



# Kookaburra News

September 2012



## This Issue:

### Page 2

- Dates for your Diary
- Successful Grants for Clarence Landcare
- Habitat Action Grants Open

### Page 3

- Nymboida River Project
- Rent-a-Ruminant
- Angourie Dunecare

### Page 4

- Seeds for the Future Biodiversity Project

### Page 5

- Elland Preservation Organisation
- The Common (Indian) Myna Project

### Page 6

- Sustainable Farming Project Field Day
- Cane Toad Tadpole Trap
- Junior Landcare Backyard Challenge
- National Landcare Survey Results

### Page 7

- Plant Id. and Bush Regeneration Training.
- Grant Success for CVC

### Page 8

- Coastal Conference
- Bush Regen. Workshop in Yamba coming up
- NRCMA CAP 2 Draft soon to be released
- Community Organisation Workshop 2013—EOI

### Page 9

- Dung Beetle Roadshow and Almy Creek Field Day

### Page 10

- TAFE Conservation and Land Management
- Birds of Grafton DVD

### Page 11

- Clarence Landcare Inc AGM and Coastal Emu guest speaker.

## Nymboida River Project

# Secures \$92,000



Tony McLennan, landholder involved in the Nymboida River Project for the past 7 years.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Sept 2012

28th Sept.— Habitat Action Grants Close

### October 2012

9th Oct— Clarence Landcare AGM

14th Oct— Envite Bush Regen. Training

15th Oct— NRCMA CAP 2 Draft Released

25th Oct— Dung Beetle Roadshow & Field Day

### November 2012

6th– 9th Nov.— NSW Coastal Conference

14th Nov — Sustainable Farming Project Field Day

16th Nov — Junior Landcare Backyard Challenge



## Successful Grants for Clarence Landcare

Whiteman Creek— NRCMA Incentives Grant for River Reach Year 3. \$ 74,900

Sustainable Land Management for North Coast NSW Horse Properties . \$19,980 Caring for our Country. Community Action Grant . This grant is to run four workshops on the north Coast.

More information about both these grants in the next Kookaburra News



## Clarence Landcare Inc..

Annual General Meeting  
5.30 pm Tuesday 9th October  
See notice on Page 11



## Habitat Action Grants

The Habitat Action Program:

- supports the improvement of recreationally important fish populations, engages recreational anglers in fish habitat actions through the [Fishers for Fish Habitat](#) project,
- provides devolved **habitat action grants** to enhance fisheries in NSW.

The Habitat Action Program is funded by the revenue raised by the NSW recreational fishing fee.

### Applications for Habitat Action Grants are now being sought

Funding applications require the completion of the habitat-specific Funding Application form and must relate to the enhancement of recreational fishing through the improvement of fish habitat. Applicants may apply for a small grant (maximum \$1,000 excluding GST) or a large grant (maximum \$40,000 excluding GST). Successful projects are usually funded for one year and announced towards the end of the year.

Applications close 5pm September 28, 2012

For further information or to obtain a Funding Application form, contact the Habitat Action Grants Administrator on [fish.habitat@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:fish.habitat@dpi.nsw.gov.au) or ring (02) 6881 1277.

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/habitat/rehabilitating/ahr-grants-program>



# NSW Environmental Trust Grant for the Nymboida River Project



Brent Turner Coffs Harbour Bush Regeneration Group, stem injecting a small leaf privet tree

Clarence Landcare and properties on the Nymboida River have again been rewarded for the ongoing achievements of the Nymboida River Project. Stage six of the project "Protection of Nymboida River Biodiversity" is now underway with assistance by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust. \$92,155 has been granted for the project to undertake riverine weed control with the aim to protect mature native vegetation being smothered by weeds. The project also includes training, a production of a brochure and a field day.

The focus of the project is to protect habitat for native flora and fauna which includes a number of threatened species such as the endangered Eastern Fresh Water Cod. "It is so important that we are able to protect the really big old water gums, tea trees and bottle brush that reach their branches right out over the water's edge. The tree roots not only protect the riverbank but the value of the boughs, leaves, flowers and seeds are important for insects, birds, bats, reptiles and fish! I have seen these trees engulfed by the dense canopy of the weed small leaf privet and they will eventually die." said Clarence Landcare's Project Manager Debbie Repschlager.

