Gehrr Squad, Rodney Falconer of Birdlife and Emily Clarke from Tweed Council. The Bridget half of The Wildlife Twins thrilled the kids with her wildlife display. And Harry did a terrible job in the Glossy calling competition – turned out she was much better placed adjudicating the winner.



L-R: Glossy Squad original Liffy Jack with daughter Megan were stoked to pose in their new t-shirts with Gehrr Squad's Maitland Wilson (centre)



Image: L-R seated: Rodney Falconer, Aunty Dale Williams and Tracey. L-R standing: Vicki Sloane & Jan Olley from Byron Bird Buddies,Geoff White Wildlife photographer, Delta Kay and Ernest Williams.



Gloria the Glossy with Gehrr Squad members L-R: Keisha, Aunty Bonnie, Aunty Simone, Maitland & Peaches.

In other Glossy news, an important research paper has just been published in Ecological Management & Restoration Volume 28, titled “Food for the Future: Identifying and Prioritising Feeding Habitat for South-Eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoos to Guide Strategic Ecological Restoration in North-Eastern NSW.”

This work was undertaken by the Food For the Future Project team led by Sarah Legge, Jo Green, Margaret Hall and Jane Wickers, with support from BVL. Many of you will have seen the Glossy Feeding Habitat Fact Sheet produced in 2025, designed by Jaana Dielenberg, showing Northern Rivers map, cross referenced with sightings, indicating the priority areas for replanting she-oak feed trees for the very fussy Glossy Black-Cockatoo. The analysis by the team uncovered a pattern between podzolic soil type and the occurrence of Primary and Secondary feeding habitat for Glossies – brilliant. Sarah & Margie presented their findings last year at the Conservancy’s first National Forum, where it was very well received. Following that reception and feedback, Prof Sarah Legge wrote it up as a formal scientific paper for peer review and publication. The mapping layer the team produced has also now been adopted by Byron Shire Council to inform future planting sites.

You can find a copy of the research paper here:
https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/emr.70069

You can downland the Glossy Feeding Habitat Fact sheet here:
https://brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au/resources/kits-guides/wildlife/

Glossies are really getting their fair share of attention lately with a lot time being invested into core science and research questions. The Glossy Black Conservancy have been tasked by the Federal Environment Department to assemble a Recovery Team to develop a new National Recovery Plan for the species. The draft Plan is now open for public comment and feedback until January 8, 2027 – you can find out more here:
https://consult.dcceew.gov.au/draft-national-recovery-plan-for-the-south-eastern-glossy-black-cockatoo



And one last glossy treat for you – The Glossy Black Conservancy’s very first National Forum ran in 2025. It was such a huge success, that the Conservancy are going again for 2026 on November 18-19. Two days. 23 speakers. Eight sessions. See what’s on the program for our virtual National forum running 18-19 November. View the program and register your place here

BVL NEWS

Roving Landcare Update



Oct 10th - Local Ecologist Wren Mclean and bush regenerator Shanae Hajdu introduced the group to a riparian restoration site in the Lowland Subtropical Rainforests of Wanganui. We identified both weeds and native seedlings on the site and learnt about the natural regeneration taking place, then spent a few hours weeding around plantings (and munching on native raspberries). It was inspiring to learn about the process of rainforest regeneration in the field and to hear about all the incredible rare species Wren has sited in the area. Thank you Wren and Shanae for an amazing educational day.

Oct 17th - Roving Landcare joined Jan and Vicky from Byron Bird Buddies at the Byron Bay Integrated Water Management Reserve (BBIWMR) for a fun day of bird watching and an intro session to birding including; useful field guides and apps, equipment, local bird lists and some birding etiquette. Thank you Jan and Vicky for introducing us to the joys of birding ! Here's a list of birds we saw that morning: Australasian Darter,Australasian Grebe,Fan-tailed Cuckoo,Grey Butcherbird, Lewin's Honeyeater, Mistletoe Bird,Olive-backed Oriole,Rufous Whistler,Scarlet Honeyeater, Superb Fairy,Wren,Swamp Harrier and aWhite-bellied Sea-Eagle.

Roving Landcare events - still to come

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

Register for Roving Landcare here to get ticket links to all of the events.

Roving Landcare is a Brunswick Valley Landcare and Tweed Landcare Inc. project.
This initiative has been supported by the NSW Government through the Landcare Enabling Program Phase 3 Innovations and Partnerships Grant Program and delivered regionally by North Coast Regional Landcare Network

FEATURE ARTICLE

Rainforest Warriors – the hippies were right

by Stephen Wyatt

The forest wars (1979-82) at Terania Creek and Mt Nardi were a first. Never before in Australia or the world had there been a physical confrontation with loggers and police and government to stop the logging of rainforests.

