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DATES & EVENTS

3rd Feb: *Understanding Soil Test Results Workshop with Harry Rose.*

4th Feb: *CHRL General Meeting, 5.30pm Neighbourhood Centre. Speaker: Aquatic and Vine Weeds and CHCC weed policy with Barry Powells, CHCC Weeds Officer*

3rd March: *Biological Farming Workshop with Maarten Stapper*

March: *Coffs/Bellingen ProGraze*

3rd March: *Biological Farming Workshop with Maarten Stapper*

24th March: *Paddock Plant Field Day with Carol Rose*

23rd April: *MLA Beefing up Production*



Welcome to the New Year and the new look ***Bush to Beach News***. The coming year promises to be an eventful time for everyone at CHRL with the running of a series of sustainable land management workshops over the first six months of the year and the development of the local ***Indigenous NRM Network***. We are also coming to terms with some substantial changes to our funding arrangements which may threaten our ability to provide the level of community support that we currently can. Our current level of funding from the NRCMA for the Community Support Officer position may be cut by as much as 60%. A substantial portion of this funding goes towards our running costs, so a cut of this amount may have a much larger impact on our ability to operate. To overcome this shortfall we are actively pursuing alternative sources of funding through the Australian Governments ***Caring for our Country*** program and the ***GVEHO*** scheme.

These changes are the result of the new direction the Australian Government is taking for NRM funding through their ***Caring for our Country*** (CfoC) program. Over the coming 4 years \$138 million will be available per year for the 56 regional NRM bodies like the NRCMA. This will provide guaranteed, although significantly reduced, base level funding for these bodies over this period. The most significant change to this funding is that now all funding must go towards achieving the targets identified in the CfoC Business Plan (<http://www.nrm.gov.au/business-plan/index.html>). This has the potential to miss the valuable work undertaken by local and regional NRM bodies outside of the identified priority areas. Another area of uncertainty relates to the focus on partnerships within this new funding model. While meaningful partnerships are always beneficial, the challenge to Landcare will be to develop a partnership model that adequately values the community support and capacity building services we provide to these larger projects.

On the Coffs Coast we are lucky to have some federally identified targets within our catchment. These targets relate to the sustainable land management issues of soil acidification and soil carbon, as well as *Continued Page 3.*



President's Report

We ended 2008 on a very sad note with the sudden and unexpected passing of Dee Wallace following a short illness. Dee was a founding member of Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare and one of the driving forces in its establishment eleven years ago and has worked tirelessly on its executive ever since, serving as President and Secretary. She was also actively involved in planning and manning the many displays the CHRL has put on at the many fairs and events over the years. In addition to this, Dee was also very actively involved in a number of other community voluntary organisations. She will be greatly missed by many. Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare is working with Coffs Harbour City Council to put in place an appropriate Memorial Award, maybe in the form of an annual grant for environmental restoration.

Late last year Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare joined with Bellingen and Nambucca Landcare networks to lodge an application for funding to support the Indian Myna control program in the three local government areas. This application has been successful and we have received a grant of \$100 000 over two years to support the program. The three Landcare networks and their respective Councils and National Parks will be meeting together shortly to discuss the implementation of the project.

I wish all of our members a happy, prosperous and successful 2009.

Ron Smith.

CHRL Meeting Dates for 2009

Please mark these dates in your calendar!

CHRL General Meeting Dates:

4th Feb, 6th May, 5th Aug (AGM), 4th Nov.

CHRL Executive Meeting Dates

11th Mar, 8th April, 10th June, 8th July, 9th Sept, 14th Oct, 9th Dec.

Successful Caring for our Country - Coastcare Grants

Stingray Creek Bushcare and Friends of Coffs Creek were both successful in the recently announced Caring for our Country Coastcare grants.

Stingray Creek received \$33 801.82 for their project to restore and rehabilitate 4.4 hectares of Littoral Rainforest and Themeda Grassland on the headland that surrounds a walking track up to Green Bluff Headland at Moonee Beach.

