



Clarence  
Landcare

# Kookaburra News

August 2011



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## Romiaka Island Field Day A Great Success



Bill Burns, owner of Romiaka Island enjoying the sight of participants rolling up for the sustainable grazing and riparian management field day on May 19th 2011.

Photo courtesy of Debra Novak





## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### August 2011

**27th August**— Yamba Landcare Caring for the Coast Day

### September 2011

**4th Sept**— Big Scrub Rainforest Day

**5-7 Sept**—NSW Landcare Conference-Parkes

**25th Sept.**— Registrations for Junior Landcare Watermelon Competition Closes

**28th Sept.**— Fish Habitat Grants Due

**30th Sept.**— Mobile Muster Finishes

### Oct 2011

**10th Oct.** — Be Natural Grants Close

**10th Oct.** — Clarence Landcare Inc AGM

**12th Oct.** — Organic Compost Trials Field Day

**12th Oct.** — Biological Farming Course Starts

**20th Oct.** — How Does Your Garden Grow Workshop

**31st Oct.**— Feral Animal Photo Comp Closes

### Nov 2011

**1st Nov.**— Clarence Valley Short Film Festival

**8th—11th Nov**—NSW Coastal Conference



## Fish Habitat Action Grants

The Habitat Action Grants are now open. Over half a million dollars is available in grants for projects to restore, improve and rehabilitate fish habitat in rivers, creeks and estuaries of NSW. There are a few changes to the grants this year:

1. Funding of **up to \$40,000** (excl GST) is available, an increase of \$10,000 per project. Please note, all applications still need to be met with dollar-for-dollar in-kind or cash support.
2. **A small grant is available for applications up to \$1,000.** This small grant option has a separate application form, see attached, which is shorter than the large grant (up to \$40k). There will also be a **much** simpler Agreement contract for successful small grant projects. The idea is to encourage as many recreational fishers in the community, whether they are members of a club or not, to apply and to make it a less daunting task for them. Perhaps with a view to getting a project off the ground and if successful the applicant may then wish to apply for additional funds in subsequent years. These grants are still available for other community groups, local Councils etc.

3. The funding will now be separated according to catchments flowing East of the Great Dividing range (**Coastal**) and those flowing West of the Great Dividing Range (**Inland**) - this allows us to take a more catchment based approach to fisheries habitat management rather than the salt/fresh divide.

The grants are open for 8 weeks. Closing date for submissions is **Wednesday 28 September 2011 at 5pm** - so get in quick!

<http://www.fishhabitatnetwork.com.au>

More information is available at <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/habitat/rehabilitating/ahr-grants-program>



## Clarence Organic Compost Trials Field Day 12<sup>th</sup> October 2011

Northern Rivers Food Links & Clarence Landcare sustainable agriculture project at Lawson's property at Glenugie and DPI/ CVC project results at their Lake Road property.

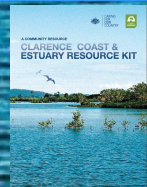
Details to be advised later but RSVP if you are interested in attending to Clarence Landcare

This is a not to be missed Field Day.





# Romiaka Island Field Day a Great Success



The sustainable grazing and riparian management field day held at Romiaka Island, on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2011 showcased the work being carried out on Romiaka over the past 3 years which has resulted in positive benefits for this 80ha property. Forty people attended with representatives from the community and government organisation including Clarence Valley Council, Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority and the Caring for our Country (CFOC) Community Action Grants team from Canberra.



Participants at the field day were shown how a range of sustainable grazing and estuarine riparian management methods have been implemented on Romiaka Island (near Yamba). Aspects of the project include protecting wetlands and endangered native vegetation communities, strategic management of pastures using rotational grazing fencing, weed control including staged Camphor removal, protecting fish habitat, soil erosion control methods including a 50 metre rock fillet construction on Romiaka Channel and extensive tree planting to link existing remnant vegetation. Of course all of this could not have been possible without the willingness and dedication of Romiaka landowner and Landcare Link member Bill Burns. Many thanks for the assistance of all of the 'Friends of Romiaka' who helped leading up to the field day and on the day as well.

