

Richmond & Upper Clarence Landcare News



supported by



This newsletter brings you news and information from the Richmond and Upper Clarence catchment areas, stretching from Evans Head to Cape Byron, north to the Border Ranges National Park and the MacPherson Ranges and west to Tenterfield.

Vol. 1 No. 3 –June 2010

NORTH COAST REGIONAL NEWS

Local National Park Manager Retires

Local ecologist, John Hunter from the National Parks and Wildlife Service has recently retired from the Kyogle office where he was Parks Manager. John started as a field officer in the Mt Warning National Park then he moved to Kyogle as a ranger and worked out of what is now the Landcare office. He continued in various parks around the Northern Rivers for a total of over 30 years. He will be missed in the botanical world of the north coast as his knowledge of plants is exceptional. We also thank him for helping to create Nightcap National Park and instigating the creation and listing of the Gondwana Rainforests as World Heritage areas.

We would like to wish John and his family all the best with retired life and hope to see him from time to time.



Figure 1: John Hunter still killing weeds, even when he is speaking on a microphone. John is a great proponent of the splatter gun method of Lantana control

Recognition for Local outstanding achiever

Story by Landcare NSW Inc., Mandi
Stevenson

There are multiple challenges facing farmers and land managers in our state. Drought, a changing climate, new technologies, techniques and the increasing urgency to implement sustainable farming practices. For over 20 years our rural communities have relied on Landcare groups and Networks to provide advice and support, as well as terrific social get-togethers.

Landcare NSW Inc, the peak organization representing community Landcare in NSW, announced that Chris Cumming, CEO and Regional Landcare Facilitator with Holbrook Landcare is to represent the state at the National Landcare Awards. Followed closely by 7 very impressive finalists, Bob Jarman from Northern Landcare Support Services being one of those finalists. Chris was selected as NSW nominee in the category of Local Landcare Coordinator, for her outstanding achievements with Holbrook Landcare. Chris will travel to Canberra for the Awards ceremony in The Great Hall, Parliament House, on 24th June.

The Local Landcare Coordinator award category is a new addition to the National Landcare Awards. Its introduction has been applauded by many in the Landcare movement.

"Landcare is about volunteers," said David Walker. "But what is often neglected by our politicians is the resources necessary to support the crucial role played by Landcare Coordinators. They work directly with the community and Landcare volunteers and their role has been described as the glue which keeps us all working together. All nominees for this award were very impressive and I know the judges had a very difficult time. The contribution of each of the nominees I believe is encapsulated in the description included in one of the nominations:

'they pass on skills, knowledge and approaches, and infect others with their passion and enthusiasm. Their performance is an inspiration to others and encourages others to go beyond the call of duty'.

Two appointments to Australian Landcare Council from Northern Rivers

We are delighted that two women from our northern rivers region have been appointed to the re-formed Australian Landcare Council.

They are Judy Henderson (r), chair of the Northern Rivers CMA and Pamela Brook from Big Scrub Rainforest Landcare.



The Council is a ministerial advisory body on Landcare and natural resource management, re-established by Tony Burke with Kim Chance as Chair of the Council. Kim is a former minister for agriculture in Western Australia.

The Council will work collaboratively with community, farmers, Indigenous land managers and urban groups to facilitate sustainable natural resource management solutions. The Council will also support the development of the Australian Framework

for Landcare, a community framework to ensure the Landcare movement thrives into the future.

Talks, Walks and Sqwalks!



The 2010 **Big Scrub Rainforest Day** theme is 'Animals of the Big Scrub'. Mark the date in your diary - **Sunday 5th September 2010** - **Alstonville Showground**.

Come and enjoy a day of talks, walks, stalls and great kid's activities. There are opportunities to exhibit on the day and if your group, organisation or business is interested contact Karen Hanna, Ph: 0402 170 373 email: maemanagement@bigpond.com

Teaching and tasting our local bush foods

A new guide to teach primary school children not only about bush foods in their local areas, but also how to grow and eat them, will be launched at Goonellabah Primary School.

The comprehensive guide for teachers has been produced by the Dorroughby Education Centre in conjunction with the Richmond Landcare Network through a Forging Partnerships Grant. It is understood to be the first of its kind in Australia.

"The teaching resource called 'Bush Foods for Kids' includes information about what and how bush foods were used by indigenous Australians as well as photographs and descriptions of various edible plants and recipes to try out," says Stuart Willows, Project Coordinator, from the Dorroughby Environmental Education Centre.

