

Sniffing Out Endangered Eastern Bristlebirds

The Kyogle area has recently been playing host to Penny a detector dog who has been trained to help track eastern bristlebirds by scent. Field trials undertaken from September to December 2014 were very successful in finding eastern bristlebirds and mapping of habitat use has commenced based on Penny's results. The Border Ranges program has a strong focus on restoring and protecting habitat to enable the release of captive bred birds into suitable habitat to bolster the wild population.



The *Saving our Species* (SoS) program has allocated funds for actions to save these endangered birds. The eastern bristlebird (*Dasyornis brachypterus*) is one of our most endangered species with approximately 2,000 individuals left in the wild.

A site-managed species under the SoS program, it is now only known to occur in three distinct and unconnected regions between southeast Queensland and far eastern Victoria. Funded actions have been critical for species management, particularly with regard to fire, urban development and habitat management.

The northern NSW Border Ranges population has less than 40 birds in the wild. The Office of Environment and Heritage, private landholders, NGOs and universities have been working together for over ten years to improve habitat quality and to implement a captive breeding program at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary.

Biological control of crofton weed – partnering with the NSW community for large-scale releases of a new agent

Louise Morin, CSIRO Biosecurity Flagship

A new biological control agent for crofton weed, the rust fungus *Baeodromus eupatorii*, is now available for widespread release in NSW. The CSIRO Biosecurity Flagship, with support from the NSW Weeds Action Program administered by the Department of Primary Industries, is undertaking a release program in partnership with the community in 2015 to facilitate releases of the fungus at several strategic locations across the range of crofton weed in NSW.

Crofton weed (*Ageratina adenophora*) produces copious quantities of windborne seeds, spreads rapidly and once established at a site reduces its agricultural or ecological value. Crofton weed is declared as a class 4 noxious weed in several local government areas along the NSW coast. This means that its growth must be managed in a manner that continuously inhibits its ability to spread. While crofton weed can be managed by manual removal and herbicide applications, the extent of current infestations and their inaccessibility in some instances make control with traditional methods uneconomical and impractical. Biological control is the only sustainable method to control crofton weed at the landscape scale and reduce spread and infestation of new sites in NSW.

Biological control relies on highly specific natural enemies introduced from native range of the target weed to help achieve sustainable control. In the 1950s, two biological control agents were introduced for crofton weed in Australia: the fly – *Procecidochares utilis* that causes galls on stems and the leaf spot fungus – *Passalora ageratinae* that causes necrotic lesions on old leaves. While these agents cause some damage on plants, their impacts on populations of the weed have been negligible. The crofton weed rust fungus, which originates from Mexico, has recently been investigated to enhance biological control of this widespread, coastal weed in eastern Australia. It infects young leaves and stems of crofton weed and has great potential to reduce competitiveness, reproduction and spread of the weed.

The rust fungus was thoroughly tested to demonstrate that it would not pose a threat to economic and native plant species before it was approved for release in Australia in May 2014. During winter 2014, the fungus was released at five sites within national parks and conservation areas on the NSW South Coast and north of Sydney. These initial experimental releases demonstrated that the fungus can establish readily in the field providing that the material used for release lasts for several days and that conditions are conducive for infection at some stage during that period.

If you are interested in participating in the release program, please contact us. Rust-infected material suitable to make releases will be provided at no cost to community members either via the post or at field days (locations and dates TBA). Participants will be provided with simple guidelines on how to make the release and to monitor establishment and spread of the agent. In return, they will be expected to provide details on their release site and feedback on their monitoring activities.

If you are interested in participating in the release program, please contact us for further information:
CSIRO Biosecurity Flagship, Canberra

Dr Louise Morin, Tel: (02) 6246 4355, louise.morin@csiro.au

Mr John Lester, Tel: (02) 6246 4325, john.lester@csiro.au



Crofton weed leaf in the process of dying as a result of infection by the rust fungus. (Photos: K. Turner)

LANDCARE FIELD DAY: FREE FARM TOUR

Brunswick Valley Landcare is hosting a free field day on 12 March 2015 that will include visiting seven cattle grazing farms with a variety of different breeds including Brahmans, Murray Grey, Herefords, Angus, British whites and cross breeds.

