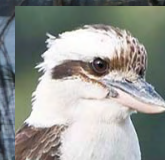




Kookaburra News

July 2015



Inside this Issue:

Page 2

- Message from the Chair
- Organic Workshop

Page 3

- Jim Knight Memorial Award
- Norman Wettenthal Foundation Grants

Page 4

- Targeted Landcare Grants

Page 5

- NEW Resource Booklets

Page 6

- Trailer Tale

Page 7

- Holiday Help for Whiting Beach

Page 8

- Weeds to watch

Page 9

- Highly Invasive Weeds

Page 10 & 11

- Rafting Trip to view Eastern Fresh Water Cod habitat

Page 12,13 & 14

- Field Days—Sustainable Beef and Pork Production

Page 15

- Three new Landcare Groups



Organic Beef Field Day attracts 90

**HONOURING CLARENCE
LANDCARE'S FOUNDING
FATHER see Page 3**

**HELPING WHITING BEACH
on holidays! see story Page 7**



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

July 2015

July 15– Organic Agriculture Workshop. (see below)

September 2015

Sept 1st –3rd NSW Landcare Conference
Orange

November 2015

Nov 10th –13th NSW Coastal Conference
Forster

Nov. Sat 28th Clarence AGM at Clarence
Gorge— more info to come



FROM THE CHAIR

Brian Dodd reports:



June/July 2015

There have been so many events which you can read about in this edition of The Kookaburra.

A positive action has been the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between North Coast Regional Landcare Network and the North Coast Local Land Service. Well done to the Chair Bob Jarman and the rest of the Executive who made sure this happened. The MoU was officially signed at the Forum held recently at Coffs Harbour.

The workshops that were run at the forum were of benefit to all the people and staff who were able to attend. These gatherings are important for the well-being of Landcare in the region. If you haven't attended before, I urge you to try and get along as you will meet people from all over the north coast and tablelands and be inspired by their stories.

Those who attended the General Meeting held on Saturday the 20th of June in the Landcare office were treated to a very special talk by Jean Scotford of Induna School. The Junior Landcare group that has formed there is doing great things, and there were some lovely anecdotes of how these disadvantaged kids in detention are beginning to learn new skills and take on responsibility. This Landcare project at Induna, originally initiated by Sue, is the first Landcare group within a Correctional Services facility. We are proud to be able to help the youth in Induna.

We are getting some 25th Anniversary for Landcare in the Clarence books printed. If you would like to have a book, let the office know. It'll be an *extremely* limited edition, so get in quick! (The booklet can also be viewed on line at the Clarence Landcare web page)

As always, the office is here for our members, so please drop in and say Hi and see what's happening and perhaps seeing a need where you may be able to contribute or help out.



GET "ONBOARD"- with ORGANIC AGRICULTURE WORKSHOP



Grafton Community & Function
Centre: Wednesday 15th July 2015.
9.30-3.30 pm (inc. morn. tea & lunch)

- Certification-demonstrate to the market your truly organic product!
- Targeting high value markets Outlets prepared to pay premiums for quality organics!

Bookings essential. Close Fri 10th July

Cost \$30 pp (inc GST-heavily subsidised!)

Bookings Debbie Ph 02 66435009 or

debbie.repschlager@clarencelandcare.com.au

OFFICE HOURS

RINGING THE OFFICE before attending is always a good idea to ensure that it is open. Even if the office is due to be, or presumed to be open, staff may be out doing errands or site visits. The office is generally open 3 days a week, but these days may vary. Please, RING FIRST (66435009) before coming to the office, to avoid the disappointment of finding it CLOSED.



JIM KNIGHT MEMORIAL LANDCARE AWARD

Which Landcare group or individual will YOU nominate?



Jim Knight, pictured at his 90th Birthday party, held at the Grafton Masonic hall in June 2013.

Jim Knight was a dynamo. While he may have been relatively more of a sedate dynamo in his last couple of years, he remained a man enthused with life and energy until his untimely death in February last year. Much has been deservedly written about his contributions to peace, social justice and the environment. But we at Clarence Landcare are recognising him for the enormous contribution he made in establishing Clarence Landcare. From the moment of Clarence Landcare's inception he was a member of the Executive committee. He was also founding chair and remained in that position for many years until becoming "vice chair" when Brian assumed the mantle. Jim was also an active hands on member of his own local Kangaroo Creek Landcare group.