For more information go to www.richmondlandcare.org

Industry & Investment News

Industry and Investment and Dairy NSW with the support of the NSW Government have developed a program titled '**A dairy farmer's guide to climate risk**', which will be run in six locations across NSW. The program involves a 3 day course spread over 6 months and is accredited with the Australian Government's Farm Ready Reimbursement Grant (upto \$1,500 per farm per year).

To register your interest contact NRM Coordinator Dr Jess Jennings

Mobile: 0423 224 750

Email: j.jennings@uws.edu.au

INFORMATION EXPO

Northern Landcare Support Services, Far North Coast Weeds and the Catchment Management Authority will all have staff available to provide a whole range of information at **Primex** held in Casino from 9.00-4.00 on 17th, 18th and 19th of June.

Grants Currently Available

1. The 2010-11 NRCMA Incentive program opened on 18 June 2010 and applications will be accepted up until 21 July 2010. The objective of this program is to support the Northern Rivers community in improving the condition of natural resources in our region, including native vegetation, rivers, soils and the coastline. This will be achieved through the implementation of recognised NRM Plans and delivery of community capacity activities that contribute to NRCMA priority project activities. Application guidelines and forms will be available from all NRCMA offices, Community Support Officers (a list of Community Support Officers is available http://www.northern.cma.nsw.gov.au/contact_community_support.php

NRCMA website:

www.northern.cma.nsw.gov.au, from June 18 onwards.

Advertisements will appear in local papers from June 2010.

2. Community Hall Grant

Applications are now open for the Country Halls Renewal Package grant. The grant, that is part of the NSW Industry and Investment "Building the Country Package", will provide funds of up to \$50,000 to help small communities in country NSW to renovate, extend or update community halls. Go to the [NSW Government Industry and Investment website](#) for more information.

3. The new National Landcare Directory

has been purpose built so that it is easier for groups to use. It will also capture the various project types that groups are working on all over Australia. You are encouraged to register your school, day care centre, pre-school, primary school, high school, scouts group and other youth groups.

For a limited time, Landcare Australia will offer 20 x \$1,000 grants to groups who register by September 6th - the first day of Landcare Week. The winning grant recipients will be selected at random from the database and announced on www.landcareonline.com.au/

4. Round 3 of the Yates and Coles

Junior Landcare grants will close 5pm EST Friday 6th August. For information visit www.landcareaustralia.com.au/

Australia's Open Garden Scheme

5. The 2010 **Community Grants** program is now open. Application forms are available at: www.opengarden.org.au/grants.html

Guidelines for our Grants program

-Applications are invited from individuals, community groups and not-for-profit organisations.

-A project may be jointly funded but details of other funding should be included with the application.

-Schools and educational institutions are eligible to apply.

-For schools applying for grants, direct evidence of student participation in the planning and implementation of the project is an advantage.

Essential Information required

-Applications must include detailed costings of all aspects of the project.

-Applications must include a timetable for completion of the project.

-Applications must show a demonstrated commitment to ongoing maintenance

-Applications must be accompanied by at least two independent references.

Applications close on **Thursday 22 July 2010.**



Land for Wildlife - NSW
Community Environment Network
PO Box 149
Ourimbah NSW 2258

Ph: 4349 4756
Fax: 4349 4755
Email: lfwnsw@cen.org.au
Web: www.cen.org.au

The Community Environment Network are NSW Co-ordinators of Land for Wildlife. The State Co-ordinator, John Asquith is currently visiting with councils, landholders and other organisations in the Northern Rivers Region.

Mr Asquith said: *"When the LFW database was transferred many landholder details were incomplete. We are seeking to re-establish contact with landholders who may have been members of Land for Wildlife and have not heard from us in the past two years. If you are one of the 50 landholders in the Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley, Clarence Valley, or Coff Harbour areas and this applies to you, please contact me on 0414-730-032 if you would like to renew your registration."*

Land for Wildlife is a voluntary national program to recognise and network with landholders who include conservation in their property management. It commenced

in Victoria 30 years ago and there are 10,000 members Australia wide.

Mr Asquith went on to say, *"Land for Wilfe landholders are easily noticed by the distinctive signage on their property which recognises their efforts."*

If you are interested in joining the Land For Wildlife program please contact Northern Landcare Support Services on 66323722 for an Expression of Interest Form.



Sick of Parramatta Grass on your Property?