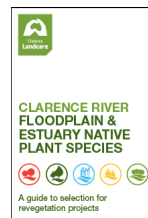
A highlight of the day was the launch by Janelle Saffin, Page MP of the Clarence Coast and Estuary Resource Kit. This publication was authored by Julie Mousley, NRM Community Support Officer and produced with a grant from the 09/10 Community Action Grant round. The aim of this community resource kit is to bring together much of the available information about the Clarence estuary into an easy to use guide with information and examples about how an estuary functions and how to care for the water catchment in which we live. The publication can be downloaded from Clarence Landcare website and some hard copies are still available from the Landcare Office in Grafton - contact [julie.mousley@clarencelandcare.com.au](mailto:julie.mousley@clarencelandcare.com.au)



Above: Julie Mousley displays the Resource Kit and right: the plant species leaflet that was produced with the kit—available separately



CARING  
FOR  
OUR  
COUNTRY



The NSW Coastal Conference Committee invites you to participate in our annual state Conference 8—11th November 2011, hosted this year by Tweed Shire Council. The theme for the 20th Anniversary of the NSW Coastal Conference is: **"20 / 20 Vision for the Coast - lessons learnt and looking toward future improvement"**.

[www.coastalconference.com](http://www.coastalconference.com)







## Be Natural Grants of up to \$5,000

Landcare Australia and Be Natural are pleased to launch a \$125,000 grants program that will provide funding to voluntary environmental community groups across Australia. This grants program will enable groups to continue their great work in tackling local environmental issues by providing funding to help with the continuation of on-going projects.

The Be Natural Landcare grants program will provide grants of up to \$5,000 to 25 local groups to help with the projects which have not received funding in the last 12 months. Through the grants program, groups will also be encouraged to find innovative ways of attracting more volunteers to their group and projects.

"The grants are open to any community, environmental volunteer group that falls under the Landcare umbrella including Bushcare, Dunecare, Rivercare, 'Friends of' groups, and groups of farmers that embrace sustainable farm management. Applications for the Be Natural Landcare grants will close on October 10th. Please see links to the grants criteria and application forms below. [Click here to download the Be Natural grant criteria](#) [Click here to download the Be Natural grant application form](#)



## A chance to receive a \$2,000 grant for your Landcare or Coastcare group.

Recycle old mobiles to be in with the chance to receive a \$2,000 grant for your Landcare or Coastcare group.

MobileMuster aims to collect and recycle 250,000 handsets from 5 June to 30 September 2011 and provide up to 25 grants of \$2,000 to Landcare and Coastcare groups working on regenerating our coastline.

"The funding provided through 'Old phones, more trees' will enable 25 Landcare and Coastcare groups to plant seedlings and remove weeds; stabilising our coastline and protecting vital coastal habitat," says Ms Read. The more mobile phones, batteries and accessories collected during the campaign, the more grants will be available to Landcare and Coastcare groups, up to \$50,000.

"All Landcare and Coastcare members can help MobileMuster reach this year's target simply by rounding up and handing in their old mobiles and accessories at their nearest collection point, as well as encouraging friends, colleagues and family members to do the same," says Ms Read.

Landcare and Coastcare groups who perform regeneration work on coastal sites are encouraged to submit an expression of interest for a grant to Landcare Australia from 5 June, 2011. To apply, groups must submit a completed expression of interest form, which can be downloaded.

