



Bush to Beach



Important Dates:

Office closure	23 Dec to 10 Jan
General Meeting	3 Feb 2016
CHRL Executive Meeting	10 Feb 2016

President's report

Here it is December already and another year has flown by. Although it seems to have gone quickly it has also been very productive. Our volunteer numbers have continued to grow slowly while much on-ground work has been carried out to the benefit of our local environment.



This newsletter is an important link not only with our Landcare members but also the wider community. Our local member, Andrew Fraser rang me to ask a question after receiving our spring edition and I was both surprised and pleased to talk with him. If you know of someone who may be interested in receiving a copy of our newsletter please let Pia know.

I mentioned in my spring report the results of research highlighting the positive psychological and cognitive outcomes of the presence of vegetation in our lives. I think this is reflected in the various reasons put forward as to why we carry out our volunteer landcare work. The social interaction between volunteers is also a very important part of what we do. My group (and I am sure most others) have a lively chat before starting work and no doubt during our work as well.

The Executive and staff continue to work to assist our volunteer base. I attended two training days recently conducted by executive member John Ross and Aaron Hartley from Council. All in attendance were very impressed with their knowledge and ability to share it. As a result we all came away with new knowledge and understanding of our local environment.

Our relationship with our partners, Coffs Harbour City Council and National Parks remains firm and I wish to

particularly thank Aaron Hartley and Lynn Rees for their on-going support and encouragement of volunteers at their respective work sites.

As the festive season approaches we are all looking forward to a break and to spend more time with family and friends. As we know, the weeds will continue to grow during this time and there will be plenty to do when we resume our activities next year.

In conclusion I would like to sincerely thank all our volunteers, executive and staff and wish you all a peaceful and safe festive season.

AND:

I would like to remind volunteers who use Glyphosate from the 1L containers to return them to the office for me to refill in clean condition, particularly the ones containing pink marker dye.

These containers are illegal if the label is not attached, so please make sure it is still attached when used. Any type of sticky tape or masking tape would suffice provided it is not too wide.

Barry

Best wishes for the festive season and the new year

Your friendly Landcare staff Jude, Pia and Mel thank you for your commitment to and support for Coffs Harbour Landcare during this year and we hope that you get to enjoy the natural environments that you protect and restore with your hard work during the year.

It is a pleasure to work for you all, in particular the executive committee, for whom nothing seems to ever be too much trouble.

We are one of very few volunteer organisations with a continuous stream of new members and age doesn't seem to be a problem here either.

Yours in Landcare,

Jude, Pia and Mel



Landcare Training

We held five training workshops recently which were very well received by our members and associates.

Plant Identification with John Ross looked at coastal plants at Park Beach and rainforest trees at Coramba.

As always, John managed to spread his enthusiasm for plants, their detail and role in the ecosystems where they occur, as well as making it easy to notice their identifying features.

For instance, Coastal Fireweed:

“a perennial herb on the dunes often confused with the exotic weed Fireweed (*S. madagariensis*) and mistakenly removed.

- distinguished by the number of involucral bracts or petals (*S. pinnatifolius ssp maritimus* has about 13, *S. madagascariensis* about 20)



At Coramba, the group took most of the day to learn how to use the rainforest identification key.

People worked in groups and started to use features

such as leaf margins, oil dots and fruits to key out the specimens that were provided.

John took the group to the Coramba Nature Reserve on the Orara River, where the original rainforest has miraculously survived until today.



The twisted, slightly pink trunk of Giant Water Gum (*Syzigium francisii*)

Bush Regeneration skills and techniques training was offered by our excellent training talent and ‘movie star’ Aaron Hartley at Park Beach and Macauleys Headland. As always, Aaron made it very easy to remember what to look for and how to do things.



Nursery practices, seed treatments and propagation was discussed and demonstrated by Colin Broadfoot at our Community Nursery in Woolgoolga. We ‘smoked’ Banksia cones and collected seed of the large Blue Quandong in the nursery grounds as well as of the tall and old Swamp Mahogany in the school paddock.

Colin runs a native nursery near Bellingen, ‘Boggy Creek Natives’ and very generously shared his knowledge of the last 35 years of native plant propagation.

Correct naming and labelling of plants was discussed at length and several examples of possible confusions were made. For instance: Swamp Oak and Black She Oak. Do you know which is which?