The project involves 24 private properties and 7 parcels of public land over a stretch of 50km of the Nymboida River with each landholder contributing toward the project. Clarence Valley Council and Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority are both currently funding stage 5 of the Nymboida River Project.

"This is the first year we have included crown land and Aboriginal Land as part of the project. We have a number of private properties joining the project for the first time. It is fantastic to see so many people passionate about the health of their riverbank and as the project grows in strength and depth I hope to attract ongoing funding." said Debbie Repschlager.

The project also includes raising awareness of riverbank management which included a training day in Nymboida on Riverine Plant Identification and Bush Regeneration techniques. By Debbie Repschlager



## RENT A RUMINANT

Check this out for fun

<http://www.rentaruminant.com/>

## Congratulations to

Angourie Community Coastcare for their Successful Caring for our Country Community Action Grant Raising Awareness and Engagement in protecting Angourie's Biodiversity \$19,990 more info in future issues.



# Seeds for the Future

The Clarence Valley Biodiversity Resource Support Project aims to provide a coordinated approach to native seed collection and distribution across the Clarence Valley. The project is funded by the Australian Government's Clean Energy Future Biodiversity Fund and Clean Energy Futures Program.



*Jagera pseudorhus* – Foambark Tree showing the fruiting capsule which encases one black or dark brown seed in each lobe. Flowering usually occurs from March to May in the Clarence Valley with seed appearing August to October.

Clarence Landcare will be recording and mapping seed resource locations in a database and recording distribution from growers to local planting projects.

Along with fulfilling the basic aims of detailing when and where seed for a particular species is likely to be available we hope to extend our knowledge on plant species and their habitats in the local context and gather data that may lead to a greater understanding of selection pressures operating the Clarence Valley. If the number of individual species at a given location has been significantly reduced, the database should provide enough information to enable the selection of seed for revegetation from a habitat with similar conditions at another location and prove useful in tracking where seed resources are distributed.

“Through communication with individuals in the seed network who are watching for flowering times and the appearance of seed we are able to have seed collected at an opportune time, recorded and then assigned to a network of growers. When the plants are grown to a suitable stage for planting out they are distributed or picked up by biodiversity projects requiring suitably matched plant species, said Julie Mousley, Project Coordinator.” The Clarence Native Seed Network is made up of individuals, landowners, public land managers, community groups and volunteers and is coordinated by Clarence Landcare. “We are interested in hearing from anyone who would be willing to make seed resources available for collection from their properties or just want to be involved in some way. “

Joining the project provides access to native seed collection training and advice. We will also be producing seed collection calendars and guidelines to assist with identification of local plant species with flowering and seeding times.

The primary focus for revegetation activity is the Clarence Floodplain and Estuary; however any location in the Clarence Valley can be part of the Clarence Native Seed Network and associated projects. For information please contact Julie Mousley at Clarence Landcare on 66435009.

By Julie Mousley



# Preserving Threatened Species, Wetlands and Riparian Vegetation.

Elland Preservation Organisation are a relatively new Landcare group but a long standing advocate for environmental land management issues and activities. They are in the process of implementing an Australian Government Caring for our Country - Community Action Grant. Based adjacent to the Orara River near Coutts Crossing the project aims to protect Elland wetland, riparian vegetation, create corridors and threatened species (*Melaleuca irbyana*) rehabilitation.

The grant has helped with activities including weed control on the Orara River for riparian rehabilitation. The main weed focus being Cats Claw Creeper, Lantana and Dutchmans Pipe. The weeds are an issue due to their threatening nature and aggression to smother native vegetation. They are being controlled by EnviTE Environment.



Graeme Budd and EnviTE team members planting inside a recently fenced part of Elland wetlands.

The fencing of Elland wetlands will protect the wetlands and adjoining threatened species habitat. Fencing and establishment of seed stock have resulted in the expansion of the area of the threatened species *Melaleuca irbyana* already rehabilitated using livestock grazing control in the area.

