

Landcare News



Winter Newsletter

August 2016

Chairs Report

Already August and the beginning of a new financial year – things are looking very good for Bellinger Landcare again: Kara is getting better and is planning to return to work fully by the end of August.

Natasha has found her Bellinghen feet and is enjoying working on a number of projects. Amanda has brought much order and system into the office and Kylie is contributing her graphic design skills to the Bellinger Landholder booklet. To top all this off, our executive committee is very engaged with each member finding and taking up their reins.

And as per usual, our politicians have not had much to say about the environment, no promises made, so we just carry on at our local level and do the best we can.

That means a continuation of our partnerships in the Jaligiirr Biodiversity Alliance, with Local Land Services and with Bellinger Shire Council.

The team in our office is preparing for a busy year ahead and small projects are being developed under the LLS Targeted Landcare program. A number of workshops are planned for August and we are discussing options for upcoming funding rounds at State and Federal level as well as through our Council Environmental Levy.

While this planning is all about financial support, it is very important to keep in mind how much we can achieve in our own backyards and with our own pair of hands. I have been restoring an urban garden in Bellinger over the past three weeks and am overwhelmed by garden weeds. Our farmers always complain that weeds take up so much of their time – try garden escapees, I find them much worse (see p. 5 for workshop on garden escapees) And I haven't come home without a tiny tick on my body on any day yet.

Please take the time to read the information about tick-borne disease (p. 4) and follow the advice! Tick-borne disease can have a huge impact on your life.

On that note, I wish you lots of happy landcaring,

Pia Dollmann

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North Bank Road—June 5th floods



Bellinger
Landcare
Inc.



Recent Events

Hosted by the North Coast Local Land Services and facilitated by George Negus, this was an interesting mix of presenters and ideas. A Welcome to Country by Mark Flanders, local Gumbaynggir Elder, was a definite highlight and almost all the key note addresses mentioned how much they enjoyed Mark's ability to take us on a journey through his country. As always one walks away feeling slightly despondent about how we can make a difference, but the overall energy of all the delegates was one of



great enthusiasm. With the final thought that the Triple Bottom Line should also include 'Culture'. Some of the highlights were as follows: Dr Peter Ellyard is Australia's most prominent futurist. He is also a strategist, speaker and author. Peter's address was interesting for its positive spin on future-making, as he called it. His address was off the cuff and I can't seem to recall much of what he said, he was almost too entertaining. Dr Darryl Low Chow, on the other hand (a professor of Environmental and Landscape Planning and the former Head of Discipline Planning, Griffith University) looked at competing land use in Australia. Unlike many overseas situations, land use rights on freehold lands in the Australian context are conferred by the statutory land use planning system and not as a right of land ownership. Consequently, it is argued that the challenges of dealing with competing land uses in this country must be addressed through the statutory planning system. However, under the Australian constitution, the States essentially hold the power and hence have the responsibility for statutory land use planning and consequently, planning systems vary from state to state. His presentation addressed possible ways forward to improve the critical nexus between natural resource management and statutory land use planning.

Another interesting session was Max Kitchell's discussion on the working model of a National Environmental Account, which is essentially an attempt to provide an account of Australia's environmental assets / natural resources. Devised by the Wentworth Group of Scientists, it is meant to allow for future investment into our resources. Although perhaps controversial as it places a price on nature, they argue that we have to work with the existing economic paradigm and if you can't measure it, you can't manage it. If nothing else, being able to see trends in the condition of an asset like native vegetation either improving or deteriorating in a region, will be critical for prioritising NRM investment in the future.

A number of these papers are available on the website for download. They are however in Power Point mode so are quite abbreviated but provide further links to supplement their content. <http://www.conference.nrmregionsaustralia.com.au/presentations-2016.php>. BLI would like to thank NCLLS for providing funding for me to attend. Natasha English

News

Launch of Bellinger Landcare Website!



[Home](#) [History of Landcare](#) [Resources](#) [Events](#) [Regional Landcare](#) [Get Involved](#) [Projects](#) [Contact](#)



www.bellingerlandcare.org.

The new Bellinger Landcare website will be our main tool for keeping you informed of what we are up to in 2016 and beyond.

We also hope to feature landholders, who might be willing to share their story of rehabilitating or improving the land on which they live. You could be inspiring others and knowledge could be valuable to the next person.

There will be links to all kinds of resources including youtube channels that demonstrate various NRM activities or projects.

