

GRASSROOTS GAZETTE

Many hands working together for the Tweed environment



Greetings Landcarers,

How nice it is to have some decent rain to soak the soils, fill up the aquifers and flush the rivers. After the long drought conditions it feels like the Shire has been renewed and is bursting with greenery and life. The summery sound of cicadas is back, frogs are popping up everywhere*, birds are breeding and livestock are fattening. Of course we have the flies, weeds and lawnmowing to contend with but the rain is much appreciated.

After a relaxing break Tweed Landcare are back in full swing. We have been assisting the new Deer Project Officer at Tweed Shire Council to take on this challenging and exciting regional project to prevent the establishment of feral deer in the Northern Rivers area.



*These road tripping green tree frogs appeared from the depths of the car on a recent trip to the Gold Coast

Next month we plan to have a farm issue to promote the events coming up with the Tweed Landcare Soil Carbon project and other exciting news in the Regenerative Agriculture space.

Happy reading,
Kim, Amalia and Corinne

Hospital Hill Landcare gets a much needed helping hand

Volunteer Landcarers are pretty awesome and dedicated to controlling some of the most difficult weeds. However, few have the particular super powers to scale and bush regenerate on sheer cliffs. This is what the Hospital Hill Landcare Group were faced with on the old quarry wall at their Landcare site in the middle of Murwillumbah. Fortunately Tweed Shire Council gave the Landcare Group some assistance and funded a professional abseiling bush regenerator to do the work and control environmental weeds including Ochna, Coral Berry and Cat's Claw Creeper.



Victoria Bakker from Forest Rehabilitation Ecology on the northern quarry wall at the Hospital Hill Landcare site.

Big thanks to Tweed Shire Council for funding this work which supports the ongoing efforts of our enthusiastic volunteers.

Feral Deer Prevention Project kicks off!!

Rachel Hughes comes onboard as the new Deer Project Officer

The Tweed Shire has enough pest animals with foxes, feral cats, wild dogs, rabbits, tilapia, Indian myna birds, cane toads etc. The last thing we need is a new pest species. Which is why stakeholders of the Northern Rivers have come together to try and prevent another one- feral deer that are causing major problems across the country and now has the Northern Rivers in its sights.



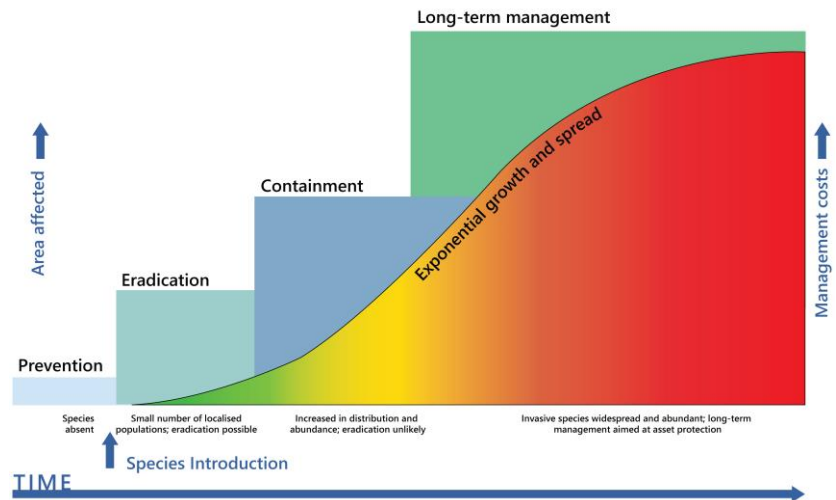
Rachel Hughes- Deer Project Officer, Wildlife Protection at Tweed Shire Council

There are now six species of deer in Australia all of which could adapt to the Northern Rivers environment. The good news is that the Northern Rivers, including 7 LGAs from Grafton to Tweed and west to Kyogle, are mapped as 'still absent', although occasional sightings have occurred over the last few years. It is possible that the restrictions on livestock movement due to the tick gate that once covered the Northern Rivers banned deer farms and historically protected the area from feral deer. The region is now under increasing pressure with the number of feral deer rising on the borders to the north in Queensland, to the west on the Tablelands and to the South around Coffs Harbour.

Where deer have established these large animals are wreaking havoc in both urban and rural areas causing vehicle accidents, damaging orchards, eating crops, destroying fences, harassing

cattle, putrefying water holes, trampling and eating native vegetation, spreading weed seed and destroying the habitats of threatened species.