The Jim Knight Memorial Award will honour Jim's memory. It will be awarded to the Clarence Landcare Group or Individual "of the Year" from people nominated in and by the Landcare community, and chosen by the Executive.

Keep your eyes and ears out for more news on this front, including nomination forms and submitting them. It is anticipated the first Award will be made at the 2015 Annual general meeting, which will be on 28th November at the Clarence Gorge. (Winter's property). So start thinking of who YOU think would be YOUR worthy winner and nominate!



THE NORMAN WETTENHALL FOUNDATION

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION GRANTS

The Norman Wettenhall Foundation has small grants available for those community or environment groups who are looking after the health of the Clarence River Catchment

(your group does not need DGR status).

Email Beth for more information on beth@nwf.org.au

nwf.org.au

03 5472 1316 0431 219 980



Clarence Landcare has recently set up a Facebook page. You don't have to be on Facebook to have a look and keep up to date. Just 'google' **Clarence Landcare Inc. Facebook** and you will find us. If your group would like something posted—just as Yuraygir Landcare recently did please email us the photo and information. So please have a look. Hey why don't you join facebook – it is easy – then you can add your comments to our page!!!



TARGETED LANDCARE GRANTS

BENEFITTING LANDHOLDERS AND THE ENVIRONMENT!



**Local Land
Services**
North Coast



Lisa Santos and Tim Whiting are using Targeted Landcare funding to regenerate the natural areas of their property at Blaxland. Weed control along their creek has enabled bank stabilisation by native vegetation such as lomandra to thrive (see photos below).



Local Land Services have made available a staged series of grants to Landholders and Community Landcare groups for various projects. These include rehabilitation and maintenance of coastal vegetation, conservation and promotion of native habitat on private property and erosion control on a grazing property. Yuraygir Landcare and Angourie were successful in obtaining grant money for coastal works, and Maclean Landcare are now producing informative labels for their nursery plants using Targeted Landcare funding.



Above: Angourie Coastal Walk (photo: Coastal Travel)



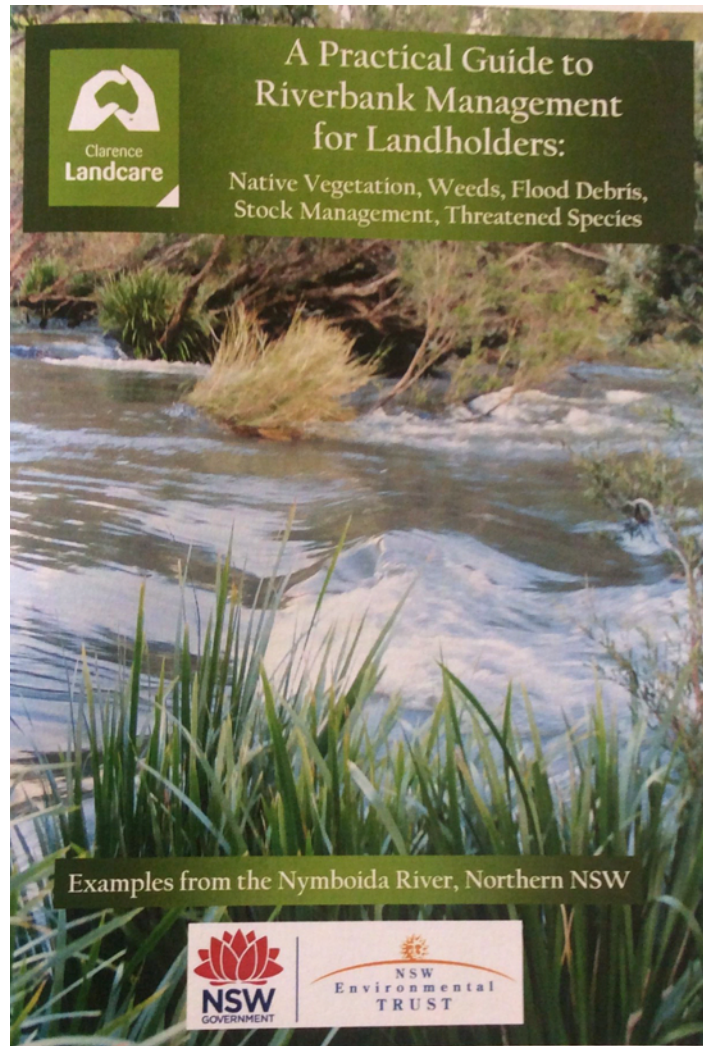
Left: Targeted Landcare funding enabled Maclean Landcare to produce excellent informative plant labels for their Clarence Valley Council Townsend nursery-grown local natives. Also funded was interpretive signage for Maclean Lookout



