



# BEACH to BUSH NEWS



A bi-monthly newsletter by Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare Inc.

May – June 2001

No. 2

## PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare Inc. (CHRL) now has 32 member groups. We are delighted that the community is coming forward with sites for land-caring, and also to volunteer for existing work sites.

This newsletter should be a pipeline to all groups locally and others in the Upper North Coast Catchment Management Board (UNC CMB) area. We need to communicate with each other to exchange ideas in order to give maximum assistance to land-care.

I'm looking for your stories, your project works, your photos and your site difficulties etc. for inclusion in this newsletter. Let's hear from you soon.

- Dee Wallace, President



## Hi – from your Support Co-ordinator

As I am mostly 'chained' to this computer, it still hasn't been all that boring. I have been very excited to be able to design and organise the printing of more signs for member groups, and the new-look letterhead and this newsletter.

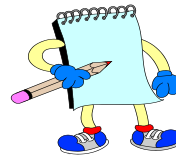
Inquiries for the new Landcare Dunecare Support & Development Officer were numerous (over 70) and from as far afield as Melbourne. Applications closed on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> April and the culling process begins early May by the selection panel. The selection panel is made up of one rep from Landcare, Council, CHRL, Coastcare and DLWC. I think it will be a tough job to select the best from the best!

In the meantime, I will continue with my one-day-a-week in support to CHRL for as long as I am able.

A regular feature of this newsletter will be the **Calendar**, and **In the Spotlight** – a section where a group reports special, extra-ordinary or interesting stuff on their work.

Hope you enjoy this second edition of *Beach to Bush News*. The name came from a project CHRL submitted to receive funding from Olympic Landcare and Westpac Bank during Olympic Landcare 2000 celebrations. Westpac have a policy where it puts some of their money into the environment each year. The words *beach to bush* encompasses all the landscapes in which our member-groups work – dunes, estuaries, bush, rivers, coastal strips and the land in general.

- Julie Hicks AdvDHort



## CALENDAR

APRIL – JUNE 2001

- 4 April** **General Meeting**, DLWC Conf. Room, AMP Building, Cnr. Vernon and Gordon Sts – 5:30 for 6:00 pm. Guest speaker: John Ross of Environmental Weeds Task Force, Noxious Weeds Advisory Council.
- 7 April** **Free Bushcare Workshop by Greening Australia** – Sawtell Surf Club, 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. Subject: restoration and reconstruction of native vegetation.
- 2 May** **CHRL Executive Meeting**, DLWC Conf. Room, 5:00 pm
- 4 May** **Selection Meeting** to select new S&D Officer, 9 am to 5 pm, DLWC Conf. Room (President, DLWC, CHCC, Coast Care).
- 5 May** **Free Bushcare Workshop by Greening Australia** – Marian Grove Retirement Village, Toormina. Subjects: *Plant ID & Community Ecology* (am), *Seed Collecting & Plant Propagating* (pm). \$3 lunch charge. Book a place - ring Julie on 6653 0118 or Dee on 6656 1008.
- 6 May** **Coffs Regional Organic Producers Organisation (CROPO) Field Day**, 1390 Orara Way, Nana Glen – Biodynamic farming and tree planting activities.
- 22 May** **Environmental Links Forum** at Coffs Harbour – focus on estuaries. Further details TBA.
- 6 June** **General Meeting**, DLWC Conf. Room, 5:30 for 6:00 pm.
- 9 June** **Last day** for submitting Coast Care funding applications.
- 11 June** **Orara Fair**. CHRL to work with Ulitarra Cons. Soc. with exhibit. Focus will be on the new W2 weeds. **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**
- 28 June** **Dedication of Bruce Devenish Walkway**, 10 am, Safety Beach Drive. All welcome. RSVP Julie.

## CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

Some of us turned out at the Coffs Harbour Jetty Dunecare site to help in the clean-up. The day was wet but the sun did make an appearance for a quick photo shoot (opposite).

We collected 14 bags of bottles from the work area, so we not only cleaned up Australia but we also "gave a hand" to the Jetty Dunecare Group as well. **RIGHT: Clean-Up workers from Emerald Beach Dunecare, Marian Grove Bushcare, Coffs Harbour Jetty Dunecare and Boambee Bushcare groups**

## THE FERTILISING DUNG BEETLE

Cattle in Australia drop about 300 million pads a day! This equates to about half a million tonnes of cow dung landing on our paddocks, day in day out.

It is most important that as much as possible of this huge nutrient source is returned to the soil as soon as possible, every day of the year.

Introduced dung beetles provide a very cheap and most natural way of achieving this objective.

- from *Australian Landcare Journal*, March 2001



### DID YOU KNOW?

The Australia-wide Olympic Landcare project last year involved 40,000 volunteers who planted over 3 million trees over three years!

## NOXIOUS & ENVIRONMENTAL WEED CATEGORIES

- W1** - Weeds must be reported immediately, e.g. *Parthenium*.
- W2** - Must be fully suppressed, e.g. *Salvinia*.
- W3** - Prevent spread, e.g. *Groundsell*, *Giant Parramatta Grass*.
- W4** - Not to be allowed to flower or grow within 3m of the border of a property; not to be sold, propagated, given away or dumped, e.g. *Asparagus fern*.

## THE ROLE OF THE NATIVE VEGETATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Native Vegetation Advisory Council was established in 1998 by the Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997 to take a pro-active role in advising the NSW Government on native vegetation issues throughout the State. The Council's role is to foster relationships between community groups, landholders and government agencies; develop initiatives in native vegetation management; promote the benefits of native vegetation; provide direction and leadership in native vegetation management; and create incentives and co-ordinate funding opportunities for native vegetation conservation.

The membership of Native Vegetation Advisory Council represents a wide range of interests and includes rural representatives, conservation groups, and government agencies.

## The Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997

The Act has been developed to:

- a) provide for the conservation and management of native vegetation on a regional basis, and
- b) encourage and promote native vegetation management in the social, economic and environmental interests of the State, and
- c) protect native vegetation of high conservation value, and
- d) improve the condition of existing native vegetation, and
- e) encourage the revegetation of land, and the rehabilitation of land, with appropriate native vegetation, and
- f) prevent the inappropriate clearing of vegetation, and
- g) promote the significance of native vegetation in accordance with the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

## COMMUNIQUE NO. 6

The meeting of the Board on 15<sup>th</sup> March focussed on social and economic factors that may impact on the implementation of the Upper North Coast Catchment Management Plan.

One of the topics discussed was Volunteerism and Natural Resource Partnerships, and the need to support volunteer networks.

## FRESHENING UP FIDDAMAN CREEK

Fiddaman Creek at Emerald Beach is a small creek that flows into the Solitary Islands Marine Park. The Creek has been under pressure for some years due to urban development of Emerald Beach and the use of septic and pump-out sewerage systems.

The Creek is remembered by long-term residents as being clean, healthy, good for swimming in, and fishing from. This is not the case today - the creek now having high pollution levels and very low oxygen readings.

With the connection of sewerage lines now taking place in the village of Emerald Beach, the residents have decided it is time to clean up their Creek. To return it to a pristine condition will never be achieved but the residents are determined to "freshen up Fiddaman Creek" - the name decided upon for the new estuary-care group.

The group was launched last year and has since started collecting data on Fiddaman's water quality, riparian vegetation species, bird and animal life, and weed eradication methods.

During March, the group paddled up Fiddaman Creek as far as they could go and were delighted to find that the upper reaches were in a far better state than expected. The presence of nearby wetlands is thought to be the reason for the good condition.

The group is now preparing to eradicate riparian weeds during the forthcoming winter months.

Excellent assistance from the Dept. of Land & Water Conservation and Coast Care staff has been given to help set up the group.

## BIRDS AND FARM ECOLOGY



A farm with a rich diversity of birds will also have a relatively high diversity of trees, shrubs, mammals, reptiles, frogs and invertebrates. For this reason, birds are recognised as "indicator species".

Their presence indicates the presence of many other species, and thus the ecological condition of the farm.

Throughout the world there are many examples of the role played by birds and other native wildlife in controlling agricultural pests. In Australia, for example, birds are critical to maintaining tree health.

A major cause of Eucalypt dieback on farms in eastern Australia is insect attack, which is associated with fertiliser use and over-clearing. A healthy bird community removes between 50% and 70% of the leaf-feeding insects from patches of farm trees and so plays a valuable role in keeping those trees alive.

In much of rural Australia, successful free establishment depends on drawing birds back into the landscape so that the birds can protect the new trees from insect attack.

