



Clarence
Landcare

Kookaburra News

December 2011



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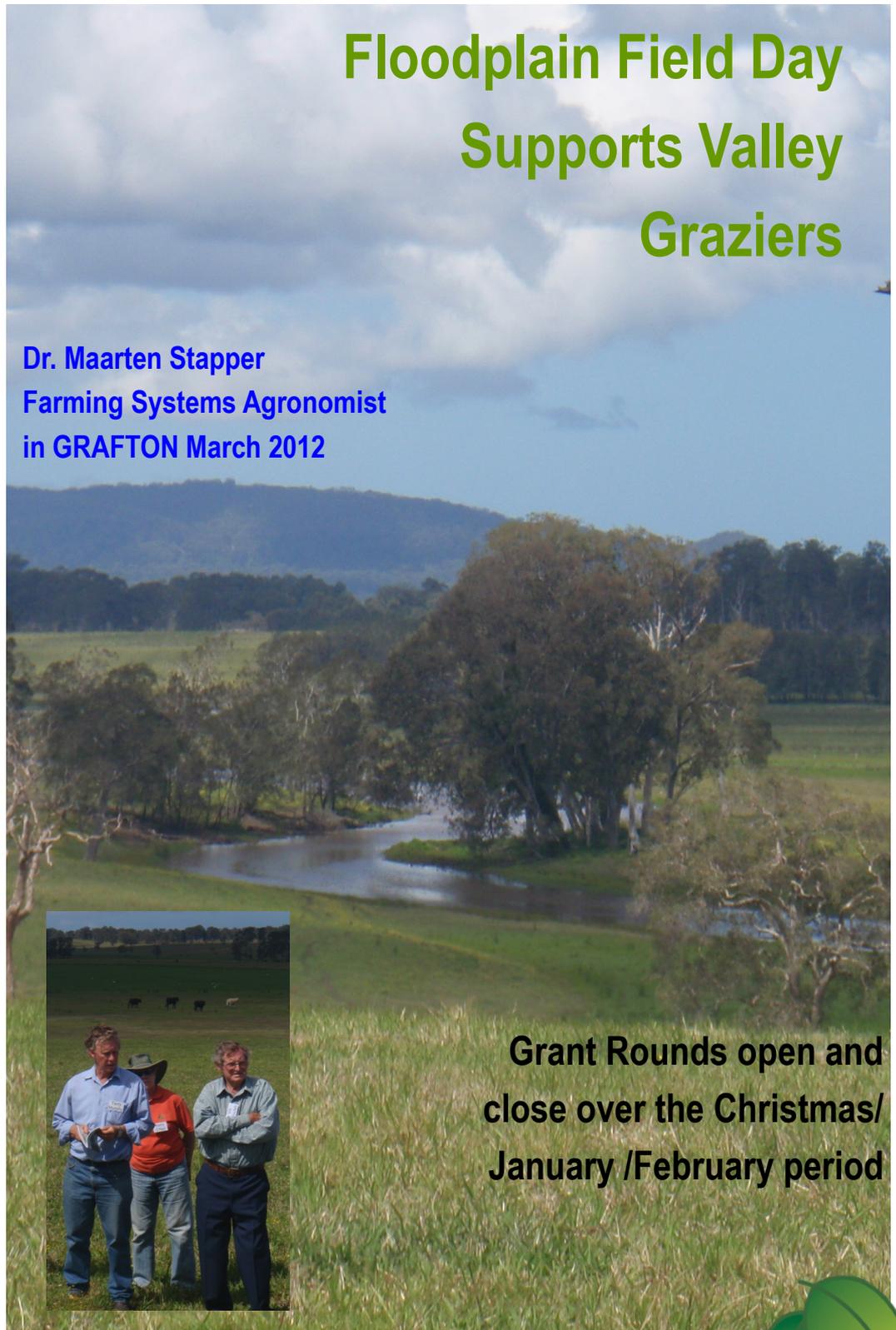
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- New Brooms Head Group

Floodplain Field Day Supports Valley Graziers

Dr. Maarten Stapper
Farming Systems Agronomist
in GRAFTON March 2012



**Grant Rounds open and
close over the Christmas/
January /February period**

Lawson's properties host the Sustainable Grazing Field Day. Inset: Field day participants gather round to hear details at the field day.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

!! Look out for CAG Grants Opening some !!

January 2012

16th Jan – Grafton Landcare Office Re-Opens

31st Jan – ET Community Bush Regeneration Applications Due

31st Jan – Biodiversity Fund Applications Due

Feb 2012

Master Tree Growers—Check dates

9th Feb — Caring for Country Call for Open Applications Due

25th & 26th Feb — TAFE Chemical Users Training

March 2012

Look out for Teachers Environment Fund !!

14th Mar—Maarten Stapper Field day

30 Mar. — Native Veg. Review Survey Closes

Dr. Maarten Stapper

Sustainable Agriculture Field Day Grafton Wednesday 14th March 2012

Dr. Stapper is a farming systems agronomist who's main focus is helping farmers improve the profitability of their operations by harnessing the power of natural healthy soil processes.

