

# Landcare News



Autumn Newsletter

May 2016

## Chairs Report

I am so pleased to get a newsletter underway and hopefully reach most, if not all, our members and interested associates. We decided to go digital but by all means, anyone who can not manage by email and computer, please let us know and we will send you a hard copy through the mail.

As some of you may know, it has been a difficult and busy time here at the Bellinger Landcare office. Our ever so capable and keen landcare officer Kara Smith has been very ill with a tick-borne disease. She has been on and off work since November 2015 and is struggling to keep her spirits up. So lucky that we have Natasha now who was able to pick up most of the pieces and get on with managing the projects we have committed to. However, the workload is too large for one person and we are currently recruiting for a casual to fill the gaps.

We have lots of news for you and most of it is good:

We have funding from the NSW government under the Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative which will help to keep the doors open and to offer more support again to our membership and organisational matters.

We have two new landcare groups on the coast at Urunga and at Mylestom and we were able to support each of those with some project funding, Urunga from the Bellinger Council Environmental Levy and Mylestom through a project with North Coast Local Land Services. The executive committee has started to develop a strategic plan for Bellinger Landcare, which we hope to finalise by the end this year.

We have put much time and effort into developing an up-to-date membership list and we ask you all to let us know how you would like to be involved with Bellinger Landcare. If you want to unsubscribe from this newsletter, please let us know.

Our regular office hours are currently Tuesday to Friday. Please call in or phone up to stay in touch.

Looking forward to a moist autumn hopefully.

*Pia Dollmann,*  
Chairperson Bellinger Landcare

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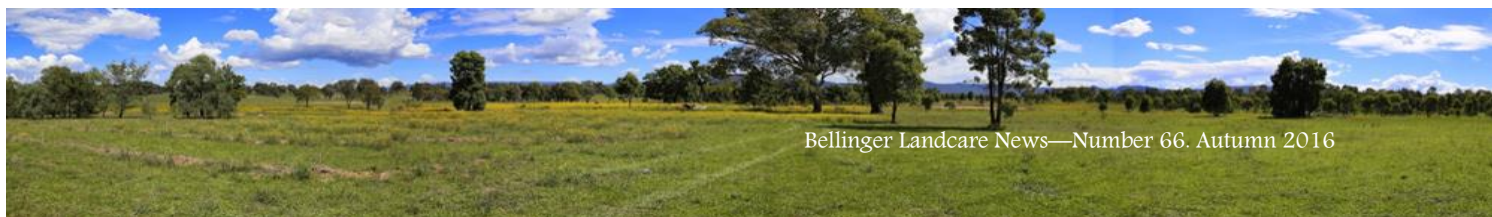
## New Regional Landcare Facilitator

Stepping into the role of North Coast Regional Landcare Facilitator is Chrysy Clay.

Chrysy will be a familiar face for many people, having worked in the region for the past 17 years in a number of natural resource management and sustainable agriculture roles. A long-term local, Chrysy grew up on the banks of the Orara River near Coutts Crossing; where her love for the environment first began.

She is best known for her work in acid sulfate soils, and previously

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# Project Update



Mylestom  
Landcare

## Landcare Work at Mylestom

A group of volunteers has come together to work in bushland in the village of Mylestom. They are just about to start work in Alma Doepel Reserve where the Darrunda Wajaar team of Coffs Harbour Local Abo-



original Land Council have started to control some of the difficult weeds. Coral trees are a big challenge here, as well as cactus, ground asparagus and much more.

The volunteers will concentrate on planting the riverbank where Coral trees have been treated to stabilise the bank as best as possible. They will also work on the vine weeds such as Morning Glory. The reserve is an arboretum of garden escapees and poorly planned plantings but also has much native vegetation which will regenerate when given the chance. Volunteers don't need to be Mylestom residents to join in. If you are interested, please call the office for contact details.

## Bush regeneration on Forestry land

In this second last year of Jaliigirr, we have two new sites for bush regeneration work on forestry land. Bellinger Landcare partnered with Forest Corporation of NSW to re-introduce biodiversity into areas of plantation forest on the edges of Bellingen at Hospital Hill and behind the Bellingen cemetery. Both sites are hardwood plantations which were not harvested and are now available to become more diverse forests for the benefit of wildlife, and in the case of the Cemetery Block, public recreation.