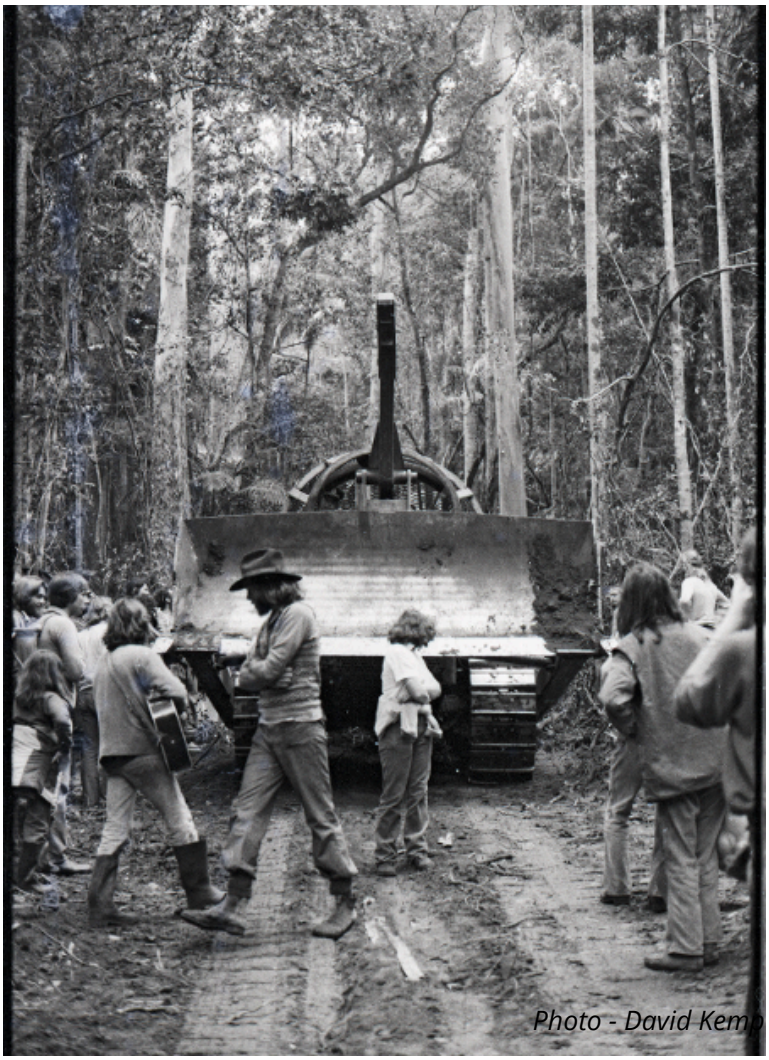


Photo - David Kemp

And the environmental activists had a huge win.

It was an historically momentous event that turned Australian Labor Governments green and created national parks right down the spine of NSW.

It set the scene for environmental action for decades thereafter: at the Franklin in Tasmania, in the Daintree Rainforest in North Queensland, coal seam gas blockades and internationally.

I knew about these forest wars at Terania Creek and Mt Nardi but I really didn't appreciate their significance.

And when I looked into these forest wars, I realised that they told a much bigger story about the Northern Rivers. I also realised that this story was being lost.

Without the extraordinary social and cultural changes that occurred in the Northern Rivers in the 1970s and 1980s, these forest wars would never have occurred. The counter-culture flooded into the region back then and changed, well, pretty much everything. Nimbin went from dozy National Party to rainbow-far-left after the Aquarius Festival was held there in 1973. The "back to earthers" moved into the region and started farms and communities.

The natural world was suddenly not seen as a resource; something to be exploited. But as an ecosystem that needed nurturing and protecting; an ecosystem that we were simply part of, not kings of.



Photo - David Kemp

At the heart of the activism was the desire to save the last remnants of an ancient, rare and valuable Antarctic rainforest – the Big Scrub. The Big Scrub covered 75000ha in 1830. In 1970 just 1000 remained

Without Aquarius, without the rise in the counter-culture in this region, without the back-to-earthers, there would never have been the critical mass of environmentally concerned people who were prepared to fight for the rainforests; some like Dailan Pugh were prepared to die.

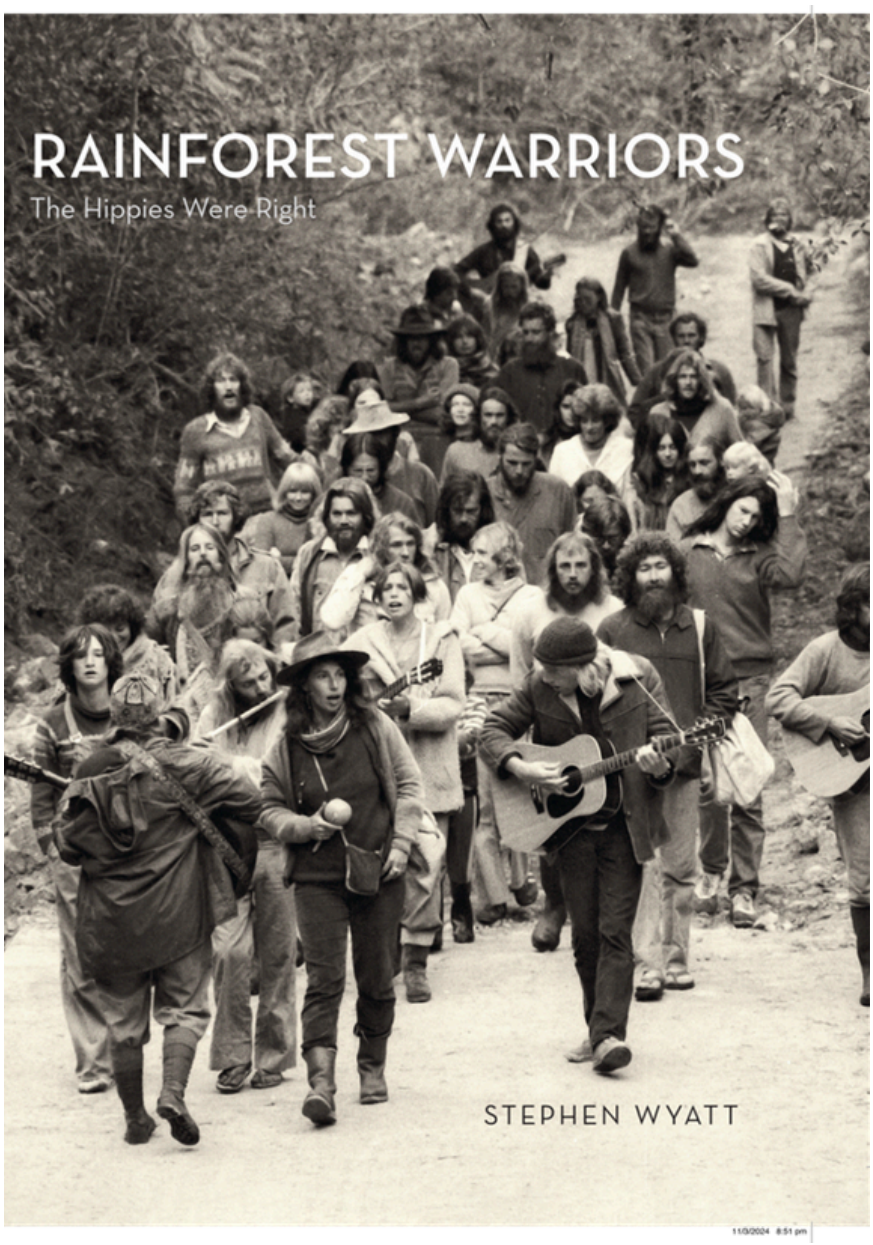
These fights against logging marked a turning point in history. They marked the point in history when the destruction of the Big Scrub ended and a period of restoration, repair and reforestation began.