Maarten believes that by improving the use of inputs and understanding those practices that negatively impact on soil health farmers can have a positive impact on their land and production.

Through Maarten's research work, discussions with Landcare groups and a wide range of farmers, he has come to the belief that science must take a broader view to achieve the sustainable development of agricultural industries.

To achieve this we have to look at the whole farming system - where every thing is linked to everything else.

For more info and Australian Story Feature Click on this Link
<http://drmaartenstapper.com.au/>



Environmental Restoration and Rehabilitation Community Bush Regeneration Large Project Stream Grants

2011 call for applications

The call for applications to the Community Bush Regeneration Large Project Stream opened on 15 November 2011 and close Tue 31st January 2012

Aim of the program

The aim of the Community Bush Regeneration Large Project Stream is to facilitate projects run by local community groups to undertake large, long term bush regeneration projects.

This funding stream will fund local community groups (such as Landcare and Bushcare) over a period of six years for well designed larger scale projects where the groups can demonstrate their capacity to maintain the project and continue the regeneration subsequent to the funding period.

It also aims to improve the capacity of communities and organisations to protect, restore and enhance the environment by strengthening local community organisations whose primary purpose is to undertake works in their local area.

Call for applications 2011

This is the first round of funding of the Community Bush Regeneration Large Project Stream. Projects will commence from 1 July 2012 and run for a maximum of six years. It is anticipated that organisations will be advised of the outcome of their applications around April/May with the first payments being received in June 2012, on the signing of a grant agreement as is the current requirement.

Funding Projects should be designed to last for six years and may be undertaken on public or private land, or a combination of both.

Grants of between \$200,000 and \$250,000 are available for six year projects. A maximum of 70% of a grant will be available for disbursement over the first three years of a project. The balance will be available over the second three years, subject to the demonstration of effectiveness at the end of the first three years.

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/BushRegeneration.htm>

CLOSES 31st JANUARY 2012





Floodplain Field Day Supports Valley Graziers

A very successful sustainable grazing field day supported by various floodplain partners and expert guest speakers from the NSW DPI and Clarence Valley Council attracted people from the Clarence and Richmond Valleys on Wednesday 12th October. The combined field day, held at 2 properties on the Clarence Floodplain showcased sustainable grazing projects carried out over the past year as part of the Northern Rivers Foodlinks Project, Clarence Valley Council Floodplain Project and NSW DPI and Northern Rivers CMA.

Glenugie Creek landowner and field day host Mr Ross Lawson said "Being involved in the sustainable grazing project has helped us work towards our goal to increase biological activity of the soil, reduce negative impacts on natural resources and provide a healthier farming system in the long term. We now have improved water efficiency and a system in place to monitor pasture health, have planted around 70 local trees and provided 2 alternative stock watering points. The use of natural inputs to our pastures including organic compost is being trialed and we anticipate this will help improve soil health along with pasture and livestock condition in the long term."

At the field day, Clarence Valley Council's Stuart Murphy explained the use of innovative and economic water retention works for the floodplain. DPI Beef Officer, Trevor Rose demonstrated pasture monitoring techniques. Also on hand were NSW DPI Soil Officers, Justine Cox and Abigail Jenkins, Agronomists and pasture specialists, Tac Campbell and Carol Rose. "It's not very often that we have the opportunity to bring together such a wide range of experts on soil health, beef production and pasture health to the Clarence Valley. Participants took full advantage of this occasion and asked lots of questions which made for some very interesting discussions in the field." said Julie Mousley, Clarence Valley Sustainable Grazing Project Officer.

"Thankyou so much for a day, packed with interesting information and meeting people doing some innovative things on their farms. I like the way we can all learn from that sharing of information." said Kerrie O'Neill from the Richmond Valley.

Other Northern Rivers Foodlinks project sites have included the setting up of rotational grazing fencing and improvements to back swamp management at a Cowper Dairy farm and improvements to water efficiency and overall pasture management at a Nymboida River grazing property.

A timetable of 2011-2012 farm field days, events, courses, and workshops in the Clarence Valley is now available from Clarence Landcare. A new Clarence Sustainable Floodplain Farming Project supported by the NRCMA has commenced and we are interested in hearing from floodplain farmers who would like assistance with farm planning. Please contact Julie Mousley at Clarence Landcare on 66435009 for more information.



NSW DPI Soil Officer, Justine Cox takes a closer look at the soil.



CARING
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Open call applications

In this business plan, applications are invited through the open call investment process for projects over \$20 000 (GST exclusive). As a guide, projects are not expected to exceed \$500 000 (GST exclusive).