Friends of Coffs Creek were also successful in their application for \$22 443.82 to protect and enhance ecological values of one third of the 'Habitat Walk' of Coffs Creek. Unfortunately this funding will have to be declined as the project has been successful in securing funding from the NRCMA and CHCC prior to the announcement of the CfoC Coastcare grants.

Caring for our Country

Continued from page 1.

a range biodiversity and coastal targets covering Coastal Rainforests, reducing the impact of rabbits, reducing the impact of weeds and coastal community engagement.

Projects will be funded at three different scales; large projects (up to \$20 million over 4 years), medium scale projects (\$2-3 million per year) and small scale projects (\$20 000 - \$100 000 per year).

Most projects will be expected to incorporate community and indigenous groups and involve partnerships between different NRM bodies, Government Departments and community based organisations.

Copies of the *Caring for our Country Business Plan 2009-2010* are available in the CHRL office and online at www.nrm.gov.au



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

Sustainable Land Management Practices Workshops

As mentioned in previous newsletters, the North Coast Landcare Network was successful in securing \$243 920 for a series of SLMP workshops, the production of the **Common Legumes and Herbs** booklet and the updating and printing of the new **Resource Kit for Rural Landholders in the Northern Rivers**.

Workshops to be held in our area include:

Biological Farming with Maarten Stapper on the 3rd March. This workshop is for anyone using soil to grow plants and covers the ins and outs of creating and maintaining healthy soils through biological farming practices with examples of achieved successes.

ProGraz will be up and running by March and will cover the Coffs and Bellingen areas. The workshop series will be run by Tac Campbell from the NSW DPI and will cover all aspects of pasture and livestock production. Our SLMP funding has allowed us to subsidise this workshop reducing the costs to \$150 per farm (max. 2 pers.).

Paddock Plants 10am – 3pm on the 24th March. Carol Rose, NSW DPI Agronomist, will show participants a range a common paddock plants and look at what indications they can give us on

pasture management.

MLA Meat Standards Australia 23rd of April. *Beefing up Performance* is the aim of this one day workshop on carcass management and grading. The day will be run by MLA Supply Chain Coordinator Mark Inglis.

If you would like any further information or if you would like to put your name down for a workshop please contact Craig or Jude in the Landcare office on 6651 1308.



Maarten Stapper, former CSIRO scientist, at last years Biological Farming Workshop.

Coastal Plant Workshop

Twenty-two people turned up for an informative morning of coastal plant talk at Diggers Beach on the 2nd December.

Carl Freeman and **Damian Lett**, Field Officers from the Coffs Coast Regional Park, took participants on a walk through hind, fore dune and *Banksia* communities and then through *Littoral Rainforest* and *Themeda Headland* communities, two locally listed EEC's (endangered ecological communities). Issues discussed included plant ID, weed control and rehabilitation techniques. A big thanks to everyone from DECC and all those who participated on the day.



Carl Freeman, Senior Field Officer for the Coffs Coast Regional Park, discussing the role of coastal plants in dune stabilisation.

Rainforest ID



Alex Floyd from the North Coast Botanical Garden was an invaluable asset to the day

Never again shall we underestimate the attraction of **Alex Floyd** as a course presenter. In total over 70 people expressed interest in the *Rainforest ID* morning we advertised recently. Because of the huge demand the workshop had to be shifted indoors at the Coramba Hall where participants learnt to identify the common leaf characteristics used in rainforest identification. After a couple hours of instruction and a cup of tea the group was divided into pairs to work through a series of samples. Encouragingly most groups had a success rate of close to 90%! We would like to thank **Alex Floyd** and **Charlie Pierlot** for their efforts in collecting over 240 samples and their involvement on the day.

Seed Collection

Following on from the morning Rainforest ID session was a workshop on seed collection presented by **Sally Mathews** from **Flametree Consulting**. Sally collected a range of different seed types for everyone to look at and discussed the ways to collect, process and store native seeds. The genetic implications of seed collection were also discussed as was the importance of proper documentation.