The most cost effective and humane approach to pest animal management is Prevention, which is demonstrated by the 'Invasion Curve'. Controlling a few deer now can save endless amounts of money and prevent countless animals being controlled. It is believed that the current deer situation in the Northern Rivers is somewhere between 'Prevention' and 'Containment'. We need the help of the whole Northern Rivers community to report feral deer so we can determine where population clusters and movement corridors are.



The Invasion Curve. Invasive Species Council Australia

Tweed Shire Council recently secured over \$250,000 from the Federal Government's 'Communities Combating Pests and Weeds Impacts During Drought' program to implement the strategic actions in the Northern Rivers Feral Deer Plan for the northern part of the region. The first action in the Plan was to employ a Deer Project Officer and we are deerlighted* to announce that the Tweed Shire Council have appointed Rachel Hughes as the full-time Deer Project Officer until the end of the year with the position co-managed by Tweed Shire Council.

Rachel grew up in Tenterfield, studied Environmental Science at Southern Cross University, is a skilled Project Manager and has first hand experience with feral deer management.

Rachel says "I am looking forward to working with the community, rural landholders and land managers throughout the Tweed, Lismore and Kyogle shires to raise awareness on the presence of feral deer and how to report sightings. This project has long term benefits not only for the greater community but also aims to protect the regions vast natural area assets which contain significant proportion of New South Wales national parks and state forests." She will also work one day per month from the Border Ranges Richmond Valley Landcare Network office in Kyogle starting from the 24th of February so if you are out that way please pop in and say hello, especially if you have seen deer.

If you have any questions about the project Rachel can be contacted on 0421 640523 or 02 6670 2211, email: rhughes@tweed.nsw.gov.au.

From now on until the end of the year we are asking all of the Northern Rivers region to help us out with this project by reporting all sightings of deer to DeerScan www.deerscan.org.au or Local Land Services 1300 795 299.

****Warning: many bad deer puns may be used over the course of this project***



A new 'Friend' for Cudgen Nature Reserve Landcare volunteers

Friends of Cudgen Nature Reserve Landcare, January executive meeting for their Environmental Trust project "Friends improving koala habitat and connectivity on the Tweed Coast" at the site of their Koala rehabilitation site, Burbi, Koala Beach, observed this Koala moving between trees, in the planting area. The Koala was not fazed by "Friends" presence and watched as her photograph was being taken.

"The female Koala was in excellent condition and had been ear tagged and recorded by Friends of Koala in December 2018. The Koala "Freddie" had been trapped in a backyard in Seabreeze, taken in for a vet check and released three days later in Pottsville Environment Park. Two years later she is using the habitat in Koala Beach. It is encouraging to see that the work being done by a number of individuals and groups is having an impact in saving the Tweed Coast Koalas."



A healthy female Koala at the restoration site.
16.1.21. Photo: Jude Locke and Irene Tims

"Friends" are planning a community event at the site in mid 2021 with a range of activities including planting Koala habitat trees, walks, displays to promote Koala and wildlife conservation on the Tweed Coast.

The record has been added to the Atlas of Living Australia under the 'Tweed Koala Sightings' project [here](#)

Interested in Eucalypts with dangerous branches?

Cara Parson's is asking for help from citizen scientists as she undertakes a PhD with ANU (based in Brisbane) looking at the conservation of mature trees in urban areas. "I am currently seeking citizen scientists to assist with a research project I launched towards the end of last year:

<https://fennerschool.anu.edu.au/research/projects/how-many-potentially-dangerous-branches-fall-eucalypts>

I am aiming to quantify the risk associated with branches falling from mature eucalypts across the east coast of Australia. See here for how you can help. Data is able to be collected via ALA (<https://biocollect.ala.org.au/acsa/project/index/6d302fa8-8995-4f42-a85f-5eded54a4cce>)

Southern Pink Underwing Moth - the video

A beautiful video has been created about one of our most elusive local endangered species listed under the EPBC Act. As part of its "Back from the Brink" documentary series Natura Pacific is heading up the project with funding from Dr Bonni Yee, (Conservation Office, Native Plants Queensland). The project will also draw on expertise from retired CSIRO honorary fellow Dr Don Sands OAM. Watch it [here](#)



Adult stage of the Southern Pink Underwing Moth in the Tweed Valley.
Photo: Mark Graham.

