

### **Reducing hazards, increasing biodiversity and restoring cultural practises**

On the 24<sup>th</sup> September a prescribed burn was undertaken at Dobies Bight property an area of land owned by Casino Local Aboriginal Land Council. The total area of the property is 28.7Ha and although its relatively small size it represents a significant refuge for wildlife across a largely fragmented landscape. The property contains a number of endangered ecological communities, threatened species such as the Koala and many old growth trees that provide habitat for arboreal species such as the Greater Glider.

The 2.33Ha burn was carried out as a collaborative exercise between Casino Boolangle LALC, Casino RFS, Sextonville and Woodview volunteer RFS brigades, the Northern Rivers Fire and Biodiversity Consortium (NRFABCON), Minyumai IPA rangers, Ngulingah Nimbin Rocks rangers and the Nature Conservation Councils (NCC) Firestick project team.

The burn has been a long time coming with the volunteer brigade members recalling that the last time they attempted to burn the area was 7 years ago. Paula Coghill, Casino Boolangle LALC CEO said "We don't own the land; the land owns us, as custodians we are to take care and responsibility for a role in the landscape of Australia. The burn at Dobies Bight was significant for the Casino Boolangle LALC as this is the first for our LALC properties. I am excited that it involved a collaborative approach which allowed a model of 'Best Practice' in sharing knowledge and experience in Caring for Country activities".

The key objectives of the burn were to:

- reduce the risk of wildfire on life and property, protecting the assets (houses) surrounding the property
- to protect ecological and cultural values on the property including Koalas and Scar Trees
- to restore native vegetation by applying fire to remove woody weeds,
- to assist local Aboriginal groups to gain further experience in planning and implementing a prescribed burns.

The property contains a large amount of environmental weeds such as lantana, coral trees, winter senna and ochra. The proliferation of a range of woody weeds, particularly dense lantana has greatly suppressed native species and increased fuel levels resulting in increased risk from wildfire events. The lantana was sprayed a few months prior to burning to help with the success of the burn and any regrowth will be followed up in the months to come to reduce the reinvasion of these weeds and the integrity of the property.

Tara Patel, NRFABCON Coordinator said "the Community Safety Officer Bronwyn Waters and District Services Coordinator Boyd Townsend were both extremely helpful in processing the hazard reduction certificate, developing the burn plan, engaging State Mitigation Services to implement the control lines and engaging the local volunteer brigades to support and manage the burn on the day. A special thankyou to the Sextonville and Woodview brigades and their respective Captains Barry Morgan and Ray Porter for their assistance."

NCC Firesticks Project Coordinator Richard Brittingham said "Every burn provides more opportunity to learn about restoring an extremely important cultural practice back into a highly modified and in most cases sick environment. The fact that we now have so many rangers and communities coming together to assist each other I think is a great result and sends a powerful message".

The Northern Rivers Fire and Biodiversity Consortium (NRFABCON) would like to support, promote and congratulate all the organisations involved. If you would like to find out more about using fire as a management tool for improving biodiversity, cultural burning and other NRFABCON projects that are currently happening in the northern rivers go to [www.nrfabcon.org.au](http://www.nrfabcon.org.au). For more information on the NCC Firesticks Project go to [www.Firesticks.org.au](http://www.Firesticks.org.au)



## **North Coast Landcarers Recognised**

The achievements of landcare groups and individuals from the North Coast have been recognised at the biennial NSW State Landcare Awards Ceremony held last week in Orange. The Awards celebrate the individual and community volunteer projects that have made significant contributions to the environment in local communities around New South Wales.

Ten groups from the North Coast Regional Landcare Network entered the NSW Landcare Awards and four were selected as winners.

Bob Jarman, President of North Coast Regional Landcare congratulated all the North Coast entrants for their outstanding efforts which have created positive outcomes for environmental sustainability. "All of the nominees and winners should be incredibly proud of the impact they have made in protecting the natural resources here on the North Coast," he said.

Bob added "Volunteers play a vital role in restoring and maintaining our environment at a local level, and the Landcare Awards is a terrific opportunity to acknowledge their efforts and celebrate their achievements."