It is hoped that more volunteer seed collectors can be recruited from the course participants to supply seed to the CHRL volunteer nursery. Last year the CHRL Nursery grew and supplied over 5000 natives for our member groups.



Sally Mathews from Flametree Consultancy talking seeds with Steve Clemesha



Want to help Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare but don't have time? BCU has the answer!

A BCU Community Saver Account (CSA) gives you an attractive rate of interest on your savings while generating funds for Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare!

How does it work?

You open a BCU Community Saver Account and nominate CHRL as your recipient organisation. Start saving, then once a year BCU will donate an amount equal to 1% of the average annual balance held in your CSA to Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare.

Tell your family and friends to do the same, after all, the more CSA accounts held by CHRL members & supporters, the greater the overall benefit to CHRL.

For more information contact BCU Direct on 1300 228 228 or follow this link: www.bcu.com.au/personal/savings_accounts/community_saver_account

Coffs Harbour Indigenous NRM Network

Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare and Deborah Dootson from ACET Employment and Training will be developing an **Indigenous NRM Network** for the Coffs Harbour region. This network will aim to bring together a variety of stakeholders in the indigenous and NRM communities of Coffs Harbour and facilitate information flow between all those involved.

Deborah Dootson has recently started with ACET as the Aboriginal Extension Project Officer for the area and the Indigenous NRM Network will give her an opportunity to meet all those involved and discuss potential project ideas for future development. Deborah can be contacted on 66516333.

Getting the Most from Soil Testing for Beef Cattle Farmers

Soil testing is a very useful tool to help landholders identify soil nutrient and structural problems. However, many things can go wrong between collecting the soil and having the test results interpreted. Using the wrong soil sampling tools and methods can lead to "rubbish in – rubbish out" and a lot of wasted money.

To provide answers to these questions and more, Harry Rose (Soils Information Officer, NSW Department of Primary Industries), in conjunction with Coffs Harbour Landcare will be running a soil field days at Karangi on Tuesday 3rd February from 9.30am to 2.30pm.

Landholders will be provided with the book "Grasses of the North Coast of NSW" and basic guides to interpreting soil tests and assessing soils.

This is a hands-on field day, so expect to get your hands dirty. Landholders will need to bring a chair, their lunch, sun protection and several handfuls of their topsoil.

For more information on the day, contact Craig Stehn at Coffs Landcare on 66 511 308.



Revegetate or Regenerate ?



The 3 R's of Restoration

1. **R**etain intact vegetation
2. **R**egenerate whenever possible
3. **R**eplant only when there is no potential to regenerate

You have your site; you have your plan.....What next?

For many people the first thing that springs to mind is planting. At the end of the day you can see what you have done and for many people it's an enjoyable activity that they feel confident doing. At this point it is often good to remember the amazing capacity of many remnants to regenerate naturally.

Be Patient!

Weedy bushland that is helped to regenerate naturally has a chance of becoming a relatively balanced ecosystem needing minimal maintenance to remain healthy. Planted areas require more continuing attention (like a garden) and do not have the same potential to recover naturally from future disturbances such as fire.

Inappropriate clearing and planting can irreversibly damage the nature of a bushland site and undermine its natural recovery potential. It is better to wait until resources are available to treat the site properly with ongoing follow up than to jump in, clear and plant and thus destroy its potential to ever regenerate naturally (and in NSW, any work in endangered bush must first be approved by the Department of Environment and Climate Change).

Protect

In our enthusiasm to see native plants returning to replace weeds, we need to be careful not to cause any unintentional damage. Planting will usually distort the unique character of a bushland remnant, whereas assisted natural regeneration will conserve its intrinsic values.

Restoration should be seen as a long term project so that native plants have time to regenerate naturally where weeds have been removed.

As well as removing weeds it will often be necessary to address the cause of the problem before natural regeneration can take effect. E.g stormwater runoff may need to be managed and some areas may need to be fenced to exclude stock or restrict overuse.