NATIVE ANIMAL OF THE MONTH

Brush Turkey (*Alectura lathami*)

By Anthony Hough

Brush Turkey's are an ancient species of bird endemic to eastern Australia. Their range stretches from Far North Queensland to the South Coast of NSW and they've adapted well to life in cities such as Sydney and Brisbane. They are the most ancient living member of the family *Megapodiidae* that dates back 30 million years - A family that also includes quails, chickens, peacocks and pheasants. Their amazingly primitive nesting behaviour involves dumping their eggs in a large nest and abandoning them - a strategy more similar to reptiles than normal birds.



The male Brush Turkeys create large mounds (nests) in order to attract a mate. These nests are made up of soil and leaf litter and can reach roughly the size of a car (4x1.5m). It takes about a month for the male to create his nest that will then be visited by local females for mating/egg-laying. Similar to a large compost heap, the brush turkey's mound generates lots of heat that incubates the eggs. Once the female lays her eggs, she then leaves and only the father sticks around to defend his mound from rivals, but not to raise the babies.

After hatching, the young chicks start scrambling vertically through a metre of compost to reach the surface. They'll grow up without parents to protect them and need to use their instincts to quickly learn how to forage and keep away from predators. Luckily they have the ability to fly almost straight away – (in a few hours or as soon as their wings are dry). Brush Turkeys generally only take to the air to avoid predators or to roost in trees and lack the ability to fly long distances.



The female lays a clutch of around 16-24 eggs per year from September to March. Sometimes a single mound can contain up to 50 eggs produced by multiple females. Generally, a warmer incubation temperature will produce more female chicks and cooler temperatures - more males. The adult male can regulate the temperature of the mound within the desired 33-35 degrees Celsius incubation range by adding or removing leaf litter. He sticks his beak deep into the mound to check the temperature and adjusts accordingly.

During the great depression, the Brush Turkey was a reliable source of meat and eggs for humans when jobs and food became scarce. They were so easy to hunt that they were nearly wiped out

altogether. Their large eggs (90 × 45 mm) are 80% yoke and were so widely used that recipes for brush turkey omelette were noted at the time. The protection of native animals in Australia in 1972 has seen their numbers recover even despite being pushed out of much of their native habitats due to human settlement.

These birds feed on insects, fallen fruits and seeds which are exposed by raking up the leaf litter with their large feet or by breaking open rotten logs. The majority of their food is obtained from the ground, however they have also been observed feeding on ripening fruits among tree branches. In many places in Australia brush turkeys are totems for Indigenous people and significant fines apply for shooting them in NSW. In the Tweed Shire you can often spot them in urban parks and gardens and the well-shaded hind dunes by the coast. What a privilege it is to share our public spaces with such a fascinating, prehistoric specimen.

References

<https://www.birdsinbackyards.net/species/Alectura-lathamii>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2017-01-17/five-reasons-to-love-brush-turkeys/7199724>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australian_brushturkey

<https://mdahlem.net/birds/1/bturkey.php>

<https://haydensanimalfacts.com/2015/04/17/5-interesting-facts-about-australian-brushturkeys/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/dec/08/the-brush-turkey-is-an-aussie-battler-and-it-needs-your-help>

NATIVE PLANT OF THE MONTH

Giant Spear Lily (*Doryanthes palmeri*)

Giant Spear Lily is one of only two species of plant in the genus *Doryanthes* and the family Doryanthaceae, both being endemic to eastern Australia. It was thought to belong to the Agavaceae family until genetic evidence showed that it is younger than the agaves. The other species is the Gynea Lily (*Doryanthes excelsa*) that grows along the central coast of NSW. *Doryanthes palmeri* occurs in the McPherson Ranges and coastal ranges that are part of the Mt Warning Caldera, north from Mt Warning in northern NSW and into southeastern Qld. It grows on infertile soils or on bare rock in a narrow band along cliff tops and faces next to subtropical rainforest, warm temperate forest and wet sclerophyll forest on exposed rocky outcrops.



Giant Spear Lily in flower. Photo: Black Diamond Images 2011

It is listed as a 'Vulnerable' threatened species in NSW because of its limited distribution as it is only known from eleven sites within NSW, five of which are conservation reserves. Most populations consist of only a few hundred individuals.

It is a succulent herb that grows in a rosette with sword-like leaves to 3m tall and spread to 4m wide. The leaves are ribbed to provide structural support. It flowers in late winter to spring producing a flowering stalk, called a scape, which can grow to 5m tall with up to 350 flowers.

