

Coming events

Thursday 7 August 10 am - 2 pm	Bush Matters forum, Kyogle Memorial Hall. See page 6.
Sunday 24 August	Byron Bird Buddies migratory birds day. See page 2.
Saturday 30 August 1-4 pm	BVL workshop: Learn how to key out plants and identify them with Liz Caddick and Jo Green. See page 5.
Sunday 14 September	Big Scrub Landcare Day, Rocky Creek Dam
Saturday 27 September	Bushwalk in wet sclerophyll forest, Upper Main Arm (2008-09 financial members only)
Saturday 25 October	Workshop on lizards & snakes and their habitat needs.
Wednesday 19 November	BVL AGM

Thanks, Colin

A big thank you from Brunswick Landcarers for a job well done to Colin Hastie (right), who has moved on at the completion of his 12 month contract as community support officer (CSO). Colin stepped into the breach last year when BVL took on the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (NRCMA) contract to provide community support services for the CMA's newly-created Coastal Region, which encompassed not only the Byron Shire, but also the Tweed and the eastern half of Ballina. It was a big task and Colin found himself breaking new ground as he established himself across the three parts of the region, tackling the job with cheerful enthusiasm.



Call us parochial, but neither BVL nor Tweed Landcare were entirely happy with the idea of having to share a CSO and we asked the NRCMA this year if we could revert to the former project boundaries. It has meant a funding cut but we are now about to sign a new contract with the CMA which will provide funding for a CSO two days a week, working solely within the Byron Shire. The new CSO has been appointed (see next page) and will working with all BVL groups and other Landcare and Dunecare groups and landholders in the shire.

We very much appreciate the support of the CMA. Despite operating in a difficult funding climate which has necessitated cuts in some areas, CMA Chair Judy Henderson and General Manager Michael Pitt made sure the funds were available to maintain the CSOs. We also thank them for listening to community feedback and restoring the old boundaries. We also thank Byron Shire Council which will again be providing valuable 'in kind' support for the CSO. Council provides us with an office and administrative support for the CSO and has been an effective partner. We look forward to an even closer relationship with Council this year with plans to set up a Landcare steering committee with BSC's environment team.

**Adrian Begg
Chair, BVL Management Committee**

Welcome, Wendy



Welcome to our new CSO Wendy Gibney, a long time local landcarer and bush regenerator who is known to many BVL members. Wendy has lived at Myocum since 1991 and helped establish the area's Pipeclay Creek Lagoon Landcare Group, managing three projects for the group in the following five years. In 2004 she began working as a bush regenerator and has experience in onground work, monitoring and evaluation, applying for funding, and report writing. Also in 2004 Wendy began studying for her Bachelor of Environmental Science (Environmental rehabilitation) degree at the University of New England where she has won prizes in sustainable land management and biological science. Wendy starts work on Monday 4 August and will work two days a week from Byron Shire Council offices until June 2009. She will look after all community enquiries on natural resource management, including landcare and dunecare groups, in the shire. You can contact Wendy on 6626 7028.

Migratory birds day at Byron wetlands on 24 August

Celebrate the bird migration season with Byron Bird Buddies on Sunday 24 August. Byron Shire plays a vital role for shorebirds in a cycle that has continued for countless thousands of years as they migrate to and from places as far away as Siberia, China, India and Japan to breed and spend spring and summer on Australian beaches. Byron Bird Buddies as part of Brunswick Valley Landcare and Byron Shire Council invite you to a day of celebration with bird walks, talks and children activities at Belongil estuary and West Byron wetlands. So put the date in your diary. Bird walks will start at 7.30am. Details to be advised. For further information contact Jan Olley on 66803279 or janolley@people.net.au, or go to <http://www.byronbirdbuddies.com.au/>.