Over 600 native endemic plants were planted to create connectivity and habitat, address critical habitat links and providing a focus for involving further local landholders in landcare activities to enable expansion of the group.

This work will deliver improved habitat for wetland species including the comb crested jacana (near the southern extent of its range), black necked stork and black swan that breed in the area. The work will also provide improved connectivity for wildlife adjacent to the wetland area including further rehabilitation and extension of existing populations of the threatened species *Melaleuca irbyana*. It will also alleviate the threat of choking vine weeds (ie Cats Claw Creeper) and WoNS Lantana which has the potential to pose a threat to populations



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By Mick Webb Environment Project Officer – Coffs/Clarence and Graeme Budd  
Elland Preservation Group member.

## The Clarence Valley Common Indian Myna Control Project



Check out the latest Newsletter <http://cvcia.org.au/resources/landholder-newsletters/>

**The CVCIA Common Indian Myna project tally was (in the last newsletter) 2200 and is now over 2948**

For more info: <http://cvcia.org.au/common-mynas/>



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## Sustainable Farming Project Field Day 14th November 2012



Clarence Valley Council is hosting a field day on Wednesday the 14th November 2012 as part of the NRCMA funded Sustainable Farming Project.

The key speaker will be Dr Lewis Khan from the consultancy AIMS who will deliver information on increasing the productivity of pastures. Dr Khan's work has proven to be popular with floodplain graziers and promotes managing pastures within an ideal range.

More information about the field day will be available soon, please contact Stuart Murphy on telephone 6641 7357 if you require further information.



## Cane Toad Tadpole Trap

Click on the link below to read about Rick Shine's cane toad tadpole trap. The CVCIA have offered their volunteer services to trial these in our area this season to help out this important research. Info can be found here: <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/innovationchallenge/scientists-led-by-professor-rick-shine-winning-war-on-cane-toad/story-fn9dkrp5-1226393525017>



<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/innovationchallenge/scientists-led-by-professor-rick-shine-winning-war-on-cane-toad/story-fn9dkrp5-1226393525017>

For some fun reading about what the CVCIA get up to click here <http://cvcia.blogspot.com.au/>



This exciting new challenge gives children the opportunity to explore what is growing in their very own backyards!

We are asking kids to submit a photo or short video, and want to hear about everything from pot plants on apartment balconies to leafy suburban gardens or rural and remote properties, and everything in between.

Entries due 16th November. <http://juniorlandcarechallenge.com.au/>



## Health of Landcare Survey results now available

National Landcare Facilitator, Brett de Hayr, said that the results convey a powerful message and provides further proof that the Landcare movement has proven its longevity.

"The results of this survey reflect a remarkable cultural shift that has occurred in the Australian farming community since the inception of Landcare across the country in the late 1980's," he said.

The survey results can now be seen in summary [here](#), with links to section results as well.



## Riparian Plant Identification and Bush Regeneration Training



On the 28th of August 2012 Clarence Landcare Inc. ran this training event in Nymboida. Funded by both the NSW Environmental Trust and an Australian Government Community Action Grant.

Julie ran the introduction to plant identification session in the hall then we headed down to the river bank to look at some good intact riparian vegetation.



In the afternoon we went back down to another section of riverbank to see how weeds can threaten native riparian plant survival and look at some successful cats claw creeper control work.

Lloyd, Ben and Brent from Coffs Harbour Bush Regeneration Group and Ian Bottomly, all Professional Bush Regenerator Contractors demonstrated the variety of methods they use to control a range of weeds on the riverbank including camphor laurel, small leaf privet and Cats Claw creeper.

Everyone was very happy with the day..

Brent from Coffs Bush Regeneration Group demonstrating small leaf privet control.



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## Successful Grant Applications for Clarence Valley Council Totalling \$312,313

Clarence Valley Council has recently been successful in securing funding through the NSW Environmental Trust and the Federal Government's Biodiversity Fund to undertake priority works on the floodplain.

The NSW Government's Restoration and Rehabilitation Program has approved \$89,013 to undertake the *Clarence Estuary Riparian and Wetland Restoration* project. Key outcomes of this project will include the restoration of priority riparian areas along the riverbank between Maclean and Grafton and the rehabilitation of a key wetland located near Lake Wooloweyah.