Everyone is welcome to attend and the field day will be particularly interesting for anyone who is just starting out in farming or if you are interested in different breeds of cattle.

We will be visiting a range of different farm sizes from a few hundred acres to small holdings and the farmers vary from having decades of experience to those new to the industry.

Tina Sweeney (pictured) who owns a small property in Myocum said "We only have a small property but we work with a group of neighbours on a paddock rotation bases to ensure healthy happy cows."

"I studied an agricultural course last year and I am looking forward to sharing my newfound knowledge at our farm, Myuna" said Tina.

Wendy Gibney from Brunswick Valley Landcare said "This field day focuses on learning from farmers and everyone who comes along will have the opportunity to talk to the farmers about their breed of cattle and any other farm issues. "

"We will also have lots of free brochures and fact sheets available about a variety of topics including cattle health, weeds, soil and pest animal control." said Wendy

This project is supported by Brunswick Valley Landcare through funding from the Australian Government.



Farm Tour Field Day

Date: Thursday 12 March 2015

Time: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Location: Bus leaves from Mullumbimby

Bookings and more information: Wendy Gibney phone 6684 1805 or 0409 813 330 email:

wendy.gibney@byron.nsw.gov.au



UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event or Workshop	Location	For more information and to RSVP
Friday 6 th March 10am	Tregeagle Koala Habitat Restoration Green Army & 25th Anniversary Landcare Grant Launch	246 Connor Road, Tregeagle 2480	RSVP by Monday March 2 to Maree Thompson mareet@envite.org.au or 6627 2842
Thursday 12 th March 9am – 12noon	Farm Tour Field Day	Catching a bus from Gordon St Mullumbimby and visiting farms in Myocum	To book or for more info Wendy Gibney ph 02 6684 1805 or 0409 813 330 email: wendy.gibney@byron.nsw.gov.au
Saturday 14th March 9am -12noon 1pm -4pm	Rainforest Plant ID Key Workshop	Kyogle Family Support 13 Geneva Street Kyogle	Angie@nlss.com.au or phone Northern Landcare Support Services on 6632 3722
Thursday 25 th March 9am – 5pm	Weeds Forum	South Tweed Sports Club, 4 Minjungbal Drive, Tweed Heads South NSW	Bookings essential: Kim Curtis FNCW Control Officer on 02 6623 3847 or Kim.Curtis@fncw.nsw.gov.au
Thursday 23 rd April	Native Vegetation Information Sessions	Casino Community Centre 35 Walker Street, Casino	RSVP Local Land Services on 6623 3900
Thursday 23 rd April 9.30am for pen judging	Norco/Gold Mix Kyogle Beef Bonanza North Coast LLS will be running a stall to provide advice and guidance to landholders.	Kyogle Showground	Contact Kyogle Norco for details 663229320






Beef Bonanza

\$5,000 in Prizes

Date: 23rd April 2015
Time: 9.30 am for Pen Judging
Venue: Kyogle Showgrounds

Contact Norco Kyogle for all the details
Willis Street
Ph: 6632 2920



Norco-an Australian, farmer owned dairy co-operative since 1895





Local Land Services
North Coast

Want to know what clearing you can do without approval under the Native Vegetation Act?

Free local information sessions



Casino, Thursday 23 April
Casino Community Centre
35 Walker Street, Casino
RSVP to 6623 3900



Grafton, Wednesday 29 April
Grafton Community Centre
59 Duke Street, Grafton
RSVP to 6642 0622



Kempsey, Tuesday 5 May
Wauchope Country Club
24 King Street, Wauchope
RSVP to 6653 6700

All sessions 9.30 am to 12.00 pm
Morning tea will be provided

Sessions will cover: RAMAs, regrowth provisions and self-assessable codes for clearing paddock trees in cultivation and thinning native vegetation, new online native vegetation information tools. When do I need approval? What can I clear without approval? Can I clear paddock trees or thin native vegetation? What information and advice is available?
 For more information about Native Vegetation legislation visit www.environment.nsw.gov.au/vegetation

UPCOMING GRANTS AND FUNDING

Coles Junior Landcare Garden Grants

The Coles Junior Landcare Garden Grants program is offering 250 grants of up to \$1,000 to schools and youth groups to help create gardens in their grounds and communities.



Coles has sponsored the grants program since 2008, and has seen a broad range of projects come to fruition, including vegetable gardens, composting and worm farms, Indigenous bush tucker gardens and green walls. These projects encourage students to learn about sustainability and caring for the environment in a hands-on manner. All primary schools, secondary schools, kindergartens, day care centres and youth groups are eligible to apply for a Coles Junior Landcare Garden grant. **Applications close on 27 March 2015**

<http://www.juniorlandcare.com.au/news/archive/2015-coles-junior-landcare-garden-grants>

Foundation of National Parks

Are you planning a project that will help conserve Australia's native plants, animals or cultural heritage?

A grant from the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife can help you get your project off the ground. The Foundation Grants program supports nature conservation projects in the field as well as environmental education programs and cultural heritage conservation.



The Foundation supports projects that have a direct conservation outcome, protecting Australia's natural world.

While we appreciate the many ways in which individuals and organisations contribute to nature conservation in Australia and beyond, our funds are limited to non-controversial non-political on-ground projects only.

For more information visit the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife

Applications close on Friday 20 March 2015 <http://fnpw.org.au/foundation-grants>

The Glen Turner Scholarship in natural resource management

This scholarship was officially established in 2015 by the Office of Environment and Heritage (NSW) in memory of Mr Glen Turner, who was tragically killed whilst carrying out his job on 29 July 2014. Mr Turner made the world a better place through his contribution to protecting our landscape, our soils and water, through his service to his local community, through his friendship and loyalty to his colleagues and, most importantly, through his love and commitment to his family.

In order to honour Mr Turner's life this scholarship was established to support an undergraduate student enrolled in a Natural/Sustainable Resource Management course at the University of Newcastle. The scholarship will cover the tuition costs of the course (up to \$10,000 p.a.) and will be for the duration of the scholar's course (up to 4 years).

Glen attended the University of Newcastle from 1982-85 and the scholarship is designed to support a student from the bush or a low socio-economic background. The scholarship is offered through the University of Newcastle.

Applications close on 15 March 2015. For more information visit the website

http://www.newcastle.edu.au/scholarships/EXT_204

Environmental Research Grants

Call for Expression of Interest - The 2015 round of the Environmental Research grants program opened to Expressions of Interest on 9 February 2015 and closes 13 March 2015.

The aim of the Environmental Research program is to support applied research projects that help address environmental problems in NSW. For more information see the website

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

NSW Rural Assistance Authority - Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate



The NSW Government this week has announced \$20 million in additional support for farmers to establish permanent water infrastructure to assist with the immediate water supply needs and long-term risk mitigation for the farm enterprise.

The Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate (EWIR) scheme aims to help severely drought affected livestock producers install on-farm water infrastructure such as pipelines, bores, tanks and troughs. The availability of rebates is subject to funds being available. No rebates will be offered beyond the allocated funding of \$20 million. The scheme will close on 30 June 2015 or when the funding allocation is exhausted. For more information on this rebate, including Guidelines, Frequently Asked Questions and the Application Form visit the NSW Rural Assistance website.

<http://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/assistance>

New Green Army project round now open

Applications are now open for Round 3 of the Green Army Programme.

If you are a community organisation, environment group, Indigenous organisation or local council we encourage you to apply for projects in your region.

Key dates

Round 3 applications open 12 February 2015

Round 3 applications close 17 March 2015 at 2pm AEDT (Canberra time)

What projects are eligible?

Projects must have a clear environment or heritage conservation focus and offer participants valuable practical experience, while supporting a safe work environment. Projects will be guided by local community needs and contribute to Australia's national and international environmental priorities and obligations. A full list of eligible activities is provided in the *Green Army Round 3 Project Guidelines 2015-16*. To be eligible for this round, one project must be ready to commence between 1 June 2015 and 30 June 2016. Applicants who were unsuccessful through previous rounds may re-apply under this round. While it is encouraged that potential applicants discuss their project ideas with one or more of the appointed Service Providers, applicants are welcome to apply even if they are not working with or consulting a Service Provider.