Photo - Peter Derrett

This activism is well remembered by many in the Northern Rivers. But sadly, ask anyone outside this region or the many who have moved into it, what they think of the forest wars and they've generally no idea.

These stories, this history, is being lost. And the contribution of the individuals who fought in these wars, the Rainforest Warriors, is also being lost. That is why I felt compelled to write RAINFOREST WARRIORS – THE HIPPIES WERE RIGHT.



This book is rich in photographs.It pulls together all the events that led to the forest wars and describes the wars themselves. The book then goes to the significance and ongoing impact of these wars: the creation of National Parks throughout NSW, how they turned the Labor Party green, the triggering of the spirit of activism and how that activism is still alive today.

The book looks at the Big Scrub, its geological history and its destruction. It looks at the 1970s and the reasons for the rise of the counter-culture and especially why it was so concentrated here, in the Northern Rivers. It looks at the Aquarius Festival and the blossoming of communes.

And the book, 'Rainforest Warriors', especially looks at the physical and cultural destruction of the Widjabul wia-bal and the larger Bundjalung nation.

It also, through a series of interviews, tells the stories of the significant players of that time, the Warriors themselves. People like Nan and Hugh Nicholson, Graeme Dunstan, Harry Freeman, Dailan Pugh, John Seed, Dudley Leggett, Gai Longmuir, Carol Perry, Leigh Davison and others.

So, this book ended up recounting, in a very non-academic way, the social and environmental history of the region.

It is currently available at the Hemp Embassy in Nimbin, The Book Room in Byron Bay, The Bookshop in Mullum, The Book Warehouse in Lismore and online at www.rainforest.net. It retails at $59.95. It will be sold at a discount of $45 at the November 28 discussion to be held at Byron Theatre in the Byron Community Centre.

FEATURE ARTICLE

A natural burial site for Byron Bay: Turning a vision into action

By Rebekah O'Flaherty



Since my article in The Echo on 24 September, **A natural burial and conservation site for Byron Shire** the campaign to explore a Bushland Burial and Conservation Area in Byron Shire is beginning to take shape.

In my article, I asked a simple question: What if our final act could help restore nature? I wrote about the strong connection many people in Byron Shire feel to the natural environment and the care our community gives to protecting wildlife, restoring bushland and preserving the places that make this region so special. I suggested that these values could also inform how we approach death and burial.

Natural burial offers a different way of thinking about our final resting place. Rather than relying on elaborate coffins, concrete vaults, permanent monuments and intensively maintained lawns, natural burial seeks to minimise environmental impact through biodegradable coffins or natural-fibre shrouds, avoiding embalming chemicals where possible, and allowing the surrounding landscape to play a central role.

Depending on the site and how it is managed, a natural burial area could also provide opportunities to restore native vegetation, improve habitat for birds and insects, manage invasive weeds and create a peaceful place for families to remember loved ones.
My proposal is not to replace conventional burial or cremation. It is to explore whether Byron Shire residents could have another end-of-life choice: one that reflects their values and their connection to this land.

Since that article appeared, a number of important steps have been taken. First, a steering committee has been formed to guide our efforts. The committee has developed a draft Discussion Paper to outline the proposal and the rationale for considering a natural burial and conservation site in an existing cemetery. We have also developed a draft Project Scope for a feasibility study, identifying the key matters that would need to be assessed.

continued...

These include the suitability of potential sites, soil and groundwater conditions, drainage and flood risk, existing cemetery capacity, regulatory requirements, environmental restoration opportunities, ongoing maintenance, costs and potential demand from the community. The study would also need to consider how a natural burial area could be designed and managed as a distinct landscape, rather than simply placing natural burials among conventional graves.The aim is to establish whether a dedicated area can offer a genuinely different experience while sitting respectfully alongside existing cemetery uses.

The next priority is to bring a clear proposal to Byron Shire Council and seek support for a feasibility study.

The proposed motion is:

That Council undertake a feasibility study into establishing a distinct Bushland Burial and Conservation Area within a suitable section of an existing Byron Shire Council cemetery, including assessment of environmental, regulatory, operational, community and whole-of-life financial considerations, and report findings and recommendations to Council for consideration.