Unlike the other species in this genus (*Doryanthes excelsa*) the *Doryanthes palmeri* stalk droops rather than standing upright due to the weight of the flowers. Individual flowers are red or reddish-orange and are up to 10 cm in diameter. It is pollinated by birds, which are attracted to its bright red flowers. The fruit is egg-shaped and 7- 9 cm long.



Photo: Ruth Bancroft Gardens

Roasted *Doryanthes* flower spikes were used as a food source for Indigenous Australians and the roots were mashed into a pulp and made into cakes. Giant Spear Lily is an excellent garden species due to its hardiness and striking red flower spikes. Although it does need well drained soil in full sun or partial shade and regular watering.

References

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspeciesapp/profile.aspx?id=10249>
<http://www.anbg.gov.au/gnp/interns-2012/doryanthes-palmeri.html>
<https://alchetron.com/Doryanthes-palmeri#doryanthes-palmeri-79ba0c24-f056-42e5-8287-80aa2f94ade-resize-750.jpeg>

WEED OF THE MONTH

Giant Devil's Fig (*Solanum chrysotrichum*)

Devil is the right word for this shocker weed of the Tweed. Giant Devil's Fig is believed to have been introduced to northern NSW, from Mexico and Central America, around 1980 as a rootstock for grafting eggplants. Forty years later this plant is unfortunately past the point of eradication and is now becoming naturalised throughout the Tweed Valley. It requires ongoing control from landholders to manage it on their property to stop it spreading locally and forming impenetrable thickets. The seed is spread by water, cattle, birds and bats and is an invader of bare, disturbed soil along watercourses, tracks, roadsides and paddocks where there is little or no ground cover.



Giant Devil's Fig. Photo: Brisbane City Council

It can be identified by the large, deeply lobed leaves. The roots are incredibly vigorous from a young age as are the prickles that become sharp, woody thorns as the plant matures. The curved thorns are tough enough to scratch the hide of cattle leaving festering wounds and there are reports that the plant's toxins can poison livestock.



Giant Devil's fig thorns (Photo: NSW WeedWise)

It is best controlled before it seeds (usually late Spring and Summer) to reduce further spread. Each fruit or berry contains numerous, highly viable seeds. When young, with only a few leaves, it can be hand pulled wearing gloves and using a trowel to ensure all of the roots are removed. Once the plant has adult leaves it can be harder to hand weed successfully and targeted herbicide application onto the cut stump/scrape and paint is recommended. You can use Glyphosate 360g/L at a ratio of 1 part glyphosate to 1.5 parts water (preferably with dye to see where you have worked) and metsulfuron methyl at the rate of 1g metsulfuron to 1L of water to ensure an effective kill. Cut the stem flat close to the ground leaving only a short stem. Scrape down the side of the remaining stem with secateurs or a knife down to the roots and apply the herbicide mix in a spray or dripper bottle to the cut stump and scrape line. The scraping provides a greater surface area to enable more herbicide to enter the plant. For larger plants or small trees they can be drilled and injected with the same mix.



Flowers and fruit. Photo: Lucid Central)



Still images of instructional weed control videos by Tweed Landcare



These targeted techniques are more effective than spraying as they are a lot less likely to kill species like grasses and native plants that form important ground cover which prevents giant devil's figs from reestablishing. For a demonstration on these techniques and how to prepare the herbicide mixes you can watch the videos on the Tweed Landcare website here: <https://tweedlandcare.org.au/resources/>

References

<https://weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au/weeds/giant-devils-fig>

<https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/Details/311>

https://apps.lucidcentral.org/ppp_v9/text/web_full/entities/devils_fig_444.htm

Got weeds? Send in a photo to help develop new CISS weed ID app

Identifying a weed is one of the most important components in understanding how to best take action. Researchers from the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions, CSIRO and NSW DPI are currently in the process of building a weeds ID smart phone app where you will be able to point and shoot, and the app will then give you an idea of what the weed is you need you to manage, and more importantly how to manage it.

However, to build the app, the research team need to teach the system AND photos are the data! They are seeking photos of weeds, which you can easily send us using the online form [here](#). On this same webpage you can learn more about the types of photos needed for each species and how your photos will be used. The photos don't need to be professionally shot but the plant does need to be clearly identifiable, so it is best to not have other plants obstructing parts of the stem, leaves or flowers. If necessary, bend other vegetation out of the way to make a clear view of the subject plant.

