



# Bush to Beach

## Important Dates:

- 8 June 2018** - 6—9 pm film screening “Blue”, SCU D-Block theatre
- 11 June 2018** - **Orara Valley Fair**, Upper Orara Recreation Reserve
- 16 June 2018** - Coramba Rainforest stroll, Coffs Ambassador tour
- 4 July 2018** - 4 - 5 pm, Special General Meeting, Constitution. CHRL office

## President's report

I was not aware of any mention of any significant funding for the environment in the last federal budget. It now seems that both major parties do not consider it important, particularly at the grass roots level where the vast majority of the actual work is carried out.

The Australian Government will be commencing a totally new funding program, National Landcare Program 2 (NLP2) in the new financial year focusing on sustainable agriculture. This change of focus may have significant repercussions for Landcare, particularly at regional and local levels with regard to staffing levels and office opening hours. We are awaiting the outcome of project submissions submitted both by North Coast Local Land Services and CHRL so we can commence planning for the new financial year ahead.

On a more positive note we have had on-going meetings with CHCC senior staff particularly the Director of Business Services, Andrew Beswick. We were very pleased to hear that CHRL and the Orara River project have been considered to be part of Council-supported initiatives and will be funded initially for the next three years. Considering funding cutbacks from other government levels, this is indeed very good news.

I believe the working bee to attack the Turkey Rhubarb at the Park Beach Landcare site was very successful with about twenty members in attendance to support this one-off targeted approach.



This concept has great potential for other sites with significant weed problems but insufficient volunteers to make any real long-term control. Sawtell Dunecare would certainly benefit from such an activity to control Mother of Millions and I am sure other sites are in a similar position. If so, let the office know so we can develop a plan to help out.

Similarly, the enthusiastic volunteers at our nursery in Woolgoolga are to be congratulated for offering their services to help with mass planting days at any site in an attempt to reduce plant stocks in the nursery. Again, contact the office for more details. Such group activities are both educational and practical and allow volunteers to see what is happening elsewhere.

Lastly, if you are passionate about what Landcare stands for, have some understanding of broader natural resource management issues or relevant specialist knowledge please give some consideration to nominating for a position on the executive at the annual general meeting in August.

Happy Landcaring, *Barry Powells*

## Special General Meeting - Constitution

4 July 2018, 4:00 – 5:00pm - CHRL office

Members are invited to attend a General Meeting on 4 July 2018 to pass a special resolution to adopt an updated version of the Constitution of CHRL.

The Constitution was last reviewed and updated in 2012, and since that time new Regulations (*Associations Incorporation Regulation 2016*) have been introduced. The Executive Committee have undertaken a review of the constitution to ensure that it complies with the 2016 regulations, and with the new model constitution mandated by those regulations. In updating the constitution, the Executive Committee has used the model constitution as the foundation, and then customised it to capture the objectives and operations of the Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare.

For more information on the proposed updated Constitution, including to view a draft copy please contact the office.



## Turkey Rhubarb Blitz, Park Beach

*“Saturday, 5th May was brilliant weather and 21 people signed on. We worked directly in front of the surf club in a patch of turkey rhubarb that leapt out at everyone. We had volunteers from as far as Red Rock and one girl who has just moved here from Sydney who was a bush regenerator.*

*I am lately really disappointed with poisons as the patch we worked on, which was well and truly alive, had been sprayed a week or two before by our contractor. And I have been digging up Seratro which was also sprayed 2 or 3 weeks before. I think it is time for a different weed killing approach. We had apologies from Elizabeth of Coffs Creek and Lindy Davis of Jetty.*

*I think Jean Meiklejohn dug up the prize string of bulbs which Rosemary got a photo of.*

*Everyone worked solidly for at least 2 hours when a break was had. I think some stayed till well after 11. We*



*also saw the return on the day of Denis and Jacci who have been away travelling for months. I hope other groups follow suit and ask for working bees when things are getting on top of them as it was a wonderful supportive boost for us on Saturday for sure. “*

*Judy Quickenden*

Turkey Rhubarb (*Acetosa sagittata*) is also called Rambling Dock, Arrow Dock, Potato Vine. It was introduced from South Africa and the leaves and young stems are edible when cooked.

It spreads by seed as well as vegetatively from the root tuber. Any herbicide spray will effect the leaves above the ground, but not the seed and plants tend to re-grow from the tuberous root system.



## Wind Fencing training

This innovative low cost design for the restoration of the foredune was developed by Peter Corlis. Peter used to be with the Northern Rivers CMA and now works for the NSW Soil Conservation Service, which was recently attached to Local Land Services.

The workshop was held at Sandy Beach, where the dune is very flat and the narrow strip of dune vegetation is eroded by the sea over time, leaving an even narrower strip of vegetation buffer to the parkland behind.