Group winners included Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare who won a Coastcare Award and Big Scrub Landcare who received a Community Group Award. Two individuals were recognised; Jeremy Bradley won the Innovation in Sustainable Farm Practices Award and Dr Tony Parkes who received the prestigious Individual Landcarer Award. Dr Parkes was also chosen to represent NSW in the National Landcare Awards next year.

Other North Coast entrants in the Awards were Richard Cullen and Elizabeth Edwards who were nominated in the Individual Landcarer Award; Tregeagle Public School in the Junior Landcare Award; and Byron Shire Council and Port Macquarie Hastings Council in the Partnerships with Landcare Award.

Celebrating Landcarers "who have a fire in their belly" was the focus of the inaugural Gerald Carnie Award. Gerald Carnie was an inspiration to Landcare in the Parkes area, demonstrating his commitment to building resilience in communities and landscapes and building equal relationships built on respect and trust. Those qualities were sought in Gerald Carnie Award nominees.

Bob Jarman said of the Award, "Claire Masters from Tweed Landcare was one of only six people nominated throughout the state, so we are very proud of her achievement. "The Inaugural Gerald Carnie Award was presented to Bill Piggott from Berry Landcare," Bob concluded.

North Coast Local Land Services and North Coast Regional Landcare have signed a Partnership Agreement, which has now been operating for six months, to help both organisations work collaboratively to achieve outcomes for North Coast communities, landscapes and seascapes.

Royce Bennett, North Coast Local Land Services Manager Land Services said, "North Coast Local Land Services supports a community-based delivery model by partnering with Landcare and other organisations across the region to help the community undertake natural resource management and sustainable agriculture activities. "It is pleasing to see the hard work that both organisations undertake is recognised in this way. The partnership with Landcare allows our two organisations to make a considerable contribution to natural resource management and sustainable agriculture on public and private land, across a wide range of land-uses," he concluded.

Links to more details on each Award winner are available on the North Coast Local Land Services website [www.northcoast.lls.nsw.gov.au](http://www.northcoast.lls.nsw.gov.au).



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event or Workshop	Location	For more information and to RSVP
16-19 <sup>th</sup> October	BIRD LANGUAGE Revealing the secret language of nature	Northern Rivers	<a href="http://www.artofmentoring.com.au">www.artofmentoring.com.au</a>
29 <sup>th</sup> October	Biological Weed Control	Bangalow Showground	<a href="http://www.fncw.nsw.gov.au">www.fncw.nsw.gov.au</a> P: 66233847
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> October	SEQ Fire & Biodiversity Forum	Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha	<a href="http://www.fireandbiodiversity.org.au/events.html">http://www.fireandbiodiversity.org.au/ events.html</a>
30 <sup>th</sup> October	Trees of Significance for Traditional Land Owners, Biodiversity and the Community	Wollongbar TAFE	<a href="http://www.theca.asn.au">www.theca.asn.au</a> M: 0455840004
6-8 <sup>th</sup> November	National Biological Farming Conference	Lismore	<a href="http://www.soilcare.org/national-biological-farming-conference-and-expo-2015.html">http://www.soilcare.org/national- biological-farming-conference-and- expo-2015.html</a>
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	NRFABCON “Fire For Healthy Habitats” Workshop	Ewingar Hall, Ewingar	<a href="mailto:kim.michelle.core@hotmail.com">kim.michelle.core@hotmail.com</a> P: 66613640
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	NRFABCON “Fire For Healthy Habitats” Workshop	Pottsville Environment Centre	<a href="mailto:csotweed@tweed.nsw.gov.au">csotweed@tweed.nsw.gov.au</a> P: 6670 2199
11-13 <sup>th</sup> November	24th NSW Coastal Conference 2015	Forster	<a href="http://www.coastalconference.com/">http://www.coastalconference.com/</a>
14 <sup>th</sup> November	Native bee workshop	Lismore	<a href="http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=P9eFw&amp;m=JOCwR18N.x8usX&amp;b=kdDIY.EED2GobIO2Y42GAg">http://clicks.aweber.com/y/ct/?l=P9eF w&amp;m=JOCwR18N.x8usX&amp;b=kdDIY.EED2 GobIO2Y42GAg</a>
25 <sup>th</sup> November	Kickstart “What Matters”	Grove House, Kyogle	6568 1162 or e-mail <a href="mailto:hello@evolvenetwork.com.au">hello@evolvenetwork.com.au</a>

### **Are you a commercial seed collector? Do you collect from Rous Water operational land?**

If so, this information is for you.

