

DAIRY AND CATTLE FARMERS WANTED FOR LAND RESTORATION

Lucy Kinsley and Scott McKinnon are koala lovers and cattle farmers – and they have discovered the two go happily hand in hand.

Around 12 months ago Lucy and Scott fenced off almost 900m of riverbank, the entire length of her 140-acre Wyrallah property, and planted more than 1000 koala food trees. She received a grant through Lismore City Council, which included assistance with weed removal and tree planting.

A year later they have opened the gates and 100-head of cattle graze amongst the growing gums, which Lucy said are now twice her height. She has also been eradicating Indian coral in the last 12 months and has a flourishing native forest taking hold.

“The trees just bloomed; they are so tall already,” Lucy said. “We’ve put the cattle in there and they don’t damage the trees at all; they just eat the grass.

“Our banks went under three times in the last flood and we lost a whole chunk of riverbank. It will be interesting to see how much erosion control the trees provide next time it floods.”

Lucy is now a member of the Koala Implementation Group, which is overseeing key on-ground works from the Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management for south-east Lismore. A central element of the plan is to sign up rural landholders who are willing to undertake restoration works.

Through grant funding, Council can employ bush regenerators to remove weeds, plant trees and install fencing on private property. Council will work with rural landholders to identify suitable areas for planting, ensuring no agricultural activities or industry is constrained.

In Lucy and Scott’s neck of the woods, two neighbours are now taking part in the program and have planted along their riverbanks, providing excellent connectivity for local koalas moving around the area.

Lucy and Scott have also provided space on the property for Friends of the Koala to grow a plantation of koala food trees, which they can harvest for animals convalescing in the Koala Care Centre.

“We have a really large collection of koalas out our way and all these new trees are great for them,” Lucy said. “We saw our first baby come out of the pouch just this weekend – he was only as big as my hand. It was beautiful.”

Council is urging farmers and rural landholders to join a register for when grant funding becomes available. To sign up, phone 1300 87 83 87.



KYOGLE LANDCARE VISITS NIMBIN ROCKS

Kyogle Landcare Group visited Nimbin Rocks Co-Op Landcare on Saturday 26 July. Group members were inspired by the great work that has been done over many years. Nimbin Rocks Landcare have been restoring significant rainforest and wet sclerophyll communities on their 600 acre property formerly a dairy farm. The site has significant Aboriginal cultural history and the group has just negotiated a voluntary conservation agreement to protect this culturally significant land. Restoration work includes lantana control with follow up weed control amongst the very impressive natural regeneration. Corridor plantings have been established to link riparian areas with the remnant vegetation and fenced off areas to manage cattle and protect the natural areas. The group has accessed funding assistance through the CMA and Environmental Trust. Recently NCLLS has assisted through the Small Grants Program providing funding for management fencing and native trees for a corridor planting undertaken by co-op members.



NSW BIRD ATLASSERS INC

If you enjoy bird watching, are familiar with the birds in your area, and would like to learn more join NSW Bird Atlasers. You only need to spare 10-15 minutes to record the species seen.

The Atlasers in action

You don't have to be an expert you can "learn on the job". Species are only recorded when identify is certain. Atlasers go bird watching equipped with binoculars, notebook, pen, and field guide, optional GPS and camera. Sightings are recorded and sent in monthly for our database .Atlasers record all free-living bird species, native and introduced, not just the rare and uncommon. Neither do you have to travel great distances. Regular reports of the birds around your home and neighbourhood are equally as valuable as those from remote areas.



For more information contact Northern Landcare Support Services on 6632 3722 or info@nlss.com.au
Or check out the website www.nswbirdatlassers.com

ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES TAKING PART IN NRM THROUGH CULTURAL BURNING

The Firesticks Project aims to re-invigorate the use of cultural burning by facilitating cultural learning pathways. Working within 6,700 hectares of Aboriginal owned lands on the NSW north coast and tablelands; Firesticks is using integrated fire, weed and pest management strategies to enhance ecosystem health, habitat condition and connectivity. Importantly, this project is enabling and empowering Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities to work collectively towards resilient landscapes.