Peter uses biodegradable materials such as timber and jute to build low and permeable fences at right angles to the dune to catch sand blown by the prevailing winds.

For the Coffs Coast, winds tend to be either southerly or northerly, depending on the time of the year and the idea of the design is that with hessian stapled to timber posts running east to west, sand should collect and build up to the height of the fence and bury the fence entirely.

In addition, a honeycomb style of stronger jute material was laid out on top of the sand to stabilise the sand that is blown in.



A set of 8–10 parallel fences was installed at Sandy Beach with widths of hessian attached to timber posts and jute material pinned onto the sand in between fences (on the left) and honeycomb patterned thicker jute as an alternative (on the right).

CHRL volunteers learned how to set up a site such as this, which materials to use and how and we are now waiting for strong southerly winds to bring sand and fill up the spaces between fences and hopefully to bury the fencing material.

If successful, this will be such a useful and cheap way to build up foredunes and protect dunal vegetation.



## Tools Maintenance Training Day

This was another very successful training day held in the backyard of our office. Steve and Pierre of Generation Green provided excellent instruction and assistance with cleaning, sharpening and general maintenance advice for our tools.

12 Landcare volunteers attended and appreciated the day.





## Korora Basin Landcare Clean Up

Korora Basin Landcare Group held a Clean up Australia Day and collected 12 bags of rubbish, weighing approximately 80 kg. Most of the rubbish were drink bottles and cans, packaging waste and tyre refuse. They covered 500 m either side of the Pacific Highway including the bus station opposite Korora school. Coffs Harbour Council kindly picked up the collected rubbish on the next day.

Simon Proust



The genus *Solanum* is very diverse, covering some 3000 species of which approximately 117 are to be found in Australia. Interestingly quite a few are native to Australia. They vary in form from small herbaceous plants, vines to small trees. Most have typical purple flowers and significant fruiting bodies attractive to seed dispersing birds and animals. In addition to TSA, common *Solanum* weed species found here include Wild Tobacco (*S.mauritianum*), Blackberry Nightshade (*S. nigrum*) and the vine Brazilian (Climbing) Nightshade (*S.seaforthianum*). A more recent introduction is Giant Devils Fig (*S.chrysotichum*).

The genus *Solanum* also includes several significant commercial crops including tomatoes, potatoes, capsicums and tobacco.

This is a very diverse genus with many species containing potentially toxic alkaloids, hallucinogens and stimulants. Fortunately many of these products are rendered safe either during plant maturation or cooking of the edible parts.



## DEVIL'S APPLE (*Solanum capsicoides*)

Origin: Native of tropical Central America.

Description: The photo shows the main identifying features of this weed. It is a very prickly short lived perennial up to 1m high but in my experience rarely more than 300-400mm in height. Pale yellow thorns cover the plant, both stems and leaves

Flowers are white, immature fruit is yellow and ripens to bright red. As can be seen, the fruiting bodies contain large numbers of seeds.

This plant, like some other species can be confused with Tropical Soda Apple (TSA) in its early stages of growth. However TSA grows to 2 – 3m as a large bush covered in yellow fruits. Devils Apple is found at times on our property but not at levels to be considered invasive. It is usually confined to shaded areas under some Camphor Laurels with a dense pasture of Broad leaf Paspalum which helps keep it under control.

Control: This plant is reasonably shallow rooted so physical removal is the best and easiest method of control. Care is needed with the disposal of mature fruit.



Barry Powells



## CHRL office roles changing

The CHRL Executive has undertaken a restructure of some office duties. In future, Pia Dollmann and Mel Craig will be looking after all membership matters including renewals, new members, the allocation of protective clothing and tools, training programs for our volunteers plus the on-going support of our Landcare volunteers. All matters relating to volunteers should now be forwarded to Pia and Mel. This change will allow Jude Turner to focus on financial matters including accounts, budgeting, payment of wages and the maintenance of financial records.

Members who want to visit the office to pay memberships, collect tools, equipment etc, we request that you phone the office beforehand in order to ensure that Pia or Mel are available. Pia is normally in the office on Monday and Tuesday and Mel is normally in the office on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. Thanks you for your cooperation. **Barry Powells**

## CHRL Nursery

Our nursery volunteers have filled up the benches with native plants ready to go out into the world of your landcare sites. Please use our website to see the list of species available for planting now. Click on 'Volunteering', then on 'CHRL nursery' and you will find a list of plants available.

*Dinaella congesta* is an evergreen Perennial growing to 1 m. Suitable for light (sandy) and medium (loamy) soils and prefers well-drained soil. It cannot grow in the shade. The plant can tolerate maritime exposure.