The exception to the \$500 000 guide is land acquisition proposals under the National Reserve System (NRS) where land value is a factor. The open call investment process is the principal way in which funding for projects can be sought under this business plan. It provides the opportunity for diverse groups and organisations to obtain funding. For example, applicants can submit open call applications to address targets related to Ramsar wetlands, the NRS, coastal community engagement and sustainable farm practices. Applicants should plan their projects to meet these Caring for our Country targets

For more information: <http://www.nrm.gov.au/funding/open-call/index.html> **Due date: February 9, 2012**



Its out of the work boots and into the heels for the Clarence Valley Regional Film Festival

Clarence Valley Council were hosts of the first “Clarence Valley Regional Short Film Festival”, held at the Saraton Theatre on Tuesday 1 November 2011, Jacaranda Week. Clarence Landcare donated and awarded prizes for runners up in the schools division, each won a \$100 gift certificate from the Grafton Tree Farm—Native Plant Nursery.

“It was a great night with the highlight for Julie and I being the schools and junior films categories, we were so pleased to be involved, especially with the environmental theme of Water” said Landcare Community Support Officer Debbie Repschlager.

We would love to see some of our Landcare group members enter the second film festival next year. Festival organiser Martyn Swain said, ‘If you have a camera or have access to any digital recording apparatus, start shooting now for a chance to get your work on the big screen in 2012.

For further information and details of film requirements and categories regarding the Clarence Valley Regional Film Festival contact Martyn Swain at Clarence Valley Council Ph: 6643 0240



Debbie and Julie by the Landcare display at the Saraton Theatre



Pauline Wallace (left) and Brian Good listen to Bill Jordan give a description of the use of the splatter gun used for lantana.

Waterlands Landcare Group get the drum on the Splatter Gun

On 12th October four members of the Waterlands Landcare Group gathered at “Boonooloo,” Seelands for a demonstration of the use of a Splatter Gun was given by Bill Jordan, Weeds Officer from Clarence Valley Council (CVC) .

The groups search for a easier way to eradicate lantana on their properties raised as time and age crept up on them. Upon doing research for an Incentive Application it was pointed out to one of the members that a Splatter Gun may be the way to go – hence pricing the equipment was carried out.

It was discovered that a gun would be far too expensive for the group to purchase but learned that the CVC hire out a gun for approx. \$50. Since the members had not used a gun before Bill Jordan came to give instructions (as it was short notice and a week morning many of the group were not available) . The session was very informative, we learned how to mix and fill the gas operated back pack gun (similar to a drenching gun) and also had hands on use of how to spray the lantana and also maintenance of the equipment.

By Margaret Good—Waterlands Landcare Group



Baby Black Necked Stalk says "Push off buster I'm not gonna wear that hippie jewellery"

This photo was taken by an Essential Energy officer with Michael Martin's camera while I was returning the three nestlings, that I had colour banded, to the nest.

The indignant bird was the fourth nestling and as I didn't have enough bands with me he/she remained unbanded.

This is the first recorded case of a brood of four nestling Black-necked Storks in New South Wales. A boggy paddock prevented me returning the next day to band the fourth Stork. Broods of four have fairly recently been recorded in India and Queensland.

By Greg Clancy



The fourth black necked stalk nestling standing up for itself



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Community Action Grants Announced

Congratulations to all Successful Applicants in the Clarence

Clarence Valley Council and **Wooli Dunecare**—Sand Dune Stabilisation Wooli

Clarence Valley Council & **Clarence Valley Conservation in Action Landcare** (CIA)- Indian Myna Control Project

Elland Preservation Organisation Inc.—Elland Wetland, Riparian corridor & threatened species rehabilitation

Nymboida Landcare—Protecting Biodiversity of the Nymboida River and Tributaries

North Coast Regional Landcare—What sustainable agriculture means to me

Clarence Landcare Inc. & **Clarence Landcare Link**—Sustainable Farming Futures on the Clarence River Floodplain

Clarence Landcare Inc.—Connecting Community-Coast and River Resources for the Clarence Catchment

Good Luck and we look forward to seeing some of these stories in the future



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Community Action Grants 2012 To Open again soon

The 2012-13 round of these small grants component of the Australian Government's Caring for our Country initiative is **due to open in early 2012**. Investment proposals will be sought from environmental, Indigenous, Landcare, Coastcare and sustainable agriculture community groups for grants of between \$5,000 and \$20,000.

For further information about Community Action Grants visit

<http://www.nrm.gov.au/funding/cag/index.html> or call 1800 552 008 or email communityactiongrants@nrm.gov.au

Community Action Grants are a small grants component of the Australian Government's Caring for our Country initiative that aims to help local community groups take action to conserve and protect their natural environment. The grants are targeted towards established local community-based organisations that are successfully delivering projects to support sustainable farming and/or protect and enhance the natural environment.





CLARENCE LANDCARE INC CHAIRS REPORT 2011

In the past 9 months since the last Chairs report Clarence Landcare Inc (Clinc) has shown that we are the premier agency for Natural Resource Management (NRM) in the Valley.

The securing of funding for projects and assisting many landholders in the restoration and rehabilitation of our environment has continued to grow. Many of these projects have been in partnership with other Landcare Inc's on the north coast, Clarence Valley Council, Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority and with the community of the Clarence Valley.