Submitting an application

Step 1: Read the Guidelines available at www.environment.gov.au/green-army

Step 2: Complete the online application form addressing each of the selection criteria in the relevant fields. Please note a separate form must be downloaded for each application. If you do not have access to the Internet, you can request a hard copy application form by calling the Green Army hotline on 1800 780 730.

Step 3: Submit your application by the closing date and ensure you keep a copy for your records. Additional information provided by the applicant but not requested in the application form will not be assessed.

Want more information?

Call the Green army hotline on 1800 780 730

Email GreenArmy@environment.gov.au

Visit www.environment.gov.au/green-army



Our Neighbourhood Community Grants

The 2015 Our Neighbourhood Community Grants program run by Australia Post encourages community organisations to apply for funding of one-off cash payments of up to \$10,000. The Our Neighbourhood Community Grants program recognises the important role our smaller charities and community groups play in connecting people, and positively shaping our nation.

Projects will need to benefit the wider community, align with the key focus areas and primary audiences, and meet an immediate need of the community.

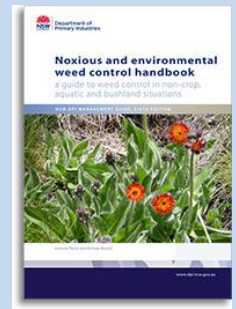
The 2015 Our Neighbourhood Community Grants open on Monday, 23 February 2015 and close on Thursday, 2 April 2015 (5pm AWST). For more information visit <http://ourneighbourhood.com.au/grants/community-grants.html>

Resources

DPI Noxious and Environmental weed control handbook

The 6th edition of this handbook is now available on the DPI website. It has been compiled as a guide for noxious and environmental weed control in non-crop, aquatic and bushland situations.

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds/weeds/publications/noxious-enviro-weec-control>



Landcare in the curriculum

At the end of 2014 Landcare Australia and Primary Industries Education Foundation PIEF produced Landcare resources to link in with the Australian Curriculum. The curriculum resources include full lessons comprising engaging and easy-to-understand teaching and learning sequences initially aimed at primary schools.

In 2011, PIEF produced a report that found that almost one in two Year 6 students did not know that everyday lunch items such as bananas and cheese originated from farms, and 3 in 4 thought cotton socks came from animals. Earlier in 2014 Landcare Australia and PIEF launched simple "How to Guides" at the 2014 National Landcare Conference in September.

Landcare in the Curriculum Teaching and Learning Sequences:

- Building a Worm Farm
- How to make a Frog Pond
- The Magic of Growing
- Enhancing and Restoring Natural Habitats
- How to make your own Pesticides

Australia's Biosecurity Future

The report - Australia's Biosecurity Future: preparing for future biological challenges - uses strategic foresight to identify the major biosecurity trends and risks that Australia may need to respond to over the next 20-30 years.

<http://www.csiro.au/Organisation-Structure/Flagships/Biosecurity-Flagship/Biosecurity-Futures-Report.aspx>



North Coast Local Land Services Newsletters

North Coast Local Land Services now has 3 new newsletters that you can subscribe to online. You can subscribe to one or all three. The news you want when you need it. By subscribing you will receive updates on agricultural production, biosecurity, natural resource management and emergency management.

The North Coast Local gives you all the news, views and regular updates on the activities, projects and services of North Coast Local Land Services into your inbox every month.

The Farm Gate comes out quarterly and will provide news on services, information and activities that relate to farming systems. There will be updates from the District Vets, agricultural productivity and profitability advice and seasonal updates.

Healthy Landscapes is also quarterly and will cover all the sustainable land use projects and activities that North Coast Local Land Services undertakes - on farmland and other landscapes, in waterways and our estuarine environments.

To subscribe visit the NCLLS website <http://northcoast.lls.nsw.gov.au/resource-hub/newsletters>

Prepared by Northern Landcare Support Services for Landcare Groups & landholders in the Richmond & Upper Clarence Catchments. **All contributions to the newsletter are welcome.** If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically please email info@nlss.com.au.

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