

Brunswick Valley Landcare Inc

Annual Report 2008-2009

Presented at the BVL Inc annual general meeting 14 October 2009

It has been another busy year for Brunswick Valley Landcare Inc.

Membership

At June 30 we had 130 financial members, and there are currently 89 financial members of BVL who have paid their memberships for 2009-10. Membership funds cover insurance, so everyone who is a member is covered by BVL insurance when doing landcare work. We are very grateful for the assistance of our ex-officio membership secretary Jane Wickers, who generously provides a very efficient membership service and manages the database.

Committee

In 2008-09 BVL's activities were managed by a volunteer committee comprising:

- Tom Alletson
- Lisa Castleman
- Jacqui Paine
- Toni Spruce (secretary)
- Annette Stanton (treasurer)
- Rebecca Lines-Kelly (chair)
- Rita de Heer

We have a very hard-working committee who are very generous with their time and expertise. During the year we welcomed Jacqui to the committee after Rita de Heer, who joined the committee in 2004, resigned for family reasons. Rita generously continues to donate time to manage BVL bookshop sales. Toni, who has been secretary since the formation of BVL in 2003, and Annette and Rebecca who joined the committee in 2004 are not re-nominating, although they will stay very involved in landcare activities. Thanks to all the committee for their generosity over the past year, and particularly our retiring committee members Rita, Toni and Annette for their hard work, friendship and support over the past five years.

During the year the committee met 8 times; and in July we decided to meet every 2 months, as much of our business can be conducted by email in between meetings.

Employment

CSO officer

BVL has again been awarded the contract to manage the NRCMA-funded community support officer until June 2010. This position looks after all landcare groups in Byron Shire and general community NRM interests and is housed with Byron council in Mullumbimby. Wendy Gibney has done a wonderful job over the past year, helping new groups, organising workshops, assisting with funding applications, producing newsletters, and answering hundreds of phone and email queries. Wendy works 2 days a week; currently Thursday and Friday.

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Project officer

Judy MacDonald is employed two days a week, Wednesdays and Thursdays, to manage BVL's funded projects, particularly the three year Environmental Trust biodiversity education project which requires organisation of monthly workshops and the biennial Nature Festival, and production of several information leaflets and brochures. She also assists BVL members and locality groups and helps them source funding and develop funding applications. Judy has been a great support to BVL over the years and is a terrific and tireless organiser

Treasurer

Annette Stanton is employed while funds are available to provide book-keeping services for the committee and its projects. She works 10-20 hours a month.

Locality groups

There are now 24 locality groups working under the BVL umbrella. The groups are listed below, some with working bee days.

1. Balemo Drive, Ocean Shores [new]
2. Brunswick Heads Dunecare. Second Sunday.
3. Brunswick Heads
4. Byron Bird Buddies
5. Chincogan Corridor
6. Coral Ave ,Mullumbimby
7. Durrumbul (along Main Arm Creek)
8. Ewingsdale [new]
9. Heritage Park, Mullumbimby
10. Jingatee (Billinudgel). Third Sunday.
11. Lagoon Drive Wetlands, Myocum
12. Laurel Avenue (Mullumbimby) Third Sunday.
13. Marshalls Creek, Upper Pocket
14. Mullumbimby Creek Gateway (near the High School) First Sunday.
15. New Brighton Dune care
16. North Byron Shire Coastal (Fern Beach). First Friday.
17. Shearwater Landcare (Shearwater School).
18. Suffolk Park Dunecare.
19. Tristran Pade, Mullumbimby. Second Saturday.
20. Tyagarah (Simpsons Creek).
21. Upper Main Arm (Kohinur Hall site).
22. Upper Mullumbimby Creek.
23. Yelgun.
24. Yalakool (Ocean Shores). Last Sunday.

Funding

In 200-09 BVL oversaw six funded projects:

- Envirofund Brunswick River: \$50,000 for riparian work on private properties and Heritage Park.
- Envirofund Upper MullumCreek: \$50,000 for riparian work on private properties.
- Envirofund Yallakool: \$24,000 for bush regeneration, a bridge which will be used as part of a walkway, and for a bush tucker garden with 600 plants.

These 3 grants are now finished.

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- Environmental Trust - BVL biodiversity education: Year 1 \$33,000 (\$100,000 for three years 2009-12)
 - Environmental Trust - Riparian restoration, Lower Mullum Creek locality group: Year 1 \$33,000 (\$100,000 for three years 2009-12)
 - Environmental Trust - Restoring endangered swamp sclerophyll in the Brunswick Catchment, Tristram Parade locality groups: Year 1 Swamp Sclerophyll: Year 1 \$4,521(\$12,624 for three years 2009-12):
- BVL is also consortium partner in the Caring for Country 08-09: Restoring lowland rainforest in NSW North Coast bio-region project. BVL site component is \$33,800.

Tree planting

Landcare members participated in several tree planting events during the year, including

- Salt water Creek
- Heritage Park (2)
- St John's Brunswick River site
- Ewingsdale
- Federation Bridge
- Tristram Parade

Thanks to bush regenerator Dave Rawlins who played a big role in organising many of these events.

Training

BVL has held regular workshops to increase community awareness of local natural resource management issues. Topics are suggested by the committee and locality group members. These are increasingly popular and often over-subscribed.

Communication

Our monthly newsletter and monthly Echo column keep members and others informed of landcare activities around the shire and region. Our former chair Adrian Begg, now living in Kiama, generously continues to manage the website for us – and says he is happy to continue doing so until we find a new webmaster as long as we keep the information up to him! The website address is www.brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au.

Sponsorship

Thanks to Mullum Creek Rainforest Plant Nursery who generously continue to offer discounts to new and renewing members.

Partnerships

Restoring the natural environment takes an entire community, and BVL would like to thank the following organisations for their contribution to BVL's work in 2008-09:

- Byron Shire Council
- Byron ACE and its Living and Working Sustainably project
- The Byron Shire Echo.

Rebecca Lines-Kelly
Chair, BVL Inc

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