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DATES & EVENTS

28th Feb: *Submissions close for the CHCC PHACS and Koala Plan.*

10th March: *CHRL Executive Meeting.*
13th March: *Green Bluff Working Bee*

20th March: *Legume and Herbs of the North Coast Field Day*

17th April: *Riverside Grazing Strategies Workshop*

5th May: *CHRL General Meeting*

18th May: *Soil Carbon and Carbon Sequestration on Farms Workshop*



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

Besides a nice break over the X-mas holidays the CHRL office has been very busy finalising a range of new contracts that will begin in the coming months. CHRL has been successful in gaining funding from the **Northern Rivers CMA** and the **Australian Government's Caring for our Country** program for several new projects. These projects represent an investment of over \$200 000 in the Coffs Harbour LGA on top of our existing Community Support funding. A summary of these projects is included below.

- **Coastal Farming Incentives: Implementing Plans for Adaptation to Climate Change**
 - Funding \$74,770.00
- **Upper Bo Bo River Reach Plan Development Project**
 - Funding \$7,500.00
- **Camp Creek River Reach Plan Development Project**
 - Funding \$7,500.00
- **Coordinating Coastal Community Engagement and On-ground Actions on the Coffs Coast**
 - Funding \$50,000.00
- **Corindi River & Red Rock Restoration Project**
 - Funding \$47,000.00
- **Increasing the uptake of sustainable land management practices in the Coffs Coastal Region**
 - Funding \$17,390.91

The other big news in the CHRL office is the employment of **Alastair Maple**, our new Project Officer. Alastair will be with us on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and will be focusing on the Coastal Farming Incentives project as well as some of the coastal projects we will be running. For the full details see page 3.

Finally, Coffs Harbour City Council is seeking submissions on their **Priority Habitats and Corridors Strategy** and **Koala Plan of Management**. Please make yourself familiar with these documents and, if possible, make a submission by the 28th of February. The PHACS Strategy in particular represents a major acknowledgement of the work undertaken by Landcare in reconnecting habitats across the LGA and, if implemented, would lead to a range of incentives being available to landholders who improve their management practices. For a link to councils webpage go to page 8.

Craig Stehn.



President's Report

Firstly, I wish you all the best for the New Year and may it be a good one for all members and their worksites. The beginning of the year is a good time to have a look at our worksites and assess the progress that has been achieved in the last twelve months and if possible record it by taking photographs and noting details of progress. It is the desire of the Executive Committee to have an up-to-date workplan for each site. However, with no specific funding for that purpose it is one of those jobs that our Community Support Officer does when he can find the time. It is a great help for preparing a site plan if good records are kept on what has already been achieved. This is also a good time to plan ahead on what you would like to achieve at your worksite in the year ahead, particularly for work that requires funding as funding opportunities may arise through the year, often with a short time span to lodge applications.

The next few months are traditionally the best time of the year for planting trees with regular rainfall and good growing conditions that allow young trees to get established before winter and the drier spring months.

CHRL has been successful with a number of funding applications in the last round of Caring for Our Country Environmental funding. We have employed Alastair Maple on a part time basis to manage some of the projects funded (see details in Craig's report).

Finally, a note of caution: Recently there has been an incident where a CHRL member confronted a person for driving a vehicle on the beach. This resulted in the person feeling they had been unfairly harassed to the extent that they made a formal complaint to Council. This became a distressing event for both parties and

in the end, resolved nothing. I strongly urge members who witness events such as dumping rubbish, illegal camping or vehicles on the beach to record details such as time, place, number plate etc and pass it on to the Council ranger who has the authority, protection and training to deal with such events. If members get involved in these kind of issues it generates friction in the community which is not good for Landcare.

Regards

R Smith

Workshops & Events

20/03/10 Legumes and Herbs of the North Coast Field Day

17/04/10 (TBC) Riverside Grazing Strategies

05/05/10 Cane Toads Awareness and ID at the CHRL General Meeting

18/05/10 (TBC) Soil Carbon and Carbon Sequestration on Farms

19/06/10 (TBC) Best Practice Management within Littoral Rainforest remnants



Have you seen Mexican Petunia?



