

Bush to Beach News

Important Dates:

Coffs Coast Weeds Expo	21 st May
Emerald Beach Fair	26 th May
Orara Valley Fair & Weeds Book Launch	10 th June
2013 NSW Landcare Awards Nominations	30 th June
Bush Regeneration Techniques Workshop	10 th July

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President's Report



Hello Landcarers,

For all of you who had young trees in the ground hasn't the autumn weather been fantastic? Beats carting water, and of course half an inch of mother nature's best drop does much more than running a hose all night.

I hope you all survived the recent Eastern Low (Cyclone) both personally and at your Landcare worksites. Any vegetation that survived that last wind would have to be considered pretty sound, I reckon.

The partners involved in the Jalligirr Alliance – 'Connecting communities and cultures through corridors' recently enjoyed a get-together to meet one another and find out a little more about the complexities of the project. I wasn't able to get along due to a prior engagement, but from all accounts it was a very successful event. I know Kara and Larry both attended as well as Craig, of course, who is now the Project Officer, so if you want to know a little more about the project, direct your questions to them.

Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare is once again included in Council's recommended Environmental Levy Projects for 2013-2014. Council will now include the recommendation in the Management Plan which will soon be out on public exhibition. The Plan then needs to be approved at the last meeting of June. That will enable the great Landcare work that all you volunteers do to continue for another year.

We are fortunate indeed to live in a Council area that has an Environmental Levy because the State Govt. is still mucking about with the Local Land Service (LLS) model, and everything is still up in the air regarding State Govt. funding. Judging by the following comment taken from a recent letter from Minister Hodgkinson, they have a fair way to go yet to fully comprehend the costs involved in maintaining Landcare CSOs like Kara in our communities.

"I note Mr's concerns about the continuation of Community Support Officers and Landcare groups under Local Land Services. The NSW Government has recognised the long standing commitment of Landcare volunteers and the role they play in

helping to sustain landscapes through an election commitment to provide \$500,000 per annum over the four years 2011-12 to 2014-15."

Given that the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority budgeted twice that amount, \$1million annually for its CSO and AEPO programs in one region alone, you can see we've a fair way to go yet to ensure our CSOs will remain in the community.

On the same subject, I had the opportunity recently to address both the Woolgoolga Rotary and Daybreak Rotary Clubs on Landcare. I gave them the history and spoke of some of the local successes of our uniquely Australian idea, and then went on to talk about the State Govt's change of direction. The audience was mystified by what they were hearing and requested information that I happily provided so they could write letters to the relevant politicians on our behalf.

After many of you made significant contributions to the final product, you'll also no doubt be pleased to learn the Northern Rivers Catchment Action Plan 2013-2023 (CAP2) was approved by the Minister for Primary Industries on 2 April 2013. It will be the Region's key natural resources management plan that identifies priorities for maintaining and improving the health of the Region's natural resources, together with identifying how the community can contribute to these priorities.

In March, Kara and I attended the very successful North Coast Landcare Forum and Awards held in Yamba. There was a very busy program of keynote speakers and concurrent sessions, with the standout for me being Jerry Brunetti's presentation. The subject of his talks follows my report.

Landcare continues to be a significant contributor to the local economy in Coffs Harbour. The office is still a hive of activity every day, even though Kara has reduced her hours by the equivalent of one day a week, so as to make sure the office can remain operational through the period July 1, 2013 to January 1, 2014 when Local Land Services starts. By then we hope questions of future levels of State Govt funding will be sorted, and we can get on with what we all do best, 'caring for our country'.

Cheers for now, Happy Landcaring.

Rod



Jerry Brunetti was one of the speakers at the recent **Regional Landcare Forum** held in Yamba. He is an internationally recognised speaker on topics that include soil fertility, animal nutrition, livestock health and human health.

Prior to launching Agri-Dynamics, Jerry studied Animal Science at North Carolina State University and then moved to western Virginia to run a cow/calf operation. He served as Regional Dairy Director of the National Farmers Organization in the Northeast for five years. Amongst many other positions Jerry is currently on the board of Pennsylvania Association of Sustainable Agriculture.

Following are brief summaries of the talks that Jerry gave at the Regional Landcare Forum in March. *(Information on Jerry and his presentations is borrowed from ACRES USA.)*

Soil as a Superorganism

Biological systems are responsible for making the wealth that we call the soil. Eco-farmers tend to fixate on the quantifiable subjects of mineral balance, levels of biological activity, etc. But there are large numbers of species of microlife with unknown roles in the soil. When isolated for study, they lose their functionality. Likewise, we can quantify the mineral levels in soil, plants and animals, but do not understand how they function in combination with the biology of the soil. Ecosystems are much larger than we can conceive, and they spawn the alchemical magic that we can only witness. Drawing from the wisdom of Kervran and others, Brunetti explores and pays homage to the superorganism that we call soil.