FERAL ANIMALS OF THE MONTH

Help protect the Tweed Shire - report sightings of new Pests & Cane Toads

by Emma Sawyer and Peter West

The Tweed Shire has a unique range of plant and animal species which may come under threat if new pest animals become established in the local area, such as red-eared slider turtles and American corn snakes. Furthermore, if cane toads become even more established, it will be difficult to manage their populations into the future. These highly invasive species can also affect human health, domestic pets, tourism, the economy, and essential agricultural industries within the Tweed Shire district.

Your help is needed to keep the Tweed Shire safe by reporting any sightings of these pest species. FeralScan provides a free website and mobile App to help communities such as those living in the Tweed Shire report possible sightings of these high risk non-native animals.

Please keep an eye out for these animals in your local area. If you spot one in the wild, please:

- Take several [clear photographs](#) of the animal from different angles; and
- Report the sighting using the [New-Pest Reporter](#) or [ToadScan website](#) or [mobile App](#), and upload your images.

Please visit the FeralScan website <https://www.feralscan.org.au/default.aspx> to learn how to identify these high-risk species. If you find a suspected non-native animal, please hold or contain the animal if safe to do so, until a positive identification can be made. The NSW Department of Primary Industries will be notified of your report and can assist with species identification. Alternatively, please contact the NSW Non-Native Animal Hotline on 1800 680 244.

If you would like more information, please contact us via feralscan@feralscan.org.au or visit the website for further details.



Native to the USA, the red-eared slider is a freshwater turtle with a distinctive red stripe behind each ear. Red-eared sliders are very aggressive and will out-compete native species for food and space. The IUCN lists the red-eared slider as one of the world's 100 worst invasive alien species.



American corn snake



Cane toad

Feral rabbit population 'surge' predicted across Australia thanks to La Niña rainfall

Already this year many landholders and community groups are seeing rabbit population sizes surge with the current weather conditions. Andreas Glanzig, CEO of the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions, has affirmed that the wetter La Niña weather cycle and resulting vegetation growth means more rabbits and greater rabbit impacts. You can read the [full article here](#). He said rabbits remained "the most costly feral pest in Australia", financially and environmentally. "They impact agriculture to the tune of over \$216 million per year in lost agricultural productivity," Mr Glanzig said.



More rain means more vegetation and an explosion in rabbit numbers.

Rabbit populations inevitably ebb and flow in response to environmental conditions– [read more here](#). A key point is that even though rabbit numbers tend to increase over spring and early summer, most land managers are advised to hold back the release of calicivirus biocontrol agents until Autumn to stop inadvertent immunisation of young rabbits. In a bid to combat genetic resistance, Mr Glanzig's team has started to look at new genetic biocontrol technologies. But it could be a decade or two before it's available. Read more about it on ABC news [here](#)

Cane Toadpole trapping workshop is back!

Watergum has joined forces with Tweed Shire Council to bring effective cane toad control to your door. **The Cane Toad Challenge is a revolutionary method of cane toad control that uses the toad's own toxins against them.** It involves;

- Collecting adult cane toads through toad-busting activities
- The trapping of tadpoles in tadpole traps using lures made from cane toad glands.

Our first enrolment evening was a great success, despite the terrible weather! Our next event will be held in Murwillumbah at Murwillumbah Services Memorial Club on Wednesday, February 17th 6:30pm – 8:00pm. You can register for tickets at [Cane Toad Challenge Tweed Shire – Watergum](#). The event will tell you everything you need to know about how to use the traps and lures effectively and you can purchase traps for \$30 on the day, lures are FREE!



For those of you who have frozen toads to donate to the cause, you can drop them off to us at Murwillumbah Services Memorial Club on Commercial Road between 5:30pm and 8pm on Wednesday, February 17th. Please just flick us a quick email to let us know if you intend to pop by so we know to expect you. info@watergum.org

Find out more about Watergum's Cane Toad Challenge by visiting the [Watergum Website](#)

Agriprove helping farmers to build soils

Our Soil Carbon project partners Agriprove are hosting a series of soil growing webinars every Wednesday until mid March. Register [here](#) if you want to participate or if you missed the first two episodes you can watch them on the website here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZF549jDEK4>



GROW TOP SOILS

THE SCIENCE OF SOIL CARBON

WEBINAR SERIES

WEDNESDAYS

**3 FEBRUARY –
17 MARCH 2021**

Online via Zoom
Seven-part series
12 – 1pm

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

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FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact AgriProve
at 1300 467 645
(1300 GO SOIL) or
team@agriprove.io

DISCOVER HOW TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF
YOUR SOILS AND GROW SOIL CARBON WITH
SOIL SCIENTIST DECLAN MCDONALD.