Council was also successful in obtaining \$223,300 from the first round of the Federal Government's Biodiversity Fund. To be implemented over four years, *The Living Clarence:*

*Revegetation of Habitat and Biodiversity* project will address habitat fragmentation, biodiversity loss and riparian degradation in rural and peri-urban landscapes on the Clarence Floodplain through onground works and extension.

We would like to hear from landholders who are interested in being involved in projects that would restore or protect vegetation on their properties. For more information please call Peter Wilson on 6641 7358.



Fences similar to these will be erected to protect riparian areas and riverbanks within the Clarence Valley





#### Invitation to:

The NSW Coastal Conference Committee invites you to participate in our annual state Conference, hosted this year by Kiama Municipal Council. The theme for the 21st NSW Coastal Conference is:

**NSW Coastal Management - Coming of Age?**  
6th-9th November 2012, The Pavilion Kiama, Kiama, NSW

#### Conference Background

The Conference has been held annually for the past 20 years and has grown to become one of the most successful coastal industry events held in Australia. The conference attracts between 250 - 300 delegates - who are interested in or working within the field of coastal and estuary management research, education and service provision and policy; - as well as representatives from government, user groups and community volunteer organisations.

The three day event comprises of plenary sessions, concurrent sessions, field trips (addressing some of the local coastal, estuary and marine management issues), networking events and the Annual NSW Coastal Management Awards. There will also be pre-conference workshops on the Tuesday.

#### Annual NSW Coastal Management Awards

The Annual NSW Coastal Management Awards are presented to publicly recognise and acknowledge the contributions of individuals, groups, organisations and agencies toward the ecologically sustainable management of the NSW coastal zone. The Awards will be presented on the evening of Thursday 10th November at the NSW Coastal Conference Dinner. Further Information: <http://www.coastalconference.com/>



**Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority—  
Draft Catchment Action Plan 2 (CAP 2) will be released on  
the 15th October 2012 for comment and submissions.**

**There will be a series of community consultation  
workshops.**

**To get the most out of the sessions and to give the best  
feedback make sure you have read the document before  
attending. So check this link from the 15th October 2012  
for the Draft Document.**

<http://yoursay.northern.cma.nsw.gov.au/northern-rivers>



## Expression of Interest

### Community Organisation Workshop 2013

Would you like an opportunity to learn new skills in writing grant applications and project management?

Clarence Valley Council would like to know how many community organisations or individuals are interested in attending a workshop in early 2013.

#### **Topics- Introduction to Writing Winning Grant Applications & Introduction to Project Management**

Please register your interest in attending by emailing; Kath Arndell, Community Groups Assistance Officer, Clarence Valley Council at [kath.arndell@clarence.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kath.arndell@clarence.nsw.gov.au) or telephone 02 6645 0015.

A database of organisations interested in attending will be developed. Places will be limited. As more information is available organisations who have registered their interest will be notified.

NB. There will be a registration fee to attend TBA.

Thankyou.



### **Bush Regeneration and Plant ID Workshops—Yamba Wed. October 10th**

Want to learn about bush regeneration and how to identify native plants and weeds? Would you like a professional bush regenerator to assist with restoration works on your site?

9.00am—11.30am at the end of Shores Drive  
Yamba

*For details of each workshop and to  
register contact Maree Thompson on  
66219588 or [mareet@envite.org.au](mailto:mareet@envite.org.au)  
Numbers are limited. Bookings*



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## Dung Beetle Road Show & Alamy Creek Field Day

9.00am Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2012

to be held at 'Cloverdale', 455 Lawrence Road, Alamy Creek



9am – 12 noon Dung Beetles, Earth Worms & Buffalo Flies with Dr Bernard Doube.  
(see information below) morning tea provided



Includes farm walk & talk to have a look at the pasture renovations and strategic grazing and environment improvements, recently completed at 'Cloverdale' by Clarence Landcare Link member Tracey Lawson.

RSVP by 17<sup>th</sup> October to Clarence Landcare Inc. by phone or email. Supported by North Coast Regional Landcare Network, Australian Government Caring for our Country Community Action Grant - Sustainable Floodplain Farming Futures and NRCMA Sustainable Floodplain Farming Project.