NEW RESOURCE BOOKLETS NOW AVAILABLE !



An updated version of the 2013 publication ***Weeds of North Coast NSW*** is now available from Clarence Landcare office (cost : 3 gold coins) and Clarence Valley Council Weeds Depot. Pictured above is author Pia Dollman (Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare) These invaluable reference books contain practically all the vital information you need to know making these booklets excellent value.



Also newly available is an excellent resource booklet ***A Practical Guide to Riverbank Management***. Funded by the NSW Environmental Trust, and prepared by Debbie Repschlager, the booklet is a useful tool for Landholders to help manage their riparian areas. It covers management of weeds, and the importance of this to assist beneficial native vegetation. A healthy population of native trees and grasses helps control riverbank erosion, and provides habitat for a healthy eco system. . The booklet is available from the Clarence Landcare office.

Vaguely familiar.....but Not?

The logo that was developed for Landcare in Australia is reputed to be one of the most recognisable and successful corporate images. Little wonder then, that the idea has been heavily “borrowed’ as in these examples developed for Nth American and South African Landcare. Being so familiar with our own Landcare logo, to us somehow these versions look.....well, kind of.....WRONG!





TALE OF A TRAILER

It's not always an easy task to keep a Landcare groups' tools all in the one place where everyone knows they are available. Some regular Landcare work places have an on-site storage shed. Others rely on individual members to bring their own or allotted tools to work.

Nymboida Landcarers work across a number of sites, both private (mostly) and public. For this reason it makes sense to have tools and chemicals safely stored in a trailer that can be locked and readily towed to each worksite, in readiness for the next (usually monthly) working bee.

The Nymboida Landcare trailer was purchased from grant money. Group coordinator Pamela Denise says "Without looking up the records, I'd say we've had it for at least 10 or 12 years. It was bought from Natural Heritage Trust money left over from another project. We were lucky enough to get a variation. So that rather than hand the money back, we could buy the trailer." This turned out to be a readymade answer to an earlier identified group need of tools storage.

The trailer holds tools such as shovels, loppers, spare gloves, and among other equipment, various pots. The latter are used to mix and to apply herbicide and dye. Cut and paint, as well as hand pulling, is the preferred method of weed removal for most members. There are a variety of weeds targeted but the most common is privet and lantana.

Ken Inglis has been a member of the group "practically since it started I think" which is "about fifteen years." (It is actually closer to 20) He is pictured working on the trailer and explained where it is kept. "It lives at various member properties, depending on where the next working bee is being held"

Group member Andrew Robinson takes particular care and pride in the trailer and is always quick to point out when it should have a bit of TLC. This can range from new tyres or locks to removal of surface rust and further paint.



Ken Inglis (left) and Jim Esterhuizen pictured doing some surface rust removal on the Nymboida Landcare tools trailer.

Holiday Help for Whiting Beach Dune Vegetation

Most Yamba visitors come to enjoy the many beaches, ride a few waves, catch a fish, stroll along the rock wall and headlands, dine out or simply relax and take in the glorious view from the pub on the hill. For one long-term return visitor, a couple of novel activities can be added – weeding and tree planting!