Declan will dig into the science behind growing soil organic carbon, how to implement regenerative management techniques, and how to monitor and measure your success. Improving soil health and building soil carbon can improve the productivity of your soils, and you can earn carbon credits for the carbon you produce.

Declan is a professional soil scientist with over 30 years' experience in agricultural and horticultural soil management and has extensive experience in regenerative agriculture in NSW, Victoria and Tasmania.

The seven-part webinar series will support farmers participating in or interested in a soil carbon project. The series will cover best practice conventional and regenerative soil management to suit your soils, climate and enterprise.

Sessions will be interactive to answer all your questions on soil carbon. The series will support all farmers to better understand their soils, however there will be a focus on grazing systems in moderate to high rainfall zones.

The series is hosted by AgriProve, a soil carbon project developer that facilitates landholder participation in the Emissions Reduction Fund, enabling farmers to earn an income from carbon abatement activities.

WEEKLY OVERVIEW

- 3 February** How soil works and how plants grow
- 10 February** Organic matter – the cornerstone of soil health and sustainable production
- 17 February** Soil biology – millions of years in the making
- 24 February** Mineral management – the role of macro and micro elements
- 3 March** Managing fertility to build soil carbon
- 10 March** Management practices to grow soil carbon
- 17 March** Bringing it all together – monitoring and evaluation



Farm Water Planning Webinar

Local Land Services recently hosted an online interactive webinar, where landholders could learn and ask questions about Farm Water Planning. If you missed this webinar you can see it here <https://youtu.be/wPDkGPhngKo>



Good dam management is imperative to farm infrastructure and will improve the productivity of your farm. A clean and well functioning dam has many benefits including healthy stock, good irrigation systems for your property and habitat for native wildlife.

The webinar discussed a number of topics, including: Determining harvestable rights, Sizing farm dams, Planning farm dams, Estimating catchment areas, Estimating earth in dam walls, Building a dam and Managing dams

Some helpful tips on dam management brought up in the webinar included: licensing requirements for farm dams, fencing out your dam and control stock to reduce erosion and improve water quality, how to construct silt traps upstream of dam and maintain vegetated area to capture sediment, managing stock and many other well detailed particulars on successful dam management.

If you prefer a podcast you can listen to Episode 7 of the *Land Life* Podcast that supports landholders to better plan their farm water infrastructure. See here:

<https://www.ils.nsw.gov.au/regions/north-coast/key-projects/land-life-podcast-series>

Important survey for rural stewardship funding investigation by the Australian Centre for Agriculture and Law at UNE

Landcare NSW, the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative, Gondwana Links, and The Nature Conservancy have partnered with the Australian Centre for Agriculture & Law at the University of New England, to investigate better models for funding the protection or restoration of rural environments. As funding is a constant challenge for rural environmental work, this is an important issue. Part of the project is to gain reliable frontline intelligence from community based groups and from landholders who are involved conservation or restoration work.

- For individual landholders to access the survey [CLICK HERE](#)
- For community groups to access the survey [CLICK HERE](#)



We encourage all landholders and community groups to contribute to this important research. It involves surveys which are completely voluntary and responses are kept confidential. There is also the option to participate by phone, Skype or Zoom, see details below.

The project has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of the University of New England (Approvals No HE20-176, Valid to 30/11/2021, and No. HE20-175, Valid to 9/12/2021). For more information please contact Professor Paul Martin at pmartin9@une.edu.au or on 0416 015 161, or Dr Andrew Lawson at andrew.lawson@une.edu.au or on (02) 6773 3551.

Introduction to: regenerative holistic planned grazing & farm business financial management courses

The one-day introductory grazing workshop on the 9th March will take you through the why and how of regenerative holistic planned grazing.

We will cover the impacts we can have to improve our land, produce great livestock, and improve profit. Regenerative Holistic Planned Grazing is not just for large scale grazing operations but is for anyone who grazes animals and wishes to improve plant growth and soil health using techniques and approach originally pioneered by Allan Savory.



The workshop will cover the following:

- Holistic decision making and how it relates to Regenerative Holistic Planned Grazing,
- What sustains us & how we use grazing to improve the processes that underpin our production systems,
- How we manage within a complex environment and life,
- Understand the principles of regenerative grazing management,
- Practical feed budgeting and create a basic grazing and monitoring

Regenerative Farm Business Financial Management on the 10th March The one-day introductory Regenerative Farm Business Financial Management workshop is aimed at getting you started on a process of improvement of your financial literacy and working to improve the performance and management of your farm business.