Rous Water recognise the integrity of seed collected from the Rous Water Rainforest Reserve at Rocky Creek Dam and the role commercial Seed Collectors play in the local Bush Regeneration Industry – by providing local native seed with local genetic populations. Rous Water aims to protect the public drinking water supply and therefore carefully regulates, manages and enables appropriate private recreation, community events and commercial activities on operational land.

Rous Water wishes to advise all commercial Seed Collectors currently using / or with the intention of using Rous Water operational land for collection, that they are required to make an application to Rous Water for a Temporary Permit – For use of Rous Water Operational Land (commercial user).

The commercial activities Permit gives the commercial operator the legal right to carry out their proposed activity on Rous Water land and is a formal agreement where Rous Water has the opportunity to advise the operator of the responsibilities and obligations as it relates to the commercial activity. For all the information relating to the policy, commercial operator guidelines and application process please visit the Rous Water website at [www.rouswater.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rouswater.nsw.gov.au) and search 'commercial'.

If you have any concerns or would like assistance with your application please contact the Technical Services Customer Services Group on (02) 6621 8055 or email [water@rouswater.nsw.gov.au](mailto:water@rouswater.nsw.gov.au)



Submitted by Rous Water



Professional Workshop on  
**Aboriginal Scar Trees: Significance,  
Conservation and Management of  
Veteran Eucalypts in the Landscape**

**Trees of Significance for Traditional Owners,  
Biodiversity and the Community**

**Friday October 30th – 8:30am to 4:30pm  
Room B1: 21/22, Wollongbar TAFE**

This workshop will explore the values that veteran scar trees play in the landscape and how these trees can be protected and managed alongside other uses of the land.

Speakers include:

- **Traditional Owners** who will discuss what is a scarred tree; what this can mean to them and cultural reasons for protecting these trees.
- **The Veteran Tree Group Australia** who will cover the value of very old (veteran) trees for biodiversity and how to protect and manage them in varied landscapes.
- **Landscape Ecologists** who will briefly discuss the changes in the landscape in the Northern Rivers area over the past 200 years and the importance of retaining very old (veteran) trees.

The workshop will be divided into two sessions, with the morning session held at Wollongbar TAFE and the afternoon session inspecting scar and veteran trees at Wardell and Ruthven to explore ways of management.

*Knowledge Holder Ashley Moran*

**Cost: Fee of the workshop is \$50.00**

**If you are interested in attending please either:**

- Register on the THECA (The Hut Environmental and Community Association) [www.theca.asn.au](http://www.theca.asn.au)
- Contact Greg Siepen on 0455 840 004
- Email [info@theca.asn.au](mailto:info@theca.asn.au)

**Supported by the Bjarne K Dahl Trust; THECA and Wollongbar TAFE**



**Expression Of Interest – Project Manager and bush regeneration contractor**

Northern Rivers Fire and Biodiversity Consortium (NRFABCON) is seeking to contract a part-time Project Manager and a Bush regeneration contractor/ team for an Environmental Trust project at Busbys Flat. The positions will start mid November 2015 and the initial contract will be until the 30 June 2016, with the option for future years negotiable.

Tender documents will be available from the **16<sup>th</sup> October** on [www.nrfabcon.org.au](http://www.nrfabcon.org.au) or contact Jim Morrison (Chair) on (02) 66645233 or email [pactec@harboursat.com.au](mailto:pactec@harboursat.com.au)

Expressions of Interest **due 30<sup>th</sup> October**.