With Clarence Valley Council approval, Ian Last from Gympie in Queensland is helping in his own small way to transition the vegetation on the dunes at Whiting Beach from a pot-pourri of invasive weeds to one dominated by local native species. Each Thursday during the month following Easter, Ian visited the Maclean Landcare



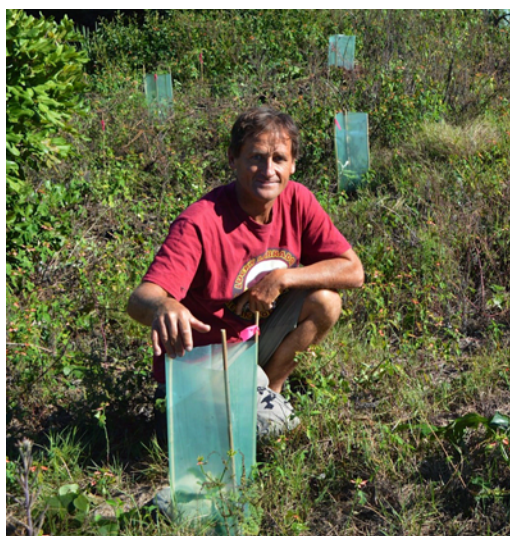
Community Nursery at Townsend to select a 'boot load' of healthy seedlings raised by the small band of dedicated volunteers that put in the hard yards there every Thursday and Friday morning.

The first step was to pull out the

Left: PLANTS READY TO GO: Ian Last, Wendy Plater, Pete Turland (Yuraygir Landcare), Anne Stanton, and Nina Bowman at Maclean Nursery.

heavy cover of weeds including painted spurge, annual ragweed, cactus, asparagus weed, lantana and bitou bush, and flag and 'release' any native regeneration hiding among the weeds. Some 'benign' weeds (eg painted spurge) were mulched on site to help build up organic matter while others (eg cactus) were removed off-site.

Areas with little or no regeneration were targeted for planting with a focus on canopy species including tuckeroo, coastal banksia, coastal sheoak, cypress pine, pandanus and the odd cottonwood and Moreton Bay fig. To date Ian has planted over 600 seedlings from over 30 species - about 300 in May 2014 and 300 in April 2015. Over 95 per cent of last year's plantings have survived, an encouraging start considering the seasonally dry, infertile sandy soil and the salt-laden sea breeze that young plants endure in a coastal dune environment.



Above: Ian Last with newly planted and protected seedlings

Some of the faster growing plants are now nearly 2 metres tall. A bamboo stake with pink flagging tape next to each seedling will help to re-locate the developing seedlings once the weeds come back - as weeds are prone to do! In the more exposed locations, some seedlings are protected with tree guards to limit the impact of desiccating winds.

Far from being 'hard work', Ian finds that an hour's weeding, planting, watering or fertilising at the end of each day is a great way to relax. "It is very satisfying to see last year's plantings becoming established and starting to put on new growth. And best of all, when it comes to planting trees, there is now no such thing as 'bad' holiday weather. Drenching rain or fine sunny days are both welcome —in equal measure." **contributed: Maclean Landcare**



WEEDS TO WATCH:- Two "GIANTS": Devils Fig and White Bird of Paradise Tree



Solanum chrysotrichum, Devils Fig originated from Central America. A member of the Solanaceae family, it is a tall perennial shrub, three metres to four metres high, with a similar growth habit to wild tobacco. Flowering from Autumn to Spring, it reproduces from seed usually spread by birds and bats.

It rapidly invades disturbed sites, for instance, where the ground was recently bulldozed. Twenty years ago this plant was restricted to the Tunttable Creek area. In the 2010-2011 season the invasion moved into areas as widespread as Toonumbar, to the west, and a single specimen was found near the first crossing on Upper

Wilsons Creek Road. In 2013, following a report by a member of staff, Coffs Harbour City Council officers discovered Giant Devil's Fig plants growing along a roadside near Coffs Harbour. The officers immediately removed the many plants, found in two separate locations and ranging in size from small seedlings to large adults.

It is known from the Nimbin area, Tunttable Creek (where it is spreading through bird dispersal into the Nightcap National Park), Terania Creek and Rosebank. In South-East Queensland it is declared a noxious weed. **Control:-** Small specimens can be hand-pulled. "*Bushnuts*" website: "This species is not easy to kill by application of foliar herbicide. It is best to cut the stems with loppers or a saw near to the base of the trunk and apply neat Glyphosate (e.g. with a paint brush) to the cut within 15 seconds." If the tree is larger it is safer to cut off the upper branches first. A larger tree can be very heavy and spikey when it falls.