Mexican Petunia

Mexican Petunia has recently been found by volunteers at the Coffs Creek worksite. *Ruellia tweediana* is a species in the Acanthus Family (Acanthaceae) and is native to tropical and temperate North and South America.

As a weed, Mexican Petunia prefers wet, disturbed sites. It also has a persistent seed bank in the soil allowing it to reappear long after eradication efforts are thought to be successful.

Description

Habit: Erect or ascending; herbaceous (somewhat woody) perennial up to 1m tall.

Leaves: Opposite, linear to linear-elliptic, 10-30 cm long, 1 cm wide, narrowed at base to a short petiole.

Flowers: Bisexual, up to 5 cm (2 in) across with five fused, violet to purple petals.

Fruit: Elongated capsule to 2.5 cm (1 in) long with brown seeds, 2 mm (0.8 in) wide.

Introducing the new CHRL Project Officer

Due to the number of new projects CHRL will be running over the coming months the management committee have decided to employ a part-time project officer. Alastair Maple joined the team in early February and will be working on both the *Coastal Farming Incentives* and the *Coordinating Coastal Community Engagement and On-ground Actions on the Coffs Coast* projects.

Alastair has worked with community organisations throughout his working life, including as a Work for the Dole Supervisor with EnviTE, and relief Community Support Officer for Clarence Landcare. More recently he supervised unemployed workers in the Coffs Botanic gardens.

“I’m really pleased to join Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare, and look forward to meeting and working with Landcare and involving the wider community” said Mr Maple. “These projects provide a wonderful opportunity to do significant environmental works on our coastal strip and farmlands”

Alastair can be contacted in the CHRL office on Tuesday and Wednesday on 6651 1308.

Community working bee planned for the Green Bluff Landcare Site



Volunteers from the Green Bluff worksite are planning a community planting day to help the site recover from last year's fire. Last September's fire burnt into the top edge of the *Littoral rainforest* and all but 7 *Tuckeroos* of our 220 recently planted trees were burnt out, not to mention the large amount of working hours put in by Brent and his team from the Coffs Harbour Bush Regeneration Group.

When: March 13th – 8am – 11am

Where: Meet at footbridge, southern end of Moonee Beach Carpark.

Bring hat, gloves, water bottle, enclosed shoes, and a small digging tool (optional). A small morning tea will be provided, and a walk around the headlands afterwards for anyone interested.

Interested? Contact Maureen Joyce 6653 6098, or Graeme Court 6653 6531

Biological Farming Course

SoilCare Inc. have sponsored several TAFE Biological Farming courses and are now considering the possibility of offering a course in Coffs Harbour.

Class participants will evaluate soil health and management practices on their respective farms using the Northern Rivers Soil Health Card and soil lab analyses. The participants will then develop a soil management plan for their farm using biological farming principles and the NEW Soil Best Management Practice Guides.

Farmers who complete the course and submit the course assessment (a soil management plan for their farm) will be reimbursed the \$214.00 TAFE course fee.

To make the course viable in Coffs Harbour a minimum of 15 participants are needed. If you would like to register your interest, call Craig on 6651 1308.



CARING
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OUR
COUNTRY

Best Practice Marine User Survey

The Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority supports the sustainable use of our local marine environment. The Authority has engaged TierraMar Consulting to assist in gaining a better understanding of how users currently manage their impacts on estuarine and marine environments and what can be done to support these efforts. This project follows on from the work undertaken by the Department of Primary Industries in 2008/09.

To assist us in this project we would like interested marine users to undertake a short online survey to help understand what individuals, groups, organisations and industry is doing in terms of environmental best practice. It should take no more than 10-15 minutes to complete and is available from: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GSWCCR8>

or by contacting Anissa Lawrence, TierraMar Consulting on Mob. 0419 903 800 or email:

anissa@tierramarconsulting.com

Information collected will be collated into a summary report provided to the Northern Rivers CMA. No individual, organisation or group will be identified in association with specific issues or activities. The survey closes 28 February 2009. Your input is greatly appreciated.