The major projects that have been on-going – the Nymboida River Project, Foodlinks and Sustainable Agriculture forum project and the Whiteman Creek project - all which have shown the expertise of our Community Support Officers.

The instigation of field days and other training for our members as well as the public has shown that there is a need for highlighting the positive aspects of NRM. All these field days have been well attended, especially on weeds and vegetation, and in some cases requests that we hold further field days and training.

There has been a number of new members joining Clarence Landcare Inc, mainly Landcare Link members, some who have some interesting and innovating projects happening. There is a field day on Wednesday at Ross and Dawn Lawson's property, so if you haven't booked, get in quick. The Brooms Head group are the latest group to join Clarence Landcare.

The publication of the Clarence River Floodplain and Estuary Native Plant Species Guide, compiled by Julie, is a guide to native species that are found on the Clarence. The Estuary Kit was also published during the past year which took a lot of Julie's time and effort and is a great publication. This kit has been integrated into Maclean High Schools curriculum.

The staff and committee members have represented CLinc on many advisory and liaison groups who engage in NRM in the Clarence Valley.

I wish to thank on behalf of the CLinc members;

the staff, Sue, Debbie and Julie, who do such a great job, the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority who have shown support for Landcare not only in the Clarence Valley but for Landcare on the north coast, Clarence Valley Council, the committee who assist in the day to day running of Clinc and Jim Scott for his usual computer help.

I must make a special mention of thanks to Pauline Wallace who was our Secretary for the early part of the year.

Log Books are great for information gathering for Landcare and I would ask that all groups fill these in. If you don't have one, contact the office.

As mentioned at the last AGM, the North Coast Regional Landcare Network was successful in winning the bid to host the Regional Landcare Facilitator for the north coast, in conjunction with the Tablelands regional Landcare group. This position is now up and running and Jodie Gager is proving to be a very capable facilitator for the Networks.

The Landcare Muster for all the Landcarers of NSW to voice what has been happening and concerns which will be the basis of the Landcare NSW agenda for the next 12 months was held in Parkes.

Brian Dodd, Chair, Clarence Landcare Inc 10 October 2011

If you missed the Clarence Landcare Inc. 2011 AGM, or would like to see it again click on this link to see our Visual Annual Report (Placestories Presentation) of the 2010/11 Financial Year. <http://ps3beta.com/story/19651>



Jan Scott (left), outgoing Treasurer presents Pauline Wallace with a gift of thanks for her years of work as our Secretary



As a Landcare or Coastcare group, you can request the following formats of the logo to incorporate into your group name. All queries regarding the use of the Landcare, Coastcare and Junior Landcare logos should be directed to enquiries@landcareaustralia.com.au

Landcare or Coastcare group Co-branding (eg. on signs, documents, brochures etc.)

Where you are planning to co-brand your group's logo with a partner or supporter organisation, you will need to obtain approval for the use of the logos from both Landcare Australia Limited and the partner or supporter organisation.

Generic Landcare Logo no longer in use: In the past there have been use of the generic "Landcare" logo (The word landcare under the hands without Australia). However we have noticed an increased misuse of the Landcare logo. Therefore this generic logo is no longer available. The landcare hands have to be used together with a group's name, place or project.





What does your garden grow?

Clarence Landcare Inc hosted the “What does your garden grow ?” short course presented by Northern Landcare Support Services, Tara Patel on the 20th October 2011 in Grafton. The day educated participants about those garden plants that have another life as an environmental weed.

Much of our unique native flora and fauna is threatened by invasive plants commonly found in the home garden and this was a chance to learn more about what we might have in our garden and local area.

In fact 65 percent of Australia’s weeds have escaped from parks and gardens.

Reece Luxten, Clarence Valley Council’s Senior Environmental Officer (weed management) said “No matter where you are in the Clarence Catchment there is some level of weed impact from garden escapees, from asparagus fern and glory lily on the coast to the vine weeds on our riverbanks such as cats claw creeper, madeira vine and morning glory.”



Debbie Repschlager Clarence Landcare’s Community Support Officer said “Part of the course included a short walk outside to see some of these problem plants in the flesh. Actually seeing these plants, feeling their texture and observing their growth habits out in the field with their identification features explained was a really important part of the day.”

The “What does your garden grow” course was developed in conjunction with the Cooperative Research Centre for Australian Weed Management (Weeds CRC) and the NSW Department of Primary Industries and is delivered in a positive way, with the emphasis on informing the community about the growing issue of weeds in Australia without placing blame for the problem.

There were examples of weeds from every State and additional materials and photographs were included to make ‘*What does your garden grow?*’ relevant to the North Coast.

Weeds currently cost Australian agriculture \$4 billion per year.

“Whether you live in Grafton or on a property out of town this course was relevant as it is about empowering people to protect their environment as they garden. I think most gardeners are in touch with which plants are potentially a weed problem, its often those really hardy plants that spread easily, participants learnt at this course which plants are problem weeds in this local area.” says Debbie Repschlager, Clarence Landcare’s Community Support Officer.