Free information session on Parramatta Grasses

(including Giant's rat's tail and Coolatai)

Thursday 5th August – 9am

RSM Club, 162 Canterbury St, Casino

Presentations

Mr David Officer (Research Agronomist, Industry & Investment NSW): *'Giant Parramatta Grass a diseased future?'*

Dr Chris Nadolny (Ecologist, Scientific Services Division – DECCW): *'Coolatai Grass – a relatively new invasive weed on the Far North Coast.'*

Mr Bill Dobbie (Taskforce): chemical control methods

Mr David Gooley (Days Machinery) : application methods / equipment.

Morning tea provided. Please call 66233833 to book for catering purposes.





Northern Landcare Support Services on 66323722.

Casino West Public School Gets Coles Junior Landcare Grant
by Melinda McCormick

An information night on Cane Toads and Frogs was held at the Wiangaree Hall on Monday March 8th.

Casino West P.S was recently successful in gaining a grant from Coles Junior Landcare to build an “Edible” Garden. Teacher Melinda McCormick organised for the school to obtain 2 large raised garden beds. She said this was a great option for children as they are working standing up, so there is no bending over.



Figure 2: Cane Toad information night at Wiangaree very well received. Photo by T.Patel

Mrs McCormick said “the garden is a valuable learning experience that teaches the students the importance of ecological sustainability while having fun. The end result is to be able to supply the canteen with fresh vegetables and herbs. This allows the children to see the process from ‘Plot to Plate’.

David Newell, a researcher from Southern Cross University, who is studying threatened rainforest frogs in the region, spoke about the migration of the cane toad over the border ranges from the coast.



He informed the landholders about cane toad habitat preferences such as stock dams where they have easy access to still water for breeding. The topic of habitat modification was discussed as an ideal way to prevent/slow toads breeding.

Debbie Bennett and Bruce Hammond, parents from the school, have been supportive with advice and assistance during the process. Mrs McCormick said that once the garden was up and running it would be a showcase to the community of the great things that are happening up at the school.

He recommended controlling their numbers during the breeding season from September to March by spotlighting and removing the toads over 2-3 consecutive nights and disposing of them (freezing being the most humane). David is collecting information about toad migration and their impact on the local frog population on the following website www.toadtracker.com.au so if you have ever seen a cane toad please log onto this sight a put your toads onto the map. This is an ongoing project and we need community participation for this to work. So every time you kill a cane toad please add it to the map.

Casino West students and teachers would like to thank COLES and LANDCARE for the opportunity to participate in such a worthwhile exercise. They would also like to thank David Holmes from Clovass Quarry for the gravel, Wayne & Donna Lollback for the use of their bobcat and Pete’s Plants for the donations of seedlings.

If anyone is interested in getting involved in community toad musters in early September please contact Tara Patel at

Local Field Days

Legume and Herb Workshops

Northern Landcare Support Services hosted two very successful field days in partnership with Carol Rose from Industry and Investment, on Identification of herb and legume plants at Cedar point and Old Bonalbo. There were around 40 landowners at each workshop all extremely keen to learn more and share their knowledge on plants.

Harry and Carol Rose along with Trevor Rose (not related) published a great book on identifying some of these plants late last year. It has great photographs and descriptions and it is FREE. For those of you that like using computers there is also a CD with more information on management techniques and photos. This book was also available at the field days and is still available from Northern Landcare Support Services.



Figure 3: Legume & Herb workshop, Old Bonalbo. Photo by R. Jarman

Oilseed Growers

What a great day that around 50 Soya bean growers had on the 26th March learning all about integrated pest management. They spent the morning inside learning how to identify key predator and beneficial insects that they may find in their paddocks and how best to deal with them. The afternoon was spent outside in the field checking that they could identify some of the insects found using the beat sheet method and how to correctly use this method. Great food and networking was also on the menu.



Figure 4: Attendees at the IPM workshop using a beat sheet. Photo by T.Patel

WDYGG-Evans Head

A keen group of people attended a 'What Does Your Garden Grow?' workshop in Evans Head on the 28th April. This workshop was part of a Caring For Our Country grant that Northern Landcare Support Services received from the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority. The workshop taught people how to identify weedy plants, how easily plants can become weedy, what else you can grow and the importance of botanical names.

Our next workshop down at Evans Head will be later in July on Forming a Landcare Group. As Evans Head does not have a formal group we are hoping to get one started. If you are interested in joining this Landcare Group please contact Bob or Tara on 66323722.