The workshop will cover the following:

- Get a handle on the financial performance of your business.
- Learn about Management accounting and how to monitor your performance.
- See why we need to create a true business model for our farm.
- Use a simple financial planning method ensure you make a profit.
- Improving your performance by focusing on the profit drivers.
- Learn how we can determine where you need to focus your efforts.
- Create an action plan to improve your profit drivers.

Your Trainer: Glen Chapman of Southern Blue Regenerative. Glen has been working in regenerative farming for over 20 years and is an accredited Field Professional in Holistic Management with the Savory Institute. As well as having worked with leading consulting firms as a trainer and facilitator, he has travelled internationally researching regenerative farming practices and brings this knowledge and his varied strategic business management experience to helping you apply the learning from the workshop.

Along with training, educating and sharing his passion for regenerative agriculture, he and his wife run Tarinore Farm near Armidale on the Northern Tablelands of NSW, applying the principles themselves and supplying meat to their local region.

Visit the website <https://www.southernblue.com.au/> for more information.

Latest update from the Farmer's Markets!

by Sue Beckinsale (Market Manager)

What's Great and Seasonal in February?

This is the season for tropical fruit in the Northern Rivers. And what wonderful varieties of tropical fruit are popping up each week from mangoes (Kensington Pride, R2E2 and Nam Doc's) and papaya to dragon fruit and carambola. And during February we will see amazing jackfruit popping up at Jumping Red Ant stall as well as mamey sapote. Such diversity means we can become even more creative with our meals.

In addition **Blueberry Fields** returned to our market in January with blueberries, raspberries (low supply but building up as the raspberry season deepens) and the most delicious blackberries.

By the end of February we will see Australia's favourite apple back! New season **Royal Gala apples** signal the arrival of the new apple season in Australia and they will be back at the market late in the month. Nothing compares to the crisp texture and sweet flavour of new season apples straight from the Costanzo family orchard in Stanthorpe – the place so well known for producing the best Royal Gala apples in Australia.

Bio Organic Farm has amazingly good capsicum for this time of year due to their greenhouse growing techniques and **Summit Organics** has some wonderfully less common summer greens such as Egyptian spinach and water spinach (kang kong). They still have many of their regular greens and fabulous fresh sprouts and their new season sweet potatoes will be abundant during February.

For a weekly update we have a **Weekly Newsletter that goes live between 1.00 and 3.00 pm** every Monday with all the market news for the week plus some recipes to inspire. You can sign up for the newsletter so it automatically lands in your "in box" each Monday at <https://mailchi.mp/aa38e35403cc/murwillumbahfarmersmarket>

STAY WELL EVERYONE

What's New page at <https://murwillumbahfarmersmarket.com.au/whats-new/>



Blue Sky Dreaming

“ It seems to me that people have vast potential. Most people can do extraordinary things if they have the confidence or take the risks. Yet most people don't. They sit in front of the telly and treat life as if it goes on forever.

Phillip Adams

NSW Environmental Trust Strategic Plan 2020-2024

The Environmental Trust's recent strategic review resulted in a new strategic plan for 2020-24. This outlines new immediate priorities of climate change, increasing national park estate and increasing and stabilising threatened species populations, as well as new longer-term priorities. Check it out here:

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/environmental-trust-strategic-plan-2020-24>



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife grants

Closing: 26th February 2021.

FNPW invites grant applications for conservation projects for up to \$10,000. The purpose of our Community Conservation Grants is to assist in the protection of our native species,



**Foundation for
National Parks
& Wildlife**

habitats, landscapes and cultural heritage. Grants are available for both field projects and education programs that have a direct outcome for nature conservation in Australia. All proposals are evaluated by FNPW's Projects Committee based on funding priorities, funds available and quality and quantity of projects submitted.

FNPW may support approved projects through untied funds that belong to FNPW, or it may choose to run a targeted public appeal or seek third party sponsorship for the project. FNPW Community Conservation Grants aim to fund urgent and high priority projects in the following Focus Areas:

- Healing our Land - Protection, restoration, rehabilitation and revegetation of degraded habitats to ensure their ability to sustain native species.
- Saving Species - Scientific research with tangible conservation outcomes and onground works to conserve Australia's threatened species
- Indigenous Heritage - Conserving and celebrating Australia's indigenous heritage as part of the gift we leave to future generations.
- Growing Parks - Improving National Park facilities for the enjoyment of all, to foster and encourage the appreciation of nature.