## **Opportunity to deliver environmental, community and agricultural productivity outcomes**

NCLLS media release 30 September

North Coast Local Land Services (NCLLS) is seeking expressions of interest from qualified and experienced individuals, organisations and/or community groups to deliver a selected range of projects in 2015/2016. The three opportunities are designed to deliver the skills of local Indigenous people, protect threatened species and improve agricultural productivity.

Kel Langfield, Acting Team Leader, Northern said, "The diversity of these projects is an excellent demonstration of the range of outcomes delivered by North Coast Local Land Services.

"The North Coast region is unquestionably the most agriculturally and environmentally diverse in the state and we are presented with the challenge of delivering quality outcomes to a broad audience.

"Our organisation maximises our ability of meeting objectives by building strong partnerships with skilled organisations and groups," he said.

The first opportunity will support the engagement of Aboriginal communities in Natural Resource Management (NRM), sustainable agriculture, biosecurity and emergency management by supporting an Aboriginal Extension Project Officer to service the Tweed to Richmond Valley Local Government Areas. Supporting Aboriginal natural resource management enterprises and opportunities by developing the technical and management skills of local Indigenous people is identified as a high priority and key factor for overcoming Indigenous disadvantage in Australia.

The second opportunity will address weed management, specifically Lantana and Privet species, and protect threatened species and habitats. The focus area for weed management and ecological restoration is the southern part of Tooloom Creek in the Upper Clarence area, from Tooloom Bridge to the junction with the Clarence River.

The objective of the third project is to improve soil health through soil testing and interpretation on a paddock basis and to integrate better soil management with improved farming practices through the delivery of training on soils and soil management strategies. Working with farmer groups, the project will benchmark key soil characteristics such as pH, CEC, nutrient levels and Organic Matter. The program will cover soil testing methods and interpretation.

Service providers who can demonstrate experience in natural resource management, weeds management, aboriginal engagement and soil management are invited to visit [www.northcoast.lls.nsw.gov.au](http://www.northcoast.lls.nsw.gov.au) for more information, guidelines and application forms.

The Expression of Interest period opens on Wednesday 30 September 2015 and closes at 5.00 pm on Friday 23 October 2015. For more information contact the North Coast Local Land Services Lismore office during business hours on 6623 3900.



### **NCLLS: Seeking EOI for Regional Weed Committee**

NCLLS is now seeking Expressions of Interest from landholders involved in North Coast rural industries for a new strategy focused Regional Weed Committee operating in the Tweed to Hastings area. This is an outcome of the recent weed management review recommending the replacement of the existing 14 Regional Weed Advisory Groups with 11 Regional Weed Committees (RWC) based on Local Land Service (LLS) Regions

For more information or an expression of interest package and details please contact David Merrikin, Senior Strategic Land Services Officer, on 02 6659 9404.

### **NEW National Koala Alliance**

After much hard work and structural organisation, the official National Koala Alliance was launched on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015, World Habitat Day. Their website ([www.protectourkoalas.com.au](http://www.protectourkoalas.com.au)) is a good place to go and check them out and if you wish to be a part of this growing Alliance, please send them a letter of support and your logo so that they may include you in their future promotion and contacts. Don't forget to check out their Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/nationalkoalaalliance](http://www.facebook.com/nationalkoalaalliance)) and give them a like and ask your friends to also support them.

Together, we can make a huge difference to the future of koalas in Australia so please join them today.



### **New era for travelling stock reserves: draft framework launched**

LLS Media Release 22 September 2015

NSW Minister for Primary Industries, Niall Blair, has launched the first state wide planning process for the almost 500,000 hectare NSW travelling stock reserve (TSR) network managed by Local Land Services. Mr Blair said Local Land Services has developed a draft NSW Travelling Stock Reserves Planning Framework, and strongly encouraged members of the public to have their say before a period of public consultation closes on 3 November.

"The use of our travelling stock reserves has changed over time – once used solely to move livestock from farms to markets or railheads, now they have multiple uses, from grazing in times of drought, to recreation and conservation," Mr Blair said. "This planning process is about Local Land Services talking with the individuals and communities that use our TSR network, to gain a better understanding of the values that people hold for these important public assets. "While access for travelling stock will continue to remain the primary purpose for our reserve network, it is important that Local Land Services balances this with economic, cultural, recreational and environmental uses."