Firesticks is seeking to help identify, strengthen and in some landscapes re-instate knowledge systems and management practices such as burning strategies which result in the protection, replenishment and/or expansion of native species of cultural and ecological importance (e.g. bush foods).

Project Partners include Boorabee and the Willows, Wattleridge, Minyumai and Ngunya Jargoan Indigenous Protected Areas; Gugin Gudduba, Ngulingah, Casino Boolangle Aboriginal Land Councils; the Office of Environment and Heritage; University of Technology, Sydney, Nature Conservation Council of NSW and with valued support from the North Coast Local Land Services and the NSW Rural Fire Service.

This project is in the third year, of 5 years approved funding. All assessments have taken place and are up to on-site actions.

“Aboriginal people’s living knowledge systems can help support contemporary fire management concerns facing our society and environment. I see Firesticks as a way to build stories, share the relationship and meaning of fire, people and country and to explore the common ground on how burning makes us all feel. Collectively people and country can teach us this.”

-Oliver Costello, Firesticks Coordinator



If you want to know more about the project please contact Oliver Costello the Firesticks Coordinator at ocostello@nccnsw.org.au or Karan-Rae West, Aboriginal Community Support Officer – Northern (SEL) for North Coast Local Land Services at rangers@ngulingah.org.au



JOIN THE VOICE FOR LANDCARE IN NSW

Membership and 'Friend' benefits:

- Access to extra grant opportunities;
- No joining fees;
- Quarterly updates on LNSW activities & new information;
- Quick feedback loop on the important issues affecting Landcare at both State and Federal levels;
- By adding your voice we can be more effective at every level.



To register <http://www.landcarensw.org.au/join.php>

UPCOMING GRANTS AND FUNDING

NEW Saving Our Species Partnership Grants – now open



The NSW Environmental Trust is inviting Expressions of Interest for Round 1 of its Saving Our Species (SoS) Partnership Grants Program (Expressions of Interest close **29 September 2014**).

Grants are available for **partnerships** working to secure threatened species, populations and ecological communities in the wild. Round 1 will target [site-managed threatened species](#) as a priority.

Partnerships can include government, the community, NGOs and corporations.

Grants of between \$300,000 and \$1,000,000 are available to fund and support coordinated partnerships that will run for 10 years.

Go to the Trust's website for more information about SoS Partnership Grants and application materials: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/SOSPPartnerships.htm

A series of information workshops are being hosted by the Office of Environment and Heritage.

For dates, locations and further information go to

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/savingourspecies/sosworkshops.htm

If you have further questions you can contact the Trust

P: 02 8837 6093

E: info@environmentaltrust.nsw.gov.au



20 Million Trees Programme?

The Australian Government will work with the community to plant 20 million trees by 2020, to re-establish green corridors and urban forests.

The Programme has four strategic objectives:

- 20 million trees – 20 million trees and associated understorey planted by 2020.
- Environmental conservation – support local environmental outcomes by improving the extent, connectivity and condition of native vegetation that supports native species (including threatened species and threatened ecological communities)
- Community engagement – work cooperatively with the community
- Carbon reduction – contribute to Australia reducing its greenhouse gas emissions.

The programme will involve competitive grants, delivered by individuals and organisations, and larger-scale plantings, delivered by national service providers.

Round One of the 20 Million Trees Programme will invite community groups, landholders and other land managers to apply for grant funding to establish native tree plantings in urban, peri-urban and regional environments across Australia. More information about how to apply for funding under the 20 Million Trees Programme Round One will be released in the coming months.