Applications that show value for money and include co-contributions will be given preference. In some instances part-funding may be offered. <https://www.fnpw.org.au/grants/conservation-project-grants>

Fencing grants

The NSW Government has committed \$209 million to help bushfire affected landholders with the cost of rebuilding boundary fences adjoining public lands. Private landholders who share a boundary with public land and were impacted by the Northern and Southern fires of late 2019 and early 2020 are eligible to receive up to \$5,000 per kilometre to contribute to the replacement of damaged boundary fences.



**Local Land
Services**

<https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/what-we-do/our-major-projects/supporting-our-neighbours-public-land-boundary-fencing-program>

Getting Hands On

Who wants to spend more time in nature this month?

Where & when you'll find our Tweed Locality Groups

Bilambil Landcare

Contact: Gary Austin - 0427 269 486

Every Tuesday 9am

Meet at corner of Biral Cl and Bilambil Road, Bilambil.

Burringbar Community Landcare

Contact: Sally Fitzgerald - 0421 081 088

Second and Fourth Sunday 8.30–10.30am

Meet next to Masterton Park, Main St.

Byrrill Creek Landcare

Contact: Joanna Gardner - 02 6679 7039

Second Sunday 9am–1pm

Meet at Pretty Gully, 564 Byrrill Creek Rd, Byrrill Ck.

Cabarita Beach Dunecare

Contact: Faye Nash - 02 6676 2331

1st Saturday 8:30–11am, 2nd Wednesday 9–10:30am

Meet at shipping container just south of the Primary School.

Contact: Annie Pollard - 0415 896 949

3rd Tuesday 1–3pm

Meet at Cabarita Sports and Bowls Club (nursery)

Casuarina Beach Dunecare

Contact: Ross Pierce - 02 6674 2788

Generally weekly but no specific day/time.

Working from track 1 south.

Chillingham Landcare

Contact: Judy White - 02 6679 1467

or 0488 693 852

4th Sunday 8.30–10.30am

Fingal Head Coastcare

Contact: Kay Bolton - 0402 839 479

Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8–11am, Saturday 9am–12 noon

Meet at Coastcare nursery off the lighthouse track.

Friends of Cudgen Nature Reserve

Contact: Chris Core - 0407 762 108

or John McDonagh - 0421 657 960

Second Saturday 8–10am

Meet at Sliprails Rd or Clothiers Creek Rd

Friends of Travis on the Oxley

Contact: Kim Stephan - 0418 692 442

or Tanya Fountain - 02 6670 2587

Third Saturday 3–5pm

Meet at southern side of Travis Campbell Park, on the riverbank

Friends of Wollumbin

Contact: Roland - 0417 253 767

or Ian - 02 6679 5441

1st Saturday 8am–12 noon

Kyogle Road, Byangum, 3 km south of Byangum bridge, at the green container on Tweed River.

3rd Thursday 8am–12 noon

Kyogle Road, Byangum, 1 km south of Byangum bridge on the new planting site.

Hastings Point Dunecare

Contact: Arthur Good (Goody) - 02 6676 0880

or 0428 760 000

Every Tuesday and Thursday 7–9am

Meet at shipping container on Tweed Coast Road just north of North Star Holiday Park

Hospital Hill Landcare

Contact: Nola Firth - 0419 200 971

1st Saturday 8.30–10.30am

Meet at parking area near old quarry, Karrumul St, Murwillumbah.

Island Drive Landcare

Contact: Clare Alchin - 0438 559 049

1st Thursday 9.00–11.00am

Meet at main carpark, Keith Curran Reserve, Island Drive, Tweed Heads

Contact: Corinne Jackson - 0450 490 266

1st Sunday of the month (time varies depending on season).

Meet main carpark, Keith Curran Reserve

Kingscliff Community Dunecare

Contact: Peter Langley - 02 6674 5362

or Al Stewart - 0499 681 693

Tuesday and Thursday 9–11am

Currently meeting on south side of Cudgen Creek, near the Toilet Block. This changes as worksite moves.

Pottsville Community Dunecare

Contact: Bill Hoskins - 0431 712 726

Every Monday 7–9am (except April)

Mooball Beach dunes - exact location determined Wednesday before.

Upper Duroby Landcare

Contact: Jan Sinclair - 07 5590 9826 or Lee Perkins 0410 430 923

2nd Sunday 2–4pm