



Bush to Beach News

Important Dates:

National Landcare Webinar	16 th Aug
Landcare & Catchment Management Forum	3-5 Sept
Chemical Users Certification training	20 & 27 th Sept
Sustainable Living Festival	3-9 Nov
Weeds & Native Plant Look-Alikes Workshop	27 th Nov

Acting President's Report



Hello Landcarers,

I am reporting as acting chair for the past three months. The year has been challenging for CHRL with ongoing negotiations and uncertainty for future funding from the Catchment Management Authority for our office and Community Support position. The

NSW government drastically re-arranged its agencies to combine the CMA, the Department of Primary Industry and the Livestock Health and Pest Authority into one body, called Local Land Services – meant to be a “one stop shop for all rural issues”.

Despite all this upheaval, CHRL was very successful with having strongly supported our members and their many work sites and holding Landcare displays at a number of events. We have produced a new regional weed guide and obtained funding for many work sites and projects.

I wish to acknowledge the contribution of three members who have recently passed away: John Lee who worked tirelessly at Sawtell beach for many years, Jack Lawson, a founding member of the Coffs Creek initiative and the Botanic Gardens and Barry Hallgath who served on the Orara Management Committee for 16 years.

I wish to also thank all our members who have worked to improve and maintain their worksites and assisted in Myna control and other events.

Thank you to the outgoing committee for their commitment and decision making and thank you to our staff who have worked enthusiastically and professionally. It was a pleasure to work with Kara and we regret her need to resign from her position and wish her well.

Thank you to the Federal and State Governments, the CMA and especially Coffs Harbour City Council for financial support for our work.

CHRL is in a good position to be just as successful in the year ahead!

Ron Smith, acting president

New Executive Committee 2013/14

The Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare Annual General Meeting was held on 7th August and the following committee was elected:

President: Ron Smith, Vice president: John Ross

Treasurer: Elisabeth Edwards, Secretary: Larry Langman

Others: Barry Powells, Greg Robinson, Kris Hely, Lindy Davis, Peta Fairbairn and Steve Clemesha.

We welcome two of these committee members (Greg and Peta) as new additions to our group and look forward to a new year of landcare activities in the Coffs Harbour Region.

More Changes.....

Kara Smith, our Community Support Officer for the past 18 months, has resigned. Kara has been an incredible professional, fitting into her role from day one perfectly. She decided that she was over-committed and needed to drop her work here in Coffs Harbour from her busy schedule and to pay close attention to her personal health. We will miss her very much and wish her well!!



The CHRL Executive committee offered the role as it remains for community support and project management to Pia Dollmann.



Pia has been working here over the past two years as project officer and successfully managed her projects, the latest one being about aboriginal cultural awareness. She will manage the three Community Landcare projects which Kara successfully applied for to the Federal Government and be available for some general community support.



Jude Turner continues to manage all CHRL administration and additionally will be in charge of the Environmental Levy program.

Melanie Craig has been volunteering here one half day per week and contributed her excellent mapping and data management skills as well as her valuable experience from working with Greening Australia previously. Mel has now been offered a number of paid hours to get our database up and running and other office tasks.

Kara has kindly offered to write project applications for us in the future on a contract basis.

The CHRL office will be open Mondays to Thursdays, closed on Friday. With a *significant* reduction of funding support from the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority and no details about this yet available, the support we can offer to our volunteers will be reduced unfortunately. We are working on funded projects and try to fit in as much of the day-to-day support work as possible. The Executive will step up their workload and our members will need to reduce their expectations unfortunately.

CMA Community Support under the new regime

Negotiations with the Northern Rivers CMA are coming close to a conclusion and they include announcements of small grants as well as large targeted funding for the coming period to end of May 2014.

We will be in separate communication with our members soon to let you know what the outcomes are.

Environmental Trust Grant for Friends of Coffs Creek

Elisabeth and the Friends of Coffs Creek were successful with an application to the NSW Environmental Trust for "Protecting the endangered ecological communities of Coffs Creek".

The project will run over a period of 3 years, remove weeds over 2.3 ha of land, plant 350 trees and remove large dead Camphor laurel trees. The Endangered Ecological Communities (EEC's) are Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest and Swamp Sclerophyll Forest on coastal floodplain. And they are habitat for the endangered koala and squirrel glider. The major weeds which will be targeted are Mile-a-minute, Camphor laurel and Madeira Vine.

These funds will enable good contractor support for the volunteers working here.