Fact Sheets now online

Arrawarra: Sharing Culture is an educational project funded by the NSW Environmental Trust. A primary goal of the project was to summarise knowledge about traditional harvesting, and related activities, as part of the process of educating future generations of Gumbaynggirr people. Secondly, the project provides an ideal opportunity to educate the wider community about the rich traditional and cultural knowledge held by Garby Elders. To help achieve this, a comprehensive range of fact sheets summarising information on 20 topics has been produced. They are designed for use in classrooms, and for field work, but are also a useful tool for project work and wider education on traditional harvesting and culture. They took an enormous amount of time to compile requiring input from all project members as well as from all Garby Elders (traditional knowledge holders).

For more information go to: <http://www.arrawarraculture.com.au/>



Coastal Farming Incentives Project

Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare, with the support of the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority will be delivering a project aimed at assisting landholders to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Over the past couple of years, hundreds of landholders have participated in NSW DPI run *Farming in a Changing Climate* courses. These landholders have invested their time to develop detailed farm plans for their properties. This project will support a limited number of landholders from the target area to update their farm plans and provide incentives, on a competitive basis, of up \$3,000 per landholder to implement priority actions identified in these plans.

If you live in the Coffs Harbour, Dorrigo and Bellingen areas, and you have undertaken this course please contact the Coffs Landcare office on 6651 1308 to discuss your involvement in the project.



Wetlandcare Rocky Shorelines Community Walks

You are invited to a free community rocky shoreline educational walk. These will start with a talk from our guest speakers and conclude with a walk around the rock pools and a look at their ecology. Each event will go for approximately two hours. These walks are hosted by WetlandCare Australia and will feature guest speakers from the Marine Park Authority, NPWS, Yarrawarra Aboriginal Corporation, and the National Marine Science centre.

When: Monday 8th March 9.00 am: Arrawarra

Contact: Simone Haigh at WetlandCare Australia on 6681 6169

Coffs Coast Indigenous NRM Network

The Coffs Coast Indigenous NRM Network held its sixth meeting on the 16th of February at the NPWS office in Coffs Harbour. The network was originally established in late 2008 to help introduce Deb Dootson, the new Aboriginal Extension Project Officer, to the different indigenous and NRM bodies operating in the region. The network has grown since then and now includes approximately 12 active participants and a wider email network.

So far the network has supported the development of several local indigenous projects, including the:

- *Re-establishing Traditional Use at Pipe Clay Lake Project*
- *Red Rock & Corindi Restoration Project*
- *Dorrigo LALC Fencing Project*
- *Community Caring for the Coast (Mylstom) Project*

A spin off of this increased on-ground activity is the extra work opportunities being generated for the indigenous bush regeneration teams in the area. Some of these teams now have guaranteed work for the next 18 months and with the establishment of the Green Team Alliance this job security should continue. And finally, the biggest benefit of the network? **The ability to bring everyone to the one table and quickly identify the need for a project, formulate the project and start work on delivering it.**



Mosquitos Hazards



Mosquito numbers have been very high along the coasts and rivers around Coffs Harbour lately. While mosquitos are generally annoying they also spread some nasty viruses such as Ross River virus and Barmah Forest virus so it is worth while taking some simple precautions to avoid infection.

Use a repellent

Many mosquitoes become active around dusk, although some species are also active during the day. The key time to take special care against mosquito bites is just prior to and for two hours after dusk—the time of day when many of us go outside.

Your chances of being bitten by mosquitoes at this time are extremely high, particularly if you are unprotected and exposed.

- Use an effective repellent on exposed skin areas. Reapply every few hours, as protection wears off from perspiration, particularly on hot nights.

- The best mosquito repellents contain Diethyl Toluamide (DEET less than 20%) or Picaridin, so check the label.

- Cover your clothes with repellent as mosquitoes can bite through material, but be careful, some repellents stain clothes.

Cover up and take care

It only takes common sense to reduce your chances of picking up a serious mosquito-borne infection.