The Programme will also involve larger-scale revegetation delivered by one or more service providers contracted by the Australian Government. Contact us please email 20milliontrees@environment.gov.au.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF LANDCARE

Landcare Australia are excited to be celebrating 25 years since Landcare was launched as a national initiative, and hope you will get involved too. Nominate someone for the Landcare Hero Honour Roll, be part of A Day in the Life of Landcare, or share your Landcare story. See www.landcarelife.com/25years for more details.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event or Workshop	Location	For more information and to RSVP
Wednesday 17 th – Friday 19 th September	National Landcare Conference	Melbourne	http://nationallandcareconference.flaktu.com/
Monday 25 th August 4pm-7:30pm	Free Crowdfunding Workshop	Lismore venue TBA	RSVP essential to amandapollard@bigpond.com
Saturday 13 th September 10.00-12.30pm	Bushcarers Major Day Out	Taulangau Wildlife Refuge, 211 Davis Rd, JIGGI	Northern Landcare Support Services 6632 3722 or info@nlss.com.au
Sunday 12 th October	Big Scrub Rainforest Day	Rocky Creek Dam	https://www.bigscrubrainforest.org.au/

HAVE YOU SAY ON THE NATIONAL LANDCARE PROGRAM

The Australian Government is hitting the road to talk to Australian communities about the National Landcare Programme. From 4 August, they be hosting community information sessions in every capital city and ten regional centres, talking about the opportunities available through the National Landcare Programme and how people can get involved.

For more information <http://www.nrm.gov.au/funding/nlp/rsvp-form.html>

They also have an online survey so you can have your say on the shape of the regional stream of the National Landcare Programme.

To complete the survey please follow this link https://environment.au.citizenspace.com/biodiversity-conservation/national-landcare-programme-survey/consult_view



NEW REGIONAL LANDCARE FACILITATOR

Amanda Pollard-Harris has been engaged by the North Coast Regional Landcare Network (NCRLN) until December to work with the Landcare community and to facilitate sustainable agriculture across the Northern part of the region. Amanda will also be the Landcare point of contact for the North Coast Local Land Services (NCLLS).



Amanda is sharing the position with Daintry Gerrand who will be servicing the southern areas of the region. With the uncertainty of funding and community support NCRLN feel it is essential that the RLF position works very closely with the landcare networks.

Amanda brings a wealth of experience & knowledge having worked with New England and Tenterfield Landcare, Northern Landcare Support Services and still works with Landcare NSW. Amanda will be available Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Most Tuesdays Amanda will be at the NCLLS office at Alstonville and can be contacted at, rfl@northcoastlandcare.net.au or mobile 0429070574

ASSISTANCE PACKAGES FOR PRIMARY PRODUCERS

A drought support package has been extended to the Kyogle Local Government area by the NSW Government. There are a variety of assistance packages to help those who are drought affected. There are also some general types of assistance. These are all listed in the table below.

Name	Administered By	Type of Assistance	More information?
Farm Household Allowance	Department of Human Services (Centrelink)	Income Support (Equivalent to Newstart)	http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/interim-farm-household-allowance
Farm Innovation Fund	RAA- Rural Assistance Authority	Loan (Max \$250 000)	www.raa.nsw.gov.au
Farm Finance Package	RAA- Rural Assistance Authority	Loan (Max \$650 000)	www.raa.nsw.gov.au
Consideration for deferral of payments	RAA- Rural Assistance Authority	Deferral of R.A.A. Loan Repayments	www.raa.nsw.gov.au
Transport Assistance	RAA- Rural Assistance Authority	Rebate on some transports costs	www.raa.nsw.gov.au
Drought Concessional Loan	RAA- Rural Assistance Authority	Operating Expenses and Drought Recovery/Preparedness	www.raa.nsw.gov.au

USEFUL FARMING TOOLS AND LINKS

Beef Business Tools

Sell or feed stock calculator <http://futurebeef.com.au/topics/business-management/beef-business-tools/>

NSW Feed Cost Calculator <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/nutrition/values/feed-cost-calculator>

Bureau of Meteorology ENSO Tracker which tracks the Official status of the El Niño–Southern Oscillation <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/tracker/>

Rural Financial Counselling Service Northern Region www.rfcsnsw-northernregion.org

DPI Managing Drought Publication

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/emergency/drought/managing/general/managing-drought>

Prepared by Northern Landcare Support Services for Landcare Groups & landholders in the Richmond & Upper Clarence Catchments.
All contributions to the newsletter are welcome.

The articles in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of Northern Landcare Support Services or North Coast Local Land Services. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter please contact us on **Northern Landcare Support Services** 02) 6632 3722 info@nlss.com.au