EnviTE, also a partner in the Jaliigirr Biodiversity Alliance, was contracted to send in a team of bush regenerators at North Bellingen to control weeds with a priority on Camphor Laurel, Lantana and Small-leaved Privet. This will prepare some ground to plant 1000 trees supplied by Forestry Corporation's nursery to increase the biodiversity of the native forest area, and to provide for Koala food. The area connects identified Koala habitat at North Bellingen and Hydes Creek.

This project is supported by North Coast Local Land Services through funding from the Australian Government.



**The NSW Environmental Trust has funded the following two projects**

## Jaliigirr Landscape Connections in the Great Eastern Ranges



In collaboration with JBA Inc., Bellinger Landcare will project manage 10 sites over a period of 10 years that will carry out activities to enhance, protect and re-instate native vegetated corridors.

This is a great project which will have a number of events linked to it, so look out for notifications on workshops. This project will supplement other Jaliigirr projects that have already occurred.

## Bellinger Fresh Water Habitat Education & Action Program

In response to a high level of community concern over degraded terrestrial and aquatic habitat along the Bellinger River, this project will educate riparian landholders and the general community about the value of healthy riparian vegetation. A recent rare turtle mortality event triggered an unprecedented interagency State government emergency response involving NPWS, DPI, North Coast Local Land Services and Taronga Zoo. To address habitat degradation, Bellinger Landcare will work with stakeholders to create a booklet & workshop series on best practice river rehabilitation, facilitating and promoting active landholder and community engagement in on-ground works to regenerate Lowland Subtropical Rainforest EEC. This project is set to kick off in June.



# How We Can Help You!

Included with this newsletter is an Expression of Interest Template that you are encouraged to fill out and either drop in, email, or mail it to us as a member of Landcare. This is specifically to help us understand what people are needing in terms of information, training or strategic funding for natural resource management. The funding landscape has changed greatly in the last 15 years. Grant funding currently requires some kind of plan to guide the investment and/or is directed at larger, collaborative projects and is rarely granted to an individual property. As a not-for profit network we continually attempt to secure funding for the community based on existing plans or projects. If we are aware of your interests and goals for your property, we will be better equipped to design projects that may benefit the collective.

We have limited capacity to visit properties and provide advice as we once did; however, we are here to provide you with information or resources, and contacts on a variety of land management issues. In particular our efforts will be directed toward providing events, training and workshops covering information that applies to anything from sustainable agricultural practices, through to conservation. This is why being a member is important as you will know when we are running these events, which are usually at no cost. Funding opportunities do present themselves and if we know about you and what you are doing on your land, we may be able to include you in an application.

Weeds needs a whole newsletter alone, but it is important that landholders understand it is their responsibility to control weeds on their property. Unfortunately Landcare DOES NOT have funds to assist people with this specifically. Most funding bodies will not invest in weed control on a private property unless eradication will benefit a threatened species or plant community and even then, the environmental outcomes from investment would need to be clearly demonstrated as benefitting the wider landscape.

If you are interested in joining one of the existing groups or would like more information on how to be involved please let us know by phoning or emailing [nenglishbellingerlandcare@gmail.com](mailto:nenglishbellingerlandcare@gmail.com)

worked for the Department of Primary Industries. Chrisy brings extensive experience in assisting landowners and production groups adopt sustainable practices and is looking forward to supporting these activities across the region. She has previous experience in working with the beef cattle, dairy, sugar cane and tea tree industries, and has worked at some point in every catchment on the North Coast. In her role as Regional Landcare Facilitator, Chrisy will be specifically supporting the region's Landcare Officers and Coordinators and their Local Networks.

Chrisy leaves her role at Southern Cross University, where she has been responsible for delivering a professional short course program on acid sulfate soils across the country. She's excited to be working with Landcare, in the region that she calls home.

## New Project Officer

I have been working as a Landcare Officer on and off since 2002 for 3 other networks on the mid-north coast, most recently in Kempsey. Prior to this I had worked on the World Wide Fund for Nature Threatened Species Program in Sydney whilst completing a Masters in Environmental Management at UNSW. I also hold a Bachelor of Natural Resources. I am delighted to be working in Landcare in the community in which I live. I work Tues-Friday and it is preferable if you can make a time to visit by calling our office in case we are not here. 6655 0588

My email is [nenglishbellingerlandcare@gmail.com](mailto:nenglishbellingerlandcare@gmail.com)