Food as Medicine

The real attribute of farm production: its superior healthfulness. The health and vitality contained in the fresh, nutrient-dense production of a farm offers benefits no supermarket can touch -- and consumers are willing not only to pay, but to travel to farms to buy from them. Jerry Brunetti, a livestock nutraceutical specialist, weaves traditional and cutting-edge knowledge to make the case that farmers are the doctors of the future. Growing isn't enough -- learn how to sell the benefits of what you grow. Don't talk about eggs, talk about omega fats, fat-soluble vitamins, lecithin, enzymes, vitamin A

levels, and more. Understand the nutrient-dense components in the food you produce, and the history behind them.

13 Steps to Optimal Livestock Productivity

Whether dairy or beef, a healthy herd begins in such keystone concepts as biodiversity on the farm, acid/alkali balance in feedstuffs, forage quality, and more. Eco-consultant and livestock feed specialist Jerry Brunetti details 13 keynotes essential for a successful livestock operation. He explains the laws of nature in terms farmers can embrace, and doles out specific steps you can utilize on your farm right away.



Catchment Action Plan (CAP) - Update

Minister for Primary Industries, the Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP, approved the Northern Rivers Catchment Action Plan 2013-23 on 2 April 2013. The NR CAP is one of five recently approved by the Minister. The NRCMA Board is delighted with this news and congratulates all involved.

NRCMA staff will now commence negotiations with their many partners and interested parties to begin implementing the plan and achieving its outcomes. The Board regards this as an achievement in which the whole community can approach with a sense of involvement, satisfaction and pride. The NRCMA looks forward the future together.

WORKSHOPS – PAST & FUTURE

First Aid Certification

On the 26th and 27th of March, CHRL provided the opportunity for volunteers to receive free training and certification in First Aid – presented by St. John's Ambulance.

The workshop was a great success, with 13 of our members becoming certified in applying First Aid. Considering the hazards that our volunteers come into contact with on a daily basis, it is important that each of our Landcare Sites has at least one volunteer with this certification.

If you missed out on this round, and would like to be put on a list for future First Aid training please contact the CHRL office.

A big thank you to Fraser from St John's Ambulance and to the volunteers who took time out of their busy schedules to attend this important training.



Ron Smith receives some quality First Aid from fellow trainees Vern Treilibs, Rose Treilibs and Leah Sjoberg.

Riparian Plant ID

CHRL ventured into the Upper Orara Valley for its recent Riparian Plant ID Workshop, presented by John Ross and Judy Davies.

Some 25 people turned up to learn about riparian processes, common native and weed plant species to be found along river and creek banks, and how vegetation affects the invertebrate (bug) life in those waterways.

After presentations by John and Judy (and a yummy morning tea), the group headed over to Cochran's Pool to see real-life examples of what they learned about that morning.

Thank you to John and Judy for sharing your considerable knowledge, and to Craig Stehn, the Coffs Harbour City Council's Jaliigirr Project Officer, who co-hosted the day with CHRL.

Bush Regeneration Techniques Workshop

Once again CHRL will be hosting its annual Bush Regeneration Techniques Workshop – this time to be held on the 10th of July.

Aaron Hartley, from the Coffs Harbour City Council Bush Regeneration Team, will be presenting the workshop sharing his incredible store of knowledge and experience about plants and their identification, weed control techniques, and bush regeneration in general.

This workshop is a must-do for new members, as you will be learning skills from one of the best in the business – and all for free! Existing members who would like to brush up on their technique are also encouraged to come along.

For further details and to register, contact the CHRL office on 6651 1308.

WHAT LANDCARERS ARE DOING AT... KINCHELA

You may remember that a year ago we were welcoming a new Landcare Site to CHRL – Kinchela Landcare. Well, what a difference a year makes...

Since forming, the group has been going from strength to strength... Site coordinator Helen Lawrence, together with the rest of the site's volunteers, has tirelessly pursued the weed control and re-vegetation of the nature reserve between Kinchela Avenue and Lady Belmore Drive, Toormina.

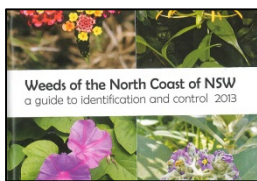
As a result, the group has successfully removed much of the invasive weed from the gully and around the "lake" area, and planted numerous trees and ground covers (with some much-appreciated help from Aaron Hartley).

Congratulations, Kinchela Landcare, on such a successful start to your group – may you have many productive years of Landcaring to come!