'Old phones, more trees' runs from **5 June until 30 September 2011**. MobileMuster will donate 25 grants of up to \$2,000 each to Landcare Australia and Coastcare groups. Recycling an old mobile phone is free and easy, simply:

For any queries regarding the MobileMuster Landcare grants, please email [enquiries@landcareaustralia.com.au](mailto:enquiries@landcareaustralia.com.au) or phone 1800 151 105 Criteria and expression of interest form [Click here to download expression of interest form](#) [Click here to download MobileMuster Landcare funding criteria information](#) or



## Invasive Animals CRC Photography Competition 2011

Do you have a great photo of one of Australia's pest animals or the damage they cause? We are looking for the best original photographs of pest animals in Australia, their impacts, and control or monitoring activities. Colour, black & white or sepia-tone photos, remote camera photos, funny photos and panoramic photos will all be accepted.

Our finalists will be featured in a special 2012 Feral Photos competition calendar!

All entries must be provided in electronic or printed form with a completed entry form available for download below.

Contact Jessica Marsh at [jessica.marsh@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jessica.marsh@industry.nsw.gov.au) or (02) 6391 3907 or 0400 586 060 for more details!

**DOWNLOAD:** [Feral Photos entry pack 2011](#) (2 Mb Word doc) **Entry is free. Competition closes 31st October 2011.**





Martyn Swain, Council Film Festival organiser, invites film producer talent to the big screen show down.

## Landcare Supports the Clarence Valley Regional Short Film Festival

Council has endorsed support of a short film festival the "Clarence Valley Regional Short Film Festival", to be held from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Saraton Theatre on Tuesday 1 November 2011, Jacaranda Week.

Mayor Richie Williamson said, "Supporting worthwhile Events and Festivals is part of Council's community support programs. The aim of this short film festival is to link it to an element of the environment, in this case being water, and encourage youth and adult participation.

Mayor Williamson said "Water is a good theme to kick off with because we all depend on a healthy environment for our water supply and agricultural uses"

Festival organiser Martyn Swain said, 'Independent film makers and schools have shown huge interest and have picked up entry forms to compete for the big screen showing at the Saraton Theatre. 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 November 2011'

The existing Big River Public Schools Film Festival (BRPSFF), currently running will be value added by having the Primary Schools Committee select their top four films from the previous year for a chance to be premiered and in the running for the Clarence Valley Regional Film Festival awards on the night.

The event is open to all and we are already receiving films contributed from all ages and backgrounds.

The Clarence Valley Regional Short Film Festival is now open to sponsors wanting to get involved. A \$20 entry fee applies to film makers and patrons attending the Premier event will pay a \$10 entry to the Saraton Theatre a portion of which will return to the event for support to the following year. It is not too late to enter a short film for November 2011 or become a sponsor. On an ongoing basis, other environmental and sustainability themes important to the Valley will be looked at for future events.

Clarence Landcare are supporting this exciting new event with the environmental theme being water, it right down our ally, it would be great to see some entries from our Landcarers.

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



## Biological Farming Grazing and Cropping



CARING  
FOR  
OUR  
COUNTRY

When: Starting Wednesday 12 October 2011- one day per week for 9 weeks—9.30 AM to 4.30 PM  
Where: North Coast TAFE, Casino, morning sessions; afternoon sessions in the field.  
Teacher: Dave Forrest

Class members will evaluate soil health and management practices on their respective farms. Members will then develop a biological farming plan for their property. Farmers who complete the course and submit the course assessment (a biological farming soil management plan for their farm) will be reimbursed the \$250.00 TAFE course fee.

For course detail and dates please contact Email: [info@soilcare.org](mailto:info@soilcare.org) or phone Bonnie Walker on 02 6628 1788 or 0448 026 230. Recommended reading: The Biological Farmer – A Complete Guide to the Sustainable and Profitable Biological System of Farming by Gary Zimmer

Sponsored by SoilCare through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country





## Yamba Landcare's Caring for the Coast Day

**Date:** Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2011

**Start:** 10:00am – 12:30pm

**Place:** Meet at Agar Park above Lovers Point and Convent Beach

**Why:** Yamba & Maclean Landcare groups are assisting with revegetating upgraded access tracks along Lovers Point

**Bring:** Gloves, sensible shoes, sun hat and clothes you can work in.

**What to Do:** Planting groundcovers along erosion zones on Pippi Beach and Lovers Point access tracks.

### ALL WELCOME – BRING A FRIEND

Be part of this project to enhance the local area whilst learning about coastal restoration. A BBQ lunch will be provided for participants after the working bee.