North Coast Weeds recommends: Heavy gloves and protective clothing are highly recommended.

Chemical control: Use a product containing the following active constituent that is registered for use in NSW to control Giant Devil's Fig in the particular situation in which you need to use chemical control, e.g. in non-crop areas. Consult APVMA PERMIT 9907 or 12942 for detailed information. Glyphosate 360g/L Various trade names Stem injection/cut stump application - 1 part per 1.5 parts water Foliar application for seedlings - 200ml per 10L water Picloram 45g/KG Vigilant® Cut stump application - apply undiluted to 3-5mm layer on cut surface if less than 20mm, apply 5mm layer on larger stems. Grazon Extra® Spot Spray - 350-500mL per 100L water



Strelitzia nicolai, commonly known as the **Giant White Bird of Paradise** or **Wild Banana** are banana-like plants with erect woody stems reaching a height of 6 m (20 ft) and the clumps formed can spread as far as 3.5 m.

Flowers are followed by triangular seed capsules. **Strelitzia nicolai** native to evergreen coastal forest and thicket of eastern South Africa. It is also considered native to Mozambique, Botswana and Zimbabwe.

Denis Milne reports it is becoming increasingly problematic with outbreaks along the foreshore and hind dunes of Minnie water. It has recently been unfortunately deliberately planted as part of planned roadworks on the Coffs Coast, presumably because of a superficial resemblance and visual link to the bananas Coffs is associated with.

GETTING THEM BEFORE THEY SPREAD EVEN FURTHER: Protecting Native Vegetation from the impact of Highly Invasive Weeds



Madiera Vine (*Andredera cordifolia*)
Be on alert: get on to this early!



**Local Land
Services**



Honey Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*)
Be on alert to get on to this early!

Cats Claw Creeper, Honey Locust, Madiera Vine and Mysore Thorn are four highly invasive weeds that are the focus for a North Coast Local Land Services project being undertaken by Clarence Landcare. This project is funded by the Australian Government National Landcare Programme.

Clarence Landcare have been working for many years to control these four weed species in different locations around the mid Clarence River Catchment including the Boyd River, Nymboida River, Kangaroo Creek, Whiteman Creek, Smiths Creek and Wombat Creek.

“The intention of the project is to collate existing mapping information and local knowledge to develop a strategy to manage these priority weed species at a landscape scale and prevent their spread into areas of high value native vegetation” says Local Land Services Team Leader Tony Broderick

“In many areas infestations of weeds such as Cats Claw Creeper on the Clarence River are so widespread that control is extremely difficult and there is certainly not the government funding available to address the whole area. However it is still important for individual landholders to work on their patch to protect individual trees and native vegetation from being smothered by the vine weed.” says Clarence Landcare Officer Debbie Repschlager

As part of this project Clarence Landcare are particularly interested to know about isolated patches and emerging infestations of these four weeds particularly in tributaries of the Clarence River. We know we have a major infestation of Honey Locust in the upper Mann River as an example so we would like to know about where these weed trees may be on the Mann and Clarence River.

We aim to draw containment lines and work with landholders to stop these highly invasive weeds spreading into new areas, particularly areas of significant native vegetation. There is World Heritage Rainforest within our catchment so this is a priority to protect.

Please contact Clarence Landcare if you have information about where these four weeds may be on 66435009 or clarence_landcare@bigpond.com. Information on these weeds can be found online, from Clarence Valley Council and at the Clarence Landcare Grafton Office



Paddle on the Nymboida River to view Endangered Eastern Fresh Water Cod habitat & Fish Tracking Scientific Equipment

On Sunday 15th March, Landcarers gathered at Black Mountain just below the Nymboida River Junction, for a field trip organised by Nymboida River Project manager Debbie Repschlager. The day was funded by a Norman Wettenhall Foundation grant aimed at educating the community about Eastern Fresh Water Cod and its habitat.