You can help

If you believe Byron Shire residents should have the opportunity to consider natural burial, I would welcome your support. Here are four practical steps you can take:

1. You can email byronbaynaturalburial@gmail.com with the statement:
"I support Byron Shire Council undertaking a feasibility study into establishing a Bushland Burial and Conservation Area within an existing cemetery."

2. https://c.org/yt6gM77n9s this is a link to an online petition via change.org. It would be great if you could log on and place your vote (takes about 12 seconds)

3. Facebook Byron Bay Natural Burial and Conservation Site. I'll post all updates to facebook as well as update this mailing list.

4. Spread the word! This campaign is about exploring an additional choice, not taking choices away from others. It is about asking whether our final act could contribute to something living, and whether we can approach that possibility with environmental responsibility, cultural respect and care for the community.

We hope to hear from residents, environmental groups, Landcare volunteers, funeral professionals, people working in end-of-life care and others who may have knowledge or experience to contribute. The proposal is at an early stage, and community input can help shape the questions that need to be asked.

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

From the Byron Farmers Network

1.Natural Sequence Farming Field Day: Banyula Farm, Clunes NSW – Sunday 15th November

Are you looking for ways to improve your landscape and make it more productive? Do you want to understand the landscape's natural functions and learn how to work with them for better results? If so, join the Natural Sequence Farming Team along with Josh Wellman of Banyula Farm for a field day introducing the five pillars of Natural Sequence Farming (NSF) and an opportunity to see the principals in action on the ground.
Where: Banyula Farm 813 Booyong Road, Clunes NSW 2480
When: Sunday 15th November, 2026
More info and bookings: Buy tickets – Introduction to Natural Sequence Farming Day Lismore NSW – Banyula Farm

2.Deep Winter 2026 Declaration

On Saturday 12th September 2026, a group of around 50 farmers, workers, chefs, organisers, gardeners, eaters, First Peoples and food system organisations from across the Northern Rivers and beyond gathered at Murwillumbah Showgrounds, on the lands of the Bundjalung people. The group came together for a democratic 'unconference' to share thoughts, concerns and strategies for the local food system, to build solidarity and to strengthen the common narrative around the struggles and joys of living, growing and eating on these lands. To view the 2026 Declaration and event recap visit their website Deep Winter 2026 Recap — Deep Winter Agrarian Gathering

3.Expression of Interest - Compost workshop with John Bond of Living Earth Biology

This workshop with John Bond from Living Earth Biology provides a practical introduction to creating biologically complete compost. Participants will learn how to support a diverse soil food web, including bacteria, fungi, protozoa and nematodes, and how to extract and apply these beneficial organisms to soils and plants. Through microscope demonstrations, attendees will gain a better understanding of the biology they are working to cultivate, without needing any prior microscopy experience. Designed for farmers and growers interested in regenerative agriculture, the workshop is ideal for anyone using compost, biological amendments or soil-improvement practices who wants a deeper understanding of soil biology and compost function.
EOI and more info: Expression of Interest Workshop | living earth biologyLiving Earth Biology

Farm Business Resilience Program – practical support to manage drought, climate and business risk
The Farm Business Resilience Program supports farmers in building their knowledge and skills to manage drought, climate variability, and business risk through practical workshops, tools, coaching and peer networks that strengthen decision-making, business planning, and wellbeing. Check out the Farm Business Resilience Program Home Page for links to a series of online workshops, coaching opportunities and useful tools and resources.
More info and links: Build a stronger farm business | NSW Government.

Fish kill at Belongil Creek

Published on 15 October 2026

Byron Shire Council is reporting a fish kill following the opening of Belongil Creek on Monday 12 October.

The creek was opened to prevent flooding after high water levels in Belongil Creek were causing inundation of stormwater culverts and drains.

The opening was in alignment with approvals from NSW Crown Lands and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD).

Belongil Creek is an ICOLL, an intermittently closed and open lake or lagoon, that is a sensitive aquatic environment susceptible to fish kills during an artificial opening of the creek.

Manually opening the creek is undertaken carefully to reduce the potential for fish kills if there is a rapid decrease in water levels in the absence of adequate rainfall," Chloe Dowsett, Coastal and Biodiversity Coordinator, said.

"Rain reduces, but does not eliminate, the chance of a fish kill and while rain was forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology on Monday, unfortunately, it did not eventuate," Ms Dowsett said.
The absence of rain and the rapid drop in water levels resulted in reduced oxygen levels in the water, causing the fish kill.

"It's not the result we had planned for; no one likes to see a fish kill and Council and government departments are investigating and reviewing the incident to inform opening protocols.

"In line with strict operational and environmental conditions that must be met, Council follows its adopted Entrance Opening Strategy and Environmental Management Plan to manually open the creek in order to balance protection of this sensitive environment with mitigation of flood risk to Byron Bay" Ms Dowsett said.

People are advised to avoid the area and not swim nearby. Dogs should be kept away, and dead fish should not be handled, eaten or used as bait.

Background to the opening
For several weeks a buildup of sand at the mouth of the creek was causing inundation in low-lying parts of Byron Bay and Belongil, with water filling stormwater culverts and drains and covering some pathways.

ICOLLs like Belongil Creek and Tallow Creek are intermittently open coastal waterways that open and close to the ocean naturally.

Council only opens these creeks if there is a significant build-up of water that poses a risk of inundation of infrastructure or property and this is always done in consultation with government departments and in line with relevant approvals.

OTHER NEWS

‘ Push for free conservation rezoning as report reveals Byron habitat protection gap’ The Echo 15 October 2026

Byron Shire Council has been considering a proposal that would let willing landholders request C2 Environmental Conservation zoning through Council’s regular planning amendments, without being charged for the process. Zoning could apply to part of a property, with the rest keeping its rural zoning.

The proposal follows a report by Landcare representative Dave Rawlins, which identified 16,068 hectares of mapped high ecological value land in the Shire outside the national parks estate. Nearly half of that area lacks the strongest protection available, and the report notes that restoration plantings have little protection. Council’s Biodiversity and Agricultural Advisory Committee recommended a partnership with Brunswick Valley Landcare, including help developing a template for landholders. BVL has already identified landholders interested in the pathway.

Read more: The Echo, 15 October 2026 – https://www.echo.net.au/2026/10/push-for-free-conservation-rezoning-as-report-reveals-byron-habitat-protection-gap/

Historic day for koalas as landmark legislation passes NSW Parliament 23 October 2026

NSW parliament has now passed legislation to add more than 178,000 hectares of state forest and other Crown land to existing national parks, establishing a more than 475,000-hectare safe haven for koalas on the Mid North Coast.

Read more: NSW Government media release, 23 October 2026 – https://www.nsw.gov.au/ministerial-releases/great-koala-national-park-created

Australia's Blind Eye: Exploring the Nation's Permissive Stance on Harmful Pesticides

Environ. Sci. Technol. (2026) 60 (13): 9823–9830.

Using pesticides at the base of the human food chain carries environmental and human health consequences and remains a key Planetary Health challenge. Analysis of an Australian Government database identified 45 pesticide products used in high volumes (>100 t/year). The international regulatory status of each of these was in turn examined for global benchmarking. The search revealed that 60% of Australia’s high-use pesticides are banned in Europe, and a further 24.4% are approved in Europe but banned in at least one other country. Just 15.6% retain international approval. Exploration of political actors serving to maintain Australia’s permissive stance on harmful pesticides found a two-way stabilising mechanism.

Download PHD

Rehydrate Australia Comes to Pearces Creek Hall

A community screening and Q&A on Saturday 14 November explores how farmers across Australia are holding water in their landscapes, and what that could mean for the Northern Rivers.



On Saturday 14 November, Pearces Creek Hall will host a community screening of Rehydrate Australia, the documentary following farmers across the country who are restoring their landscapes with Natural Sequence Farming.

Presented by Pearces Creek Talks in collaboration with Pearces Creek Hall, and supported by a Rous Community Grant, the evening finishes with a live Q&A with Stuart Andrews of Tarwyn Park Training and Josh Wellman, a local practitioner of Natural Sequence Farming.

Produced by Tarwyn Park Training, Rehydrate Australia is a road trip from outback Queensland to Tasmania, visiting farmers who are taking on increasingly severe cycles of drought, fire and flood by rehydrating their land. Every landholder in the film is a Tarwyn Park Training graduate.

Since premiering in Gympie in March 2026, the film has been viewed more than 150,000 times on YouTube and has screened at least ten times in communities from Bellingen and Byron Bay to Sydney, Goulburn and Franklin in Tasmania.

For Lismore, the questions the film asks are close to home. The Wilsons River reached a record 14.4 metres in February 2022, and in March 2025 Tropical Cyclone Alfred brought it to within 40 centimetres of major flood level. After every event, the same question comes up: what can be done further up the catchment?

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Natural Sequence Farming, developed by Peter Andrews OAM over fifty years, starts with plants and water. Across much of Australia, clearing and drainage have turned our landscapes into very effective drainage systems, where rain runs off quickly and carries soil with it. NSF works to slow the flow high in the landscape, using contours, leaky weirs, ponds and plants, so more rain soaks into the soil and is released gradually rather than arriving downstream all at once.

It isn't a single answer for a floodplain like Lismore's, but it is a part of the picture that every landholder in the catchment can contribute to.

"Every flood that comes through Lismore starts as rain falling on paddocks and hillsides up in the catchment," said Stuart Andrews. "We can't stop the rain, but we can change how the landscape receives it. When we slow the flow high up and let the plants do their job, more water stays in the soil and less arrives downstream at once. That's something every landholder can play a part in."

This conversation isn't new to the region. In September 2019, Lismore City Council hosted a four-day Tarwyn Park Training course at Jiggi Hall, attended by council staff, Rous County Council, Southern Cross University and members of the Floodplain Management Committee, to explore how Natural Sequence Farming could contribute to flood mitigation. In April 2024, Stuart returned to lead council's Rural Landholder Initiative field day on the principles of landscape hydration. In all, Tarwyn Park Training has run five courses in Lismore, and many of its graduates are now putting NSF into practice on properties across the area.

The same thinking now sits within the Northern Rivers Watershed Initiative, developed by Rous and funded with $5 million by the NSW Government in 2024, which includes a landscape hydration program using natural flood management techniques to slow flows, hold soil and reduce runoff in rural catchments.

Tickets are $5, with children free. Doors open at 6.30pm with a supper plate from Take Care Lismore, and the film starts at 7.30pm. Seats are limited to 70, so booking early is recommended.

Ticket link is here: https://events.humanitix.com/rehydrate-australia-screening-and-q-and-a-at-pearces-creek-hall

OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS

AABR 4040 FORUM NOVEMBER 27th



Big questions. Bold ideas. Meet the voices shaping the next 40 years of bush regeneration.

Why haven't we won yet? Can AI replace an experienced bush regenerator? And what will it take to restore Australia's landscapes at the scale they need?
These are just some of the questions on the agenda at the AABR 4040 Forum on Friday 27 November in Sydney, where an outstanding line-up of practitioners, researchers and industry leaders will share their experience, challenge conventional thinking and explore what comes next.

AABR President Peter Dixon will kick off some uncomfortable conversations about why, after decades of investment and proven restoration techniques, we're still losing ground. From Central Australia Max Arkley-Smith will explore the extraordinary spread of buffel grass and the hard realities of managing one of Australia's most damaging environmental weeds.
Looking to the future, Dr Tein McDonald will ask whether the real threat to bush regeneration skills is artificial intelligence or our failure to mentor the next generation. Jen Ford will tackle the challenge of growing a skilled restoration workforce, while Jessie Panazzolo, founder of Lonely Conservationists, will explore how we care for the people who dedicate their lives to caring for the Earth.

There's plenty of practical inspiration too. Mareshell Wauchope will share fascinating research into returning native bush rats to urban bushland, Mark Schuster will explore the complexities of managing fire for people and biodiversity, and Petra Holland will show how iNaturalist can help build a better picture of local biodiversity.
And this isn't a day of simply sitting and listening. Interactive workshops will explore workplace mentoring and accreditation, putting the National Restoration Standards into practice, and how better ecological data can improve restoration outcomes.
One day. Decades of experience. Fresh perspectives and practical ideas to take back to your workplace, project or Bushcare group.

Bring your team, reconnect with colleagues and be part of the conversations shaping the next 40 years of bush regeneration.
Friday 27 November 2026 | NSW Teachers Federation Conference Centre, Sydney

Explore the program and register for the 4040 Forum

OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS



Slow the flow: Managing erosion and rehydrating landscapes

Are erosion, runoff or drying gullies impacting your property? Discover practical, low-cost approaches to slow water down, stabilise erosion and keep more moisture in your landscape.

Join Local Land Services and the SQNNSW Innovation Hub for a hands-on workshop exploring landscape rehydration techniques to manage erosion in small streams and gullies.

You should attend if you would like to:

- Gain a better understanding of how water flows across your property and catchment, and the ecosystems these waterways support.
- Learn practical and low-cost techniques to slow runoff, increase soil-water infiltration, and rehydrate your landscape.
- Learn how to further 'read' your landscape and work towards small but incremental solutions.

Date and time

Wednesday 2 December 2026
9:30 am – 12:30 pm
Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

Location

Tintenbar, Northern Rivers.
Address will be shared after registration.

RSVP

Registeronline or scan the QR code.

Contact

VincentParisi, Natural Capital Advisor
vince.parisi@lls.nsw.gov.au
0427 714 938

Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Future Drought Fund

University of Southern Queensland

SQNNSW Innovation Hub

WATCH

SOME INTERESTING VIDEOS SOURCED FROM THE LATEST SOILCARE OCT ENEWS

Soil First? Why Ecosystem Restoration Starts Below Ground!
Dr Riley Hodgson explores why effective ecosystem restoration must start with soils.

From soil health and biodiversity to the hidden processes that support life above ground, this session looks at how a ground-up approach can strengthen restoration outcomes.
Dr Riley J. Hodgson is a Research Associate in Restoration Genomics at Flinders University, specialising in soil microbial ecology, plant–soil interactions and ecosystem restoration.
His research explores how soil microbial communities influence plant establishment, resilience and ecosystem recovery, with a particular focus on understanding how these relationships respond to environmental change. Watch the video

From Degradation to Regeneration | Webinar with Jon Stika
Acres USA, The Voice of Eco-Agriculture, 23 September 2026

Why Regenerative Agriculture Is Not Yet Mainstream — And How We Can Make It So
If regenerative agriculture offers healthier soils, more resilient farms, and a better future for food production, why isn't everyone doing it?
In From Degradation to Regeneration, soil health advocate and agricultural leader Jon Stika tackles one of the most important questions facing modern agriculture. Watch the video.

How to Brew Your Own Biofertilizers for Farms and Gardens
Video from ATTRA at NCAT - USDA National Center for Appropriate Technology

Learn how to make a simple biofertilizer using just five ingredients! This video is produced by the National Center for Appropriate Technology through the ATTRA Sustainable Agriculture program under a cooperative agreement with USDA Rural Development. Watch the video

Bug Wars: The Insect Revolution Protecting Our Crops | Landline
ABC Australia, December 2025

Meet the growers, farmers, and entomologists practicing Integrated Pest Management, fighting bugs with bugs. Watch the video

And hear from the team at Bugs for Bugs, the company developing a method that used to be considered fringe but is now becoming mainstream.
Bugs for Bugs

CITIZEN SCIENCE

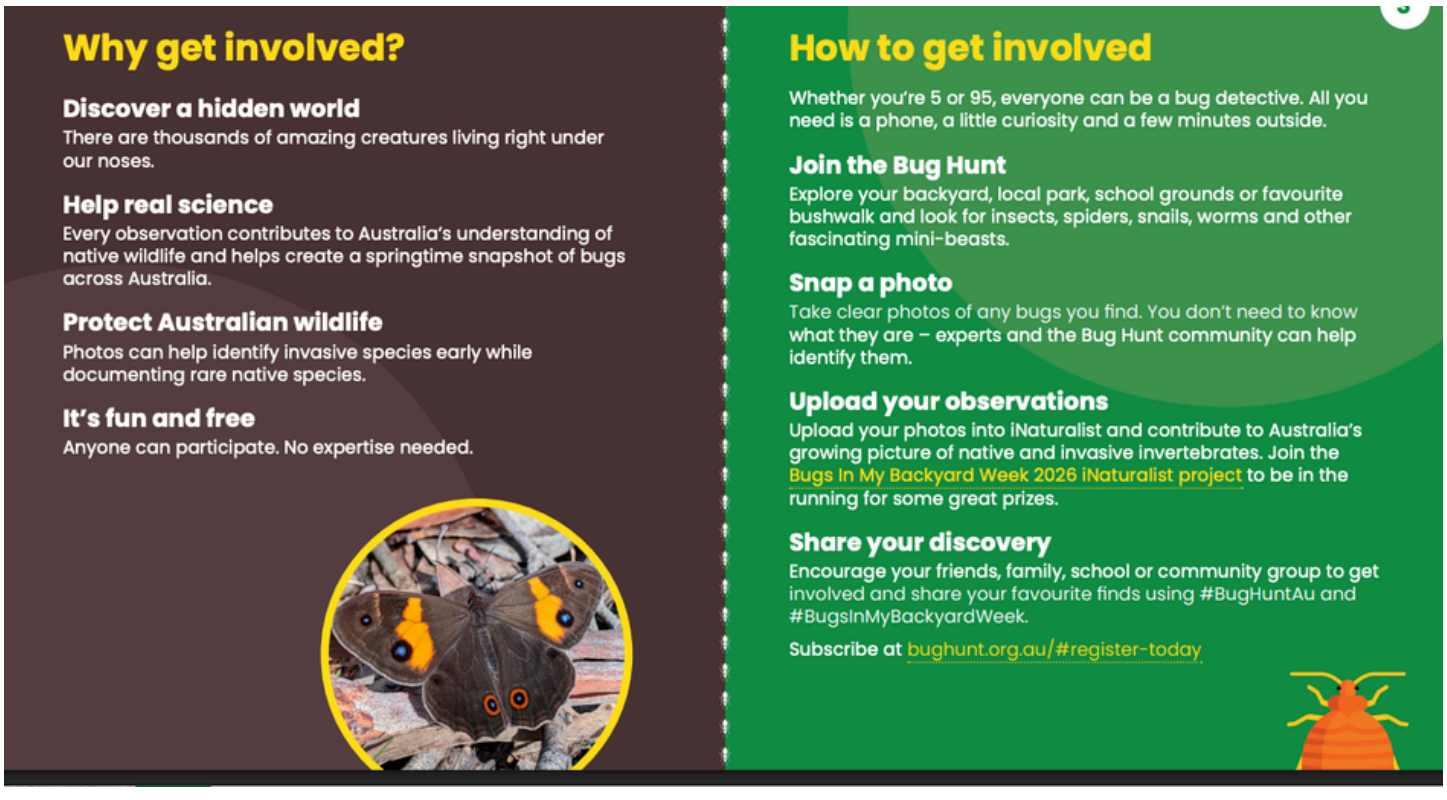


Become a bug detective during Bugs In My Backyard Week 16–22 November 2026 and help create a springtime snapshot of bugs across Australia. There's a hidden world living all around us.

During Bugs In My Backyard Week, Australians are invited to explore their backyards, school grounds and local parks to discover the fascinating insects, spiders, snails and other tiny creatures that keep our environment healthy. All you need to do is snap photos of bugs and upload them to iNaturalist. Join the Bugs in My Backyard Week 2026 iNaturalist project to be in the running for some great prizes. Every photo contributes to Australia's national Bug Hunt project, helping scientists better understand native species while improving early detection of invasive species. All you need is a smartphone and curiosity. Join thousands of Australians helping protect wildlife – one bug at a time.

Sign up at bughunt.org.au and join the Bugs in My Backyard Week 2026 iNaturalist project.

DOWNLOAD THE RESOURCE PACK



GRANTS

Zanda McDonald Award closes 31 October.
The Zanda McDonald Award is one of Australia and New Zealand's most prestigious leadership opportunities for emerging professionals in primary industries, aged 21–35. This Award helps ambitious people accelerate their careers, broaden their perspectives and create meaningful impact across the primary industries sector.

Our Charitable Foundation funding model closing 31 October | Newcastle Permanent Grassroots Volunteer Grant
This standalone grant is available for a charity that relies on volunteers. The recipient will be required to allocate funds towards the volunteer experience through capacity building. This includes training or mentoring, volunteer program development and recruitment, or relevant system enhancements. Funding available: $25,000 (inc GST)

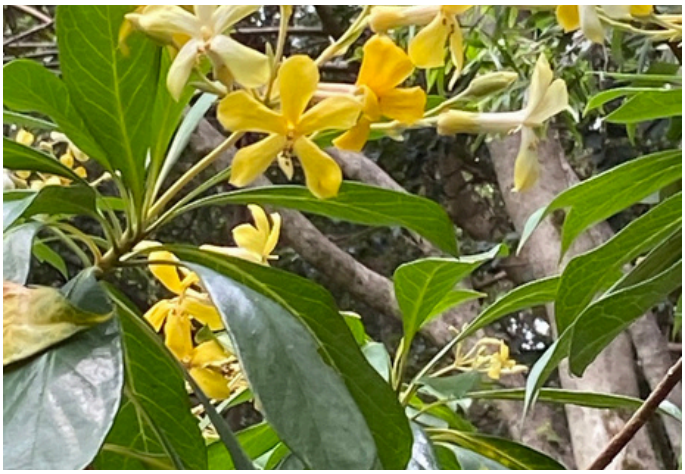
Rural Women's Award closes 4 November | AgriFutures Australia.
The $15,000 grant is awarded to each State/ Territory Winner, providing the financial resources to support a project, business or program that will benefit rural industries, businesses and/or communities.

