



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

## Brunswick Valley Landcare Newsletter

May 2007



Some of the crew at the Dunes workshop in March (Page 2).

Congratulations to Byron Shire Council for winning the 'Local Government Landcare Community Partnership Award' in the recent Northern Rivers CMA Regional Landcare Awards. Byron Council was nominated by BVL for their many contributions to Landcare including providing the Landcare Community Support Officer with an office space, for the help to Landcare and Dunecare groups by the bush regeneration team, and for their Biodiversity Conservation Strategy which forms the basis of BVL's landscape strategy.

### For Your Diary

May 22	NRCMA Info Session on Community Water Grants
May 26	Regenerating Fauna Habitat Workshop
June 10	World Environment Day Community Event
June 22	Community Water Grants Eols due
June 25-27	Queensland Rainforest Forum
June 30	Walk from Tyagarah to Brunswick Heads
July 28	Spotlighting on the Koonyum Range Workshop
August 25	Bird Watching and Launch of New Byron Coastal Bird Group
September 29	Biodiversity Issues in Byron Shire Workshop
October 27	TBA
November 24	Melaleuca Wetlands Workshop

**Happy 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday Green and Clean Awareness Team! Congratulations on 10 years of wonderful community effort and achievements.**



Wendy Neilan, BSC's Biodiversity Extension Officer, accepting the NRAC Landcare award on behalf of Byron Shire Council.

## Reports

### Dunes Workshop

The “Getting to Know Your Local Dunes” workshop in March was a great success with over 30 people attending to hear about the plants and animals of the dune ecosystems. Ian Parer had samples of some of the invasive weeds that are devastating our dunes, and shared his extensive knowledge on native plant identification. A tour of the dune site Ian has been regenerating showed his hard work and dedication, and an area of littoral rainforest that has been regenerated years ago on North Head Road showed the potential of restoring coastal vegetation. Brendan Taylor talked about the birds and animals that we find on the dunes and how some of them come and go over the seasons, showing an easy way to record what you see over the year. Many of the people who came along also had great knowledge to share, adding to an afternoon of learning and socialising. The workshop was the first of a series that will focus on the Dunes, part of a littoral rainforest restoration project sponsored by the Envirofund program.



Ian Parer (with book) identifying a rainforest vine with Michael Brown, Judy MacDonald, Andrew Houserman and Brendan Taylor.

### Leske’s Native Garden An Inspiration for Many

BVL held its first open garden day at Mark and Fran Leske’s fantastic native garden in April. Over 160 people came from as far away as Terranora, Goonellabah and Lennox Head to see the garden, which is comprised of species local to the Brunswick River catchment. Although many of the visitors were Landcare members, most people were from outside of the Landcare network, showing how valuable the day was in introducing Landcare to new people. Mark had labelled trees and plants with numbers that corresponded to a hand-out list of the 400 or so species with some information given about them. Mark and BVL’s Judy MacDonald lead tours throughout the afternoon.



Mark Leske with some visitors to the open garden day.

A fantastic effort by the volunteers helped to raise \$1000 on the day, which will contribute to buying trees for riparian rehabilitation works on the Brunswick River by the Coral Avenue Locality Group. Thank you to Rebecca Lines-Kelly, Ian Parer, Toni Spruce, Michael Maloney, Michael Brown, Anne Bailey, Rhonda Wrigley, Adrian Begg and Jude Alcorn for volunteering on the day. Many thanks also to Judy MacDonald for organising the event and to Mark and Fran Leske for sharing their inspirational garden with us.

### Cubs and Scouts Learn about Dunecare

Cubs and Scouts from the 1<sup>st</sup> Brunswick Heads Scout Group undertook a range of hands-on Landcare activities on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. Under the watchful eye of local trainer and bush regenerator, Mark Evans, and members of Brunswick Dunecare group, enthusiastic cubs removed environmental weeds near their scout hall. They also planted native trees and shrubs in the adjacent dunes and commenced propagating native plants from seed, including Mat rush, Dianella, Midyim and Coastal wattle.

“As a former cub myself, I would have loved the opportunity to look after our natural environment as this is where we spend so much of our time” says Mark.