Gavin Butler (B. Appl. Sc. Hons.) based at the Department of Primary Industries at Trenayr, was also part of the trip. Gavin completed his thesis on the Eastern Freshwater cod in 2009 and continues to study and monitor the cod and other fish in the river. Gavin explained to the rafters how monitoring stations had been set up at various points in the river, to monitor fish movement.

“The purpose of being on the river was to be ‘in’ the habitat and see first hand the scientific equipment used on the river to collect important data about the fish. It means more to be on site when showing local landholders the weed control work that has been done on the river and how this relates to the instream habitat of the fish and biodiversity of the river,” explained Debbie.

Debbie pointed out various sites on the river where bush regeneration had been done, and how this had improved the overall health of the native vegetation. There was some stark contrasts illustrating the success where work had been done compared to other areas yet to have work started. Two landholders not yet involved in the project were very impressed with what had been achieved and have now joined the project. A great outcome of the day.



GATHERED TO GO: Pictured, From left, Gavin Butler, Guide Brian Hitchins, and Landcare Officers Debbie Repschlager and Sue Moore with Landcarers prior to their river excursion.

Paddle on the Nymboida River continued...



LETS GET SERIOUS :

Besides noting the riparian health of much of the Nymboida River (as well as areas still to be addressed) the River Trip Field Day provided opportunities for seriously having fun

FISH FACTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION FROM GAVIN:

Gavin Butler's mentor, the now retired Dr Stuart Rowland, first isolated the Eastern cod (*Maccullochella ikei*) as a separate species over 20 years ago. Until then it was thought to be a sub-species (or East-of the divide version) of the Murray Cod. Gavin explained the two are quite different. The Eastern Cod grows to a maximum 40 kg - less than half the size of the Murray Cod (*Maccullochella peelii*, with highest recorded weight of 113kg. The two are believed to have separated from a single species over a million years ago.

A surprising piece of information from Gavin was in regard to fish size. "A large Eastern Cod is not necessarily an old fish. Plenty of food early in life will ensure rapid growth to larger size, whereas less food and harsher conditions may result in relatively smaller fish."

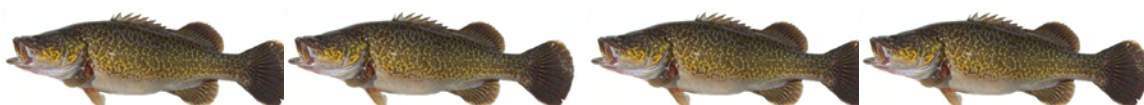
The Eastern Cod also lives only a fraction as long as the Murray Cod, which can live to 50 years or beyond. "Eastern Cod live about 16 years" said Gavin. "Rivers such as the Nymboida can give cod a very hard time during

floods. There's lots of debris as well as rolling rocks the cod have to cope with in times of flood. It's thought that this contributes to the shorter lifespan." For this reason riparian vegetation is important. "Vegetation growing next to and overhanging the river not only provides an opportunity for food, and as well as helping control erosion, it's also physically very important. The cod use this vegetation to shelter behind during large floods. It helps them to withstand the impact of large volumes of water hurtling down the river."

By contrast, when the Murray Cod in the western Murray- Darling river system experience floods, it is relatively more benign, with water spreading over adjacent plains. This partly explains fish in this system living as long as 50 years.



Gavin holding up a 'listening station' , one of a series placed in the Nymboida River to monitor fish movements.



SUCCESSFUL FIELD DAYS for SUSTAINABLE BEEF & PORK PRODUCTION in the CLARENCE

Two Field days were recently held highlighting the production of pork and beef in a sustainable and ethical way. The first of these was on Friday 27th March at "Binderay Farm", Nymboida where Peter (Bondy) Bond and Susan Ariel, raise Tamworth and Large Black pigs. The second at "Fig Tree Farms" highlighted beef production by NSW State Sustainable Farming Award winning farmers Glenn Morris and Henry Sheehan. This was held on Wednesday 6th May.

These field days have been funded as part of an Australian Government National Landcare Programme grant to promote sustainable agricultural practices to the farming and wider community. These event are part of Clarence Landcare's project "Showcasing Organic Beef and Pork farming practices in the Clarence".