SoilCare  
Inc.

SoilCare Inc ~ North Coast Regional Landcare  
and Landcare Australia

### 'Soil Biology: Managing Biological Farming Systems'

Dr Bernard Doube



Landcare  
Australia



**Dr Bernard Doube** was a Principal Research Scientist with CSIRO for 29 years and has had extensive research experience with dung beetles in South Africa and Australia. Bernard is also an international expert on earthworms and the biological basis of soil health and co-edited the books "Soil Biota: Management in Sustainable Farming Systems" and "Biological Indicators of Soil Health".

Bernard is now Principal of Dung Beetle Solutions Australia, which collaborates with water authorities, federal agencies, universities and other organisations to research the influence of dung beetles on water quality, grazing systems and carbon sequestration in southern Australia.

Bernard is also a farmer in the Adelaide Hills where he tends his vineyard. Bernard has found success in restructuring vineyard soils with deep burrowing dung beetles. For more information about Bernard and his work:

Video: 'Dung Beetles for Agriculture, the Environment and Addressing Global Warming!'

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqU5ULMvIaE&feature=player\\_detailpage](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqU5ULMvIaE&feature=player_detailpage)

Dung Beetle Solutions Australia supplies starter colonies of dung beetles to producers.

Website <http://www.dungbeetlesolutions.com.au/>

Email: [Bernardo@dungbeetlesolutions.com.au](mailto:Bernardo@dungbeetlesolutions.com.au)



## Interested in the environment?

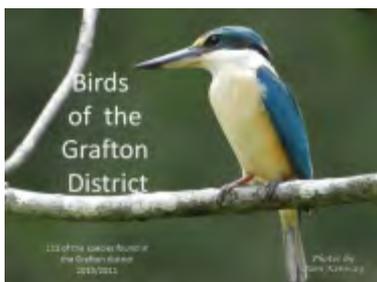
Trenayr TAFE offers qualifications in **Conservation and Land Management** - from short courses through to Diploma level, by distance learning.

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, indigenous land management and chemical application.

Visit our website: <http://northcoast.tafensw.edu.au/conservation/Pages/default.aspx>

Contact and more information: Trenayr TAFE,  
p: 1800 677 331,

e: [nci.calm@tafensw.edu.au](mailto:nci.calm@tafensw.edu.au)



## Birds of Grafton DVD

One of our Common Myna team Landcare volunteers, Pam Kenway is also a birdo and the most amazing bird photographer. Pam has put together a DVD of photos of 111 of the bird species found in or around Grafton. They are all named and the slideshow is set to music. A list of the species is also on the back of the DVD cover. The cost of this beautiful bird gift is just \$10 plus \$3 to cover postage if posted out. Purchase of this DVD raises funds to directly assist with the Common Myna trapping program in the Clarence Valley. You can organise purchase by emailing [pam@cvcia.org.au](mailto:pam@cvcia.org.au) directly. Thank you for supporting CVCIA Landcare and thank you Pam for your generous contribution in so many ways. DVD's are also available from the Landcare Office to purchase.

## Managing Fireweed — Weed of National Significance

### Fireweed guide now available:

Please visit the link below to download your free copy of

'Fireweed: A Best Practice Management Guide for Australian Landholders'.

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

The final version of this document has just published the online, and will have printed copies available soon.

AVAILABLE SOON IN THE GRAFTON LANDCARE OFFICE—100 on their way



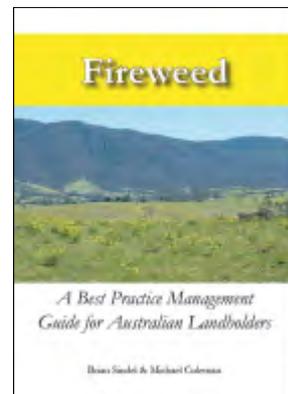
Fireweed was recently announced as one of 12 new Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) due to its economic, environmental and social impacts, as well as its potential to spread. It is a significant pasture weed in eastern Australia.