**Please call Yamba Landcare coordinator Jack Claxton on 66 461223 to confirm your participation. Supported by**



## Biodiversity Management Strategy 2010

Clarence Valley Council has now adopted a Biodiversity Management Strategy, which aims to help halt the continuing decline in our extraordinary and valuable diverse plant and animal species and communities. There are currently 206 known threatened or endangered species in the Clarence Valley local government area and unless action is taken many of these could be lost.

The Strategy has a number of actions which will address the many issues affecting plant and animal communities in general but particularly those in decline.

In particular mapping has been completed to identify priority habitats and corridors which Council can use as a guide to best apply incentives to conserve, build on and restore vegetation remnants and corridor areas. The mapping will also be used to guide the application of development offsets where these are required in urban and rural residential developments.

If you would like further information regarding the Strategy please contact Catherine James on 6641 7350

## Big Scrub Rainforest Day in the Richmond Catchment

It will be the 13th Big Scrub Rainforest Day on Sunday 4 September and it returns to Rocky Creek Dam after two years away at other sites.

The day is organised by Big Scrub Landcare and Rainforest Rescue and this is the largest, longest running and most successful community education and awareness-enhancing NRM event in our region.

An enduring feature is the high quality of the professional volunteers who give presentations, lead walks, deliver workshops and participate in panel discussions. Another feature is the strong support the event receives from many other Landcare and community groups.

Richmond Landcare will be present at a stand and encourages all Landcarers in our region to get along for great day. More details can be found on [www.bigscrubrainforest.org.au](http://www.bigscrubrainforest.org.au) or [www.rainforestrescue.org.au](http://www.rainforestrescue.org.au)



## 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](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 993**





Directly from our website



# Featuring .....

## Landcare Group: Iluka Landcare Group



### Location

Iluka Bluff and Nature Reserve, Iluka World Heritage Rainforest, Bundjalung National Park.

### Duration

Group formed in 1993 and has continued since.

### Description

Assists in the management of the natural environment of the Iluka Peninsula and surrounding areas. Works closely with the National Parks & Wildlife Service.

### Describe or List Projects

Weed eradication to allow natural regeneration of the remnant rainforest patch between Woody Head and the World Heritage Rainforest.

### Natural Resource Management outcomes

Have carried out many projects over the past 20+ years including weed control, planting, propagating native plants for Koala food and habitat, raising awareness of environmental issues. Saved the World Heritage Rainforest from being taken off the list through community action. Hosted various conservation teams in the area.

### Funding Sources or Sponsors

There has been a lot of different funding from government community programs and some regular sponsors have contributed over the years.

### For further information

Iluka Landcare Group welcomes new members and the best person to contact is Coordinator Kay Jeffrey on 02 66466712



## NORTHERN RIVERS CATCHMENT ACTION PLAN 2012-2022

Your opportunity to help plan priorities for Natural Resource Management in the Northern Rivers region

The Northern Rivers Catchment Action Plan (CAP) will soon be updated. This is your opportunity to participate in the planning process and help develop a new CAP that will set strategic direction for Natural Resource Management (NRM) in the Northern Rivers region for 2012-2022.



### What is the CAP?

The Northern Rivers CAP is a statutory, non-regulatory, plan developed in 2006 by the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority in consultation with the Northern Rivers community. The CAP aims to protect and restore our natural resources by providing opportunities for all sectors of the community, including business and industry, to participate in sustainable natural resource management.