BINDERAY FARM – Certified Organic Rare Breed Heritage pork.

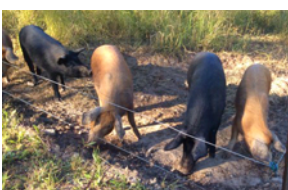


Heritage breed Large Black and Tamworth pigs.

Loves a pat. Bondy demonstrating how well loved and treated pigs can be. The electric fence enables new paddocks to be quickly and easily created as the pigs are rotated around the farm onto fresh pasture.



Portable housing. Shelter for the pigs that can be readily moved on to a new site, when the pigs are rotated around the property.



The pigs at Binderay farm enjoy an idyllic life. Although they meet the same fate as most pigs that are raised anywhere else, the quality of life they experience before their inevitable demise would be very difficult to question. The pigs are penned in electrically fenced paddocks which are easily moved when it is time to relocate the pigs to a different part of the farm. The A frame shelters to protect the pigs from weather are similarly portable. Importantly, the pigs are free to dig the earth, luxuriate in mud wallows, and enjoy the company of the herd. After moving the pigs on to a new range, or to be processed for market, the paddock is sown with feed, or cash crop vegetables such as grown with the benefit of the fertiliser provided by the pigs.

When Bondy and Susan bought their farm, Nut grass (*Cyperus rotundus*), a native of Africa, Central and Southern Europe and Southern Asia was particularly prevalent. As anyone who has encountered this weed, it is extremely difficult to control, with many people resorting to weedicides. This was not an option at Binderay Farm as Susan and Bondy were intent on farming organically. To this end, the pigs do a great job in controlling the nut grass, such that vegetables can be successfully grown afterwards.

The couple send their pigs to an organically certified abattoir at Booyong for slaughter and processing. Some of this is made into pork products and sold by Bondy at various markets around the Northern Rivers.

FIG TREES FARMS ORGANIC FARMS- Beef Field Day

Upwards of 90 people were in attendance, when Fig Tree Farms and Clarence Landcare hosted an open day. The occasion was on Wednesday 7th May, at Fig tree Farms, Seelands, to celebrate sustainable beef farming. This site is where Henry Sheehan and Glenn Morris have evolved



farming practices to the point of winning a State Award for sustainable agriculture.

Peter Hastie from NASAA (the National Association for Sustainable Agriculture, Australia) opened the day with a talk about getting accreditation. This was well received with several

attendees indicating they would further investigate this for their own properties.

After morning tea, Henry led attendees into a field of almost chest high grass. Henry explained how brief, high density grazing was the key to good pasture. The paddock example was comprised of Setaria and Rhodes grass. Both are deep rooted tussocks which hold soil together and draw up nutrients from well below the ground surface. The organic matter from the Setaria and Rhodes grass that was trampled into the ground during high density stocking also improved soil quality.

High density grazing? Henry explained: "Up to 1,000 DSE is a stocking measurement used. It stands for one thousand dry sheep equivalent to one hectare of pasture."



Up to their chest in it: Field day attendees gather in a paddock of lush deep rooted Setaria and Rhodes grass as Henry Sheehan explains advantages and use.

Lunch was enjoyed under the Fig Trees and attendees tasted Fig Tree Farms organic beef pies and sausage rolls with a hearty leafy green salad from *Heart and Soul*, (where Fig Tree Farm pies can also be obtained. Non-carnivores also catered for.) After lunch the Field day participants were introduced to the “I choose movement”, a positive affirmation individually and collectively deciding for a healthy future.

Fig Tree Farms reservoir was later visited. This demonstrates how stored water can be redistributed across the farm to ensure a healthy level of water within the surrounding soils.



Above & right : Lunch under the fig tree



Left: Fig Trees reservoir.