New Landcare Group

A new group of enthusiastic landcarers has formed at Pacific Villas. They met for the first time for a site induction with Carl Freeman, Mark Watt and Pia Dollmann last Saturday and 10 new CHRL members signed up.

All are neighbours and they are interested in working in the Regional Park on the eastern side of their property, starting with weed control, as we do.

The area is described as Charlesworth Forest by NPWS and contains a nice remnant of littoral rainforest as well as other coastal vegetation. Wayne Judd is the group coordinator.





Workshops – Past & Future

Past: Bush Regeneration Techniques Workshop

Thanks to some great publicity by local radio presenter Simon Hodges on 2HC FM, Aaron Hartley, from the Coffs Harbour City Council Bush Regeneration Team, had a fabulous turnout for his Bush Regeneration Techniques Workshop on July 10th.



Future: Chemical users certificate - 20th & 27th September

This training course will provide certification for the use of herbicides and pesticides. Particular attention will be on safety and legislative requirements.

The training provider is EnviTE and the emphasis is on bush regeneration.

Numbers are limited to 10 people and participation is only open to those people who have applied for approval under the *CHRL Volunteer Herbicide Spraying Policy*. Please contact the office if you would like to take advantage of this opportunity.

Future: Weeds and Native Plants look-a-likes 27th November 2013



Balloon Vine



Slender Grape *Cayratia clematidea*

This workshop will help participants learn to spot the difference between a number of native plants and their weed look-a-likes that commonly occur in the Coffs area. A “must” for those people looking to refine their plant I.D. skills. Numbers are limited to 25 people.

Presenter : John Ross. Time: 9.30 – 12.30

Location: To be advised



This year's State Landcare Forum is held in Newcastle and, as always, the program is packed with very interesting and thought-provoking presentations and discussions. Keynote Speaker is Coasta Georgiadis. “Coasta is an eco-visionary who is always focused on the big picture - the interplay of the micro and the macro. Life is all about the aperture setting, from macro lens close up to 18mm wide-angle fish eye view of the big picture. For Coasta soil and water are central to absolutely everything and their availability and sustainability is of the utmost global importance.”

Day 1: Governance issues, social media and aboriginal activities and presentations by landcare award winners.

Day 2: Fields trips to the Hunter Valley, the famous Kooragang Wetlands, the coast and by bicycle as well as activities in traditional aboriginal basket weaving, Waterwatch and workshops on social media.

Day 3: Hands-on experiences, Future Directions and Landcare Youth engagement.

Of particular interest to Coffs Harbour landcarers is probably the presentation about the Lake Macquarie Landcare model. This is similar to what we have here, with Council supporting landcare very strongly.

See <http://landcarecmaforum.com.au/index.php> for more information.

New Minister Appointments under Rudd Government

With Kevin Rudd's return to the Prime Ministership on June 26th, came changes to the Ministry. Of particular note to Landcare are the appointments of Mark Butler and Joel Fitzgibbon.

Mark Butler now has responsibility for Climate Change and Environment, Water and Heritage, with Joel Fitzgibbon now the Minister for Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry.



The Hon. Mark Butler was most recently the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing (from



September 2010 to July 2013). His electorate is Port Adelaide.

Previously the Hon. Joel Fitzgibbon was Minister of Defence from December 2007 to June 2009. What may surprise you is that he is actually a local boy – having been born in Bellingen. His electorate is the Hunter.



You can find more information about either of them, including recent speeches, at

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members

Landcare Webinar

'Regenerating Australia's Soil Health'

A webinar is a seminar via the web. You can join Allan Savory, founder of Holistic Management, for an intensive seminar and learn how you can apply Holistic Management to your current or future enterprise.

Holistic Management is a decision-making framework used worldwide that mimics patterns in nature to pro-actively use herbivores to regenerate grasslands, watersheds and rural community integrity.

- Currently over 40 million hectares of land are managed using Holistic Management techniques worldwide.
- Holistic Management was recently identified by the Australian government as a key approved technique for soil carbon sequestration.

With recent market developments, it's also increasingly clear in Australia that an enterprise based on grass-fed stock makes sound financial sense from every angle.

Presenters: Allan Savory & Brett de Hayr

Date: Friday, 16th of August 2013

Time: 12pm - 1pm AEST

To register, go to:

<http://www.webcasts.com.au/nlf160813/index.php?enter>

New Projects coming up

Kara was successful with three funding application under the Community Landcare Grants in the Caring for our Country Program:

1. Building skills for multi-scale sustainable land management – to deliver up to 10 seminars/workshops to improve skills and knowledge of farmers and landcarers on topics such as landcare groups' communication and enthusiasm, creating native bee habitat, native grasses, compost making, small scale poultry farming and more.
2. Property Planning for improved land management on horse properties.
3. Erosion control for banana and blueberry farms.