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Australian Association of Bush Regenerators www.aabr.org.au

CHRL Worksite News

Arrawarra Coastcare Site: Volunteers working monthly on littoral rainforest at the southern end of Corindi Beach

Arrawarra Headland Landcare Site: Are holding working bees with the assistance of NPWS Ranger.

Coramba Landcare Association: Working bees held fortnightly. Contact John Ross for more information - 6654 4373.

Crystal Waters Landcare Site: Have finished working on their Envirofund project - rehabilitation new areas of the Crystal Waters Lagoon System.

Darkum Road Landcare Site: Removal of weeds from the reserve adjoining Darkum Creek.

Eastern Dorrigo Landcare Site: Have completed their Envirofund project—weed removal, revegetation and bank stabilisation along Ulong Creek.

Emerald Beach Community Dunecare: Are meeting monthly to remove weeds around Fiddaman's Creek and Emerald Beach.

Friends of Coffs Creek: Meet fortnightly on Saturdays and weekly on Mondays. Have received Environmental Levy to enhance the riparian vegetation from Lawson Crescent downstream to and including sections of Brodie Drive.

Jetty Dunecare Group Inc: Are continuing their bush regeneration work in the Jetty area. Volunteers meet Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 7.30am. Ph Jane Ireland for more information 66524389.

Karangí Landcare Group: Are meeting monthly to weed areas around the Cemetery .Contact: Ron Smith, 66538249

Karangí Public School: Continuing their great work and are applying for an Australia Post grant for nest boxes and native vegetation garden.

Korora Basin Landcare Site: Have taken on new volunteers and are meeting monthly, contact Kris Hely, 66536781

Korora Lagoons Landcare Site: Continuing their work around Korora Lagoon.

Mullawarra Dunecare Site: Meeting on the last Saturday of the month. Contact Roger Jennings, 66541203

Nana Glen Landcare Group: Were nominated for the 2008 Eileen Moody award which was won by Group member Peter Franklin.

Narranga Primary School: The A-team recently undertook an environmental audit of the school to determine areas where energy efficiency could be improved and the school's environmental footprint reduced.

Park Beach Dunecare Site: Volunteers work individually on a regular basis to remove noxious and environmental weeds.

Safety Beach Dunecare Site: The group are having monthly working bees and working closely with National Parks staff.

Sandy Beach Dunecare Site: After more than 20 years of work at this site Wayne Evans has 'hung up his hoe'. There are now no volunteers working in the Sandy Beach dunes. Wayne is more than willing to help and advise any new volunteers who would like to work at this site.

Sawtell Community Bushcare: A couple of new members have joined this site. The Council is hoping the volunteers will assist with the approved works in the adopted Dolmans Point Action Plan.

Sawtell Dunecare: Continue to remove weeds, plant local natives & remove man-made rubbish from the beach every Thursday from 8am onwards.

Woolgoolga Main Beach Dunecare: Are continuing their good work with working bees carried out every Monday from 9am on the dunes.

Woolgoolga Back Beach Dunecare: Recently reformed with keen new volunteers. Working bees held the 1st Sunday each month 9am-noon. Meet at the backbeach picnic area. Ph: Alex Groot, 0429 650 683

Please note: The information about dates for group activities is sourced from your membership & group activities forms, if it is not correct please let CHRL know, phone 6651 1308 or email chrl@westnet.com.au .

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Jude Turner (Mon & Wed) 6651 1308

Aboriginal Extension Project Officer:

Deborah Dootson 6651 6333

Northern Rivers CMA:

6653 0105

Coffs Harbour City Council, Recreational Services Operational Technical Officer:

Jeff Holmes 6648 4541

DECC Coffs Coast Regional Park:

Tom Denman 6652 0928



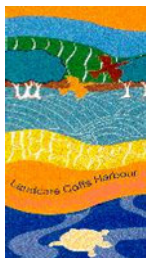
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