### How is the CAP used?

The CAP provides strategic direction for local, State and Federal funding of regional NRM activities. The Northern Rivers CMA, and other organisations, use the CAP to prioritise annual NRM investment programs. This funding supports landholders, community groups, Indigenous land managers, industry, business and government to undertake activities that contribute to the objectives and targets of the CAP.

### Why is the CAP being reviewed?

Each of the 13 New South Wales regional Catchment Action Plans must be reviewed every five years, as directed by the NSW Natural Resources Commission.

This review provides an opportunity for the community to:

- Reflect upon the appropriateness and relevance of targets set within the CAP and revise them where necessary
- Incorporate new knowledge, embrace new challenges and opportunities, and improve approaches to NRM
- Ensure current NRM needs, issues and priorities of the community are reflected in the CAP
- Help set future directions for NRM activity and investment in the region.

Following the review, a new CAP will be produced which will supersede the current CAP. Community input into the CAP review process is vital to ensure the new CAP represents the aspirations of the Northern Rivers community for the future management of its precious natural resources.

### How can you be involved?

From mid-2011, the Northern Rivers CMA will be seeking community input into the development of the new CAP. There will be several opportunities to participate including online and written submissions and community workshops hosted by the Northern Rivers CMA Board. Information about these opportunities will be posted on the Northern Rivers CMA website as it becomes available.

### More information?

For more information about the Northern Rivers CAP review and your opportunities to participate in the development of a new CAP for the Northern Rivers region:

- Go to [www.northern.cma.nsw.gov.au](http://www.northern.cma.nsw.gov.au)
- Phone the Northern Rivers CMA on (02) 66420622
- Register your interest by emailing [CAPreview\\_northern@cma.nsw.gov.au](mailto:CAPreview_northern@cma.nsw.gov.au)



## What does your garden grow? A workshop for gardeners.



Agapanthus in the World Heritage listed Blue Mountains, NSW. Photo: Judy Morrell

Increase your awareness of the impact weeds have on our Australian environment with this short course: **What does you garden grow?** You will also receive information on how to deal with weeds in gardens.

What you grow in your garden can impact on the environment and agricultural production. A huge 65% of introduced weeds have escaped from parks and gardens.

Over 27000 plants have been introduced into Australia in the last 200 years. Some were accidental, but most were imported for pasture, horticulture or for ornamental reasons.

You will receive a great set of resources, including factsheets on controlling weeds, and information on alternative plants suitable to your local area.

### Learn to manage weeds in your garden and help protect the wider environment!

This Workshop will cover topics such as the: What, why and where of weeds, When is a plant a weed ?, What does your garden grow ?, How do we take control ?, Why don't you grow me instead ?

**When: 10.30am—2.00pm. Thurs 20th October 2011**

**Venue: To be confirmed**

**RSVP and more info: phone the Landcare office on 66435009**

**Attention all Landcarers this workshop is aimed at the wider community if you wish to have one of these workshops run in your local area please contact the Landcare office to discuss.**







# Releasing the Grip of Cats Claw Creeper on Whiteman Creek

The Whiteman Creek Project (Year 2) is an ambitious project undertaken by Clarence Landcare covering twenty two private properties and one travelling stock route. This project aimed at protecting native riverine vegetation has been funded by both the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (NRCMA) Incentives Program and the Recreational Fishing Trusts Fish Habitat Program. Targeting the invasive vine weed cat's claw creeper the project produced inspiring results with an area of over 18ha and a stream length of over 13km of the weed being treated.

The diversity and condition of Whiteman Creek native vegetation is mainly very good and in places excellent. The cats claw creeper weed not only threatens this riverine vegetation by smothering and killing large mature canopy trees, shrubs and ground covers but in turn threatens the biodiversity of the whole creek system. Aquatic life including invertebrates, frogs and fish within the creek itself also rely upon healthy vegetation on the banks as it provides shade, food and protection for supporting a whole ecosystem of life.