You can now fill in the **Landholder Expression of Interest** forms [online](#). Become a **Landcare Member** and be involved in volunteers days, news and events, sign up [online](#) now.

The site is live now. We would welcome your feedback and input of course and in particular an opportunity to promote your events/working bees.



News

TICKS

'Do Australian ticks pose a greater health risk than we thought? For people suffering from Lyme-like disease, it's a controversial mystery that science has so far been unable to resolve. For the first time, microbes inside native Aussie ticks are being probed, leading to new discoveries which may reveal the causes of unexplained illnesses in the future' Taken from the ABC Website go to <http://www.abc.net.au/catalyst/stories/4494187.htm> . If you missed this story on tick illness in Australia it is worth watching.



Ticks and tick-borne diseases (Reproduced here from: *Ticks and tick-borne diseases protecting yourself* (A review of current information for bush regenerators, bush workers and people who love the bush. Australian Association of Bush Regenerators Edition 2 May 2014)

Review by Lynn Rees and Virginia Bear The study of tick-borne diseases (TBD) is still an emerging science in Australia, but ticks are known to spread diseases such as tick typhus and Lyme disease. Don't panic if you get a tick bite, because most tick bites, although annoying, won't make you sick. However because recognition, testing and treatment for various TBD is poor, we need to be vigilant in reducing the number of tick bites, and in treating bites effectively as soon as possible.

Which ticks carry diseases? There are between 751 and 902 species of tick in Australia. The paralysis tick, *Ixodes holocyclus*, appears to be responsible for most bites to humans on the east coast of Australia. However scientific knowledge of the disease carrying potential of different species is limited, so any tick bite may be considered a potential source of tick-borne diseases (TBD). The brown dog tick *Rhipicephalus sanguineus* and the bush tick *Haemaphysalis longicornis* were brought into Australia in the 1890's and they have been shown to harbour Borrelia: the bacteria which causes Lyme disease. For more information visit the AABR website to read the whole document <http://www.aabr.org.au/site/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/AABR-Ticks-and-tick-borne-diseases-protecting->



Bellinger Landcare Seeking Traps



Have you borrowed an Indian Myna trap from Bellinger Landcare in years gone by? It would be good if we could collect them all again as there is the potential to generate some support for a project to eradicate Indian Myna's. Please let us know and we can arrange collection or you can drop it back to our office at **1a Oak Street. Phone 66550588.**

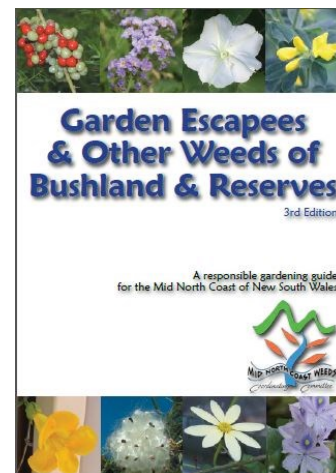
Upcoming Events

8th August - Garden Escapees Bush Regeneration Workshop

On Monday morning 8th August, Bellinger Landcare in conjunction with the Showground Trust funded by Bellinger Council, will be running a bush regeneration workshop at the Showground, with Kim Cheney focusing on how to manage 'garden escapees' and what to plant once they are controlled.

The workshop will include a demonstration of **steam weed control strategies**, and question time. It will run from 9am to 11.30am.

Please register by phoning Bellinger Landcare on 6655 0588, or emailing; belland@westnet.com.au.



11th August– Celebration of Wattle Field Day

Come celebrate Bellinger's very own endemic Newry Golden Wattle (*Acacia chrysotricha*). The field day is a chance to see the Threatened Species Restoration Habitat Project and learn about its population dynamics, fire ecology and threats to population decline. Key speakers Martin Smith (NPWS) and Damian Arnold (EnvITE) will guide you through the spectacular natural environs of Jaanninga Nature Reserve.

Meet at Bellinger Landcare Office at 1a Oak St Bellingen at 8.30am to car pool. Return to Bellingen by 12.30pm. *Light refreshments provided.*

For further details and to register for the Field Day contact: Mick Webb at EnvITE Environment on 6650 9170 or 0428665061 or mickw@envite.org.au



27th August - Bush Regeneration Workshop



We will be running a second bush regeneration workshop, this time in a fragile coastal environment, on Saturday morning 27th August, with funding allocated by Landcare Australia. Joe Losurdo will be demonstrating the basic techniques of bush regeneration as well as identifying weeds. He will run through the use and care of the most common tools found in a bush regenerators tool belt, and will talk through approaches to revegetation.