For more information on the Brunswick Heads Scout Group give Laura-Doe Harris a call on 66805273 or Melinda Bartlett on 66803400.



Michael Maloney from Brunswick Heads Dunecare planting seeds with the Brunswick cubs and scouts.

## Landcare Efforts Recognised

This sign has been displayed outside the Mullumbimby High School, where the Mullumbimby Creek Landcare Group have been doing riparian rehabilitation works over the past few years. Well done to Mullumbimby Creek Landcare and thank you Mullumbimby High, its good to be appreciated.



## CSO Shake Up

BVL has just reapplied to the NRCMA for the contract to provide a local Landcare Community Support Officer. The new CSO position will cover a much larger area than the current contract. The extended area will include all of the Byron Shire, all or part of the Tweed Shire and some of the Ballina Shire. The boundaries of the area are 'fuzzy' and will be negotiated with the successful contractor. If BVL is successful with the application, the Tweed area will be subcontracted to Tweed Landcare with Kate McKenzie continuing her good work there, and the Byron and Ballina areas will be serviced by Georgia Beyer the current CSO of the Brunswick catchment. The new contract will last for one year starting in July. Fingers crossed we get the contract.

## New Locality Group Takes Flight

A new Landcare locality group has recently been formed in Ocean Shores. The Blue Butterfly Reserve group will work on regenerating a small area of bushland in a council reserve, doing wildlife surveys first to allow monitoring of the success of the project in creating new habitat. The group has a strong focus on involving kids in Landcare. If you are interested in getting involved contact Megan [megan@nrcf.org.au](mailto:megan@nrcf.org.au).

## What's On

### Biodiversity on the Brink – A Community Workshop

May 19<sup>th</sup>, 10am – 5pm in Port Macquarie. A free forum for individuals and groups that care about their natural environment. Run by Nature Conservation Council of NSW. RSVP Jaime Hilbert 02 9279 0955 or [jhilbert@nncnsw.org.au](mailto:jhilbert@nncnsw.org.au).

### Community Water Grants Information Session.

May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1 -3pm, at the Byron Shire Council office in Mullumbimby. Afternoon tea will be provided. There will be information on eligible projects and how to apply as well as some talks by groups that have received CWG funding in previous rounds. For more info contact Kerri Francis [kerri.francis@cma.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kerri.francis@cma.nsw.gov.au) or Georgia Beyer [landcare@byron.nsw.gov.au](mailto:landcare@byron.nsw.gov.au), 6626 7028.

### World Environment Day Community Event

June 10<sup>th</sup> 10 – 2pm at West Byron Wetlands. Hosted by Byron Shire Council, this free event will have stalls, demonstrations, talks about ecology and climate change, bird walks, bush regen workshop, tree planting and BBQ lunch. BVL will be holding an information stall with environmental books for sale.

### Field Day - Bank Stabilisation & Riparian Enhancement Implementation Project, Upper Tweed.

June 16, 9.30am – 12.30. Meet at Sphinx Rock Café at 9.30am. Welcome and introduction with tea and coffee, Camphor laurel control demonstration, visit to project sites, demonstration of riparian restoration methods. For further information contact Rhonda James on 0409 244 294 or Maree Thompson (EnviTE) on 6621 9588. This project has received Australian and NSW Government funding through the Northern Rivers CMA and funding from Tweed Shire Council.

### Queensland Rainforest Forum

June 25-27<sup>th</sup> at Griffith University. Over 40 presenters including keynote speakers, community groups, NRM bodies, government and research institutions, plus interactive forums, field trips and poster presentations. Community delegates \$60 plus \$40 for field trips. For more information contact Landcare Queensland 07 32114413, [kerri@landcare.org.au](mailto:kerri@landcare.org.au) or see [www.landcare.org.au](http://www.landcare.org.au).

## **BVL Workshop Program**

BVL Workshops are free to members and \$5 for non-members (including afternoon tea). Raised funds will contribute to Landcare projects. For enquiries and bookings please contact Georgia or Judy (contact details last page).

**May 26: Regenerating Fauna Habitat, The Upper Pocket, 1.30 - 4.30** This workshop will introduce you to some of the basic principles of fauna conservation and how they apply to your bush regeneration works. Georgia Beyer, the Landcare Community Support Officer, has a background in wildlife ecology and will share some skills in how to identify, protect and enhance fauna habitat in bush regeneration works. Increase your understanding of the role of wildlife in your regeneration and become more aware of the short and long-term impacts of your works on wildlife. Bookings only.

**June 30: Walk from Tyagarah to Brunswick Heads.** Get to know more about our coastal and heath vegetation with local flora and bird experts on this easy 6 km walk.

**July 28: Spotlighting**

**August 25: Bird Workshop and celebration of the new Byron Bird Buddies Group,** West Byron Wetlands 6.30am.

**September 29: Biodiversity issues in Byron Shire**

**October 27: TBA** \*\* Deferred to a new date TBA - **Bushwalk to Boogarem Falls**

**November 24: Melaleuca Wetlands**

## **Funding Opportunities and Incentives**

### **Community Water Grants**

The Australian Government's Community Water Grants will soon be opening. Grants of up to \$50,000 are available to agricultural, conservation and other community groups for projects that involve the community and save, recycle or improve the health of their local water resources. BVL received \$33,434 for restoration of water quality in the Brunswick Catchment in the first round in mid 2006. For information see the website [www.australia.gov.au/communitywatergrants](http://www.australia.gov.au/communitywatergrants) or call 1800 780 730. The NRCMA is holding an **information session** on the Community Water Grants on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1 -3pm, at the Byron Shire Council office in Mullumbimby. See *What's On* section for details.

### **Threatened Species Network Community Grants**

Applications due Friday June 1. These grants of up to \$50,000 have been established to support and inspire community groups to work on the conservation and recovery of threatened species and ecological communities (nationally threatened species listed under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*). Our region is within a 'biodiversity hotspot' and projects may be given additional priority.

Projects that are eligible for funding include habitat enhancement, weed control, sign posting, restoring freshwater and marine ecosystems, propagating threatened plant species, fencing and research. Projects can span 18 months. For more info see [wwf.org.au/ourwork/species/tsngrants/](http://wwf.org.au/ourwork/species/tsngrants/)

### **Mitre 10 Junior Landcare Grants**

Schools and organisations that want to involve students in Landcare projects, in conjunction with a Landcare group, can apply for up to \$500. The next round will close 3<sup>rd</sup> August. For information on this and other funding opportunities see the National Landcare website [www.landcareonline.com](http://www.landcareonline.com).

### **Carbon Credit Opportunities**

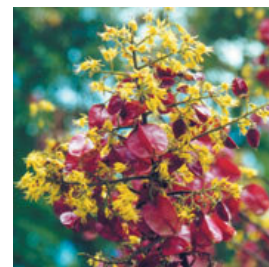
The benefits of tree planting for soaking up carbon are becoming recognised in new schemes that can benefit Landcarers. Two projects that may interest you are Greenfleet [www.greenfleet.com.au](http://www.greenfleet.com.au). and CarbonSMART [www.carbonsmart.com.au](http://www.carbonsmart.com.au).

## Species Profile

### Woeful Weed of the Week – Golden Rain Tree *Koelreuteria paniculata*



The golden rain tree is a small deciduous tree, popular in gardens because of its colourful displays of yellow flowers and pink papery seed capsules (seeding now). The seeds germinate easily and seedlings of the trees can be seen coming up in gardens and along fence lines near mature trees. It is becoming a serious environmental weed invading areas of natural vegetation. **Treatment:** Mature trees should be injected or frilled with 1:1.5 glyphosate, saplings cut, scrape and paint with 1:1.5 glyphosate, seedlings spray with 1:50 glyphosate + LI700.



**Photos.** Golden rain tree with seed capsules and close-up of flowers and seed capsule (source: Bushland Friendly Nursery Scheme Environmental Weeds Guide - [www.bfns.org.au](http://www.bfns.org.au))

**Treatment Info** courtesy of Big Scrub Rainforest Landcare Group – Subtropical Rainforest Restoration Manual (2005).

## Local Landcare Groups

Get involved in your local Landcare network. Do a bit for the environment and socialise at the same time. There are lots of local Landcare groups working in the Brunswick Valley. Some working days will change according to weather etc, so its advisable to ring or email before turning up at a working bee.

### Landcare Groups

- **Bindaree Landcare** Liz Chance
- **Brushbox Drive/High Ridges** Nina Bishop 6684 1263.
- **Durrumbul** Peter Harriden
- **Early Birds (Mullumbimby)** Nina Bishop 6684 1263.
- **Early Birds (Heritage Park)** Byron Council's Bush Regeneration Team will be giving a morning of training for Heritage Park volunteers on March 21st starting at 8 am. Contact Nina Bishop 6684 1263.
- **Jingatee** 9am-12.30 -third Sunday of month. Working in the Jingatee Lowland STRF remnant which has been recently gazetted as a Nature Reserve. Meet at Jack's -Stock Route Rd, Billinudgel, Judy MacDonald 6684 5390, [judymac@aapt.net.au](mailto:judymac@aapt.net.au)
- **Marshalls Ck/The Pocket** Judy MacDonald 6684 5390, [judymac@aapt.net.au](mailto:judymac@aapt.net.au)
- **Mullumbimby Ck/Gateway** Bev Tainsh
- **Shearwater** Ken Ohlsson
- **Tyagarah** Working bees on the fourth Saturday (9am to 11am) and some Thursdays (9am to 11am). Sometimes the weeks change, so it's recommended that anyone wishing to help should phone first. Bela 6684 7113.
- **Upper Mullumbimby Crk** Nick Schaefer
- **Yelgun** Deborah Preston
- **Yalla-kool** Toni and Brian Spruce 6680 1815. Meet at the site, top of Yalla-kool Drive Ocean Shores, near the water tower, every 4th Sunday 2 - 4pm.
- **Upper Main Arm** Rosemary Spong
- **Lagoon Drive Wetland** Wendy Gibney [wgibney@une.edu.au](mailto:wgibney@une.edu.au)
- **Coral Ave** Pat Skene
- **Brunswick Heads** Gillian Secombe 6685 1857

### Dunecare Groups

- **North Byron Shire Coastal Group** Jan Olley [janolley@people.net.au](mailto:janolley@people.net.au)
- **Suffolk Park** First Saturday of the month, 9am at the end of Macgregor St, contact Helen Brown 6685 4964 [hellyh@bigpond.com](mailto:hellyh@bigpond.com)
- **Green and Clean Awareness Team** Third Sunday of the month, contact Udo Moerig [umoerig@primus.com.au](mailto:umoerig@primus.com.au), Veda Turner [parijat@wellness.net.au](mailto:parijat@wellness.net.au) or Teresa Heal at [teresah heal@gmail.com](mailto:teresah heal@gmail.com)
- **Belongil Bird Buddies** Contact Sarah Harris 66807607 or 0427027072,

- **Brunswick Heads** [birdbuddygroup@yahoo.com.au](mailto:birdbuddygroup@yahoo.com.au)  
Second Sunday of the month (this may change weekly), 9am at Torakina car park, contact Michael Maloney 6685 0192 [michael@australis.net](mailto:michael@australis.net)
- **New Brighton** Contact Bill Duffy 6680 1668 [wkduffy@inet.net.au](mailto:wkduffy@inet.net.au) or Susan Tornaros 6680 3104 [susan2403@optusnet.com](mailto:susan2403@optusnet.com)
- **South Golden Beach** Contact Ian Parer 6680 5958.
- **Cavanbah** Bob Levett 6685 8616

## Feature Group – Cavanbah Dunecare *by Miles Shorten*

The Cavanbah Dunecare Group has recently been re-established to look after a small remnant of littoral rainforest in Byron Bay. If you would like be involved with this new project contact Bob Levett on 6685 8616.

### History of the Remnant

The Cavanbah Road Reserve Remnant in Byron Bay is a belt of littoral rainforest flourishing on a 100 m section of Cavanbah St. that for reasons now lost in time, was never cleared and sealed. While most of the native vegetation in the Shirley St area, around the 'Old Meat Works' (later the Epicentre) and railway line and even on the dunes was cleared, aerial photos beginning in 1966, show a nucleus of trees remaining on the 2000 sq m road reserve that has since expanded.

### Threatened Species legislation

This small pocket of littoral rainforest is typical of vulnerable fragmented stands on the NSW coast: these remnants were given recent protection under threatened species legislation and local councils are now required to protect them in the planning and approvals process.

### Community Interest in the Remnant

The Cavanbah Dunecare Group is keen to preserve this remnant and its role as a shaded pedestrian link between the east and west parts of Cavanbah St. The hind-dune area is rich in bird life and many bat species also visit. The remnant has many fruit bearing trees such as Native Laurels, Beach Acronychias and Hard Corkwoods as well as nectar producing Banksias and Brush Boxes. There are also many native trees lining the sealed part of Cavanbah St and maintaining canopy connectivity in the area will help extend habitat.

### Dunecare Activities

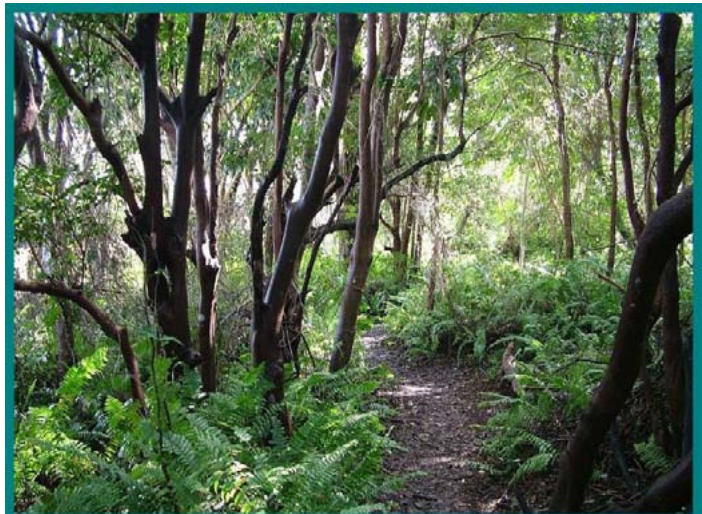
The group has garnered local support for future care of the site, documented the vegetation and removed rubbish. Currently a plan of vegetation management is being prepared after the group received a small grant from Rainforest Rescue for this purpose.

### Council Support

Council's new bush regeneration team have recently treated weeds that are unfortunately well established throughout the remnant. This includes a virulent infestation of Leaf Cactus (*Pereskia aculeata*)-the spiky, impenetrable scrambler (known to some as Satan's Curse) is on the National Alert Weed List having caused environmental damage in other parts of the world with similar climate.

### Problems to be addressed

Although a number of littoral rainforest species have successfully regenerated, there are problems associated with past canopy removal and exposed edges of the remnant have made it vulnerable to weed invasion. In addition to the 'new weed' *Pereskia aculeata*, an array of coastal 'nasties' are very well established, including Asparagus Fern and Gloriosa Lily. Directed by the plan of management, the Cavanbah Dunecare Group will keep a close eye on the health of the remnant, remove weeds, plant out edges and canopy gaps where necessary and maintain the walking path.



### High Profile Location

Cavvanbah St is part of access to the town end of Belongil Beach and the Road Reserve would be first contact with natural vegetation for many people staying in houses and units in the Shirley St area. The intimately scaled remnant with its distinct rainforest feel, complete with birds nest ferns and established vines, creates a vivid impression and potentially carries a conservation message for remnant coastal rainforest.

## BVL Website

The BVL website has been updated and is looking good. We would still love to have your contributions of stories about your group and activities, photos, and your comments and opinions. We also need to keep our locality group information relevant so send in any changes to your groups contact details. It's your web site and we need your enthusiasm and support to keep it fresh and interesting. All contributions should be sent to [brunsvally@optusnet.com.au](mailto:brunsvally@optusnet.com.au) or call Adrian on 6685 1287 to discuss your ideas.

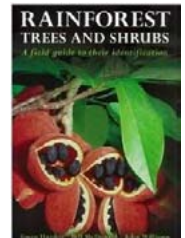
[www.brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au](http://www.brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au)

## BVL Book Shop (Green Books)

BVL has a great range of titles available at competitive prices, including some books that are difficult to get hold of. We have signed copies of the recently revised version of the well-loved Red Book *Rainforest trees and shrubs-A field guide to their identification* by Harden, McDonald and Williams. Retailing for \$50, it is available to BVL members for \$40 and non-members \$45.

To order books contact Rita de Heer on 6684 1495 or email [rdeheer1@dodo.com.au](mailto:rdeheer1@dodo.com.au).

Create More Butterflies	F Jordan & H Schwencke	\$27.50
Grasses of the Tweed Valley of NSW	P Watsford & M Elliott	\$8.80
Growing Natives on the Gold Coast	G McDonald	\$16.50
Mangrove to Mountains, Vol 1	Logan River SGAP	\$49.50
Mangrove to Mountains, Vol 2	Logan River SGAP	\$49.50
Mickeys Music	L Reilly & S Dye	\$5.50
Plants of the Forest Floor	P Watsford et al	\$15.00
Rainforest Climbing Plants	J Williams & G Harden	\$11.00
Rainforest Trees & Shrubs	G Harden et al	\$40
Reflections on the Brunswick	P Berney & B Eady	\$22.00
Subtropical rainforest restoration	Big Scrub Rainforest Landcare Group	\$27.50
Wet forest frogs of SE Queensland	E Meyer et al	\$8.80
Wildflowers of the north coast of NSW	B Kemp	\$22.00



We have free copies available of the *Brunswick Catchment Report for the Brunswick Catchment Management Committee*, Prepared by Greg Alderson and Associated Pty Ltd (1998). If you would like a copy contact Georgia.

## Letters

Hi there Landcarers and colleagues.

I would like to thank you all for the great couple of years I had as CSO. It was a very rewarding time. I got to meet great people, visit and work in special places, be involved with fantastic projects and learn so much. I have now decided to concentrate on working as a bush regenerator. Part of this decision was based on the uncertainty of the CSO position in the future. I will be still be involved in landcare and many environmental projects in the Bruns and no doubt will be seeing many of you around. Thanks to Georgia for all her efforts, especially as she took on the role with such short notice.

Happy Landcaring!

Dave Rawlins

Brunswick Valley Landcare News

## BVL Membership

Join BVL and receive a *25% discount voucher* for plants purchased in a single sale from Mullum Creek Native Nursery. **Join now at 1/2 the old rates:**

**Families and MO's \$15, Individual \$10, Concession \$5**

**New membership rates for 2007 - 2008** :1 year - Individual \$25, concession \$15, family \$35, school/mo's \$45.

**Introducing 2 and 5 year memberships**

2 year - Individual \$45, family \$65, schools/mo's \$85.

5 year - Individual \$100, family \$150, school/mo's \$200.

Contact Maura 66843693 [maurajean@iinet.net.au](mailto:maurajean@iinet.net.au).

## Newsletter Distribution

All BVL members and newsletter subscribers receive the BVL newsletter by email for free every second month with a news brief and calendar of events sent in the months between. If you would like to subscribe please forward your email address to Georgia. Paper copies are available for \$6 pa. Please send your money to Landcare Newsletter C/- PO Box 6 Mullumbimby 2482.

---

Return Address:  
PO Box 6  
Mullumbimby 2482.

---

## Contact us:

### Landcare Community Support Officer

Georgia Beyer (02) 66267028 (Tues & Wed)

[landcare@byron.nsw.gov.au](mailto:landcare@byron.nsw.gov.au)

### Project Officer

Judy MacDonald (02) 6684 5390

[judymac@aapt.net.au](mailto:judymac@aapt.net.au)

### Membership

Maura Dawes (02) 6684 3693

[maurajean@iinet.net.au](mailto:maurajean@iinet.net.au)

### Books

Rita de Heer (02) 6684 1495

[rdeheer1@dodo.com.au](mailto:rdeheer1@dodo.com.au)

BVL's Community Support Officer  
is proudly funded by the NRCMA.



[www.brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au](http://www.brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au)