- Cover up as much as possible. Wear light coloured, loose fitting clothing and sensible footwear. Avoid tight clothes.

Legume and Herbs Field Day

Saturday, 20th March, 2010

10 AM to 3 PM

Venue to be confirmed

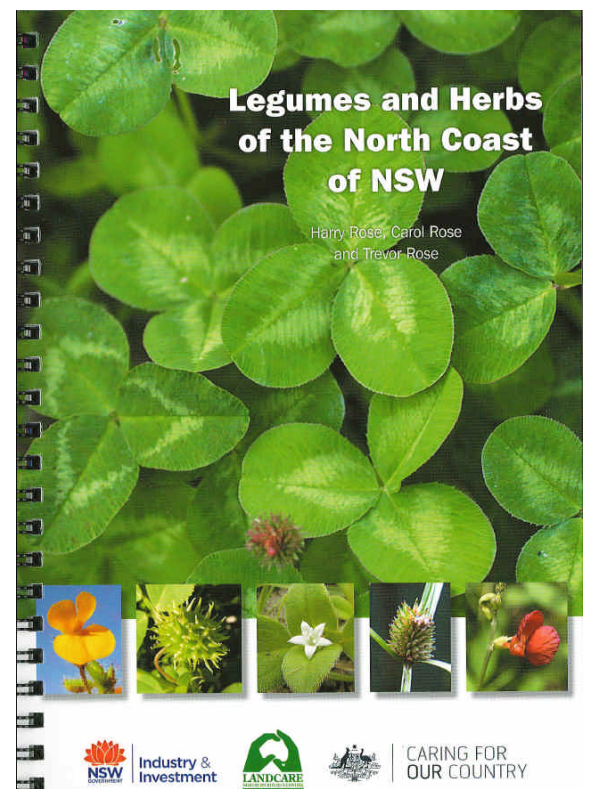
Landholders have an opportunity to gain the skills of identification and management during a Legume and Herbs field days being run by **Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare Inc.** and **Industry & Investment NSW**. The field day consists of looking at legumes and herbs in the field; what they are; how to recognize them; how to manage them and; what they might indicate about the soils, climate and current management. You will also be given the book "*Legumes and Herbs of the North Coast of NSW*" to take home with you.

What to bring:

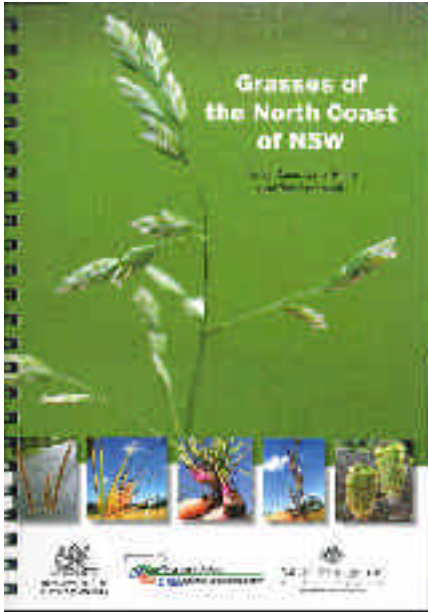
Lunch, Chair, Drinks and any Pasture Plants for ID

Interested?

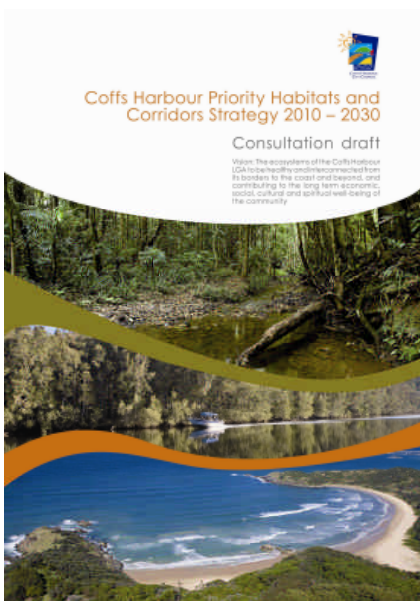
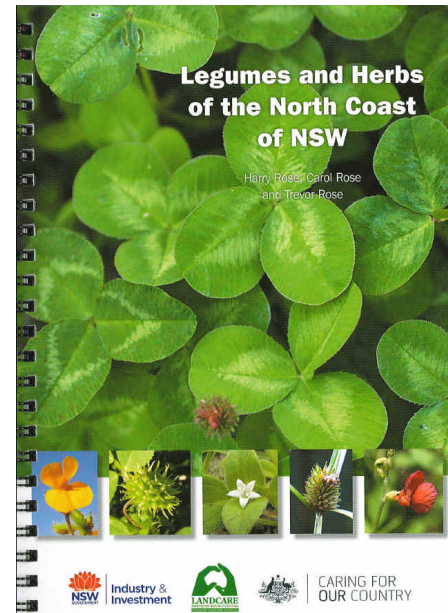
Call 6651 1308 to reserve your place