The workshop will run from 9am to 11.30am at Alma Doepel Reserve, opposite the shop in Mylestom, and includes a morning tea with question time.

The Mylestom workshop will be limited to 20 places, so it is crucial for you to register by calling the Bellinger Landcare office on 6655 0588, or emailing belland@westnet.com.au.

Upcoming Events

21st September



Further your knowledge and engage with your fellow Landcarers at the 2016 National Landcare Conference and Awards. We invite you, our Landcarers to join us in Melbourne for three days of knowledge sharing, insightful discussion, as well as informative presentations by pioneers, leaders of NRM bodies, scientists, academics, government, and environmental, climate and biodiversity experts.

Based around the theme 'Collaborative Communities – Landcare in Action', the diverse conference programme will provide you with; robust discussion, opportunities to network with your peers, and insights from community leaders and innovators on the latest trends and technologies driving the industry.

Delegates are also invited to experience local natural resource management across Victoria, firsthand – where this year Victorians celebrate 30 years of Landcare – through a number of field trips to sites and projects.

Early bird registration for the National Landcare Conference and Awards is now open and will close on Friday 29 July 2016.

The field trip program will be published in the coming weeks and will take place on Wednesday 21 September 2016 with the conference program taking place between Thursday 22 – Friday 23 September 2016.

In collaboration with National Landcare Network and NRM Regions Australia. Supported by Landcare Australia through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program and the Victorian Government.

Upcoming Events

30th September - October Long Weekend



BELLINGEN TURTLE FESTIVAL

The Bellingen Turtle Festival is a MUSIC, ARTS and ENVIRONMENTAL GATHERING, to raise awareness and funding to support the recovery of the Bellingen River Snapping Turtle (*Myuchelys georgesi*).

Bellingen Landcare will be running a workshop at THE POND tent on the Saturday and launching our free landholder booklet. It is vital that we, as a community get on board as we all need to ensure the health of the Bellingen River in order for the survival of *George* the turtle.



This event will be the first of more workshops to follow. It is part of our NSW Environmental Trust Education Grant, promoting river health for the Bellingen River. Bellingen Landcare also be launching our new Landholder Booklet promoting riparian health for the Bellingen River.



Come along and be a part of this unique 3 day festival. Book in for your early bird ticket sales for the Bellingen Turtle Festival, this October long weekend.

<http://bellingenturtlefest.com.au/>

TurtleSAT

Don't forget to use your citizen science skills and report any freshwater turtle sightings to TurtleSAT.org.au

Australia's freshwater turtles are under serious threat, just as we saw last year with the decline of the Bellinger River Snapping Turtle (*Myuchelys georgesi*). Freshwater turtles need our help for survival. TurtleSAT is a website where communities can map the location of freshwater turtles in their local area.

You can assist in data collection by recording where you see turtles, where you see their nests, where they are seen or killed on the road, or evidence of turtles (such as skeletal remains).



Contact Us

Bellinger Landcare

1a Oak St
Bellinger 2454

(02) 6655 0588

belland@westnet.com.au

Visit us on the web at our
NEW website

www.bellingerlandcare.com.au

MYRiveR Bellinger

MYRiveR Bellinger involves local high schools in citizen science to investigate river health and plan what they can do to help bring the Bellinger River Snapping Turtle back from the brink. Bello youth will present their vision and plans during the Bellinger Turtle Festival .

Visit www.ozgreen.org/my_river to find out more.



Landcare Group - Health Check

We are currently trying to trace active and inactive **LANDCARE Groups** in the area. We want to gather information to help with funding applications, community engagement and update our volunteer databases. We would like to find out where you need support and feed this back to Landcare NSW.

Please fill in the 'Group health check' form on our new website at www.bellingerlandcare.com.au or drop into our office at 1a Oak St, Bellinger, please call us first to make sure we are here. The nature of our work takes us out into the landscape quite frequently.



This newsletter is produced by the Bellinger Landcare Office with assistance received in funding from North Coast Local Land Services. Whilst every effort is made to publish accurate and up to date information, BLI and its employees do not accept responsibility for inaccuracies and or opinions that may be expressed in this newsletter.



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