## Urunga Planting Day

5/6W and 5/6P recently joined Urunga Landcare Volunteers Mr. Allen and Ms. Norman and council representative Ms. Eager for a planting session down near the sound stage. The afternoon began after a talk from Uncle Mark Flanders about connection to Country and looking after our own backyard. Then the planting of Lomandras all to help the Beach-Stone-curlew habitat. (from school newsletter Jenny Luxon)



### LOOKING AFTER OUR BACKYARD-RECOUNTS FROM 5/6W

*"The tree planting was fun because Uncle Mark taught us about all the great animals. After that, a man gave us animal photos for team names. I was a soldier crab. Then we went and got some little plants. We took them out of the big box. We went over to the holes that someone dug up. We carefully laid them down and then we filled in the holes. We got to plant two or three. Then we went down to the beach and John Allen told us more about the Beach Stone Curlew. Then we went back to school."*

#### **Murray Cornwell**

*"Two weeks ago 5/6W and 5/6P went down to the Lido to plant some plants. Uncle Mark Flanders met us down there. We all sat on the stage. I did the Welcome to Country. After that Uncle Mark gave us a talk about the land and the animals. Then we split up into groups. My group were the ospreys. One of the ladies told us what the steps are for planting. First you had to peel the plastic off. Secondly you had to loosen the roots. Lastly we put them into the ground. When we did that we had to water them. You got to plant 3 or 4. Then John Allen talked about the Beach Stone Curlew. We went down to the beach and had one minutes silence and listened to the animals. We also spotted 3 Beach Stone Curlews."*

#### **Tahahni Berger**

*"Two weeks ago 5/6W and 5/6P walked down to the sound stage near where the Beach Stone Curlews live. Uncle Mark was talking to us about the animals that are local to the area. He said that we can pick a totem and my totem is the kookaburra because of the sound it makes, its stealth and camouflage. Everyone got into groups and then we planted lomandras. Then we had a minutes silence and we were listening to all the animals that were making sounds. We fortunately heard the Beach Stone Curlew. It was an enjoyable time."* **Malayna Penn**

Kindly reprinted from the Urunga Public School Newsletter Week 11, 2016

# Farming in 2050: storing carbon could help meet Australia's climate goals

By Brett Anthony Bryan 30TH MARCH 2016



Farming land in New South Wales (Shutterstock).

Australia's agricultural lands help to feed about 60 million people worldwide, and also support tens of thousands of farmers as well as rural communities and industries.

But a growing global population with a growing appetite is placing increasing demands on our agricultural land. At the same time, the climate is warming and in many places getting drier too.

Agriculture, and particularly livestock, is currently a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. But new markets and incentives could make storing carbon or producing energy from land more profitable than farming, and turn our agricultural land into a carbon sink.

How might these competing forces play out in changing Australian land use? Our research, published in *Global Environmental Change*, assesses a range of potential pathways for Australia's agricultural land as part of CSIRO's National Outlook.

## Changing landscapes

The only constant in landscapes is change. Ecosystems are always changing in response to natural drivers such as fire and flood.

Humans have complicated things. Indigenous Australians manipulated the Australian landscape and climate through burning for millennia, sustaining a population of around 750,000 and underpinning a culture.

European colonisation brought a different and more pervasive change, clearing land, building cities, damming rivers and establishing an increasingly mechanised and industrialised agriculture.



These iconic but changed landscapes inspired the romantic art of Arthur Streeton and poetry of Banjo Paterson among many others — and helped forge a young nation's identity.



'Still glides the stream, and shall for ever glide', 1890. Arthur Streeton. The Art Gallery of NSW describes the painting as 'an idealised vision of the Yarra River at Heidelberg, with the Doncaster Tower in the middle distance and the Dandenong Ranges beyond'.

## SUEZ COMMUNITY GRANTS

The SUEZ Community Grants program provides grants of up to \$15,000 each to community groups that encourage local participation in social and environmental projects which help create a more sustainable future.

SUEZ believes they can play an important role in shaping the communities of tomorrow. That's why SUEZ is active and engaged in the communities in which we live, work and deliver our services.

Check the eligibility criteria and apply online: <http://suezcommunitygrants.com.au/apply/grant-eligibility>

## GRANT OPPORTUNITY: Landcare Australia Special Projects Grants 2016

Landcare Australia is offering grants to Landcare and farming groups to undertake projects that protect environmental assets, address priority issues and improve the health of the environment.

Groups are invited to apply for a grant of up to \$15,000 (ex. GST) to support projects that focus on one or more of the following areas:

- Biodiversity and threatened species; and
- Sustainable Agriculture.