Pasture Plant Identification Books



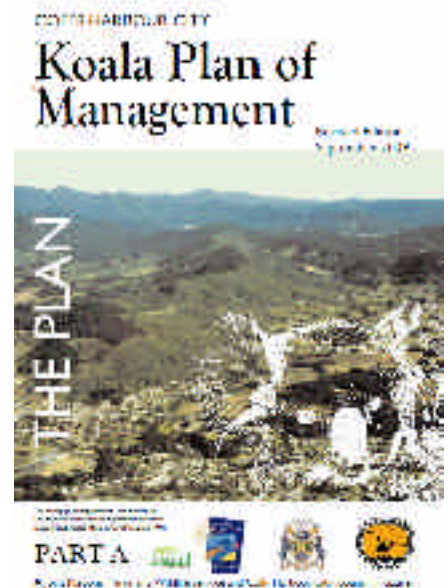
With the printing of the *Legume and Herbs of the North Coast of NSW* booklet the set of pasture plant identification guides is now complete. Both of the booklets allow the landholder to identify over 230 of the most common pasture species on the North Coast of NSW. Identification is based on simple plant characteristics, such as flower colour or flower type, allow most users to quickly identify their pasture plants. Both of these publications are available at no cost at the Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare office.



CHCC Priority Habitats & Corridors Strategy and the Koala Plan of Management submissions close soon

Written submissions close on the 28 February 2010 for both of these important documents. For copies of the documents and details on how to put in a submission go to:

<http://www.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au/www/html/4591-biodiversity-documents-on-public-exhibition.asp>



Caring for our Country 2010-2011 Business Plan

Caring for our Country is an Australian Government initiative that seeks to achieve an environment that is healthy, better protected, well managed and resilient, and provides essential ecosystem services in a changing climate.

The current business plan sets out the targets for investment in 2010-11 and following years to ensure we stay on track to achieving the government's five-year Caring for our Country outcomes. The business plan provides guidance to potential applicants on the types of proposals which the Australian Government is seeking to fund to address these targets. To download a copy, go to:

<http://www.nrm.gov.au/business-plan/10-11/index.html>

N.B. Small group funding will again be focused through the *Community Action Grants* program. It is anticipated that this program will open for applications in July.



CHRL Worksite News

Arararra Coastcare Site: Volunteers working monthly on littoral rain forest at the southern end of Corindi Beach

Arararra 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.

Crystal Waters Landcare Site: Volunteers are now working with National Parks in Coffs Coast Regional Park at Sapphire – maintaining the dunes and the headland – White Bluff. On site 1st Sunday of the month. Contact: Tim and Jennie 02 6656 4158

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 & weekly on Mondays. Ph Elisabeth Edwards for more information 6651 5380

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: Karangie School student continue to work along Karangie creek each fortnight.

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: Have b

Narranga Primary School: Recently spent their start-up grant funds on nest boxes for possum and native birds to improve the biodiversity along the creek adjacent to the school.

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.

Serenity Landcare: Volunteers are working along Serenity Beach and Look at me now Headland.

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 and Wednesday from 8am to 12 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 back beach picnic area. Ph: Alex Groot, 6654 2833

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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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



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Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare Inc.

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