Site coordinator Helen Lawrence and one of the Kinchela Landcare volunteers tend to plantings on their site

NEW RESOURCES



Weeds of the North Coast of NSW

At long last, the project CHRL started back in 2011, originally designed to produce an updated version of "The Attack of the Killer Weeds" is nearly complete.

The end result has been the production of a new and improved booklet called **"Weeds of the North Coast of NSW: a guide to identification and control 2013"**. With 84 pages of weed identification and control information, this booklet is sure to be a useful reference for volunteers and landholders all along the mid-north coast.

CHRL would like to congratulate Project Officer Pia Dollmann on a job (extremely) well done! An official launch of the booklet will be held at the Orara Valley Fair on 10 June 2013, but you can drop into the CHRL office to pick up your copy today!

Atlas of Living Australia

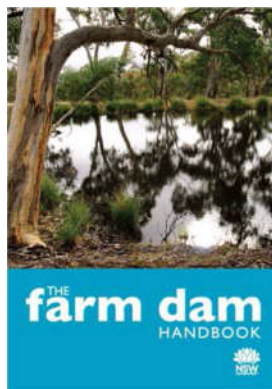


If you would like to know more about the plants and animals you see while you are Landcaring, there is a new resource for you called the "Atlas of Living Australia."

This Atlas is a partnership of Australian Museums, Herbaria and other biological collections, and contains information on all the known species in Australia. At last count this included observations of over 35 million species.

For more information, check out the website:
www.ala.org.au

The Farm Dam Handbook



A healthy farm dam is important for keeping stock healthy and providing water for farming properties. It also provides a valuable habitat for local wildlife.

This book has loads of useful advice for keeping your dam in good condition to enhance the health of your property. It's a practical resource for landholders on small or large properties.

Download a copy by going to <http://www.sca.nsw.gov.au/publications/publications/farm-dam-handbook> or to order a free copy call 1300 SCA GOV (1300 722 468) or email info@sca.nsw.gov.au.

Australian CliMate App/Website



Australian CliMate is a free iPhone and iPad application and website that has climate records for the past 60 years (including rainfall, temperature, radiation and more). It can help farmers who rely on weather events use these records to analyse weather probabilities to help with farm decisions.

A number of questions can be posed using the app, such as:

- ✿ How does this season compare to past seasons?
- ✿ What is the probability that rainfall will be higher/lower than past averages?

For more information visit the website:
<http://www.australianclimate.net.au/>



2013 NSW State Landcare Awards

NSW Landcarers are encouraged to submit a nomination for the 2013 NSW Landcare Awards.

The renowned Awards, now in their 23rd year, honour the invaluable work that is undertaken by the Landcare community, with the winners from NSW Awards going forward as finalists to the prestigious National Landcare Awards in 2014.

There are nine categories, covering a range of environmental projects and themes. Individuals, schools, community groups and networks can be nominated.

The 2013 Landcare Awards Categories are:

- Individual Landcarer Award
- Partnerships with Landcare Award
- Innovation in Sustainable Farm Practices Award
- Landcare Facilitator or Coordinator Award
- Coastcare Award
- Qantas Landcare Innovative Community Group Award
- Westpac Agribusiness Innovative Young Landcare Leader Award
- Junior Landcare Team Award
- Indigenous Land Management Award

There is also a tenth category - the NSW People's Choice Award. This is a popular poll organised by Landcare Australia to which all NSW Landcare Award applications will be entered. (Please note that the winner of the People's Choice will not go forward to the National Awards unless they win in their original category).

The entry form and a brochure outlining the criteria for category are available on the CHRL website, or from the CHRL office. Completed nominations must be submitted by Sunday, 30 June 2013 to the NSW Awards Coordinator, Colleen Farrow (email: colleen.farrow@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

Celebrate and acknowledge the great successes and contributors in our landcare community and nominate!!

WANTED: Indian Myna Volunteers

The new Indian Myna Project Officer, David Hitchcock, has hit the ground running – with a "Report a Roost" day occurring on the 21st of February and his first committee meeting on 9 April.

David reported to the committee that there are still some "hot spots" for Myna activity in the area that could really use some volunteer trappers.

In particular, these areas were identified as west Coffs (Shepherds Lane), Sandy Beach, and Bellingen keys. If you or someone you know would like to be involved in trapping Indian Mynas in these areas, contact David Hitchcock on Ph: 0438 218 261, or email indianmyna_midnorthcoast@yahoo.com.au

Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'em...



"It isn't pollution that's harming the environment. It's the impurities in our air and water that are doing it."

--Al Gore, Former US Vice President



"We've got to pause and ask ourselves: How much clean air do we need?"