For more information, login (or sign up if you're not already a member) to the

[Landcare Australia Communities Portal](#) and click on the 'Grants' tab.

**Applications open on Monday 18 April and close on Friday 20 May (5.00pm EST).**

# National Landcare Conference and Awards

We recently sent out a *Save the Date* for 21-23 September, for the upcoming 2016 National Landcare Conference and Awards.

The conference programme will be released in the coming weeks, focusing around the central theme of *"Collaborative Communities – Landcare in Action"*.

September will be upon us sooner than we expect, and soon announcements, the call for abstracts, updates, invites, and requests for participation will all begin being distributed.

If you'd like to be kept up to date, then we'd urge you to sign-up to receive our National Landcare Conference and Awards updates.

## Norman Wettenhall Foundation Grants

### Open 29th March 2016

The **Small Environmental Grant Scheme** will provide support for groups or individuals undertaking biodiversity conservation projects in Australia.

We are looking for projects that are about one or more of the following:

- monitoring, recording and sharing data
- delivering community education
- providing community capacity building (training)
- research and science

For more information go to the Norman Wettenhall Foundation [website](http://nwf.org.au/grants/small-environmental-grants/).<http://nwf.org.au/grants/small-environmental-grants/>



## Grants under the Waste Less,

### Love Food Hate Waste Grants Program

The NSW Environmental Trust and the NSW EPA are inviting applications to round 4 of the Love Food Hate Waste Grants Program. Applications close **14 June 2016**.

**Grants between \$5,000 and \$70,000** are available for councils, groups of councils, non-government organisations, not-for-profit organisations (must comply with the [ATO's definition](#) ) and community groups.

#### Program information

Go to the Trust's website for more information about the program and to access application materials: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/foodavoid.htm>

# Coming Events

## Coastal Plant I.D. workshop 14 May 2016

In this workshop participants will be introduced to some of the common plants that occur along the Coffs Coast. We will look at major species and their identifying features, roles, seed collection and propagation.

Notes will be provided. We will look at dunal, littoral rainforest and headland coastal plant communities. Some walking will be involved.

**Presenter:** John Ross

**Time:** 9am to 2.30 pm

**Cost:** Nil

Register at <https://register.eventarc.com/33683/coastal-plant-id>

## Walk & Talk through remnant native vegetation 21 May 2016

Participants in this workshop will learn about and experience a stand of remnant vegetation not far from Coffs Harbour CBD. Landcarers will benefit from gaining an understanding of the ecology of a resilient native plant community.

**Presenter:** Aaron Hartley, CHCC

**Time:** 9 am to 12 noon

**Cost:** Nil

**Book online at**

<http://coffsharbourlandcare.org.au/event/walk-talk-through-remnant-native-vegetation>

**Location:** to be advised—Coffs Harbour

## Rainforest Plant I.D. 25 June 2016

This workshop will cover botany and identification of common rainforest species and instruction on keying out species using “Trees and Shrubs in rainforests of NSW & Southern QLD”.

**Presenter:** John Ross

**Time:** 9 am to 3.30pm

**Cost:** Nil

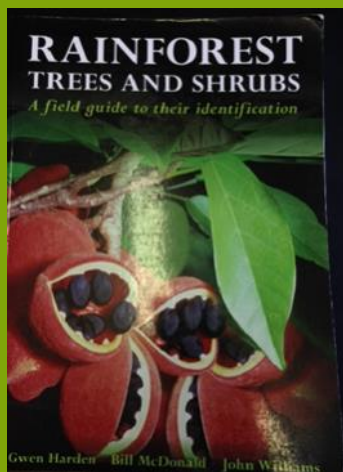
**Location:** t.b.a. in the Orara Valley

**Book online at** <https://register.eventarc.com/33684/rainforest-plant-id>

Please note these events have been organised by Coffs Harbour Regional Landcare through the generous support of the Coffs Harbour Council Environmental Levy. Numbers are limited and bookings are essential. If you have trouble booking online please call 66511308

For a number of other events on the north coast and elsewhere visit the North Coast Local Land Services Events Page at:

<http://northcoast.lls.nsw.gov.au/resource-hub/events>





The 6<sup>th</sup> National NRM Knowledge Conference is being held in Coffs Harbour on 6-8 June 2016. The theme for this year's conference is **People, Planet and Profits**.