This community workshop was presented by Clarence Landcare Inc and Northern Landcare Support Services with support from Clarence Valley Council and Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority and can be run again if groups would like.



Catchment Management Authority
Northern Rivers

Native Vegetation Regulation Review

On 13 September 2011, the Minister for Environment, the Hon. Robyn Parker MP, announced the commencement of the review of the regulations for the Native Vegetation Act 2003. This includes a review of the [Native Vegetation Regulation 2005](#), the [Environmental Outcomes Assessment Methodology](#) (EOAM) and the [Private Native Forestry Code of Practice](#) (PNF Code).

Native Vegetation Survey Tell us about your experiences with the way government regulates native vegetation by completing the [Native Vegetation Survey](#). This information will inform the review of the Native Vegetation Regulation. The survey will be open until 30 March 2012. If you would prefer to complete the survey on paper you can download a [printable version](#) (110923NVsurvey, 200 KB) or call 131 555 to request a hard-copy be mailed to you.

Registering your interest

If you are interested in providing input to the review please send an email with your details to: native.vegetation@environment.nsw.gov.au. By registering your interest you will receive updates on the review, including notification of consultation documents, announcements and whenever we publish anything in which you may have an interest.

The public exhibition and consultation process will be widely publicised through the Office of Environment and Heritage website, the NSW Government Gazette and the media. A notification email will also be sent to those who have registered their interest with native.vegetation@environment.nsw.gov.au.





Dune Liaison Group Meetings 2011



During this year we opted to trial holding our meetings at a location hosted by a coastal group each time. Four meetings are held each year and provide a structure for groups to talk about any issues or ideas with the Clarence Valley Council staff and other organisations and government departments responsible for management of the reserves and public spaces.

The meetings have been well attended throughout the year and it's been great to get out and have a look at what is being done on the ground which is inspiring for us all. The knowledge and skill sharing is also enhanced through the on ground experience of the work being carried out by volunteers. Meetings this year were hosted by Angourie Community Coastcare, Minnie Water Community Nursery, Sandon Landcare Group and Iluka Landcare and Dunecare.

We rounded off the year with an informative bush walk led by Kay Jeffrey into the Iluka Nature Reserve and a delicious end of year lunch at the Bluff. If any of the coastal groups would like to host a meeting in 2012 please contact either Rodney Wright at the Council 66 450 265 or Julie Mousley at Clarence Landcare 66 435 009.



Transport across the Sandon River to get to the September meeting hosted by Sandon Landcare was lots of fun. We looked at the flowering heath in the National Park and the bush regeneration work being done in the Littoral Rainforest.



Left: Dennis McPherson and Helen Tyas Tunggal (Angourie Coastcare) explaining the erosion control works carried out at Spooky Beach last year after much of the car park hillside was washed out during the huge rain events of the previous year. March meeting hosted by Angourie Coastcare



Directly from our website



Featuring

Landcare Group: Wooli Dunecare Group



Location

Wooli dune system area from "One Tree" beach access point to the mouth of the Wooli River

Duration

Rejuvenated February 2011

Description

The Wooli Dunecare Group was formed by a group of Wooli residents to reverse the dune degradation on the Wooli Peninsular, increase awareness about ecological sustainable dune use and to demonstrate holistic approaches to natural resource management

Describe or List Projects

Wooli Community Planting Day on 7 May and a Sand Trap installation day on the 11 June

Natural Resource Management outcomes

Planting of various coastal plant species from the strand line to the hind dune area to revegetate and stabilise a denuded area at the Cenotaph. Beach and dune regeneration along various locations by judicious use of sand trapping methods

Funding Sources or Sponsors

Community Planting Day supported by EnviTE & Northern Rivers CMA. Community Action Grants applied for with Clarence Valley Council as sponsor.

For further information

Wooli Dunecare Group would welcome any new members. Please contact Coordinator - Len O'Shea 02 66497486





Securing a Clean Energy Future

The Australian Government's Clean Energy Future plan sets out a long-term plan to reshape the Australian economy, cut carbon pollution, drive innovation and investment in new clean energy sources such as solar, gas and wind. This includes:

- introducing a carbon price
- promoting innovation and investment in renewable energy
- encouraging energy efficiency
- creating opportunities in the land sector to cut carbon.



Land Sector Package

Land managers have a vitally important role to play in reducing carbon pollution. Through the \$1.7 billion Land Sector Package, Australian land managers will have new opportunities to reduce carbon pollution and increase the amount of carbon stored on the land.

The Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities is responsible for rolling out the following Land Sector Package measures:



Biodiversity Fund

\$946m over six years. Supporting land managers to store carbon, enhance biodiversity and increase resilience across the Australian landscape. [More about the Biodiversity Fund](#)



Indigenous Carbon Farming Fund

\$22.3m over five years. Provides assistance to Indigenous Australians to participate in the carbon market. [More about the Indigenous Carbon Farming fund](#)



Regional NRM Planning for Climate Change Fund

\$44m over five years to support the 56 regional natural resource management (NRM) organisations to revise existing regional NRM plans to help identify where in the landscape biodiversity plantings and carbon abatement activities should be undertaken, and utilise climate change impact information and scenarios to guide land use planning. [More about Regional NRM Planning for Climate Change Fund](#)



Land Sector Carbon and Biodiversity Board

\$4m over six years - provides independent advice to Government about implementation of the Land Sector Package [More about the Land Sector Carbon and Biodiversity Board](#)

Biodiversity Fund first round now open

The Biodiversity Fund will invest around \$946m over the next six years to help land managers store carbon, enhance biodiversity and build greater environmental resilience across the Australian landscape.

To do this, it will fund eligible land managers for activities which restore, manage and better protect biodiversity on public and private land. It will also provide support to land managers who wish to take advantage of emerging opportunities in the new carbon market. The Biodiversity Fund will provide support to establishing new carbon stores or better managing carbon stores of existing native habitat.

The Biodiversity Fund will invest in three main areas:

Biodiverse plantings

Funding will help land managers expand native habitat on their property through planting mixed vegetation species appropriate to the region. This will help build landscape resilience and connectivity.

Protecting and enhancing existing native vegetation

Funding will support land managers to protect, manage and enhance existing native vegetation in high conservation areas on their land for its carbon storage and biodiversity benefits.

Managing threats to biodiversity

Funding will control the threat of invasive pests and weeds in a connected landscape.

The first round of applications is now open.

For further information: www.environment.gov.au/cleanenergyfuture

Due Date: January 31, 2012





Lucky break for our Coastal Emu

Normally at risk from Clarence valley road traffic at least seven rare coastal emu chicks have the keen eyes of a local cane farmer to thank for their survival after being nearly crushed by a harvester. The cane farmer on Brooms Head Road, who did not wish to be named, came across an emu nest while harvesting cane. 'I missed the nest with 14 eggs by inches' he said.

After contacting the NPWS he carefully gather the eggs and kept them warm, until they were collected by local wildlife carer Kerry Cranney, who has extensive experience in caring for injured orphaned emus. "The eggs were immediately placed in an incubator and over the weekend five of the eggs hatched healthy chicks, with two more emerging on Monday", Kerry said. "So far, and thanks to the quick thing of the local farmer, the

Coastal Emu population has grown by 7 chicks," she said.

"The chicks appear to be doing well. They will be raised and prepared for release around 7 months of age. "If possible the birds may be released with tracking devices to help gain more information on the seasonal movements of the population", Kerry said.

Another chick was brought into care a month ago by another local cane farmer which appears to have attacked by a dog. "This chick is also doing really well and will be pleased to have the company. "A big thanks to our local cane farmers for their support with the emu survey and taking steps to conserve this local icon", Kerry said.

Results from the recent Coastal Emu survey for 2011 put the Clarence Valley population at around 100 birds. No emus have been seen in Bundjalung National Park for more than 2 years. Collisions with motor vehicles are still the biggest known threat with 66 birds killed since 2000. If people come across emu nests, please contact NPWS immediately. Article Courtesy NSW NPWS



Australian Master TreeGrower Special Private Native Forest courses for Landholders (6 days)

Grafton Course February/ March 2012

Rowan Reid set up the Australian Master TreeGrower course in 1996 whilst working as a forest scientist at the University of Melbourne. To date, 93 Master TreeGrower courses (including more than 30 courses in NSW) have been run around Australia involving more than 1900 landholders. In 2000, Rowan was awarded the Eureka Award for Excellence in Environmental Education.

Now you too can become an Australian Master TreeGrower

A special 6-day private native forestry management Master TreeGrower course will be run in the Grafton area with support from the NSW Government. Annabel Kater, a local private forest owner and sawmiller, will oversee the project with Rowan's support. The courses are specifically designed for landholders who want to enhance the quality of their native forest – whatever their interests.

Full Course Cost: \$100/person (\$50 for extra family members) for the whole 6 days

Participants receive an MTG Hat, Tree measurement tape, MTG Gate Sign & certificate.

Annabel Kater	Rowan Reid
NSW Australian Master TreeGrower Coordinator	National Australian Master TreeGrower Coordinator
EMAIL: annabelkater@bravo.net.au	EMAIL: rowan.reid@agroforestry.net.au
Phone: 0437399511	Phone: 0409609939

This series of Australian Master TreeGrower courses is supported by the NSW Government Office of Environment and Heritage. The Australian Master TreeGrower Program is a Not for Profit Community Group aimed at assisting private landholder establish and manage forests for the reasons that matter to them

*** A concurrent course will be held in Casino in February 2012***



Interested in the environment?

Trenayr Campus of TAFE offers qualifications in Conservation and Land Management - from short courses through to Diploma level, by distance learning.

We can tailor a course to suit you - so if you work, or want to work in the natural resource management industry, we offer units required by a wide range of sectors including natural area restoration, weed management, parks & wildlife, indigenous land management and chemical application.

