

Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare

Bush to Beach News

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DATES & EVENTS

March: *Coffs/Bellingen ProGraze*

22nd March: *NPWS Volunteer Get Together*

21st March: *Paddock Plants Field Day with Carol Rose*

13th April: *Woolgoolga Curryfest*

23rd April: *MLA Beefing up Production*

28th April: *Birds in Backyards Workshop*



Welcome to another edition of *Bush to Beach News*.

The Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare office has been very busy since the Christmas break with several new programs starting up. Waterwatch is one of these new programs with Waterwatch groups being established in all of the Orara Valley primary schools over the first six months of this year. The establishment of these groups is an excellent example of how a coordinated project with multiple partners can deliver a program over a wide area within the time constraints that we all face.

On a more disturbing note, a new weed species of blackberry has been confirmed as being naturalised in the Coffs area. Members of the Ulitarra Society first noticed this unusual blackberry last year. Multiple sightings have since been confirmed throughout Coffs Harbour and the Orara and Bellinger Valley's. Please check out the story on page nine and familiarise yourself with this species.

The uncertainty of funding for Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare is still a cause of concern. Over the past couple of months we have been very pro-active in trying to secure alternative funding for administrative costs as well as the more traditional on-ground landcare activities that our groups undertake so well. Hopefully at some point the powers that be will realise the inherent value of the landcare network itself. It is through this network that information flows out to the many small community groups that exist in the region and it is also through this network that valuable information is also received on such issues as new weed incursions (eg White Blackberry) and community needs. The management of this network is ultimately what allows many of the on-ground outcomes to occur whether they be fencing, planting or the less tangible shift in attitudes that can filter through friends, neighbours and the wider community.

Craig



President's Report

Firstly, congratulations to Craig and Kirsti on the birth of their second child, Arlo. We wish them well as they adjust to having a baby in their lives.

The recent flood event has roughed up some Landcare work sites, especially on the Orara River and its creeks. The river reached a flood level not seen since 1976 and some of the creeks had their biggest flood since the 1950's. It is disappointing to see our trees flattened and covered in debris. Most of the smaller trees can be straightened up again and in some cases a fork stick will hold them up while their roots take hold again. A number of trees that were planted eight to ten years ago and were six to eight metres high have been damaged to a point beyond which they can be saved. While this is disheartening it is part of the natural process. It may be another fifty years before another flood of that magnitude comes again.

Our funding beyond the 30th June is still uncertain but we expect that we will receive some. We are working on a number of applications from a variety of funding sources and are sure to be successful with some of them.

I wish to thank Barry Powells, the Weeds Officer with Coffs Harbour City Council, for the informative presentation at our February meeting. We all need to be on the lookout for potential new weed species in our district, as early intervention is the most successful. The support we receive from council is greatly appreciated as together we can prevent our district being overrun by weeds.

R McSmith

CHRL Meeting Dates for 2009

Please mark these dates in your calendar!

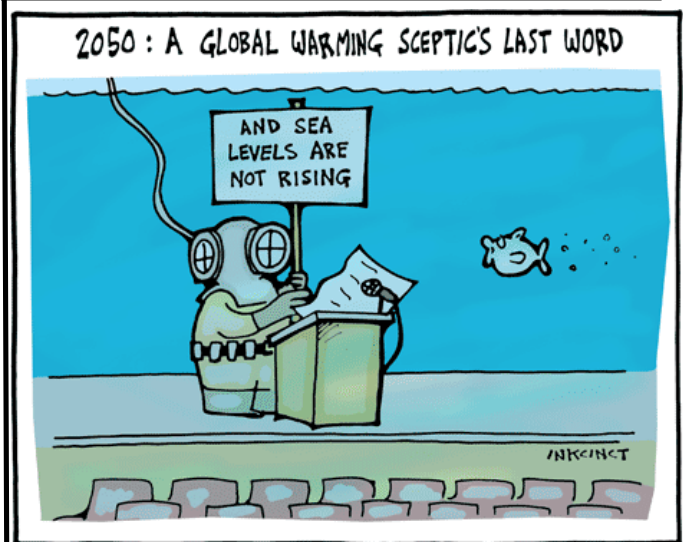
CHRL General Meeting Dates:

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

CHRL Executive Meeting Dates

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

N.B. Sept date to be confirmed



Free training for worksite supervisors

One day OH&S training and First Aid certification is available to CHRL members who are supervisors of active CHRL approved worksites. If you are interested please contact the Coffs Landcare office on 6651 1308 (N.B. All training participants have to be approved by the CHRL Executive). Funding for this training comes from CHRL's Coffs Harbour City Council (CHCC) Environment Levy allocation. CHCC provides support for Landcare volunteers in the Coffs Harbour LGA through financial support for tools, chemicals, training and on-ground contractor works.