*Casuarina glauca* is a fast growing, nitrogen-fixing tree with excellent potential to remediate discharge areas affected by salinity and sea-

sonally waterlogging. This species has a well-developed lateral root system that has a propensity to form root suckers. This attribute may be useful on sites subject to severe erosion.



## North Coast Regional Landcare Network

The 11 landcare networks which make up the North Coast Regional Landcare Network met in Coffs Harbour last week to discuss the opportunities for the future of Landcare in our region.

With the cessation of funding support through Local Land Services as of 1 July 2018 and further funding cuts in the new year, the discussion centred around the role of the regional organisation and how we can work together to exploit opportunities with other partners.

The most interesting part of this discussion is to define what the most outstanding strengths of our landcare networks and groups are and what we could do to find organisations who will pay for these strengths. This was clearly agreed to be our strong links with our communities and our ability to engage with local community people.

Louise Orr, General Manager of North Coast Local Land Services addressed the meeting and let us know that her organisation has lost up to \$ 30 m of its funding. Some tough decisions had to be made and she acknowledged how much that effects the people.

Natasha English, NSW State Landcare Facilitator, gave an overview of the activities of Landcare NSW to secure funding and income for Landcare support in NSW. This includes the facility to donate to Landcare when you deposit recyclable containers at reverse vending machines as well as strong lobbying with the NSW parliament.

*"We have chosen 17 August to 2 September to organise 'NSW Sustaining Landcare Week', supported by the NSW Parliamentary Friends of Landcare (PFL).*

*Our aim is for MPs and Landcare groups to get together across the State to talk about Landcare.*

*We need to raise awareness of the consequences if Landcare does not have access to core infrastructure such as Local Coordinators and central support services."*

The Regional meeting attempted some "Blue Sky Thinking" to come up with new ways to sustain our networks. Options such 'fees for service', and 'contracting' were discussed in addition to the widening of our partnerships.

The Regional Facilitator will concentrate on the development of a Regional Strategy for the network in the next three months.



## Biodiversity Conservation Trust

The Regional Coordinator of the Trust for the North Coast, Mark Sheahan, introduced himself and this new organisation and program at our last general meeting. The Biodiversity Conservation Trust (BCT) is a new body which looks after conservation agreements on private land.

The BCT will invest \$240 million over the next five years to support working with landholders, farmers and other organisations who wish to participate in private land conservation. The new BCT will administer the new private land conservation program, guided by the Biodiversity Conservation Investment Strategy 2018 (BCIS) which identifies priority investment areas and principles for investment. The Trust will initially continue the private land conservation functions of the Office of Environment and Heritage and the Nature Conservation Trust.

There are three types of agreements:

### **Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements**

are used for landholders wishing to generate and sell biodiversity credits under the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme. They provide permanent conservation and management of the biodiversity values on the land.

The resulting stewardship site generates biodiversity credits which represent the expected improvement in biodiversity that will result from the protection and management of the site. A landholder can sell the biodiversity credits to a developer, the BCT or other interested parties.

The landholder will receive annual payments in return for undertaking conservation management actions on the property and may earn a profit from selling the biodiversity credits.

### **Conservation Agreements**

are voluntary agreements between the BCT and landholders to conserve and manage biodiversity on an area of land.

The BCT will offer conservation agreements to landholders under the Conservation Management Program or the Conservation Partners Program.

Landholders who are eligible to participate in the Conservation Management Program will receive annual conservation management payments to support them in carrying out conservation management actions.

Landholders who are eligible to participate in the Conservation Partners Program may be able to access Conservation Partners Grants to assist them to manage their conservation agreement.

### **Wildlife Refuge Agreements**

are an entry-level option for landholders who wish to protect the biodiversity on their property but do not wish to enter into a permanent agreement.

A wildlife refuge agreement is a voluntary arrangement between the BCT and the landholder to protect and manage biodiversity on an area of land. This can be a good option for landholders who wish to explore options for becoming involved in biodiversity conservation.

The BCT will offer wildlife refuge agreements under the Conservation Partners Program.

Every landholder who enters into an agreement with the BCT will be supported by the BCT's Landholder Technical Support Package, which provides a range of assistance and support to landholders.

For more information and contact details, please go to <https://www.bct.nsw.gov.au/>. People, Planning and Practice The 2018 NSW Vertebrate Pest Management Symposium is being hosted by North Coast Local Land Services and



will be held in Coffs Harbour, from the 16th – 18th October 2018.

At the 2018 Symposium, the theme of **People, Planning and Practice** will place a sharper focus on the three key elements for successful pest management in New South Wales.

With many changes, developments and new tactics always emerging, it is a good time to bring people involved in pest animal management, research and policy together to discuss the above and more. This is not a scientific forum, this event brings government and non-government pest practitioners to participate in a range of pest related talks and discussions.