The state wide framework allows for the development of regional management plans to facilitate more consistent and transparent management, resourcing and reporting. This will allow each of the 11 Local Land Services regions to assess the value and priorities of local reserves and put in place tailored management plans at a regional level.

To download the Draft NSW Travelling Stock Reserves State Planning Framework, visit [www.lls.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au). Comments by email are welcome until 3 November, via [tsr.feedback@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tsr.feedback@lls.nsw.gov.au).

### **Aussie Backyard Bird Count**

**19<sup>th</sup> October – 25<sup>th</sup> October**

Celebrate National Bird Week 2015 by taking part in the biggest citizen science project to hit Aussie shores! From 19-25 October, thousands of people from across the country are heading out into their backyards, local parks or favourite open spaces to take part in the first ever

Aussie Backyard Bird Count!

[www.birdlife.org.au/get-involved/whats-on/bird-week](http://www.birdlife.org.au/get-involved/whats-on/bird-week)



### **Local Landcare Coordinators Initiative**

NSW Minister for Primary Industries, Lands and Water Niall Blair has announced details of the \$15 million NSW Local Landcare Coordinators Initiative which will unlock the full potential of Landcare volunteers across the state.

The North Coast Regional Landcare Network will be submitting a joint application with the Landcare Networks that currently host the Community Support Officer positions on the North Coast.

If successful these positions will commence in the New Year.

## UPCOMING GRANTS AND FUNDING

### Habitat Action Grants 2015-2016

Angling clubs, individuals, community groups, local councils and organisations interested in rehabilitating fish habitats in freshwater and saltwater areas throughout NSW can apply for grants. Habitat rehabilitation projects which may be funded include:

- removal or modification of barriers to fish passage
- rehabilitation of riparian lands (river banks, wetlands, mangrove forests, saltmarsh)
- re-snagging waterways with timber structure
- removal of exotic vegetation from waterways
- bank stabilisation works
- reinstatement of natural flow regimes

Applications will close at 5 pm Friday 16 October 2015.

For further information please contact the Habitat Action Grants Administrator on [fish.habitat@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:fish.habitat@dpi.nsw.gov.au)  
<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/habitat/rehabilitating/ahr-grants-program>



### 2016 Science and Innovation Awards

Grant applications are now open for the 2016 Science and Innovation Awards for Young People in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. If you're 18-35, this is your chance to apply for a grant of up to \$22,000 to fund your project on an innovative or emerging scientific issue that will benefit Australia's primary industries.



**Applications close 5pm AEDT Friday 09 October 2015.** <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/conferences-events/scienceawards>

### Waste Less, Recycle More Organics Infrastructure (Large and Small) Grants - now open

The NSW Environmental Trust and the NSW EPA are inviting applications to round 3 of the Organics Infrastructure (Large and Small) Grants Program. Applications close **1 December 2015**.

#### **Stream 1 Food and Garden Organics Processing**

Grants of between \$25,000 and \$5 million are available to NSW councils, groups of councils, other local government controlled organisations and businesses/private industry with waste management and/or organics processing experience.

#### **Stream 2 Business Organics Recycling**

Grants of between \$25,000 and \$500,000 are available for on-site processing or pre-processing of organics at large businesses, government institutions and not-for-profit organisations (with an established legal status) such as aged care facilities.

#### **Stream 3 Food Donation**

Grants of between \$25,000 and \$500,000 are only available to not-for-profit organisations (with an established legal status).

#### **Stream 4 Home Composting**

Grants of between \$5,000 and \$75,000 are available to NSW councils, regional organisations of councils, other local government controlled organisations and partnerships of councils.

Go to the Trust's website for more information about the program and to access application materials:

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



Prepared by Northern Landcare Support Services for Landcare Groups & landholders. **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 or [info@nlss.com.au](mailto:info@nlss.com.au)