Pied oyster catcher Photo: A. Bird

NSW Catchment Management Authorities visit

Chairs and general managers from Catchment Management Authorities around NSW toured the Northern Rivers region on 26 June and were impressed with site visits where they saw successful bush restoration projects. At Mullumbimby's restored Salt Creek site behind the swimming pool, BVL's sartorially elegant project officer Judy Macdonald talked to the visitors about Brunswick Valley Landcare's working partnership with NRCMA, particularly the community engagement model developed by the NRCMA and the very successful outcomes that are being achieved in the Brunswick catchment.



BVL project officer Judy Macdonald and Northern Rivers CMA general manager Michael Pitt.

Mt Chincogan walk

The long promised walk up Mt Chincogan on Sunday 29 June was booked out with 24 financial BVL members. The walk was courtesy of landowner Stuart McPhee who has been doing serious bush regeneration since he bought the property several years ago. Botanist Darren Bailey and soil scientist David Morand provided expert commentary on the vegetation and geology on the mountain.

Botany

Walkers saw some rare Shatterwood trees (*Backhousia sciadophora*) so called because the hardness of their wood; and rare giant ironwood trees (*Choricarpia sub-argentatea*) which only occur in NSW on Mt Chincogan, and at Ettrick and Jiggi in dry rainforest regrowth. The ironwoods had unusual deep violet -pink hues in the bark of their multi coppiced trunks. It was ironic that this rare tree is growing in degraded marginal land with some rather sickly looking camphors as neighbours, and they were growing in clumps of vegetation alongside Shatterwood.

Geology

David Morand explained that the very top of Mt Chincogan is rhyolite, formed from a slow flowing volcanic lava composed mainly of quartz materials. It is very hard rock so is slow to erode and often seen in local outcrops and cliffs such as Minyon Falls and Nimbin Needles.

The rhyolite flowed over basalt rock formed from earlier lava flows. Basalt is black, high in iron and magnesium and forms good soils.

Underneath the basalt are the metasediment rocks, millions of years older than the volcanic rocks and formed from sediments that built up on the seafloor and were then uplifted to form the underlying rocks of most of this region. Soils based on these rocks are pale and relatively infertile, and can be seen at Main Arm and The Pocket.

For an excellent explanation of the geology of this area read 'Rocks and landscapes of the Gold Coast hinterland' by Warwick Willmott, available from the Queensland Geological Society. We hope to get some copies for BVL bookshop. Photos: Rebecca Lines-Kelly



Above: The walkers set out.



Halfway up: Michael Brown and David Morand with Mullumbimby in the background.

Farming for biodiversity and business



Photo: David Marsh

Yes, that's cattle you can see, hidden in the grass on David Marsh's property at Boorowa, north of Yass. This is one of the many amazing photographs David showed during his presentation at Rhonda and Keith Wrigley's farm in The Pocket on Saturday 12 July. A record 50 people turned up to hear David talk about the farming system which is restoring his soils, biodiversity and bank balance. David took time out from his Byron shire holiday to explain his farming philosophy which had its genesis in the 1982-83 drought when he watched his soil blowing away and realised that his farming methods were destroying his land. He began planting trees on the ridgelines and after doing a course in Alan Savory's holistic management, changed from cropping to grazing. He has divided his 800ha property into 90 paddocks and the entire mob of sheep or cattle grazes one paddock for a day or so and then moves on, leaving the paddock ungrazed for several weeks to allow the pasture to recover. This system has allowed native grasses to seed and expand from 1ha in 1999 to around 70ha now.

Keith Wrigley outlined the work he and Rhonda have done on their farm since buying it eight years ago, including fencing off and revegetating all of Marshall's Creek. The Wrigleys recently attended a three day workshop on pasture and grazing management with Judi Earl and Lewis Kahn and found it one of the most useful courses they have done. Thanks to Keith and Rhonda for their generosity in hosting the workshop and providing fantastic cakes (see page 8).



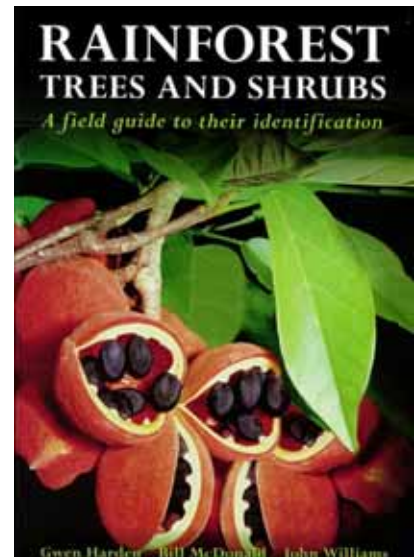
Photo: Wendy Neilan

Keith Wrigley points out some of the phenomenal growth in this stand of 2 year old trees he and Rhonda have planted on Marshall's Creek.

- To find out more about David Marsh's farming system read his paper at http://www.abare.gov.au/interactive/Outlook08/files/day_1/Marsh_SoilsSustainability.pdf.
- To find out more about holistic management go to <http://www.holisticmanagement.org.au/>.
- To find out more about grazing management courses go to www.aimsag.com.au.

Workshop on identifying rainforest plants on 30 August

BVL's next workshop draws on the skills of two BVL botanists, Liz Caddick and Jo Green. The two will introduce the key characteristics used to identify local plants, and the features of the more common plant families. Participants will then work in groups of two to four people to identify plants supplied by Jo and Liz. The workshop will be held in Mullumbimby from 1.00-4.00pm on Saturday 30 August and is supported by ACE Byron Regional Community College. If you plan to come please bring a copy of 'Rainforest trees and shrubs' by Gwen Harden (right) available from BVL bookshop - \$40 special price for members, \$45 non members. Bookings only with Judy Macdonald on 6684 5390.



Liz Caddick

Liz (below) did her PhD in botany (systematics and evolution of yams and related monocot families) at Kew Gardens (London) from 1996-1999. While doing field work in Sri Lanka she met her husband Tom Alletson (a BVL



committee member). Before her PhD Liz worked as a lab technician and botanical artist at Edinburgh Botanic Garden, and as a botanist for an ecotourism company in Mongolia and on conservation programs for the English National Trust. After her PhD she did a post-doc research fellowship for a year at Cape Town University (South Africa) on evolutionary ecology of *Restionaceae*, then managed the establishment of a European-Mediterranean floristics database at the University of Reading UK. Liz emigrated to Australia in 2002 and initially worked as an environmental consultant on the Gold and Sunshine Coasts before starting her current job as a conservation planner for Gold Coast City Council three years ago. Liz says: 'I wasn't very familiar with the Australian flora when I moved here as I'd only had brief trips

here for conferences. But I'd worked overseas a fair bit so had quite a lot of practice in picking up new plants. I taught myself while I was over here by getting out into the bush and keying things out and by picking the brains of anyone I met who knew a bit about plants.'

Jo Green

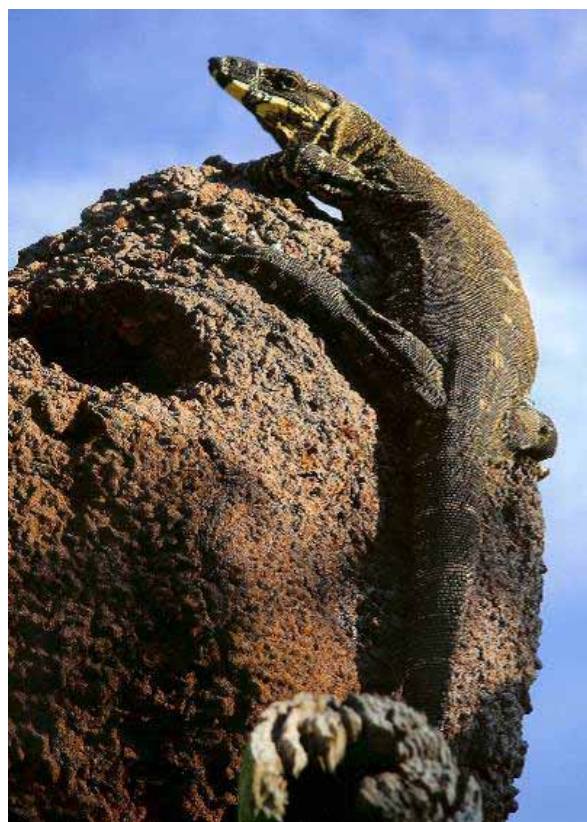
Jo (right) has been involved with plants all her life, initially in her family's plant nursery at Forbes, and since 1995 in Mullumbimby where she and partner Brad run Mullumbimby Creek Native Nursery. She completed a Bachelor of Science at UNE Armidale in 2000, specialising in botanical subjects, including rainforest plants; did her honours in epiphytic algae on aquatic plants in 2003; and is currently completing a PhD study of changes in vegetation, algae and fauna in saltmarsh after restoration. Jo has assisted Alison Specht for many years in Southern Cross University's plant identification and conservation unit, and has spent many hours in swamps identifying and counting plants for several organisations including the university and Wetland Care Australia. She has played a leading role in Mullumbimby Landcare, particularly restoration of riparian habitat along Yankee and Mullumbimby Creeks.



Great day out at our third Nature Festival

Despite the rather damp weather more than 600 nature lovers turned out for the third Brunswick Valley Nature Festival at Shearwater Steiner School, Mullumbimby, on 1 June. It proved to be a great day out, with plenty to see and do, and some excellent presentations from a wide range of speakers on topics of interest to gardeners and landscapers. The Visions of the Valley photography exhibition was outstanding with 176 entries of very high quality that helped everyone understand the extraordinary beauty, complexity and fragility of the natural world around us. Here are two of the photographs.

**Right: Lace monitor, by Nick Ward.
Below: Smiling dragonfly by Michelle Power**



Bush matters forum at Kyogle on 7 August

On Thursday 7 August, a Bush Matters forum will be held at Kyogle Memorial Hall from 10 am till 2 pm. The forum is for people who want to start work on improving their bush and for those who want to find out about resources that are available.

The day will include testimonials from landholders as well as equipment demonstrations and talks and slides from Landcare, Catchment Management Authority, Nature Conservation Trust, Wetland Care Australia, Envite and Department of Environment and Climate Change.

Topics will include weed management, bush regeneration, wetlands, managing fire, the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative, climate change, access to resources, incentives and funding opportunities.

The forum is a great opportunity for local natural resource management organisations to showcase their on-ground programs and to meet local landholders who want to be involved. Landholders wanting information about resources and opportunities for bush and rainforest on their property are encouraged to attend.

Light refreshments and lunch will be available. To register your attendance, please RSVP to Richmond Landcare Services on 66323722 by Friday 1 August. to assist with catering.

For more information contact Bob Jarman, Richmond Landcare Services, 6632 3722
careland@bigpond.net.au.

New grasses book

Grasses of subtropical eastern Australia:

An introductory field guide to common grasses: native and introduced

Margaret Elliott and Penny Watsford, Nullum Books

This book is an updated version of the 2004 publication Grasses of the Tweed Valley. The 2008 book includes a larger number of grasses from a wider geographical area, with the text and illustrations more closely integrated. A CD of 530 photographs of 126 species of grass is included to help with identification. The colour, variety and beauty of many of the seedheads seen under magnification show the huge biodiversity within the grass family. . Price \$20.00 (By mail order \$25.00). Discounts for voluntary groups, bulk orders and on-sellers. Nullum Publications, PO Box 1152, Murwillumbah NSW 2484, email: nullumbooks@gmail.com Ph: 0410 179 273 or 6679 5257.

National Landcare Program sustainable practices grants

Unfortunately BVL has missed out on funding for its proposed landholder guide in this NLP round.

Successful local projects include

\$ Integrated delivery of support and training for sustainable agriculture practices in Northern Rivers. Richmond Landcare Services \$243,920.

\$ Soil carbon sequestration and rehabilitation: landholders develop, implement and assess biochar. Richmond Landcare Inc \$298,792.

\$ Sustainable fire management for landholders using the hotspots program. Richmond Landcare Services \$57,000.

\$ Stage 2 of Dairy NRM works for healthy soils, rivers and catchments. Northern Rivers CMA \$383,004.

River Reach funding now available

Northern Rivers CMA is offering funding to landholders to rehabilitate sections of rivers (reaches) by controlling weeds and soil erosion, removing livestock and replanting streambanks with native species. There are two components to the funding.

Project plan funding: Either submit a river health plan or submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) for plan development. If your EOI is successful, NRCMA will help produce the plan. Applications are due on 1 December 2008.

On ground works funding: This funding is only available to people with a river health plan. It has three stages: initial on-ground works, 1st year follow-up, and 2nd year follow-up. The 3rd year of maintenance is the landowner's responsibility. Applications are due on 29 August 2008.

There are some conditions on the funding.

Each project must cover at least 1km of stream length

Participating properties must occupy at least 60% of the project stream length on both sides.

The reach must be in moderate to good condition or, if degraded, must link with good condition reaches (The CMA can help you determine this).

Overall tree cover upstream of the reach should be greater than 50%.

The project must not be a repeat of a project that has already been undertaken, but can build-on or continue a previous or existing project.

To find out more contact Jai Sleeman, Northern Rivers CMA at Jai.Sleeman@cma.nsw.gov.au, or go to the NRCMA website at www.nrcma.nsw.gov.au

BVL's current funded projects

Project	Start	Finish	Funding	Amount	Contact
Riparian restoration of Brunswick River (Main Arm /middle estuary) -	Nov 2007	May 2009	Envirofund Round 9	\$50,000	Judy Macdonald 6684 5390
Riparian restoration of Brunswick River (Upper Mullumbimby Ck)	Nov 2007	May 2009	Envirofund Round 9	\$50,000	Judy Macdonald 6684 5390
Yalakool restoration (Ocean Shores)	Dec 2007	June 2009	Envirofund Round 10	\$22,995	David Kemp 6680 4590
Mullumbimby waterways restoration	May 2008	Dec 2010	Environmental Trust	\$99,605	Jo Green 6684 1703
Biodiversity education	May 2008	Dec 2010	Environmental Trust	\$99,650	Rebecca Lines-Kelly 6684 3405

Caramel macadamia slice

This slice quickly disappeared at the afternoon tea at the recent BVL workshop at Keith and Rhonda Wrigley's. Rhonda has kindly given us the recipe.

Base

1 cup plain flour .5tsp cinnamon
 .5 cup hazelnut meal .5 cup brown sugar
 90g dark chocolate 80 g unsalted butter
 1 egg lightly beaten

Preheat oven to 180C. Grease 18 x 28 cm cake tin and line with baking paper - allow paper to overhang on opposite ends. Sift flour and cinnamon,

sit in hazelnut meal and brown sugar. Melt chocolate and butter over low heat, cool and then mix with dry ingredients. Add egg, mixing well. Press the mixture into the prepared tin with the back of a spoon, bake in oven for 15 minutes or until firm, remove from oven, and leave to cool in the tin.

Topping

200g macadamias 400g can condensed milk 2 tbsp golden syrup
 50g butter 100g dark chocolate melted

Stir condensed milk, golden syrup and butter over low heat until just about to boil. Pour over the cooked base and top with macadamias. Bake for 15 minutes until topping is firm, cool in the tin. When cool drizzle with melted dark chocolate. Once the chocolate is set, slice into fingers and serve.



Inspiring and supporting our community to conserve and restore Brunswick Valley's natural environment from forest to foreshore