--Lee Iacocca

Landcare Is For Everyone (L.I.F.E.)



Hopefully by now you have seen the Landcare Australia campaign ad on telly with the new theme of "L.I.F.E. – Landcare Is For Everyone." If you have missed it, you can watch it by going to <http://landcarelife.com/>.

Landcare Australia would also like you to share your story with them on their website. This might be about a particularly interesting project you completed, a successful event you ran, or a volunteer who has an interesting story to tell.

To submit a story to this section, you need to complete an online form. You need a title for your story, a photo or video (that is on YouTube) to illustrate your story, and a maximum of 300 words to tell your story. All stories submitted will go to Landcare Australia for approval before they are published online.

To see LIFE Stories go to:

<http://landcarelife.com/share/life-stories/category/photos/>

And to add your LIFE story go to:

<http://landcarelife.com/share/share-your-life-story>

Coastal Plant Propagation

While it's true that Autumn and Winter are seasons of dormancy for many of our native plants, it is also the time of year when many set their seed.

Recent workshops held at the Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare Nursery about plant propagation may have you keen to be involved in growing native plants for your site.

There are important guidelines about seed collection that must be followed to ensure that seed collection is lawful, responsible and ecologically sustainable.

For example when collecting:

- ✿ The parent plant must be positively identified
- ✿ Seed should be collected from at least 10 widely spaced, healthy parent plants
- ✿ Nesting sites and other animal habitats must not be disturbed
- ✿ No more than 20% of the fruit from any one plant should be removed

For full guidelines, refer to the **Florabank Model Code of Practice for Community Based Collectors and Suppliers of Native Plant Seed** (copies can be obtained from the CHRL office).

Some of the local native plants that are fruiting now are listed below:

Botanical Name	Common Name	Fruit Ripe
Cryptocarya triplinervis	Three-veined Laurel	Feb – May
Ficus macrophylla	Morton Bay Fig	Feb – May
Syzygium smithii (syn Acmena smithii)	Lillypilly	Apr – Sep
Syzygium australe	Brush Cherry	Dec – Jun
Syzygium oleosum	Blue Lillypilly	Mar – Sep
Melaleuca quinquenervia	Broadleaf paperbark	Spring – Autumn
Pittosporum undulatum	Sweet pittosporum	Feb – Aug



Botanical Name	Common Name	Fruit Ripe
Scaevola calandulaceae	Fan Flower	May – July
Melaleuca nodosa	Yellow paperbark	Spring – Autumn
Persoonia conifolia	Geebung	Feb – May
Canavalia rosea	Beach Bean	Feb – May
Stephania japonica	Snake Vine or Tape Vine	Mar - Jun

Some of these seeds require special techniques before they will propagate. The volunteers at the CHRL Nursery are a great resource for information about seed storage and propagation, and are always happy to accept seed donations for propagation for a specific group, or for the CHRL Nursery in general.

Remember, if you plan to collect seed be sure to read and follow the Florabank guidelines, and if you have any questions don't hesitate to contact the CHRL office.

Certificate IV in Horticulture (Organic Studies)

North Coast Institute of TAFE at the CHEC campus in Coffs Harbour delivers a Cert 4 in Horticulture (organic studies) and has some places for next semesters intake in July.

Over the last 15 years the course has taught small farmers, people working in the industry, back yard gardeners aiming for self-sufficiency and "sea changers" who are trying to optimise the potential of their new property.

The course is one day a week on a Wednesday with topics ranging from soil health, organic soil improvement, organic pest, disease and weed control, farm planning, pastures and animal health together with practical skills gained in the field.

Course Fees apply and for more information email Ian.Hazell@det.nsw.edu.au or call CHEC campus on 6659 3000.

Testimonial - Sally Ayre-Smith

"We have just harvested our third commercial organic garlic crop – we anticipate it will weigh in around 3.5 tons.

We are now one of the bigger fully certified organic garlic farms on the mid north coast of NSW.

Five years ago we moved here from the city never having farmed before. After one year we started the organic conversion. None of this would have happened without the opportunity to attend the Organic Farming course at TAFE in Coffs Harbour.

Ian Hazell ran this course and inspired and encouraged us all to understand the fundamentals of organic farming and then put them into practise. We have achieved this using all the skills that I acquired on this course – I can't recommend it more highly to anyone wanting to start a new life in organic farming."

(Article contributed by Simon Proust, NRCMA)



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.

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

Karangie Public School: Karangie School students continue to work along Karangie 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.

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



Contacts

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Northern Rivers CMA: 6653 0150

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OEH Coffs Coast Regional Park:
Mark Watt 6652 0928

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Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare Inc.

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