Bush Matters Forum

On the 1st of June around 50 people attended the Bush Matters Forum in Kyogle. It was a day to find out what all the different NRM organisations do and how they might be able to help with private landholders. Thankyou to all the presenters for taking time out of their busy days to make this a successful event.



Figure 5: Great turn out for the Bush Matters Forum. Photo by R. Jarman.



Richmond Landcare Inc

NEWS

From July onwards Richmond Landcare Inc. will be going totally electronic with its own newsletter which will only be available either in email form or via their website. If you would like to be included on the email circulation for these newsletters please send an email to newsletter@richmondlandcare.org or phone (02) 6619 1582 and leave a message on the VoIP Answering Service. Otherwise you can download future newsletters at anytime at www.richmondlandcare.org by clicking on the "MEDIA NEWS" button"

Junior Landcare thriving in Richmond catchment

We are pleased to report that the number of schools' Junior Landcare groups continues to grow in our region, and all are active with a range of interesting projects, supported by Richmond Landcare Inc grants.

One just completed is a series of vegetable beds at Holy Family Catholic Primary School, Skennars Head. Project Leader, Peter Cassidy reports:

"We planned to establish a large ecologically sustainable fruit and vegetable garden on land which was unused and degraded within the school ground. The project involved the construction of 30 garden beds (2.4m X 1.2M x 20mm) from hardwood sleepers held together with 10mm bugle screws. The beds were filled with rich garden soil. The work was completed at a working bee on Saturday 1st May by approximately 20 parents, teachers and children. The project is coordinated by Holy Family's Green Team, a committee formed by our school forum to address school community environmental issues.



Before



After

The project will involve our primary children in all aspects of sustainable vegetable gardening and it will provide them with the skills to grow their own food at home in a sustainable way. Experiencing the satisfaction of growing plants sustainably will promote in the children a deep appreciation of, and respect for, the vital role the environment plays in providing humanity with sustenance. As well, a previously degraded area of land will be rehabilitated into a fertile, productive garden."

The project was funded by Richmond Landcare (\$550 grant), a Coles Junior Landcare (\$1000 grant) and Bunning's Warehouse (gardening tools, watering cans and gloves for 15 classes).

For more stories from RLI go to there website www.richmondlandcare.org and go to there latest e-news.....

Calendar of Events

JUNE

25 **PestWeb Workshop Monitoring for macadamia lace bug, Email:**info@soilcare.org

JULY

16 **Coral Tree Control Workshop**, Georgina Jones, EnviTE :02 66219588 or email:
georginaj@envite.org
TAFE Biological Farming Course, Wollongbar Email:info@soilcare.org
Phone:Bonnie 6628 1788 or 0408 359 429

AUGUST

5 **Parramatta Grass Information session.** 9am RSM Club, Ph: 66233833
20 **Caldera ArtFest 2010 closes**

SEPTEMBER

5 **Big Scrub Rainforest Day**
6-12 **LANDCARE WEEK & WEEDBUSTER WEEK**
17-18 **Dairy Spectacular Bangalow showground**
18-19 **Soil Secrets**, Stanthorpe. Register on 67363500

Richmond & Upper Clarence Landcare News

Northern Landcare Support Services
PO Box 410
Kyogle NSW 2474

POSTAGE
PAID

AUSTRALIA

A project of the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority



Richmond & Upper Clarence Landcare News

June 2010

News for Landcare Groups & landholders in the Richmond & Upper Clarence Catchments, compiled by Northern Landcare Support Services, and Richmond Landcare Inc. The articles in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of Northern Landcare Support Services, Richmond Landcare Inc.

Northern Landcare Support Services P/L.

Bob Jarman (02) 6632 3722 mobile: 0429 320 012
Tara Patel (02) 6632 3722 mobile: 0428 270 123
Bonalbo (02) 6665 1364

bob@nlss.com.au
tara@nlss.com.au
info@nlss.com.au

Richmond Landcare Inc

Tony Walker (02) 6619 1582 mobile: 0427 485 910
Neville Sloss (02) 6619 1582 mobile: 0414 562 0 10
Stuart Willows
Stephanie Lymburner
Website: www.richmondlandcare.org

cso@richmondlandcare.org
pr@richmondlandcare.org
school@richmondlandcare.org
cso@richmondlandcare.org

Contributions to the newsletter are welcomed.
This Newsletter has been printed on 100% recycled paper