The draft Strategy is now closed for public comment but can still be found at <http://www.weeds.org.au/WoNS/fireweed>. A summary of key themes in the Strategy can also be found on this web page.

The draft Strategy aspires to deliver on three key outcomes:

1. New fireweed infestations are prevented from establishing
2. Existing fireweed infestations are under strategic management
3. Increase capacity and willingness to manage fireweed

For further information please contact **Bronwen Wicks**, National WoNS Coordinator hosted in NSW DPI on 02 4828 6632 or by email: [bronwen.wicks@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bronwen.wicks@dpi.nsw.gov.au)





# Clarence Landcare Inc.



## Notice of the Clarence Landcare Inc. Annual General Meeting, General Meeting & Guest Speaker

**Gina Hart– Ranger NPWS  
North Coast Emu Population**

**on Tuesday 9th October, 2012**

**5.30 pm at the Agricultural Research Station,**

**Trenayr Rd. Junction Hill.**

**Dinner and Drinks Provided**

**Please RSVP by Wed. 3rd October to the Landcare Office**



It's that time of the year again where you as Landcarer's elect Executive Members. Please consider being an active member on the Clarence Landcare Inc. Executive Committee. We meet once a month in the Landcare Office for one hour. The time and day of the meetings will be negotiated with the new committee to best suit all concerned.

Don't forget you or your group need to be a financial member of Clarence Landcare Inc. to be eligible to vote and/ or be elected .You are welcome to nominate yourself on the night.

### The Clarence Landcare Executive Committee

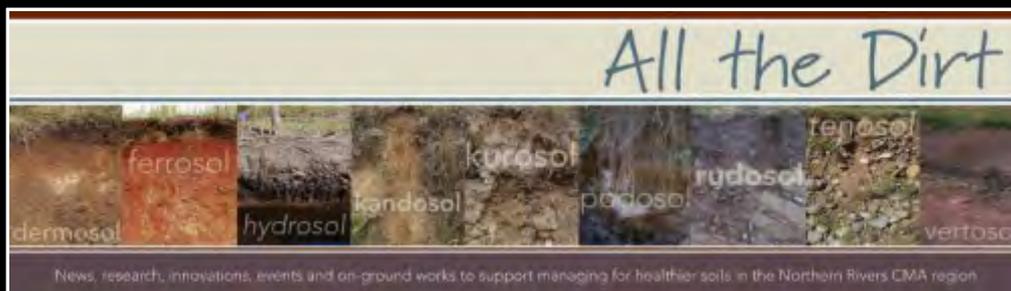


Brian Dodd  
Position : Chair  
Cowans Pond Wetland  
Reserve Management  
Committee

*The executive committee meet monthly and play an important role in support and advice for the operation of Clarence Landcare Inc.*

*We hold one Annual General Meeting (AGM) and two General Meetings a year. These meetings are a great avenue for us to present information about Clarence Landcare projects and for groups to do the same. We often have a guest speaker presenting information of natural resource management relevant to our local area.*

*For more information about the Clarence Landcare volunteer Executive Committee members click on this link: [http://clarencelandcare.com.au/?page\\_id=1349](http://clarencelandcare.com.au/?page_id=1349)*



This is a great Newsletter if you are interested in soil. Follow this link for the latest edition <http://www.northern.cma.nsw.gov.au/publications> and scroll down until you find All the Dirt. There are also lots more interesting things here too.



## Landcare Community Office

### *Contact Details*

Suite 1 (upstairs) Dougherty House

48 Prince St Grafton

Postal Address: PO Box 594, Grafton NSW 2460

Ph: (02) 66 435009 F ax: (02)66 435006

NEW Email: [clarence\\_landcare@bigpond.com](mailto:clarence_landcare@bigpond.com)

Website: [www.clarencelandcare.com.au](http://www.clarencelandcare.com.au)



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Northern Rivers

CMA CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY



Clarence  
Landcare

## Clarence Landcare Inc.

P.O. Box 594, Grafton NSW 2460

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### **A Message from Committee and Staff.**

**Did you know there is a Mini- Kooka E-News now, so if we don't have your current email address you can't get it.—Don't like Email—well you can elect to receive it by snail mail—but you need to let us know.**

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