We will promote these workshops and programs as soon as possible, when we have some concrete timeframes in place.



Coffs Creek Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Project

This project was developed by Jay Skinner, CMA Aboriginal Project officer, when he was working in the CHRL office one day per week. He experienced a very serious accident and left Coffs Harbour after his recovery for family reasons. Pia accepted responsibility for this project and has now brought it to fruition after intensive consultation with the Coffs Harbour Aboriginal community.

The outcomes are:

- A new sign to be placed at Fitzroy Oval to commemorate the Aboriginal camp that used to be there and near the cemetery until 1955.



- An Aboriginal community vision for Coffs Creek, spelling out the community's cultural values and traditional attachment to the catchment and ideas for the future.

The sign will be unveiled and the vision / plan launched at a morning tea on the 21st of August at Fitzroy Oval at 10 am.

The plan has many supporting documents, with information about the plants and animals in the catchment as well as the aboriginal history of the place. All of these will be hosted on the CHRL website soon.

Vale to our landcare heroes

(Cameron) John (Jack) Lee, known also as "JC"

John was a poet as well as a landcarer, working to care for Sawtell's dunal forest strip, waging war on bitou bush, mother-of-millions and other weeds. John was growing and planting pandanus and collecting seeds for propagation were one of his favourite interests.

"My ancient beach" by Jack Lee

The overarching vault of peerless blue sky
the metamorphic tongue of blackened rock
lancing the beach of spangling brightness
to islands beyond the surf
now rookeries for tern and gull
the pineapple pandanus standing stark
its roots tracking nutrients and water
as it leaches back to sea

Crackling waves kiss the beach today
swirling round the polished pebbles
which I sample for my Shinto garden
the search for tranquility in my life
comes closer to fruition here
and like some druid admiring nature
I leave offering by takink rubbish away
pulling out weeds and starting out
a host of young pandanus
to reach out and touch the sky

Jack Lawson

Jack was an important member of a number of environmental groups in Coffs for more than 30 years.

He was at the first meeting for the Botanic Gardens which was in 1981 when the Friends of North Coast Regional Botanic Gardens was formed. Jack helped with constructing 3 km of track in those initial stages and remained very involved and committed to the Gardens all his life.

In 1992 there were meetings to restore Coffs Creek and every organisation in Coffs seem to have part of this project as well as many individuals. Jack was chairman of the sub committee of community groups to build a track along the creek and this must have been an enormous job and very time-consuming.

Jack was one of a small number of regular volunteers getting rid of lantana, cassias and camphor laurels along the 10km of track and together with Frank Kennedy was the mainstay of the group for many years. Jack remained a regular volunteer until well into his 80's passing on his knowledge and experience, rarely missing a working bee.

As well as Coffs Creek and the Botanic Gardens, he and some neighbours also worked very hard in the dunes at Park Beach near to where he lived. As he got older he was less hands-on but kept a close eye on this bit of bush, contacting council if he thought something needed attention and continued to apply for environmental levies. Like so many he just got on with the job and achieved a great deal. He will be greatly missed. (Rosemary Watkins)

Barry Hallgath, Nana Glen

Barry served on the Orara Management Committee for 16 years and he led by example in the way he managed his own property, which had been in his family for generations. Barry was the backbone of his community for decades.

Botanica and Sustainable Living Festival

Coffs Harbour City Council is combining with the Friends of the Botanic Gardens again for a week of events and workshops. The week begins with the Botanica Festival at the Gardens on Sunday, 3rd November and the program for the rest of the week is still evolving.

The 2013 Coffs Coast Sustainable Living Festival will be an inspirational celebration of all things sustainable.



The Festival aims to engage and inspire you to live more sustainably through a range of engaging and fun activities including performances, stalls, presentations, workshops, open days, food, children's activities and art.

The Festival focuses on all areas of sustainable living including healthy lifestyles, ethical choices, energy saving, backyard biodiversity, local food, water and waste.

Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare will be there together with the Orara River Rehabilitation and Jaliigirr Projects.

Check the website for the program as it develops:
<http://www.ourlivingcoast.com.au/events/slf/>

Insect repellent clothing for Volunteers

Volunteers working in the Coffs Coast Regional Park are now supplied with insect repellent clothing to protect them from exposure to tick bite in particular. Overalls and socks are available in all sizes at the Landcare office, so please come and collect them for yourself and your fellow workers.



Working in the bush can expose you to a number of health issues and tick-borne diseases are the major concern in this decision.

Coffs Harbour City Council has also provided funds for CHRL to purchase appropriate clothing for those volunteers working on Council-managed lands and we are in the process of organizing that.

Bush regenerators report that they have not been bitten by any ticks at all since they are wearing these

cloths. The insect repellent lasts through 70 washes.

Solar uptake dents electricity market

The latest report from Australia's Climate Commission shows Australians have become very adept at saving on their electricity bills by installing solar panels at an extraordinary rate.



The Climate Commission's Solar Energy report found more than 10 per cent of Australians, or 2.5 million people, use solar power for their homes. It found there are now more than one million rooftop solar systems in Australia, up from just 8000 in 2007, with most uptake in the mortgage belt suburbs of Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria.

Climate Commission chief Professor Tim Flannery has called the expansion "a solar revolution".

"The things that have happened over the last five years in solar and in Australia weren't anticipated by anyone," he said.

"If you look at the government projections as to how the solar industry was going to develop, they were suggesting it would grow to the point it is now only by 2030."

Professor Flannery said it was just the beginning, with solar thermal power the next frontier in the renewable energy revolution. (*Eco News* # 495)

Young Australians' election issues

Can't help but insert at least one topic about the upcoming elections here, the results of a survey of 806 young Australians aged 18 – 25: Which issues will most influence how they vote?

- 1 Jobs for young people
- 2 Rent and housing
- 3 University funding
- 4 Same-sex marriage
- 5 Climate change
- 6 Youth allowance
- 7 NBN
- 8 Superannuation
- 9 Bulk-billing of doctor visits

Source: Australia Institute poll



Bee crisis a threat to world food production

A leading international bee expert who has teamed with local beekeepers and experts has been awarded nearly \$600,000 to help combat a global decline in bee health that threatens world food production.



The University of Western Australia's Professor Boris Baer and his team will undertake research that will help to protect not only bees but also the production of food for humans. Australian Research Council Future Fellow Professor Baer said bees, managed and feral, pollinate about one-third of everything we eat. At the same time bees around the world are under threat.

"The United States has lost more than 10 million hives over the past six years and is having problems securing crop pollination," Professor Baer, of UWA's Centre for Integrative Bee Research (CIBER), said.

"Here in Australia, beekeepers report increasing problems in coping with diseases such as American foul brood, hive beetle and the parasitic fungi Nosema.

"The arrival of the main villain, the Varroa mite, is expected in the coming decade and will have a catastrophic effect on our honeybees.

"We need about 750,000 hives to pollinate our crops but we currently have only about 500,000 managed colonies.

The research team at CIBER, with partners including the Australian bee industry and international collaborators, aims to intensify research into honeybee reproduction, immunity and ecology.

The goal is to better understand honeybees to spare Australia from the dramatic losses encountered everywhere else in the world.

Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare will look at Australian native bees in a presentation hopefully offered during the Botanica festival – the role of native bees in the pollination of local plants, how to protect and how to promote them.

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Landcare Week 2nd to 8th September

We are not ready for Landcare Week.... It was decided at last week's General Meeting to combine our end-of-year social event with our local landcare awards (Eileen Moody and Dee Wallace Memorials) and hold a celebration in mid November at a location near Coffs Creek.

The Eileen Moody Memorial Award has been presented every year since 1995 to individual landcarers for their outstanding contribution and dedication to landcare and the Dee Wallace Memorial award will be presented for the second time this year to celebrate a landcare group's achievements.

We will call for nominations soon.

Here are some statistics about Landcare in NSW:

There are now 2605 landcare groups in NSW with 58,003 members and twice as many of these groups work on public land than do on privately owned land.

Remnant vegetation preservation is the most common activity of groups, followed by weed control and revegetation. 74 % of NSW groups are involved with on-ground works. The Hawkesbury Nepean CMA region has the highest percentage of landcare groups (36%), Hunter/Central Rivers 21 % and the Northern Rivers (where we are) has the third highest percentage of all groups (17%).

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE AN ARTICLE TO
THE NEXT "BUSH TO BEACH NEWS", CONTACT THE
CHRL OFFICE ON 6651 1308 OR EMAIL
CHRL@WESTNET.COM.AU**



Worksite Updates

Ararawarra Coastcare Site: Volunteers working monthly on littoral rainforest at the southern end of Corindi Beach. Contact David Bryant 6649 2825.