Cattle move in to enjoy trailer treats

Henry's Mineral Trailer:

“Its just an old box trailer that I've converted”: says Henry. But its contents are what makes this such a wonderfully successful innovation. And this is borne out by the excitement of the cattle when it is towed into their paddock. Inside the trailer a veritable smorgasbord of healthy treats awaits them. Tubs of Himalayan salt “when I can get it” and the Fig Tree Back Rub—a steel pole around which carpet has been rolled. “The carpet is impregnated with *Cattle Coat* on a daily basis” said Henry. “I keep one for each mob of cattle.” Also on board is “the Pat Colby Lick”. Pat Colby came to notice more than 40 years ago as an authority on domestic goat keeping. But the licks she has developed have far wider application. These licks

contain essential minerals such as dolomite, sulphur, kelp and copper, and the cattle love. Them. “I just park the trailer where I want an impact”, says Henry. “This could be, for example, on an errant patch of blady grass which the cattle soon trample as they gather around the trailer.” The Mineral Trailer was an immediate hit with Field Day attendees with one declaring that building one was his first priority “as soon as I get home.”

THREE NEW Landcare groups in the Clarence!

Despite ever-shrinking funding for Landcare in a Government funding climate that is not overly environmentally-friendly, communities in the Clarence have risen -almost as if in defiance-have successfully formed *three* very different Landcare groups! *Induna Youth Landcare*, *Clarence Native Bees*, and the *Clarence Equine Landcare* group are the “new kids on the block”.

INDUNA JUNIOR LANDCARE



Above: Jean Scotford of Induna School

The young men at Induna School have been propagating plants for Clarence Landcare for more than twelve months. Not surprisingly the next logical step was to form a Landcare group. Clarence Landcare's Sue Moore and Induna teacher Jean Scotford got together and the **Induna Youth Landcare Group** was started! The first Landcare project has been the construction of Native Bee Hives as part of the “Bee Friendly” project. The hives will go to various locations where Bee Friendly landholders have planted hundreds of trees. The new Landcare group is also planning a “Bush walk” with planted trees and shrubs endemic to the Clarence.



Footnote: Jean Scotford was guest speaker at the General Meeting held in the Landcare Office on Saturday 20th June. She gave a very well received talk about the formation of Junior Landcare and the growing motivation and skills obtained by the boys involved. These skills include a group secretary and treasurer; positions that are respected by their peers. Developing these leadership qualities has further led to group decision making through the forming of a Student Representative Council. A compost heap, worm farms and much more interest in the environment are other gains. It was obvious from Jean's talk that her passion and dedication has ensured she is very well respected and liked by the boys at Induna School.

CLARENCE NATIVE BEES

Clarence Native Bees Group had its beginnings in a hugely successful workshop where Dr. Tim Heard demonstrated methods of keeping Native Stingless bees and harvesting their hives by “splitting” them.



Bee Group members meeting in Landcare Office

From this workshop a core group of very enthusiastic Bee Lovers formed and have been meeting regularly at Clarence Landcare office.

Group coordinator Ken Faulkner has helped Induna-made Bee Box recipients such as Jo Wearing split a hive. Other Bee Group members will rescue wild colonies whose hives have been affected by events such as storm damaged broken branch-hives.

Several group members are experienced bee keepers which augurs well for newcomers just beginning in this venture.



CLARENCE EQUINE LANDCARE

After a series of Sustainable Land Management for Horse Property Workshops and work on the ground as part of an Australian Government Grant organised by Debbie R, the **Clarence Equine Landcare** Group formed and is Clarence Landcare's newest group. Although still evolving, the group is enthusiastically anticipating the sharing of knowledge between members, as well as the possibility of further Horse Workshops.





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 Fax: (02)66 435006



Clarence Landcare Inc.

P.O. Box 594, Grafton NSW 2460

POSTAGE

PAID

AUSTRALIA

PLEASE READ IMPORTANT
INFORMATION ON THE BACK
the printed version of this
newsletter being almost an
endangered species.

IMPORTANT Message from Committee and Staff !!

Due to further government funding cuts to the Community Support Program and Landcare in general, the Kookaburra newsletter may **NOT** be printed in the volume that it has been— (over 350 distributed.) We may only be able to continue a smaller print run to those people that we know value our newsletter as an important conduit of community information—If you want to continue to receive a **HARD COPY** you **MUST ring, email or phone us** to ensure your name & address **remains** on the list. At this stage we envisage we will be able to continue to produce and distribute the digital version and enews **so if we don't have your current email address please advise us.**

This message was last sent with previous printed Kooka news—thanks to those people who responded.