Swamp Oak was agreed to be *Casuarina glauca* which grows usually along coastal streams and wetlands where it can form pure stands, around wet heath and on exposed headlands. Black She Oak (*Allocasuarina littoralis*) grows on a wide range of sites, but is most common on well-drained soils on hills and mountain slopes. As you can see, there is quite a difference in growing conditions for these two species and why it is important to tell them apart.

Similarly for the two lomandras we use in restoration:

Lomandra hystrix grows along waterways in moist and wet conditions, while *lomandra longifolia* (right) enjoys drier environments, such as sand or dry ridges. When they grow in pots it is almost impossible to tell them apart but they won’t thrive when planted in the wrong place.





National Biological Farming Conference, Lismore

Report by Ron Smith

The conference was convened by Soilcare Inc and held at the Southern Cross University campus at Lismore. Over 400 people from far and wide attended who are involved in a wide range of grazing, farming and horticultural activities.



Biological farming is based on a full and scientific understanding of soil and plant biology and not limited by ideology. It embraces many principles of organic farming.

In managing soils, the principles of biological farming is to achieve the correct biology in the soil to make those nutrients that are present available to the plants. Micro organisms, including bacteria, fungi, nematodes and protozoa process nutrients in the soil and make them available to plants and many of our past farming practices have caused the loss of micro organisms or upset their balance. Simply adding more and more fertiliser does not necessarily improve soil fertility.



One statistic that caught my attention is a graph that showed the worldwide average production per hectare for all of the main food commodities. These production levels had peaked in the year 2000, have been in a constant decline since then and have now reached the level of 1980. The general consensus expressed at the conference is that this is due to declining soil health worldwide.

Southern Cross University have a commercial, modern and well equipped laboratory where soil and plant analysis is carried out at competitive rates. This is a service independent of agricultural fertiliser companies. The video of the conference will be available soon on the Soilcare website.

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Red Rock “Catch of the Day”

Amateur bush regenerator Vern Treilibs set a new PB (personal best) record with this superb 413mm long *Gloriosa superba* (aka glory lily) yam which he captured on the Red Rock main dune using a CHRL crowning tool and some patient handwork.

Biological farming, Wollongbar TAFE

'Biological Farming - The secret to better farming ...biological farmers work with nature, feeding the soil, balancing soil minerals, and tilling soils with a purpose. A safe and sustainable system designed to obtain optimum production.' Gary Zimmer, farmer and author of 'The Biological Farmer'.

Biological Farming TAFE Courses will start in February at Wollongbar TAFE. Dave Forrest will teach the 9 x 4 hour sessions each for Biological Farming.

Starts 10 Feb 2016. TAFE fee: \$ 400 per person.

The courses require 15 students to start.

For more info phone Soilcare on 0448 026230 or email info@soilcare.org.

Jaliigirr News

The Jaliigirr Biodiversity Alliance has produced a farm planning fact sheet which is an excellent resource to set out 'how to identify your most productive land'. It will be available on the CHRL website very soon.

The alliance has received funding through the 25 year of Landcare grant program to present a series of workshops about biodiversity on farms.

Revegetation Techniques will look at a variety of tree guards, species selection, site preparation and maintenance and much more. The tentative date for this is the 24th February 2016.

Managing Biodiversity on the farm will be a workshop about managing remnant native vegetation and paddock trees, wildlife friendly fencing and biodiversity values of the farm. This will be held in April 2016.

The Alliance was successful with an application under the Bush Connect program, funded by the NSW Environmental Trust. This provides \$ 0.5 million over six years for improved connectivity of wildlife habitat in the Bellingen and Coffs Harbour shires at sites determined as part of the application. This project does not have funding for additional sites and/or additional work.





Funding for Landcare

Additional Landcare support funding by the NSW government is due to arrive in local landcare offices soon. This will add paid hours to the landcare officer contracts.

And the National Landcare Program has re-instated small project funding for sustainable agriculture projects this year with a focus on farmers' learning opportunities. The total budget for the grants in this round is \$ 2.2 million.

Landcare staff members and landholders around the country have gone into a frenzy of application writing with letters of support being exchanged everywhere to maximise the chance to get a piece of the pie.

CHRL has submitted two applications—one to support improved targeting of training opportunities for Blueberry and Greenhouse growers and the other for a series of workshops on biological farming for the Coffs Harbour and Bellingen areas. Other organisations submitted ideas for organic grower's workshops, farm gate tours and grazing management courses.

Applications closed on the 7th December and successful projects will be announced in May 2016.

Fingers crossed!

Senior Volunteer Award

Jane Ireland of Jetty Dunecare has won the Mid North Coast Senior Volunteer award of the Year 2015 . She travelled to Port Macquarie to receive the award in October. Jane was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation last week here in Coffs Harbour by the Hon. John George Ajaka, MLC, Minister for Ageing, Disability Services and Multiculturalism, and in his own word also "Minister for Volunteering". Local member Andrew Fraser was also in attendance for this morning tea at the Chill-Out Café in the Community Village, where Jane's friends and fellow Landcarers took the opportunity to honour Jane's commitment to community and environment over so many years.

Jane began by telling her story of her involvement with the Women's Electoral Lobby instrumental in setting up a Women's Refuge in Coffs Harbour. After retiring from teaching at high school level, Jane volunteered to support isolated school children with visits for tutoring at remote outback stations. Jane has been leader of the Jetty Dunecare Group for many years.



Jane has been leader of the Jetty Dunecare Group for many years.

Site News in brief

Kinchela Reserve Landcare site was successful with an application to Coffs Harbour City Council to provide seating in the reserve. Volunteers and visitors here will soon be able to sit down and enjoy the natural vegetation area created here.

Safety Beach volunteers have decided to hold monthly



Working bees on the first Saturday, starting at 8 am. Rangers Lynn Rees and Mark Watt spent some time with the group here, and there are some new members also.

Bandicoot Hollow has become **Pearce Drive Landcare** and the new site coordinator

there is Jeff Alcott. Jeff's family owned this land and Donated a chunk of it for public use when it was subdivided for residential development.



Dolman's Point

Eileen Moody Award winner of 2015, Bill Zimmerman, called the office recently, very distraught. His site at Dolman's Point in Sawtell had been vandalised. Aaron Hartley brought his bush regeneration team and they were joined by Jude and Bry Powells to give 'Zim' a hand with the site and to offer moral support, which was very much appreciated.





C.R.O.P.O. — End of an era

The December issue of “Just Organics”, the journal of the Coffs Regional Organic Producers Organisation, carries the headline: “Merry Christmas and Farewell”.

The president’s message is a farewell message as CROPO has decided to dissolve the organisation due to low membership numbers, rising costs and unsuccessful attempts over time to invigorate the group.

CROPO was established in 1992 and 248 editions of the small journal were produced since then. The journal was always free due to the financial advertising support it received by local businesses. It always had some interesting facts about organic produce, gardening and health as well as yummy recipes.

This means that sadly, the Coffs Coast now doesn’t have an organic producers group as Mid North Coast Organics also ceased operation some time ago. However, consumers are still seeking out tasty food produced without potentially harmful chemicals and we still have organic growers in our region.

The recent open day at Mayfield Farm on the Dorrigo plateau had over 40 visitors interested to see first hand how pork, lamb and free range eggs are produced here in an ethical manner and without chemicals. Local producer markets are also very popular and there is always a shortage of organic produce.



Environmental Levy 2016/17

Jude has made a substantial start on our Environmental Levy application and many of you have submitted your requests for the coming year.

Generally, Council would have opened the 2016/17 Environmental Levy program by calling for applications in October 2015. This year it has been delayed due to a review of the grant process which includes the Environmental Levy .

Our application will be finalised and submitted in the new year and will include training and equipment for our volunteers as well as on-site support, as requested.

Targeted Landcare

North Coast Local Land Services continue to support small Landcare projects in the region with these grants. In the Coffs Harbour area, we have received payments for four projects:

- ◆ Bush regeneration at Treefern Creek
- ◆ Weed Control and supported natural regeneration at Sawtell
- ◆ Riparian weed control and revegetation on private property on Bonville Creek
- ◆ Vegetation Management Planning and Camphor control at Christian Community School, Bonville campus.



This funding also allows us to visit landholders who would like to receive advice and planning for restoration activities on their properties. Please get in touch with the office if you would like to be considered for the next round of funding.



Treefern Creek volunteers





Seeds to be collected during summer

On the coast: Beach Bird's Eye - Seed is ripe when capsule splits revealing the red aril surrounding the black seed.



**Lo-
mandra longifolia:** Seed is ripe when capsules start to open, revealing rice-like seeds.

Coast banksia: Seed is ripe when cones turn chocolate brown and follicles start to open and shed seed.



Tuckeroo: 3-valved capsules are orange yellow when ripe, splitting to expose 3 black seeds surrounded by a fleshy orange aril.



Coastal flax lily:
Fruit is ripe when bright purple.

Riparian and forest species:

Bleeding heart: Fruit is ripe when it turns purple.



Brush cherry: Fruit is ripe when dark pink and soft.

Callicoma: Seed is ripe when it is easily removed from the capsule.



**Green wattle and Sally wattle/
Blackwood:** Pods are mature when they are brown and split open.



Lomandra hystrix: As *L. longifolia*, but ripens later in summer (February).



Female plant with immature seeds (left)

Male plant with flowers (right)

Notice spiky flower heads.



Worksites

The following information about dates for volunteer activities is sourced from your membership & work records forms, if it is not correct please let CHRL know, phone 6651 1308 or email chrl@coffslandcare.org.au

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

Bakker Drive: Volunteers look after the park and the creek area. Contact Robyn Thomson on 0429 032005

Bundagen Landcare: Ando Morrison has taken over the coordination of Landcare work at Bundagen. Please get in touch with him if you want to join in.

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: Dedicated plant enthusiasts who meet each Wed. & Thurs 8-12. Ph: Ian Turnbull 0421 935 923.

Eastern Dorrigo Landcare Site: Work on riparian zones on public & private land. Contact Lindy Davis 6654 5313.

Emerald Beach Dunecare: Meeting on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Contact Elisabeth Nicholson 0434 671 239

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.

Green Bluff Headland: Working on Green Bluff Headland at Moonee Beach. Contact Lindy Davis 0448 651 239

Jarrett Creek Landcare Site: Looking for more volunteers at Woolgoolga to join in. Contact Leah Sjoberg 6654 7942.

Jetty Dunecare Group Inc: Continuing their bush regeneration work in the Jetty area. Meet Tues and Sat from 7.30am. Contact Jane Ireland on 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 Reserve Landcare Site: Meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Ph: Helen Lawrence 6653 2015

Korora Basin Landcare Site: Meet every 1st Sat of the month, alternating between public & private land. Ph: Kris Hely 6653 6781.

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

Nana Glen Landcare Group: Working bee every third Saturday. Contact Peter Franklin 6654 3452.

Pacific Villas Landcare: Working in the Regional Park at Charlesworth Bay. Contact Max Brinsmead 0409870346

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.

Pearce Drive Landcare: This new site incorporates the old Bandicoot Hollow site and also Pearce Drive Reserve which was previously part of the Alcott estate in West Coffs. Jeff Alcott is the site contact. Please contact the CHRL office for further information.

Red Rock Landcare: Various locations around Red Rock. Contact Rose & Vern Treilibs 0418 112 390.

Safety Beach Dunecare: Various worksites around Safety Beach. Meeting 1st Saturday of the month. Contact CHRL office if interested in joining.

Sandy Beach Dunecare: Working bees on Fridays, 8 - 12 at Sandy Beach. Contact Peta Fairbairn 6656 2255.

Sapphire Reserve Landcare: Contact Greg Robinson 0429 922 845 or grob1418@gmail.com Volunteers meet every second Sunday from 8.30 – 10.30am

Sawtell Community Bushcare: Meets on Sundays, approx. 9am. Seeking new volunteers enthusiastic about coastal rainforest. Ph: Charlie England 6658 1622.

Sawtell Dunecare: Meet 1st & 3rd Sundays to remove weeds & man-made rubbish from the beach. Ph: Barry Powells 0466 347 364

Serenity Landcare: Volunteers regularly working along Serenity Beach and Look at me now Headland. Contact Karina Rothacker 0408 209995.

Treefern Creek: Restoring riparian vegetation along a tributary of Coffs Creek 2nd Saturday of the month. Contact Ricky Crane on 6653 9185

Woolgoolga Main Beach Dunecare: More volunteers are needed. Contact the CHRL office to get involved.

Woolgoolga Back Beach Dunecare: Meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month, 8-11am, meet at the back beach picnic area at the end of High St. Contact Alex Groot 6654 2833

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Northern Rivers Local Land Services: 6659 9400

Coffs Harbour City Council, Technical Officer –
Infrastructure Maintenance Roads and Open Spaces:
Jeff Holmes 6648 4541

OEH Coffs Coast Regional Park Rangers:

Mark Watt 6652 0928

Lynn Rees (volunteer coordinator) 6652 0909

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