The following may be available next year so get in quick:

AHC51110 Conservation and Land Management (General Land Management) Qualification: Diploma

AHC40910 Conservation and Land Management (General Land Management) Qualification: Certificate IV

RTD30102 Conservation and Land Management (General Land Management) Qualification Certificate III

Contact and more information: Trenayr Campus

p: 1800 677 331 e: nci.calm@tafensw.edu.au

Other courses may be available depending on demand



FIRE WEED LANDHOLDER SURVEY

We are conducting a survey of landholders as part of the Fireweed control research project, being funded by DAFF.

We would greatly appreciate it if you could complete the questionnaire, and contribute

your experiences with fireweed to our project.

The survey may be found online at the following address:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/fireweed>

If you would prefer to complete the survey on paper, please forward your mailing details and we will send you a copy (plus a reply paid envelope).

The survey examines the ecological conditions under which fireweed grows best, what kinds of pasture grasses compete most effectively with fireweed, what methods landholders use to control the weed, and the impact it has had on farm management.

More information is available on our 'news' web page:

<http://www.ruralfutures.une.edu.au/fireweed/news.htm>



Common Mynas in the Clarence Valley

Common Mynas have been sighted in nearly every locality and town in the Clarence Valley. Your sightings are being mapped by the CVCIA Myna Team and can be seen on a map. Check out this link http://cvcia.org.au/?page_id=61#myna_sightings

We need many more people out there trapping these birds and working together to keep them in check. Please report Common Myna sightings so we can coordinate trapping efforts and recognise trends in bird numbers.

CVCIA Myna tally is up to 1320

Need a chemical users qualification?

Statement of Attainment in Chemical Application - SMARTtrain

By undertaking this unit of competence students will develop knowledge and skills related to applying chemicals for the control of weeds, pests and diseases using work-place specific application equipment.

The work undertaken by students will meet the legal requirements for people who work commercially with herbicides and pesticides. A thorough knowledge of the application of safety procedures and regulations when using chemicals will also be obtained.

On successful completion students are issued with a Statement of Attainment for the nationally accredited units and a plastic chemical users card. The qualification units may be accredited to other courses.

Next course Sat 25 Feb and Sun 26 Feb 2012 (1 day refresher available, Sun 26).

Contact and more information: Trenayr Campus

p: 1800 677 331 e: nci.calm@tafensw.edu.au

Understanding Conservation and Property Agreements

Clarence Landcare hosted a workshop for landholders on Wednesday 16th November 2011 at the Grafton Landcare Office to assist in understanding the range of conservation and property agreements that are available on private property.

Guest speakers included Patricia Edwards from Land for Wildlife, Nigel Blake from the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (NRCMA) outlining Property Vegetation Plans (PVP's) & Land Management Agreements (LMA's) and Ian Ratcliff - Solicitor from the Environmental Defenders Office who discussed the legal aspects of the range of agreements and importance of conservation on private property .



Kath and John Cameron

Clarence Landcare Community Support Officer Debbie Repschlager said "We decided to run this workshop in

order to reduce confusion about the range of Agreements that are available not only for voluntary conservation purposes but also for those agreements such as LMA's and PVP's that are often necessary in order to receive grants".

Most agreements are purely between the funding authority and the land holders but other agreements need to be placed as a covenant on the property title. An example of this is a Voluntary Conservation Agreement (VCA) with the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH).

Kath and John Cameron from Blaxlands Creek chose to undertake a VCA in 2008 when they decided they wanted to protect and conserve 85 acres of their 100acre property. Kath explains "that they always loved living in bushy places and wanted to make sure this property was protected in the long term".

They found the process very straight forward, "as the officer from OEH did all the organising and a couple of botanist came out to survey the property. They found a number of endangered plant and animal species which made us realise we were doing the right thing" said Kath Cameron proudly. There have been a number of financial benefits in undertaking the Conservation Agreement including weed control work, fencing and the ongoing benefit of a council rate reduction. John Cameron remarks "that this wasn't the main reason for doing it but it helps".

There were a number of publications available free at the workshop including the EDO's [A Guide to Private Conservation in NSW](#) which is a great booklet including the topics covered in this workshop and more including Offsetting – Clearing PVP's, Environmental Stewardship and Wildlife Land Trust and these now are available in the Landcare Office.

Teachers Environment Fund

About the Teachers Environment Fund

Launched in March 2008, the Teachers Environment Fund is Teachers Credit Union's initiative to assist public schools and TAFE's to enhance their sustainability. The Fund allocates grants of up to \$5,000 each bi-annually to public schools and TAFE's in NSW, ACT, NT and WA for environmental projects.

"The Teachers Environment Fund underpins our approach to sustainability," says Steve James, CEO of Teachers Credit Union. "We believe that success cannot be measured only in terms of profits and growth, but also how we relate to the community and the ways in which we minimise our environmental impact."

"Through the Teachers Environment Fund, the Credit Union is helping teachers bring to life their sustainability projects. We want to support projects which provide a resource for the school, as well as a practical teaching example that embeds sustainability into students' thinking."