Bandicoot Hollow Landcare: A new group looking after a reserve behind Cotswold Close Coffs Harbour. Contact the CHRL office for more info.

Bundagen Landcare: A new sub-group has just started in the Bundageree village that will be focusing on revegetating the creek that passes through the village.

Crystal Waters Landcare Site: Volunteers are working with National Parks in Coffs Coast Regional Park at Sapphire Beach – maintaining the dunes and wetlands. Contact: Tim and Jennie 6656 4158.

CHRL Nursery: A dedicated bunch of plant enthusiasts meeting each Wednesday and Thursday. Contact Doug Prendergast 6654 7421.

Eastern Dorrigo Landcare Site: The group continues to work on riparian zones, both on public & private land. The group will assist local landowners who were successful in gaining funds from CMA. Contact Lindy Davis 6654 5313.

Friends of Coffs Creek: Meet 1st and 3rd Saturdays from 9-12, Mondays 8-2.30, Tues 8-2.30, and Thurs 8-11. Ph Elisabeth Edwards for more information 6651 5380.

Jarrett Creek Landcare Site: The group continues its great work at Woopi (despite frequent flooding!). Looking for more members to join. Contact Leah Sjoberg 6654 7942.

Jetty Dunecare Group Inc: Are continuing their bush regeneration work in the Jetty area. Volunteers meet Tuesdays and Saturdays from 7.30am. Contact Jane Ireland for more information 6652 4389.

Karangi Landcare Group: Meet monthly to weed areas around the Cemetery. Contact Ron Smith 66538249

Karangi Public School: Karangi School students continue to work along Karangi creek each fortnight.

Kinchela Landcare Site: A new group looking for members to meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Contact Helen Lawrence 6653 2015.

Korora Basin Landcare Site: Meet every six weeks, alternating between public and private land. Contact Kris Hely 6653 6781.

Korora Dunecare Site: Looking for new members to work on Korora's foreshore. Contact Michael Pitt 6653 7557.

Mullawarra Dunecare Site: Meeting on the last Saturday of the month. Contact Roger Jennings 6654 1203.

Nana Glen Landcare Group: Are currently working at the Nana Glen Oval. Working bee every second Saturday. Contact Larry Langman 6654 3965.

→ New: Pacific Villas Charlesworth Landcare
This very new group met with the Regional Park ranger Mark Watt and field officer Carl Freeman as well as Pia Dollmann for CHRL for the first time on Saturday, 3 August. The group has yet to decide on a regular work day and a strategy for their site at Charlesworth Forest. Group contact is Wayne Judd, ph 66515 208.

Park Beach Dunecare Site: Volunteers meet on Fridays at 9am between the Hoey Moey and the Bowling Club. Contact Rosemary on 6652 5940 or Judy on 6651 7691.

Red Rock Landcare: A very active group meeting frequently at various locations around Red Rock. Contact Rose & Vern Treilibs 0418 112 390.

Safety Beach Dunecare Site: The group is having monthly working bees and working closely with National Parks staff.

Sandy Beach Dunecare: An enthusiastic group meeting regularly at Sandy Beach. Contact Peta Fairbairn 6656 2255.



Sapphire Reserve Landcare Group: An active group with activity centered around White Bluff. Contact Greg Robinson 6653 7118.

Sawtell Community Bushcare: Group meets on Sundays, usually around 9am. Any new volunteers that would like to join contact Charlie England 6658 1622.

Sawtell Dunecare: Continue to remove weeds, plant local natives & remove man-made rubbish from the beach. Contact Les & Heather Fairey 6653 1770.

Serenity Landcare: Volunteers regularly working along Serenity Beach, Look at me now Headland, and Emerald beach. Contact Karina Rothacker 66561895

Woolgoolga Main Beach Dunecare: Are continuing their good work with working bees carried out every Monday and Wednesday from 8am to 12 on the dunes. Looking for new members. Contact Gerard Nolan 6656 0929.

Woolgoolga Back Beach Dunecare: Working bees are held on the second Sunday of each month, 8-11am, meeting at the back beach picnic area at the end of High St. Contact Alex Groot 6654 2833

Please note: The information about dates for group activities is sourced from your membership & group activities forms, if it is not correct please let CHRL know, phone 6651 1308 or email chrl@westnet.com.au

We appreciate your contributions to this column.



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Coffs Harbour City Council, Recreational
Services Operational Technical Officer:
Jeff Holmes 6648 4541

OEH Coffs Coast Regional Park Ranger:
Mark Watt 6652 0928

Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare Inc.

Bush to Beach News

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