Water Bug Survey

The Autumn Water Bug Survey kicks off again on the 18th March.

The Water Bug Survey allows community groups and schools to get involved in sampling their local creeks and determining local water pollution levels through the presence or absence of particular aquatic bugs. If you would like to find out more information go to <http://www.bugsurvey.nsw.gov.au>

Or contact:

Carla Sbrocchi

Catchment Officer (Waterwatch)

Northern Rivers CMA

PO Box 228 Kempsey NSW 2440

Ph: 02 6561 4965



Biological Farming with Maarten Stapper

Over 60 people (28 from the Coffs area) attended the **Biological Farming** workshop held at Nana Glen Community Hall on Tuesday. The two morning sessions with **Maarten Stapper** covered the philosophy and theory behind 'biological farming', while the afternoon session had a look at what can be achieved when soil health is a focus within a farm, through a visit to the **Kia-Ora Organic Farm** on Orara Way. Ekk and Margot Berner, from Kia-Ora, opened up their property and their wine bottles to course participants and discussed the ups and downs of their path to full organic certification (as well as the highlights of last years vintage).

Funding for this workshop was received from the Australian Governments **Caring for our Country** program with the Nana Glen workshop being organised by Kate Goode from Bellingen Landcare on behalf of Coffs Harbour Landcare, Nambucca Landcare and Bellingen Landcare.



Peds, roots and fungi. Ekk Berner shows Maarten Stapper the improvements that have been achieved on his farm through careful soil management.



CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY

Want to know more??

Check out Maarten Stappers website:

<http://biologicagfood.com.au/>

Or Kia-Ora at:

<http://kiaoraholidayfarm.net/>



Orara Valley Schools Waterwatch

On March the 9th and 10th Coramba Public School and Karangi Public School students got their hands (and shoes) dirty and sampled their local streams as part of the Waterwatch and Water Bug Survey programs.

Carla Sbrocchi from the Northern Rivers CMA with the support of Craig Stehn (Coffs Landcare), Sandy Eager (Orara River Rehabilitation Project), Bruce Winter (Cascade Environmental Education Centre) and Judy Davies (Aquatic Macro-invertebrate Researcher) will be providing training to the students and teachers to establish on-going Waterwatch groups. These groups will then monitor water quality in their local streams and upload the data they collect onto the Waterwatch website where changes can be tracked over time. Waterwatch groups will also be established at the Nana Glen and Upper Orara public schools next term.

<http://www.waterwatch.nsw.gov.au/>



Communities Caring for Catchments



Coramba Public School students looking for the good bugs in Coramba Creek



Karangi Public Waterwatchers

Beefing up Performance



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 this workshop please contact Craig or Jude in the Landcare office on 6651 1308 or Kate Goode at Bellingen Landcare on 6655 0588



Solitary Islands Marine Park Education Material



The Solitary Islands Marine Park has been successfully running excursions for primary school students teaching about our local marine environments as well as marine parks and their role in protecting the marine environment. Four excursions are run with support material such as fact sheet, worksheets, teachers guides and identification sheets.

Explore the Rocky Shore – Explore the rock pools at Woolgoolga Headland identify and learn about a range of common plants and animals.

River to the Sea – Visit the beautiful Corindi River at Red Rock and explore saltmarsh and mangrove forests, as well as identify a range of estuarine animals.

Indigenous Culture – Visit the ancient stone fish traps at Arrawarra Headland and learn how fish were trapped, visit a midden and join in on traditional dancing, music and rope making.

Beach and Buster – learn about the many shipwrecks in the Marine Park and visit the Buster, washed up on Woolgoolga Beach back in 1893.

The latest in educational activities will be launched in April, and is aimed at introducing the underwater environment to those who don't get to experience the depths. The Diving Diaries are a series of underwater images that have been taken from around the marine park that will be displayed on the Marine Parks Authority website. At regular intervals, the images will be updated to enable students to observe changes of the reef habitat over time. Children can expect to see a wonderful variety of fish and other marine species coming and going and generally get an idea of the life on the reef in a small scale. Information about the habitats and animals will be included with each stage of the project.

For information on excursions and incursions please contact the Education Officer on 6652 0900 or visit www.mpa.nsw.gov.au to view the Education Kit.

Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Vine Thickets of Eastern Australia Information Booklet



On 10 October 2008, the Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Vine Thickets of Eastern Australia were listed as a critically endangered ecological community under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). This ecological community provides habitat for over 70 threatened plants and animals and provides an important buffer to coastal erosion and wind damage. To accompany the listing we have prepared an information booklet - Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Vine Thickets of Eastern Australia, EPBC Policy Statement 3.9.

This policy statement aims to increase awareness, explain the reasons for the listing, provide advice on how to identify, assess and manage this ecological community and highlight the EPBC Act implications of its listing. The Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts is distributing the policy statement widely to enable landholders (e.g. farmers), environmental managers and other stakeholders to use it as a reference and help ensure sustainable management and protection for this critically endangered community. Copies are available from www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/littoral-rainforest.html or by calling 1800 803 772



Lunchtime Discussions at the Botanic Gardens Cafe

Bring your lunch or buy a coffee and cake at the Garden Café and enjoy a short informative talk by a professional, every last Wednesday of the month, starting at 1pm. The Garden Café also has a \$6 lunch special available when booking on 66484896 or 66484861.

Rare Orchid – Steven Clemesha

March 25th: Steve is an orchid and fern expert and will speak about a rare orchid in the Botanic Gardens

Ecological Gardening – Dr Greg Clancy

April 29th: Greg will speak about ecological

gardening and planting your garden for wildlife

Mangroves of the Solitary Islands Marine Park – Richard Taffs

May 27th: Richard is a mangrove enthusiast who has studied the local mangroves for many years.

Endangered Native Plants – Alex Floyd

June 24th: Alex is an expert in all areas of botany with a wealth of knowledge to share.

Eucalypts – Barry Kemp

July 29th: Barry is the author of Wildflowers of the North Coast of NSW

Enhancing Urban Bird Habitat

How to manage urban landscapes for birds, based on scientific research

Do you:

Want to know how you can help preserve bird habitat?

Have an interest in creating a backyard haven for wildlife?

Want to know more about urban flora and fauna?

YES? Then please join us for a **FREE** 3 hour interactive workshop to introduce you to the *Birds in Backyards Program's Best Practice Guidelines for Enhancing Urban Bird Habitats*

When? Wed 28th April

Where? Coramba Community Hall, Dorrigo Street, Coramba

What time? 5.30-8.30pm refreshments provided

BOOKINGS: email Lizzie Rose lizzierose22@bigpond.com or call 0414 940 284 to register





Recreational fishing fee trust - Apply for funds

Small grants (funding up to \$10,000)

Small grants enable fishing clubs, councils and other community members to submit proposals for small, local or regional projects to enhance recreational fishing. Grants are limited to \$10,000 and proposals should include matched funds or contributing in-kind support (such as voluntary labour, material, salaried staff) from the applicant or other sources. Small grant applications can be submitted at any time during the year. Previously funded small grant projects have included the establishment of fish cleaning tables, fishing platforms and fish measuring stations.

Large grants (funding of more than \$10,000)

Applications for small and large funding applications for consideration at the next Expenditure Committee meeting close on Friday, 20 March 2009.

For further information contact the Recreational Fishing Trust Executive Officer on (02) 9527 8411 or email:

recreational.fishingtrust@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Seeds Please!!

The Coffs Harbour Landcare nursery is rapidly running out of seed. Volunteer seed collector would be greatly appreciated. If you would like to become involved in collecting seeds please contact Craig in the Landcare office on 6651 1308.

Volunteers can collect in their local area and even one-off collections would be appreciated if they are from plants of known identity.

If you were unable to attend the recent seed collection workshop but would still like to be involved drop into and we can provide you with some seed collection factsheets.

Caring for our Country

Business Plan proposal dates extended

As a result of the natural disasters that have occurred recently, the closing date for all Caring for our Country 2009-10 business plan proposals has been extended to 3 April 2009.

Ministers Garrett and Burke have also announced more than \$5 million to support bushfire recovery projects in Victoria. The Australian Government will work closely with the Victorian Government to ensure the funding achieves the best outcomes for these bushfire affected areas. Further information about the process for these funds will be available shortly.

WetlandCare Project Officer

WetlandCare Australia has an opportunity for a casual Project Officer for four months work till June 30th. The position is available now and will be at least four days per week and possibly five. Casual salary range is between \$22.84-\$25.52/hr based on experience. We are seeking somebody with NRM qualifications and experience ideally with knowledge, skills or experience in floodplain / wetland management. The position is based in the Coffs Harbour area and will require a home office and appropriate office equipment. The role will involve compiling information on best practice floodplain management and also implementing on-ground works to protect and rehabilitate floodplain ecosystems.