Professional Bush Regenerators John Henerey and Peter Besestri from Environmental Training and Employment (ENVITE) were contracted to undertake the initial hard work. This included skilfully using chainsaws to cut the large seeding vine weeds from the native trees in preparation for herbicide application which is one of the recognised methods to control the cats claw creeper vines. Killing large seeding canopy vines is an important first stage in this project.

Clarence Landcare's Project Officer, Susan Moore said, "Driving along the Clarence Way towards Copmanhurst you can see the immediate results of this project, with large areas of native vegetation along Whiteman Creek showing dead vines hanging in trees."



Pictured standing in an area covered in cat's claw creeper seed pods, Dairy Farmer Rod Ellem of Whiteman Creek, finds time in between milking commitments to protect the native vegetation along his stream banks by tackling the cat's claw creeper invasion on his family property.

**"This project has provided me with inspiration and encouragement in controlling this incredibly invasive weed."**

Cat's claw creeper is an extremely vigorous vine weed that has the capacity to regrow quickly. The project has incorporated follow up support which will assist landholders with continued maintenance of their project areas whilst they become better equipped to deal with the management issues at each site.

Property owner Neil Heinze, said "When I looked at the massive problem on my property such as tree's dying and collapsing and the erosion this caused along the banks of the creek, the problem appeared insurmountable. I just kept thinking - where do I start ? The bush regenerators have done a remarkable job with control work, I never thought it would be possible to achieve what they did in four days. This project has provided me with inspiration and encouragement in controlling this incredibly invasive weed." said Mr Heinze.

For further information on the Whiteman Creek River Reach Project contact Clarence Landcare Inc on 66435009 or email [clarence\\_landcare@bigpond.com.au](mailto:clarence_landcare@bigpond.com.au). See our website at <http://www.clarencelandcare.com.au>



## Landcare online shop

The 'refreshed' Landcare online shop is now live and can be accessed via [www.landcareonline.com.au](http://www.landcareonline.com.au) – simply go to Resources/ Online shop.

The Communications and Marketing Director of Landcare Australia Ltd advises that groups and volunteers can purchase merchandise at cost with the Landcare Australia logo OR their group logo.

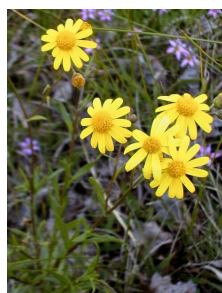
The merchandise, sales enquiries and delivery of stock are managed by Creative Promotions. Other merchandise product not advertised on the online shop can be purchased, simply contact Creative Promotions for more information.

This online shop has been developed as a resource for groups to easily access merchandise for their volunteers and have product delivered anywhere in Australia. Landcare Australia does not receive an income from the sale of any product.

**Click here to visit our online store**



**You can also order these items with your group logo**



## Fireweed Control Research

The University of New England/CSIRO project 'Fireweed Control Research', funded by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, has released its first bulletin.

It details the team's progress with regard to biological control research in South Africa, fireweed impact field trials in Dorrigo and Armidale, northern NSW, and a submission to the Australian Weeds Committee to have fireweed listed as a Weed of National Significance. You can read it by [clicking here](#).

The home page for the project may be found at: <http://www.ruralfutures.une.edu.au/fireweed/fireweed.htm>

If you have any suggestions for this research, the team would welcome any input. If you wish to sign up for future bulletin emails, contact either Brian Sindel ([bsindel@une.edu.au](mailto:bsindel@une.edu.au)), or Michael Coleman ([mcolem8@une.edu.au](mailto:mcolem8@une.edu.au)).



## Clarence Landcare Inc. Annual General Meeting

will be held on Monday 10th October at the Agricultural Research Station, Trenayr from 5.30pm.

Guest speaker will be Gavin Butler, Fisheries Biologist, Aquatic Ecosystems Research.

Food and drinks provided for dinner. All welcome.

Date and Venue may be subject change. More details to come.