- from *Australian Landcare Journal*, March 2001

## PROPOSED W2 AND W4(g) LISTINGS

John Ross, a member of the NC Noxious Weeds Advisory Council's Environmental Weeds Task Force gave an excellent address to our April meeting on the new W2 weeds.

"W2" means that landholders are required to "fully and continuously suppress and destroy".

### The proposed weed declarations are on -

<i>Schinus terebinthifolia</i>	Broad-leaved Pepper
<i>Celtis senensis</i>	Chinese Celtis, Chinese Elm
<i>Tecoma stans (Bignonia stans)</i>	Yellow Bells, Yellow Elder
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	Honey Locust
<i>Caesalpinia decapetala</i>	Thorny Poinciana (Mysore Thorn)
<i>Triadica sebera (Sapium sebiferum)</i>	Chinese Tallow



It is also proposed to declare the following species as W4(g) category noxious weeds. That would mean that they could not be sold, propagated or knowingly distributed:

<i>Anredera cordifolia</i>	Madeira vine
<i>Asparagus aethiopicus</i>	Ground asparagus
<i>Asparagus africanus</i>	Climbing asparagus
<i>Asparagus plumosus</i>	Asparagus fern
<i>Cardiospermum grandiflorum</i>	Balloon vine
<i>Eucalyptus torelliana</i>	Cadaghi

Bushcare

### FREE WORKSHOP

Greening Australia at Dorrigo is running a final series of free workshops under the Bushcare Support Program. The workshops are designed to run over one day (9:30 am - 3:30 pm) and usually involves an indoor introductory or theoretical session in the morning followed by a field visit to a relevant site after lunch. Listed below is two topics to be held on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> MAY 2001 -

**Plant Identification & Community Ecology (am)**  
(Rainforest, Ferns, Eucalypts, Grasses)  
**Seed Collection & Plant Propagation (pm)**

**VENUE:** Marian Grove Retirement Village, Toormina.  
\$3 needed to cover lunch costs (organised by CHRL).



**If anyone is interested in participating in the Seed collection and Plant ID topics, please phone Julie now to get a place on the day**

### PLEASE NOTE.....

\* **Coast Care Funding 2001/2002 applications are now available. Also check out their website at [www.environment.gov.au/marine/coastcare](http://www.environment.gov.au/marine/coastcare). Applications close 9 June 2001.**

\* **Community Landcare Information Online (CLIO)** has been developed by DLWC to display info on land-caring groups in NSW on the Internet. Check out [www.landcare.nsw.org](http://www.landcare.nsw.org).

## FEEDBACK FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> GREENING

### AUSTRALIA WORKSHOP by Dee Wallace

The first Workshop held on 7 April was excellent and we learned a lot. Information was given to us regarding eradication of weeds. Here are some examples that may be of help.

#### WEED

TURKEY RHUBARB or POTATO VINE (*Acetosa sagittata*)

**Response to Disturbance:** Reshoots from tubers.

Germinates and colonises after fire.

**Removal Techniques:** Dig, dig, dig, remove soil if feasible; glyphosate is not very effective in spray or cut-paint technique. Best time for application is November, before fruiting and seeding.

SENNA, CASSIA (*Senna pendula var. glabra*)

**Response to Disturbance:** Coppicing from base after low intensity fire. Seed germinates prolifically.

**Removal Techniques:** Remove seedlings by hand. Cut-paint mature plants with undiluted glyphosate.

MADEIRA VINE (*Anredera cordifolia*)

**Response to Disturbance:** Re-grows from underground tubers.

**Removal Techniques:** Remove as much vegetative material as possible. Scrape & paint - 1 metre of stems of larger plants with glyphosate (1:50 + LI 700) [kills tubers]. Spray regrowth with glyphosate (1:50 + LI 700) in early autumn.

ASPARAGUS FERN, GROUND ASPARAGUS

(*Protasparagus aethiopicus*)

**Response to Disturbance:** Seeds germinate after fire.

**Removal Techniques:** Small infestations - manually remove rhizome completely by cutting from plant with knife (crowning) - no need to remove tuberous roots. Larger infestations - spray with glyphosate (1:100 + LI 700) or Brushoff (1g/10L).

Best season: Before fruiting, i.e. before autumn.

## NORTH COAST BITOU BUSH MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Our office has a copy of the long-awaited strategies for Bitou management. Basically, the strategies are to -

1. co-ordinate management and compile relevant info.
2. raise community awareness and involvement, and
3. implement on-ground integrated management.