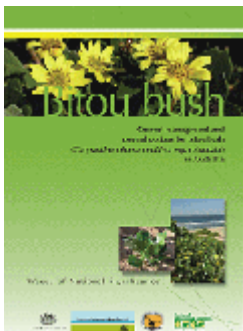
Key Responsibilities:

- Review existing floodplain/wetland information and compile information packages tailored to provide farmers / landholders with useful and relevant information.
- Provide advice to and negotiate with landholders to undertake wetland rehabilitation and protection works
- Coordinate wetland rehabilitation and protection on private lands
- Liaising with government agencies, local government and other stakeholders

Please contact Josh Keating for further information on 66 525 589 or 0431 456 088.

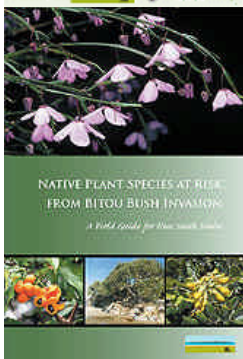


New Bitou Bush Publications



The *Current management and control options for Bitou Bush in Australia* manual is intended to present the best practice management approaches as they are currently known, but also acknowledges that changes in understanding are likely to come with time. This manual covers Bitou bush impacts, habitats invaded, control approaches, repairing invaded habitats and monitoring approaches. Coastal groups in the Coffs area can obtain a copy from the Coffs Landcare office or online at:

<http://www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/bitoubush/>



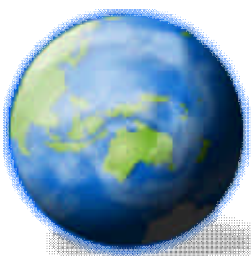
Native Plant Species at Risk from Bitou Bush Invasion - a field guide for NSW

The DECC has produced a field guide to the native plant species, threatened plant populations and ecological communities at risk from Bitou bush and boneseed invasion in NSW as a companion document to the TAP. This field guide is aimed at assisting all land managers, contractors and volunteer/community groups working on Bitou bush control or restoring Bitou bush invaded sites.

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/bitouTAP/IDguide.htm>

Living Communities

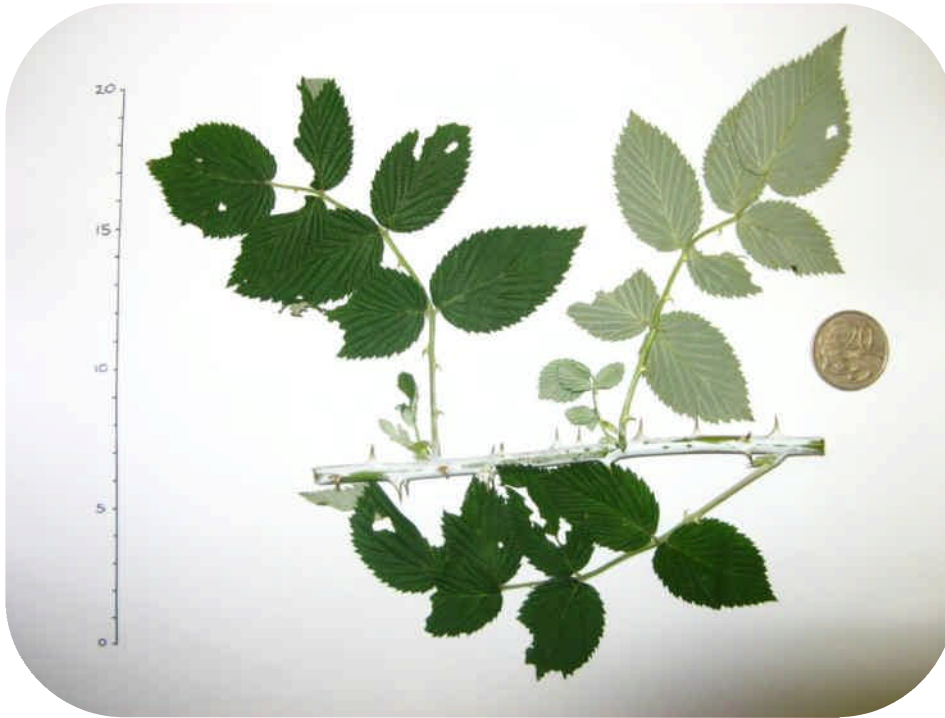
Sustainable Living – Resilient Communities: Would you like to know what your footprint is and join with your local community to act together to reduce it? Local community Eco-Teams are being formed to learn and act together. Local Facilitators will meet with their team once a month to work through the 9-module Living Communities environmental education program. Topics include: Sustainability, Climate Change, Energy and Transport, Water, Food, Economic Crisis, Consumption and Waste, Biodiversity, Wellbeing. An information meeting will be held at **111 Fiddaman Rd, Emerald Beach, on Wednesday the 18th of March 6-7pm**. Contact David Clayton on 0427393363 for more information.