How to apply

Applications for 2012 will open again in March 2012—Click on link below for more info.

http://www.teacherscreditunion.com.au/GI_About%20us/Corporate%20Responsibility/Environment/Initiatives/Teachers%20Environment%20Fund.aspx



Catchment Action Plan - new community survey out now - Northern Rivers CMA

Community consultation has begun for the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (NRCMA) new Catchment Action Plan for the Northern Rivers region - a strategic, whole of government, whole of community plan that will span 2012-22. The new plan will replace the existing CAP and continue to guide investment for regional natural resource management (NRM) activities.

The review process is an important opportunity for the community to help set Natural Resource Management priorities for the future and all Landcare groups, NRM communities and interested individuals are encouraged to take part in the process.

Information is currently available at: <http://yoursay.northern.cma.nsw.gov.au/> so please visit the site to learn about the process and how you can participate.

A new survey, open to everyone in the community (issues and values) is now online so please take a few moments to fill this in - only with community participation can the review be truly meaningful.

Hard copies of surveys and associated discussion papers are available from the Landcare Office .

Further CAP updates will be provided as they come to hand. Of interest is the recently released [NSW State Plan 2021](#) Goal 23 contains priority actions relating specifically to CMAs and Landcare.

You can register your interest to receive direct updates by emailing CAPreview_northern@cma.nsw.gov.au



The five NSW Coastal Catchment Management Authorities are partnering with the NSW Boating Industry Association, Boat Owners Association of NSW, Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW, NSW Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries) and NSW Maritime to undertake an 'Environmental Education Strategy for Boaters and Fishers' project.

The project involves delivering educational presentations to boating and fishing community groups across coastal NSW. A community group presentation titled '**HEALTHY WATERWAYS = better boating, more fish**' has been developed in conjunction with the project partners. This comprehensive presentation reinforces the values and good practices to assist in maintaining access and a sustainable environment to continue to enjoy boating and fishing.

The presentation addresses what recreational boaters and fishers can do to assist regarding the following aquatic environmental issues:

- Minimising impacts to aquatic habitat
- Stopping the spread of aquatic pests
- How to become involved in protecting and enhancing the aquatic environment

The project partners recommend the presentation to boaters, fishers, clubs or groups. For more information or to arrange a presentation to your club or group, please contact the Project Manager:
John Naughton,

Catchment Officer (Aquatic) Sydney Metropolitan CMA
Phone: (02) 9895 6274
Email: John.Naughton@cma.nsw.gov.au



The endangered Giant Barred Frog, *Mixophyes iteratus*, found while out controlling cane toads. CIA volunteers do an enormous amount of community education, fauna recording and partnership work while trying to reduce the impact of invasive animals.

CANE TOADS CAUGHT THIS YEAR

926 (333 caught by CIA)

<http://cvcia.org.au/> Please click on this link to see newsletters, Blog spots and a whole wealth of interesting information



New coastal group starts up at Brooms Head

A new coastal Landcare group is up and running at **Brooms Head**. The Clarence Landcare network now have a coastal care group in every village on the Clarence Coast. The Brooms Head group has already set some goals and have successfully applied for a small grant through the Clarence Valley Council. This small grant has enabled the group to commence their first project of building sand traps on Brooms Head beach, based on the successful model trialled by the Wooli Dunecare group. Secretary Robyn Sharp said that the traps are already collecting sand as hoped and they are looking into other ideas for project sites as identified at the first meeting. Some group members have been inducted at the Council Community Nursery in Townsend and are keen to get some beach plants propagated for future use in projects. Group Coordinator is Kevin Sheehan who has lived in the Brooms Head area for many years.

New members welcome: Contact secretary - Robyn Sharp 66467268 or Coordinator - Kevin Sheehan 66467058.

Right and above right...sand trapping at Wooli Beach. The Wooli Dunecare Group started their sand trapping project last year and native beach vegetation (Spinifex and Beach Bean) have started to colonise the new dunes as they are forming. Wooli Dunecare with support from CVC have been successful in obtaining a Community Action Grant to continue with their sand trapping project.

Photos of the Wooli Beach sand traps contributed by D. Richardson – Wooli Dunecare Secretary



Pictured: The new Brooms Head Landcare Group was formed after a public meeting on the 17th August 2011.





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CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



Northern Rivers

CMA CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY



Clarence Landcare Inc.

P.O. Box 594, Grafton NSW 2460

POSTAGE

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AUSTRALIA

A Message from Committee and Staff.



Merry Christmas—the Landcare office will be closed from December 22nd 2011 to January 13th 2012. Julie will be back on the 16th and Debbie will be back on the 23rd January 2012.

Do we have your up to date email address? If you would like to receive information on grants, field days and information sessions between Newsletter issues please send us an email requesting we place you our **Newsletter email list**.

Please let us know how you would prefer to receive the Newsletter—Hard Copy in the mail or email link. Thanks Deb

This newsletter is produced by Clarence Landcare Inc. as part of our Community Support Program which is funded by the Caring for our Country and the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority