



Bush to Beach News

Important Dates:

Rainforest Plant Identification	25 June
Bundagen Coastal Walk	25 June
Submissions to Biodivers Legisl. Reform	28 June
Chilli Fest, Sawtell	2 July
CHRL membership forms & fees due	31 July
Planet Ark National Tree Day	31 July
Early Bird Reg. Landcare Conference	31 July
National L.C conference	21—23 Sept
Curryfest, Woolgoolga	24 Sept

President's report

At long last temperatures have finally dropped and we are now experiencing a somewhat mild winter. With lower temperatures and shorter days many winter flowering weeds are making their presence felt. Along the coast we have Mother of Millions, Turkey Rhubarb and Molasses Grass doing well while inland, Fireweed is turning many paddocks yellow. Several years ago Molasses Grass was an invasive weed of abandoned banana plantations but over more recent years it is becoming much more noticeable along the Pacific Highway road reserve particularly where herbicide spraying to control weeds around guide posts and guard rails has occurred. Typically in many cases the removal of one weed creates a favourable environment for another. As it is very invasive I suspect that this weed will become much greater problem in the future. Two "new" weeds have recently been brought to our attention. Common Thornapple (*Datura stramonium*) has turned up in disturbed soil at Dairyville. It is very toxic and as such would advise everyone to become familiar with it. The second one was found in the Coffs Creek area, (*Solanum quitoense*) and is considered by Aaron Hartley as a future serious pest. If you Google this name you will see why.



Barry Powells

The 2016 NRM Knowledge Conference was held in Coffs Harbour recently. Initially many of us thought it would be a great opportunity to exchange ideas with others from around Australia. Although I did not attend (far too expensive!), from talking to some who did it was not designed for the "average" on-ground practitioner. The general feeling seemed to be that there was a disconnect between academics, many bureaucrats and those working at the coal face. I feel that this was a good opportunity missed. A meaningful exchange of ideas may just have created ways to allow the scarce resources already allocated to NRM targeted more effectively and lead to improved long term resilience of sites funded for work. CHRL members and staff continue to do great work and thank you all for your on-going commitment to the improvement of our local natural environment.

New Projects

Our little Landcare Office has been very busy over the past months with the writing of project applications. To date, three were successful and they are:

- Green Bluff to South Moonee - NSW Environmental Trust, \$ 77,330 over 3 years
- Blueberry Industry Research - National Landcare Program, \$ 44,500
- Workshops in organic agriculture—National Landcare Program, \$ 12,000.

Two projects to be funded by the Council Environmental Levy have not been announced yet, which are for our volunteer support program as well as incentives for blueberry farms to implement best practice.

Site coordinators will be advised in due course of funds allocated to their sites.

So, this will keep us busy for a while and we thank our partners and funding bodies for this support:

- Coffs Harbour City Council
- NSW Government (Environmental Trust)
- Australian Government, Sustainable Agriculture.



Burdagen/Bongil Bongil Coastal Walk

At the conclusion of this project for the protection of the endangered Rainforest Senna (*Senna acclinis*), this walk will show the work completed on the habitat of the Senna in littoral rainforest and in Swamp sclerophyll forest at Bundagen Community and Bongil Bongil National Park.

Ross Macleay (Ecologist) and Tim Scanlon (NPWS ranger) will be the guides together with the project leader Ando Morrison.

The two forest communities are both listed endangered ecological communities and this walk will take approximately 2.5 hours.



Please make sure you RSVP for catering purposes by phoning Janelle on 66534 595.

Senna acclinis juvenile

Macauleys Headland

With the help of the Green Army and NPWS staff the Macauleys Headland Landcare site was the recipient of an injection of 200 lomandras and dianellas planted out on Tuesday 21 June.

Macauleys Headland Landcare site members worked over the past month or so to prepare the site. The recent heavy rains provided excellent conditions for the planting.

Unfortunately political decisions of late have resulted in a substantial reduction in Green Army placements across the nation. The current team completes their 6 months placement at the end of June but fortunately the Coffs Harbour environment is greener and richer for their input and dedication. To recognise the occasion NPWS put on a wonderful morning tea in the best 'Tea Room' on the Coffs Coast.

Frank Kennedy was appointed to the North Coast Regional NPWS Advisory Board to the end of 2018.

Kinchela Reserve transformed

The Kinchela Reserve Landcare Group has been operating since 2012 at this urban reserve at Boambee East. The reserve was a neglected area of grassland with severe infestations of Crofton, paspalum and Blue Billy Goat weed and many others.

Since that time a small but interested and dedicated group of members have transformed the Reserve into a virtual forest with well-established native trees and bushes.

With the support of Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare, Coffs Harbour Bushland Regeneration and personnel from CHCC, the difference in a few short years is remarkable.

Members find it very rewarding because they can see the changes and the growth.



Before and after at Kinchela



Macauleys Headland volunteers & Green Army



Sawtell Dunecare

This site was re-formed two years ago as a result of a stall at the Chilli Fest. There is a core of workers from a wide range of professions. We meet fortnightly for a chat and a couple of hours “work” focusing on weed removal, particularly Mother of Millions but also removing Ochna, Turkey Rhubarb, Senna, Bitou Bush and Lantana. We call ourselves “Sawtell Dunecare” but in fact we work on the northern end of Sawtell Beach known as Murrays Beach which is near where many of the volunteers live.

This site is rich in plant diversity with 163 species identified to date. There is a healthy patch of Floyds Grass at the northern end of the site while at the southern end is a small littoral rainforest. This latter area has been vandalised last year but is now slowly recovering.

To the south of this forested area is an area which appears to have been cleared many years ago to improve ocean views. I suspect any re-growth was cut down as the area was very heavily infested with a monoculture of one weed, *Hypoestes aristata*, commonly called Ribbon Bush, an import from southern Africa. We were fortunate to receive a grant from North Coast Local Land Services to remove the weeds and revegetate the site. Because the weed infestation was so dense the work which needed to be done was beyond the resources of our volunteers.

As Aaron Hartley was familiar with the site and provided much information for the grant application, the contract was given to Council’s bush regeneration team. The weeds were sprayed and later piled into stacks.

As there was so much material it was decided to remove it all and mulch the entire site. Our workers will help with the planting which was to be completed before now but the last two working bees were cancelled because of the wet weather. The species chosen will be local natives but only low growing ones to hopefully ensure their survival in such a view-sensitive environment.

Barry Powells



Before



After

Memberships, tools & equipment

Annual membership forms and subs are due by 31 July. Renewal packs for all volunteer sites have been posted out to all site coordinators. Please collect subs and complete paperwork for return to the office for your site members. As an incorporated organisation we are required to keep an up to date database of all financial members, including their addresses and contact details. We appreciate your cooperation in renewing your membership in a timely manner.

Membership renewal is a good time to remind members of **CHRL’s Code of Conduct** which is on the reverse of the membership form. All approved members have already accepted and agreed to abide by this Code.

Member forms are also available on the CHRL website.

This time of year is also a good time to check that your First Aid kit is up to date. Throw out expired items. Contact the office if you require replacement items.

Also check your PPE (coveralls, shirts, socks, hats). If permethrin treated clothing has been washed 70 times or more, it should be replaced.

Site coordinators should also do an inventory of tools and equipment and advise the office if more tools are required. We have a limited tools budget, so we cannot equip every volunteer with a full bush regenerator tool kit. Instead we supply each site with a full kit to be shared amongst the group.



Ribbon Bush (garden escapee)



The Glyphosate debate

This made national headlines earlier in the year, when it was asserted that Glyphosate may cause cancer in humans. In landcare circles it brought up the question, whether it was safe to use glyphosate in bush regeneration—safe for the operator and / or safe for the public. The debate went as far as calling for the ban of glyphosate in Australia.

The Australian Government's Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) issued a statement to say that glyphosate products registered in Australia are safe to use, provided they are used according to the label instructions. As well, areas where glyphosate products have been used are safe for children and animals, provided the products were used correctly.

Since then, the European Food Safety Authority also declared glyphosate safe (not causing cancer in humans or animals) following a peer review on the use of glyphosate on food crops.

It was this last report that made the penny drop in my mind—the debate is not about the safety of glyphosate in the environment and to people who apply it or are passing by, the question is about spraying glyphosate over food crops such as soya beans and other crops resistant to glyphosate.

Pia Dollmann

Community Nursery News

The CHRL nursery is on the agenda of just about every executive committee meeting. Now, rather than nagging current volunteers to do things differently, it was decided that Mel would spend a couple of hours on Tuesday mornings to set up procedures as well as tasks for the volunteers who come in on Wednesday and Thursdays. A couple of people have now joined the Tuesday group and once we get the seed we need, the nursery should be on track again to produce plants that are required at our volunteer sites.

To this end, we include a quarterly reminder here (see next page) in the newsletter of plants that should carry fruit with ripe seed at this time of the year. Please take a look around your worksite and/or neighbourhood to spot seeds we could grow.

And please keep in mind that you need to provide seed for any plant order you may ask the nursery volunteers to produce for you, unless the seed is already there.

Sawtell Chilli Fest

CHRL volunteers will set up our stall at the Chilli Fest again this year on election day, 2 July. Please call in to see them at the northern end of the street, in front of the Thai restaurant.

Draft Biodiversity Conservation Bill

2016

Much concern was created in the world of conservation and environmental protection in NSW with the current review of environmental legislation. You may remember the last time this came about was when the Native Vegetation Act was discussed and passed in 2003 to increase protection for native vegetation and to limit vegetation clearing. At the time, this piece of legislation was a very difficult compromise to halt land clearing while enabling farmers to manage native vegetation in tandem with farming operations. NSW farmers were never happy with the outcome and neither were the conservationists. But it did a job in limiting land clearing, now ever so important as a measure to sequester carbon from the atmosphere in the battle against global warming.

The legislation was very cumbersome and complicated and the political pressure has now resulted in a review and very detailed proposals prepared by the Office of Environment and Heritage for a new set of legislation. This package is meant to simplify previous pieces of legislation into one bill. However, once you begin to read the information, it is all but simple. The concern is that land clearing will be made easier.

Submissions to the proposal are invited and must be received by the 28th June 2016. To get an overview and write a submission you can go to the website: www.landmanagement.nsw.gov.au.





Seeds to collect over winter



Forest Oak (*Allocasuarina torulosa*)

Brush Cherry
(*Syzygium australe*)



Lilly Pilly
(*Syzygium smithii*)



White Bottlebrush (*Callistemon salignus*)



Water Gum
(*Tristanopsis laurina*)



Tallowwood
(*Eucalyptus microcorys*)



Hard Corkwood (*Eniandra sieberi*)



Sandpaper Fig
(*Ficus coronata*)



Orara Fair

This year, we trialled a new approach for the fair and organised a couple of workshops to be held in our workshop tent: **Soil Health** with Simon Proust and **Trees on Farms** with John Ross and Pia Dollmann.

This added new interest to our stall and engaged a number of people at a deeper level.

The usual weed display was supplied by champion bush regenerator in the Orara Valley, Lloyd Foster, and as always, Myna bird questions kept coming in to Ron Smith. Thanks also to Sam Hessey and Larry Langman for making this again a very successful day.

Feral Cats & Foxes at Boambee Beach

Jetty Dunecare is working to control feral cats at the northern end of Boambee Beach.

There does not seem to be any protocol for controlling these pests in our area, so a meeting between relevant stakeholders of our 6 year Environment Trust funded project was organised.

Unfortunately, after a lot of preparation to organise a meeting it had to be cancelled when we realised there were no council biodiversity officers on staff that could attend.

Once a new date is set, the meeting will be attended by representatives from NPWS, Local Land Services, Local Aboriginal Land Council, Deep Sea Fishing Club, RSPCA and Council.

From this meeting we are hoping to come up with an appropriate and affordable plan to begin to manage this feral cat problem.

We estimate at least 50 cats/kittens are in the area. The Deep Sea Fishing Club has been pro-active in removing cats living under their building.

Council has recently employed a Biodiversity Officer so once she has settled in we will try again for a meeting.

If there are any other Landcare sites that have a cat problem you are welcome to contact me for information regarding control. (just call the office for a contact number).

Jetty Dunecare also has a fox problem. We have found active dens in Boambee Beach hind dunes and also evidence of fox predation. Bandicoot remains were found at a den entrance also fresh remains of a Sea Eagle and a Barn Owl.

Volunteers were very upset with finding the Barn Owl as we had only seen it for the first time 2 weeks previous on site.

After many enquiries with different NRM organisations on how to combat this problem NPWS has now offered to train three Jetty Dunecare members to record locations of fox dens and control methods that can be safely used in the area.

Peta Fairbairn

Working on Country at Mylestom

This project was funded by North Coast Local Land Services to provide employment for aboriginal people to work on and connect to country. Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare facilitated the project for the Darrunda Wajaar team to work on land owned by the Coffs Harbour Local Aboriginal Land Council. The team chose two sites at Mylestom, where vegetation management plans had been completed in the past, which gave very detailed direction to the work.

One site is Tuckers Island in the Bellinger River, which is home to a subtropical rainforest community. The island was once used for grazing cattle which were punted across the water. Those activities have disturbed the native vegetation sufficiently to promote weed invasions, namely Camphor laurel, lantana as well as vine weeds.

The team used canoes to get to work and to carry their equipment and they managed to make a good start on these weeds.



Bats—male Gumbaynggirr totem by Brentyn Lugnan

The other site is a block of land adjacent to the southern boundary of Bongil Bongil National Park. Coral trees, Morning Glory, Senna and Bitou are the main problem weeds here.

In addition, the team has supported a new Landcare group that has started to work at Alma Doepel Reserve at Mylestom with frilling Coral trees and some spraying.

The funding has also provided for an interpretive sign to be installed at the reserve that highlights some of the aboriginal history of the area.



Working with the Blueberry Industry

Coffs Harbour Landcare received funding from North Coast Local Land Services for the second year to engage with the growers on improving on-farm practices with a focus on erosion control and prevention.

We contracted Simon Proust to prepare Soil and Water Management Plans for farmers and to supervise the implementation of one of these plans on the ground.

Simon has developed great rapport with growers and earthmoving contractors.

We also invited Greg Reid (ex DPI) to present at a workshop on soil-borne diseases and problems in re-establishing blueberries on land that has grown blueberries before. This workshop was very well received with 60 growers filling the meeting room to capacity. Other presenters at this event included Rose Daniels and Len Tesoriero (both DPI) who spoke about plant diseases, as well as Jonathan Lidbetter who presented the case for grafting cucumbers for improved resilience and increased production.

Another project provided financial incentives to a grower to install a 'closed' irrigation system in his greenhouse, where all waste water is recycled into the crop. The extreme rainfall event we experienced here at Coffs Harbour on Saturday, 4th June, unfortunately was very detrimental to the farm where work had just been undertaken to change water drainage to avoid soil erosion. This same event has since also triggered several calls for help from growers who had major wash-outs.

It is just a simple case of accepting nature's ways and to work with that rather than against it. Water always flows downhill and soil must have groundcover or it will erode.

Landcare NSW

The latest newsletter "The Advocate" is now available on the Landcare NSW website. It gives an excellent overview of the activities at the state and national level which promote Landcare and advocate for secure funding support into the future.

Go to: <http://landcarensw.org.au/publications/the-advocate-newsletter/> to have a read and while you're there, look around the website for resources and information.

NRM Knowledge Conference



This national conference came to Coffs Harbour this month, hosted by North Coast Local Land Services. Delegates from all over Australia attended, with a number of places offered to the our regional land-care networks free of charge.

The theme of the conference was People, Planet and Profits and day one was a day of field trips to many local project sites.

One of the delegates who attended our field trip to local blueberry farms was the chair of Landcare South Australia, who was very impressed with the support land-care enjoys from all levels of government here in Coffs Harbour.



Cheyne Clarke (middle) hosting NRM field visit



The Hon Rick Colless MLC, the Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP, Member for Cootamundra and Chair, Parliamentary Friends of Landcare, the Hon Niall Blair MP, Minister for Primary Industries and Lands and Water and Rob Dulhunty, Chair Landcare NSW.



Sustainable Horsekeeping conference

Pia attended this conference in Western Sydney in May. It was a very interesting day and speakers covered a wide variety of horsey topics from feeding to composting horse manure, horse agistment business decisions, horse behaviour and Hendra to caring for the geriatric horse.

The two outstanding presentations were:

- horse behaviour and nutrition and
- Hendra virus.

Mariette van den Berg studied how horses choose their food (if they have a choice). She wanted to find out if horses know what's good for them and seek out those foods if they develop a preference for certain tastes and eat those sweet things in preference to the good stuff. It turns out that horses have a sweet tooth and go for the sweet grasses, which are not necessarily good for them. The LLS district veterinarian spoke about Hendra virus and gave an excellent overview of the history of horse and human infection with Hendra as well as a detailed description of the relationship to flying foxes.

- 90 horses have to date been diagnosed with Hendra virus,
- 7 people were diagnosed (4 of which have died).
- 70% of horses will die from Hendra.
- Hendra is present in all 4 species of flying foxes in Australia.
- The Black flying fox is the most strongly associated with virus spill-over events.
- There is no evidence of infections from flying fox to humans.
- Horses and humans show signs of illness, while infected flying foxes and dogs don't.
- Sick horses can infect other horses as well as humans. Close contact is required for infections to pass.
- The virus can be shed prior to clinical signs appearing.
- Bats' urine is the significant vector of the disease.
- The virus does not persist in the environment and an area can be de-contaminated within 10 days.
- The Hendra case closest to Coffs Harbour occurred near Macksville in 2013.
- Fewer than 10% of horses are vaccinated for Hendra, 45,000 in NSW.
- 0.28% of horses show an adverse reaction to the vaccine.
- The vaccination schedule for Hendra virus has just been extended from 6 to 12 monthly.

We now have an excellent new resource for horse owners in our library: "Regenerative Horse Property Design and pasture Management" by Mariette van den Berg. It covers all aspects of land management and how that relates to keeping horses.



Did you know that horses require much fibre in their diet and that foraging from trees and shrubs could provide that?

And that many of our usual pasture grasses are not fibrous enough for horses and provide too much sugar? When we have the opportunity, we will invite Mariette to Coffs Harbour give us a talk about her interesting research.

National Landcare Conference



Taking place at the Melbourne Conference and Exhibition Centre on 21-23 September, the 2016 National Landcare Conference and Awards offers three days of knowledge sharing, insightful discussion, as well as informative presentations.

The theme is 'Collaborative Communities – Landcare in Action' and there are four streams to the conference.

More information at:

<http://www.nationallandcareconference.org.au/>

Early Bird registrations close on 31 July.



Worksites

Please note: 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

Arrawarra 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. Please contact Robyn Thomson on 0429 032005

Bundagen Landcare: Ando Morrison has taken over the coordination of Landcare work at Bundagen. Please contact the office & we will put you in touch with Ando.

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 Tue. Wed. & Thurs. Ph: Mel Craig 66511308.

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

Emerald Beach Dunecare: Volunteers continue to work on the site so beloved by the late Dee Wallace. They meet on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Contact Elisabeth Nicholson 0434 671 239

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

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 0400 579 426.

Jarrett Creek Landcare Site: Looking for more volunteers at Woolgoolga to join in. Contact the CHRL office.

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.

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 Reserve Landcare Site: Meeting on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Ph: Helen Lawrence 6653 2015

Korora Dunecare Site: Looking for new volunteers to work on Korora's foreshore. Contact CHRL office please.

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 Site: a new site incorporating the old Bandicoot Hollow site. Council's bush regeneration team will be investing a lot of time on this site. More volunteers are needed. Contact the CHRL office.

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

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 Dunecare: Continue 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 209 995 .

Treefern Creek: Working at restoring riparian vegetation along a tributary of Coffs Creek every second 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: Working bees are held 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

Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare Inc

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CHRL Jude Turner (Mon, Wed, Thurs) 6651 1308

CHRL Mel Craig (Mon, Tues) 6651 1308

Northern Rivers Local Land Services: 6659 9400

Coffs Harbour City Council, Recreational Services

Operational Technical Officer:

Jeff Holmes 6648 4541

OEH Coffs Coast Regional Park Rangers:

Mark Watt 6652 0928

Lynn Rees (volunteer coordinator) 6652 0909

Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare Inc



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