**Earlybird Registration Deadline:** 31st August 2018 .

<https://vpmsymposium.com.au/>





## Worksites

Site coordinators please note: The following information is sourced from your membership & work records forms, if it is not correct please let CHRL know, phone 6651 1308 or email [chrl@coffslandcare.org.au](mailto:chrl@coffslandcare.org.au)

**Arrawarra Coastcare:** Volunteers working monthly on littoral rainforest at the southern end of Corindi Beach. Contact David Bryant 6649 2825.

**Bakker Drive Landcare:** Volunteers look after the creek area adjacent the park. Contact Robyn Thomson on 0429 032005

**Bundagen Landcare:** Aloka Reeves coordinates Landcare activities at Bundagen Community, adjacent to Bongil Bongil National Park. Please contact the office & we will put you in touch with them.

**CHRL Nursery:** Dedicated plant enthusiasts who meet each Mon & Thurs mornings. Ph: CHRL office 66511308.

**Corindi Beach Landcare:** New group rehabilitating the dunes off Ocean St at Corindi Beach. Meeting 1st Sun of the month. Contact CHRL office.

**Eastern Dorrigo Landcare:** Work on riparian zones on public & private land. Contact Lindy Davis 6654 5313.

**Emerald Beach Dunecare:** Volunteers continue to work on the site so beloved by the late Dee Wallace. They meet on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Contact Roger Sharpe 0490 091 546

**Green Bluff Landcare:** Work on Green Bluff Headland at Moonee Beach. Contact Lindy Davis 0448 651 239

**Friends of Coffs Creek:** Meet 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays 9am-12; Weekly: Mon 8.30-2.30, Tues 8.30-2.30, & Thurs 8.30-11. Ph Elisabeth Edwards for more information 0400 579 426.

**Jarrett Creek Landcare:** More volunteers needed to join in this active site at Woolgoolga. Contact the CHRL office.

**Jetty Dunecare Group Inc:** Continuing their bush regeneration work in the Jetty area. Meet Tues and Sat from 7.30am. Contact Jane Ireland on 6652 4389.

**Karangie Landcare Group:** Meet monthly to weed areas around the Cemetery. Contact Ron Smith 66538249

**Kinchela Reserve Landcare:** Meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month. Ph: Helen Lawrence 6653 2015

**Korora Basin Landcare:** Meet the 1st Sat of every month, alternating between public & private land. Ph: Simon Proust 0412 825 395

**Macauleys Headland Landcare:** More volunteers needed to join Russell Flanders and his team restoring the vegetation on this site in the Regional Park. Contact the CHRL office to get involved.

**Mullawarra Dunecare:** Meet on the last Saturday of the month. Contact Roger Jennings 6654 1203.

**Nana Glen Landcare Group:** Working bee every third Saturday. Contact Peter Franklin 6654 3452.

**Pacific Villas Landcare:** Work in the Regional Park at Charlesworth Bay. Contact Max Brinsmead 0409870346

**Park Beach Dunecare:** Volunteers meet on Fridays at 9am. Contact Rosemary on 6652 5940 or Judy on 6651 7691 to find out the *actual* meeting place.

**Pearce Drive Reserve Landcare:** Reestablishing rainforest in the riparian zone in West Coffs. 300. Contact the CHRL office.

**Red Rock Landcare:** Various locations around Red Rock. Contact Rose & Vern Treilibs 0418 112 390.

**Safety Beach:** Working bees on the 1st Saturday of the month, 8—10 am. Contact the office for details.

**Sandy Beach Dunecare:** Working bees on Fridays, 8 - 12 at Sandy Beach. Contact Peta Fairbairn 6656 2255.

**Sapphire Reserve Landcare:** Contact Greg Robinson 0429 922 845 or [grob1418@gmail.com](mailto:grob1418@gmail.com) Volunteers meet every second Sunday 8.30 – 10.30am

**Sawtell Bushcare:** Charlie England would like more volunteers to join him rehabilitating Dolman's Point, Sawtell. Further details from the CHRL office.

**Sawtell Dunecare:** Continue rehabilitation of the dunal zone at Murray's Beach. Ph: Barry Powells 0466 347 364

**Serenity Landcare:** Volunteers regularly work along Serenity Beach and Look at me now Headland. Contact Karina Rothacker 0408 209 995.

**Treefern Creek:** Restoring riparian vegetation along a tributary of Coffs Creek every second Saturday of the month. Contact Kris Hely on 0427 536 782

**Woolgoolga Main Beach Dunecare:** More volunteers are needed. Contact the CHRL office to get involved.

**Woolgoolga Back Beach Dunecare:** Working bees on the 2nd Sunday of each month, 8-11am, meet at the back beach picnic area at the end of High St. Contact Alex Groot on 0421 338115.

## Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare Inc

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## Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare Inc



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