GoldenWeb Melbourne Website grant closing 1 December.
Each year, GoldenWeb helps a small non-profit or community group with a free website.

Royal Australian Agricultural Society Foundation (RASF) Community Futures Grant closing 18 December
The Royal Agricultural Society Foundation (RASF) is offering opportunities for community-minded people to be awarded up to $30,000 in funding for community projects in their local area. More information and EOI: Royal Agricultural Society of NSW - RAS Foundation Community Futures Grant

PLANT PROFILE

Some beautiful trees in flower this month



Native frangipani (Hymenosporum flavum) is a small to medium tree native to the rainforests and rainforest margins of eastern Queensland and New South Wales, and also New Guinea.In spring it carries clusters of tubular flowers that open cream and age to a deep golden yellow, so both colours show on the tree at once.

photo credit - david_eckstein



Flame tree (Brachychiton acerifolius), also called the Illawarra flame tree, is native to coastal rainforests from the NSW South Coast north to far north Queensland. In late spring and early summer it often drops some or all of its leaves and covers itself in bright scarlet, bell-shaped flowers.

photo credit - Jacobcrisp



Maiden's blush (Sloanea australis) is a rainforest tree of coastal NSW and Queensland. Its common name refers to the pink colour of freshly cut timber. It produces small white to cream flowers, followed by bristly capsules that split to show seeds with an orange coating.

photo credit - luis615



Silky oak (Grevillea robusta), also known as southern silky oak, is the largest of the grevilleas. It is native to subtropical rainforest and riverbanks of northern NSW and south-east Queensland, including the Richmond and Tweed catchments. In spring it bears showy golden-orange flowers in one-sided, toothbrush-like spikes, which are rich in nectar and popular with birds.

photo credit - karin taylor

WEED PROFILE

Cat's Claw Creeper (Dolichandra unguis-cati (syn. Macfadyena unguis-cati) Family Bignoniaceae



Caption: Cat's claw creeper has large yellow flowers.
Photographer: John Hosking NSW DPI

Cat's claw creeper is a woody vine native to Central and South America and the West Indies. It is now established across much of coastal NSW. It smothers large trees until they die and collapse under the weight. It is listed as a Key Threatening Process in NSW, as it threatens endangered and vulnerable plants and Lowland Subtropical Rainforest, an Endangered Ecological Community. Please don't let this one get away if you see it.

It grows in rainforest, eucalypt forest, woodland, along waterways and on disturbed ground such as roadsides, in sun or heavy shade. Wind and water carry its winged seeds, which mostly July and August. Established plants spread by tubers and stems, and fragments can be moved by floodwater or in soil shifted by machinery. It forms dense mats that smother ground covers and seedlings, and climbs into the canopy, where its weight can bring down branches and whole trees. Along creeks this opens gaps in the canopy and can change how water flows, and it reduces food and shelter for native animals.

HOW TO IDENTIFY IT

•**Leaves:** in opposite pairs, usually two leaflets, each 2–7 cm long, oval with a pointed tip.
•**Claws:** a small three-pronged tendril with hooked tips sits between the leaflets. This is what gives the plant its name.
•**Flowers:** bright yellow trumpets, 4–8 cm long, often with orange lines inside, in spring.
•**Seed pods:** long, flat, leathery pods (15–45 cm) holding 40–80 papery winged seeds.
•**Underground**: branching tubers up to 40 cm long, which can number up to 1,000 per square metre.
Spring flowering is the easiest time to spot it and its in flower **NOW** across the Shire.



Caption: Cat's claw creeper has three-pronged tendrils that look like cat's claws.
Photographer: John Hosking NSW DPI

WEED PROFILE

Cat's Claw Creeper (Dolichandra unguis-cati (syn. Macfadyena unguis-cati) Family Bignoniaceae

CONTROL

•**Cut, don't pull:** cut climbing stems near the ground and again higher up to leave a gap. Never pull vines out of the canopy, as it damages the host tree and is dangerous.

•**Cut and paint:** paint herbicide onto the freshly cut stump and a scraped section of stem within 15 seconds. Spot-spray regrowth and seedlings under 2 m.

•**Dig small plants:** remove tubers from seedlings and small plants, take them off site, and check with your council about disposal.

•**Follow up:** check for and treat regrowth and seedlings for at least five years. Treat sparse outbreaks first and encourage native plants to compete.

Always read the product label before using any herbicide. NSW WeedWise lists suitable products and rates.

Biological control
Two leaf-feeding insects are established in NSW: a sap-sucking tingid (Carvalhotingis visenda) and a jewel beetle (Hedwigiella jureceki) that feeds higher in the canopy. The jewel beetle is still being reared and released in NSW.

MORE INFO https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weed/Catsclawcreeper



Caption: Cat's claw creeper smothers and kills other plants even high up in the canopy.
Photographer: Royce Holtkamp

Help us solve the mystery of the Bicentennial trees

Local residents and BVL members, Mary and Peter Fox, have found some trees at the former Mullumbimby hospital site with the Bicentennial plaque numbers 91 and 92 at their base. They are now on a hunt to find out where the other Bicentennial trees might have been planted. Council was contacted; but records seem to have been lost. If you have any leads, have seen any other plaques or remember where any trees might have been planted in 1988 - please let us know!



The plaques look like this

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

Brunswick Valley Landcare Inc.

Landcare Coordinator, Valley Lipcer

www.brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au

Byron Shire Council

0421 244 640 info@brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au