## BARGAIN / RE-CYCLE / SWAP CENTRE



Let the office know if you have any materials that you can pass on to another group. It will be advertised here. First person to ask - gets the goods!

⇒ **STAKES:** 18" high, about 100 - Ph. 66561008 [Emerald Beach Dunecare]

⇒ **TREE GUARDS:** 1/3 roll - Ph. 66561008 [Emerald Beach Dunecare]



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## MEET DEB & PIA



Deb Repschlager (left) is the Co-ordinator for Clarence Landcare, and Pia Dolman is one of the Co-ordinators at Bellinger Landcare Incorporated. Along with Coffs Harbour and the Upper Clarence Landcare Network, the four areas are working towards regional outcomes in natural resource management (NRM).



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## COFFS HARBOUR JETTY DUNECARE

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Jetty Dunecare Group have been successful in obtaining funding from Coast Care in excess of \$20,000. This funding will ensure the continuation of the Jetty Remnants Project and ensure the commencement of new projects. Congratulations!

## REPORTS.....in brief



**March - April 2001**

Bundagen Dunecare (by George & Wendy) Need advice on best way to eradicate without chemicals. CHRL will look into working in with NPWS and investigate Tip Moth option. New S&D Officer to visit and assist them.

Crossmaglen Valley Landcare (by John Ozard) Held a successful neighbourhood working bee. Good media. Lots of plants went in.

Coramba Landcare Association (by John Ross) Planting going well. Extending fence. The "Coramba Day Out" plants are OK after floods.

Woopie Back Beach Dunecare (by Rus Glover) Bitu spraying went well - good vegetation appearing. Sprayed some Asparagus fern.

Cordwell Creek Landcare (by Ewin McInnes) Removing Paspalum and "garden escapes". CHCC has provided plants and to provide mulch drop.

Sawtell Dunecare (by Les Fairey and John Lee) Putting in Pandanus using stakes. A lot of rubbish on beach after storms/floods.

Marian Grove Retirement Village Bushcare (by Frank Kennedy) Have had two twilight working bees.

Friends of Coffs Creek Landcare (by Rosemary Watkins and Brian Lill) Working on old areas with general maintenance. Have some W for the D workers.

Ulitarra Conservation Society (by Ron Smith)

Everything OK. Wish to do Orara Fair with CHRL.

Karangi Landcare (by Ron Smith) Big floods but the major river works held very well. Camphor Laurels falling into river and cutting banks. Suggested that CHRL join in once again with the Orara Fair on the Monday of the June long weekend, & do a display on new W2 weeds. Suggest that we do a positive angle as well, i.e. what to plant instead of the W2s.

CROPO (Carolyn Elmes) Nana Glen field trip Sunday 6 May on biodynamic farming and tree planting.

Safety Beach Dunecare (by Ken Munro) Too much water after rains. A lot of fallen trees to be cleaned up.

Freshen Up Fiddaman Estuary Care (by Dee Wallace)

Had a good day canoeing up the creek to take water samples. Results were better than expected. Riverine plantings to commence soon.

Emerald Beach Dunecare (by Dee) Good working bee held - worked on removing Fish-bone fern plus general maintenance on the frontal dune. W for the D team coming Monday and Tuesday.

Eastern Dorrigo Development League (by Maureen Martin - phone) Had problems with placement of rock wall in creek - was not successful. However, after re-siting, the wall worked very well during the 3" downpour. Unfortunately lost all of our plantings. Re-planted immediately so all is well.

## Group Signs

The sign that CHRL provided to Karangi Landcare, to highlight their Camphor Laurel Eradication Project has inspired a lot of comment. Let us know if your new signs are being noticed by the public.



The last order for signs are **now ready for collection** from the CHRL office - Julie Hicks

**For contributions...** (adverts, photos, stories, poetry, or any interesting items you have found), please send in to Julie via:

**FAX: 6652 3936**

**E-MAIL: [jhicks@dlwc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jhicks@dlwc.nsw.gov.au)**

**POST: P O Box 582, Coffs Harbour, 2450**

## Contact Numbers

Support Co-ordinator, Julie Hicks	6653 0118
President, Dee Wallace	6656 1008
Bush Regenerator, Aaron Hartley	6648 4882
Lachie Whetham, Coast Care	6568 0224
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