**north coast TAFE**

**Primary Industries**

## 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 courses are now fully booked but should be available next year so please register an interest:**

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

**Conservation and Land Management Qualification: Statement of Attainment**

**RTF20103 Horticulture Qualification: Certificate II Training Package: RTF03 Amenity Horticulture - Primary**

**Contact and more information: Trenayr Campus**

p: 1800 677 331 e: [nci.calm@tafensw.edu.au](mailto:nci.calm@tafensw.edu.au)



FarmReady Program re-opening July 2011. The Australian Government's FarmReady Program aims to boost training opportunities for primary producers and Indigenous land managers and enable industry, farming groups and natural resource management groups develop strategies to adapt and respond to the impacts of climate change.





## Cane Toad Field Day in the Clarence



The Cane Toad Field day was held on the 1st May 2011 as part of the Community Cane Toad Program funded by the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority. The day was a resounding success with approximately 30 people attending.

The field day included Sharon Lehman talking about cane toads and what landowners can do to reduce the incidence of breeding in farm dams and other water bodies. Participants viewed exclusion fencing and heard about all of the control methods available from manual control, traps and even Hopstop.



Julie Mousley demonstrating the type of plants that can be used for planting around farm dams that may hinder cane toad breeding

Dr Matt Greenlees gave a talk on the latest research findings and what they want to do in NSW over the next five years. This really added to the day and everyone commented how interesting Matt's talk was. This gave hope to farmers that there are people working on the research side of things.

After Matt's talk we trekked around the 3 dams on Nicola and Gio's farm and discussed the features of each which made them ideal or not ideal for cane toad breeding. CVCIA volunteers have been visiting this property for over 3 years so we have a great deal of data from the area. Gio and Nicola also do many nights toad collecting and their knowledge of the dams was invaluable.

After the walk Julie Mousley showed everyone the vegetation that might be suitable for planting or retaining around dams or other waterways to reduce the success of cane toads breeding. Visit the website and Blogspot . [www.cvcia.org.au](http://www.cvcia.org.au)



Sharon Lehman points out the characteristics of this farm dam that makes it favourable to cane toads .



## Yates Junior Landcare Watermelon Challenge

### Junior gardeners are in for a yummy treat

Junior Masterchef winner launches Yates Junior Landcare Watermelon Challenge

Junior Masterchef winner, Isabella Bliss, and her twin sister, Sofia, a top four finalist, are encouraging children across the country to get into the garden and harness their inner greenie by attempting to grow Australia's heaviest watermelon!

As part of the Yates Junior Landcare Watermelon Challenge, a free packet of Yates Candy Red Watermelon seeds will be sent to everyone who registers on the challenge website by Sunday, September 25th. The challenge is open to all children aged 16 years and under and living in Australia, and includes a category for schools and youth groups, and one for individuals and families. The free seeds will be sent out in October and can be planted anytime from October through to December. Yates Candy Red Watermelon seeds are regarded as one of the fastest growing and largest watermelon varieties.

Kids can grow their watermelons at home or at school and will need to care for their plants during the hot summer weather. Once their watermelon has reached maturity, they will have to log onto the Yates Junior Landcare Watermelon Challenge website to upload the weight of their melon and their favourite watermelon photograph. There will also be a creative photo category as part of the challenge, so everyone can be in with a chance of winning a prize! "The Register for your free seeds and participate in the Yates Junior Landcare Watermelon Challenge. Simply go to [www.juniorlandcarechallenge.com.au](http://www.juniorlandcarechallenge.com.au) from Monday, July 4th. Registrations close on Sunday, September 25th, and the winners will be announced on March 5th 2012.



## 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)



## Clarence Landcare Inc.

P.O. Box 594, Grafton NSW 2460

POSTAGE

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AUSTRALIA



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

**WANTED Articles from Landcare Groups and Members.** We are always looking for articles about your projects, large or small so please send in your story preferably with a photo by email to the Landcare Office.

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

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