Weed Focus - White Blackberry

Rubus niveus

Have you seen this Blackberry species in your area??



First year primocanes of White Blackberry with white powdery coating on main cane and compound leaves with 7 leaflets.

White Blackberry (*Rubus niveus*) is an Asian Blackberry species recently confirmed by members of the Ulitarra Society as being naturalised in the Coffs Harbour/Bellingen area. The only other naturalisation of this species in Australia is in the Atherton Tablelands in North Queensland where it was located in 2006. This species is a significant weed in sub-tropical and tropical climates in the Galapagos Islands and Hawaii and the NSW DPI considers the species to be a high weed risk with a high feasibility for control.



Established roadside plant on Orara Way

This species can be identified from the following features:

- White glaucous (powdery) coating on the canes
- Compound leaves with 7-9 leaflets
- Deep to light rose coloured flowers.

While this *Rubus* spp. is not a declared weed at this point although there is support within the Australian Government to include emerging *Rubus* spp. in the Federal Weeds of National Significance (WONS) declaration.

Chemical control of Blackberry is best done when the plant is actively growing (Sept – Apr) with either 1gm of *Brush-Off* to 10 litres of water (+ surfactant) or *Grazon* at a rate of 50ml to 10 litres. The use of *Grazon* is best reserved for less sensitive areas as the active ingredient is residual in the soil.

If you think you have seen White Blackberry growing in an area near you please contact Craig in the office at Coffs Landcare (6651 1308) or Barry Powells at Coffs Council on 6648 4889.



Rubus niveus seedling. Over a two year period this site has gone from having 1 white blackberry plant to having over 12.



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 CHRL's Administrative officer Jude Turner; or BCU Direct on 1300 228 228; or follow this link:

http://www.bcu.com.au/personal/savings_accounts/community_saver_account

Mid-North Coast Indian Myna Control Project

Nambucca, Coffs Harbour and Bellingen Landcare Inc's have been successful in securing \$100 000 in funding over the next two years to undertake an Indian Myna control project in the region. The funding will cover the employment and travel costs of a project co-ordinator who will oversee the development of a volunteer network, the collection and collation sighting and trapping data, and the implementation of a community awareness raising program.

The position was recently advertised and interviews are expected to be conducted shortly. Watch this space!

www.coffsharbourlandcare.org.au

The upgraded CHRL website is slowly taking shape with the transfer of content to the new WordPress format. In short the change to WordPress will allow CHRL staff to more easily update and post information onto the website. From now on documents such as the newsletter and weed factsheets will be available online at www.coffsharbourlandcare.org.au

Over the coming weeks (or months) the website will be getting constantly updated as new information is uploaded and new pages are created. It is hoped these changes will allow a wider audience to access up to date information on natural resource management and help increase the public profile of Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare.



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.

Bakker Drive: Working one Saturday a month removing Privet and Camphor from the reserve at the end of Bakker Drive. Contact Geoff Cohen on 6653 5891 for more information.

Coramba Landcare Association: Working bees held fortnightly. Contact Guy Gilmour for more information - 6654 4171.

Cordwells Creek: Volunteers are working along Cordwells Creek to remove Lantana and Ochna and protect areas of the threatened grass *Alexfloydia repens*. Contact Damian Arnold on 6658 8273 for more information.

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.

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

Karangie 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.

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.

Shepherds Lane: A group of local residents improving the condition of their roadside reserve. Contact Alan Bithell on 6652 8665.

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 .

Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare Inc

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Contacts

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CHRL Community Support Officer:

Craig Stehn 6651 1308

CHRL Accounts & Administration:

Jude Turner (Mon & Wed) 6651 1308

Aboriginal Extension Project Officer:

Deborah Dootson 6651 6333

Northern Rivers CMA:

6653 0150

Coffs Harbour City Council, Recreational

Services Operational Technical Officer:

Jeff Holmes 6648 4541

DECC Coffs Coast Regional Park:

David Nalder 6652 0928



Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare

Bush to Beach News

With thanks to our kind supporters



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare Inc.

PO Box 1730

Coffs Harbour NSW 2450

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AUSTRALIA