Field Trips will explore projects ranging from innovative riverine management in the Upper Orara River, to agricultural and horticultural production in the Coffs hinterland, the complexity of the Bellinger River and Coffs Creek estuary, a look at the precious World Heritage Rainforest at Dorrigo, and culturally significant headlands, including the unique Muttonbird Island.

The full conference program is now available on the conference website [www.conference.nrmregionsaustralia.com.au](http://www.conference.nrmregionsaustralia.com.au)

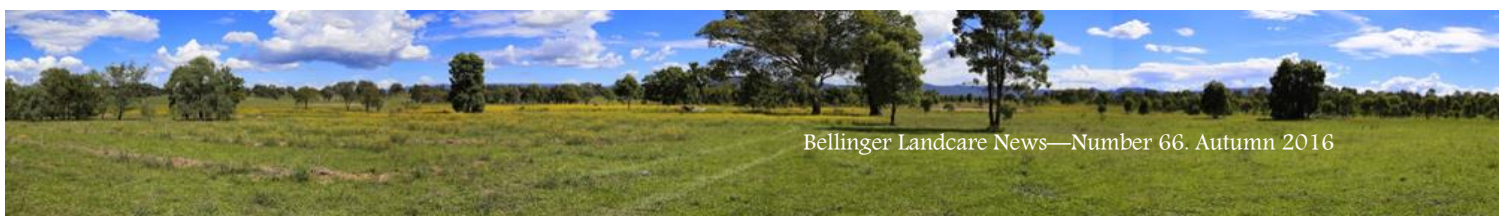
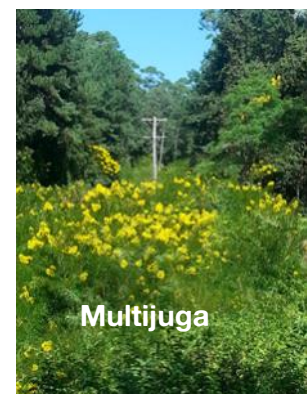


6th National NRM Knowledge Conference  
6th-8th June 2016, Novotel Pacific Bay Resort, Coffs Harbour, NSW  
The theme for this year's conference is "People, Planet and Profits"

## Have you noticed the yellow flowering tree on the Waterfall Way?

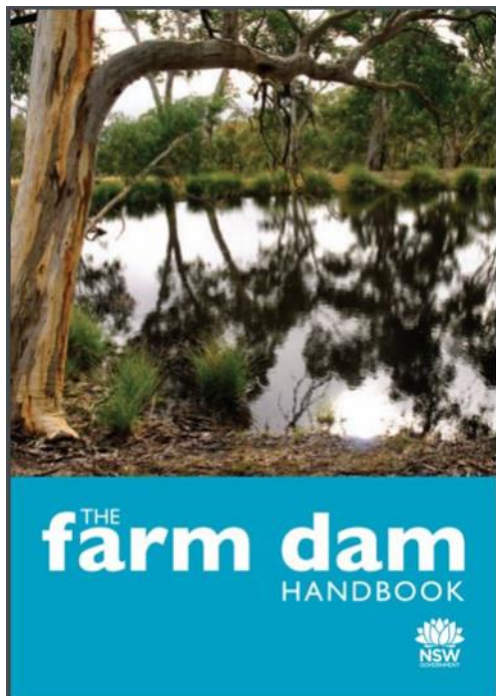
***Senna multijuga*:** Distribution and occurrence: Native of South America, occurring from Colombia to Peru, Bolivia and Brazil. In NSW on the North Coast at Bellingen, this species is most common in a wide unmanaged strip between a road and a pine plantation, but it is also naturalised alongside roads elsewhere in Bellingen and at Thora. The season of yellow flowers on the roadsides around the Bellinger Valley is coming to an end. But the Senna will go to seed and multiply, ready for a bright new season next year.

We have three weed species of Senna in the Bellinger Valley, all originating in South America: *Senna floribunda*, *pendula* and *multijuga*. They all produce bright yellow flowers and lots of seed in pods. Bellingen is described as the 'epicentre' for *Senna multijuga*, which can best be observed on Hospital Hill where it covers the powerline corridor next to the road and along Waterfall Way around the Roses fruit stall. We have one threatened native species of Senna (*acclinis*) which we must not confuse with the weeds. *Acclinis* has a flat seedpod, while the others have rounded pods. For control it is best to seek advice from a qualified bush regenerator or Council's Weed Officer.





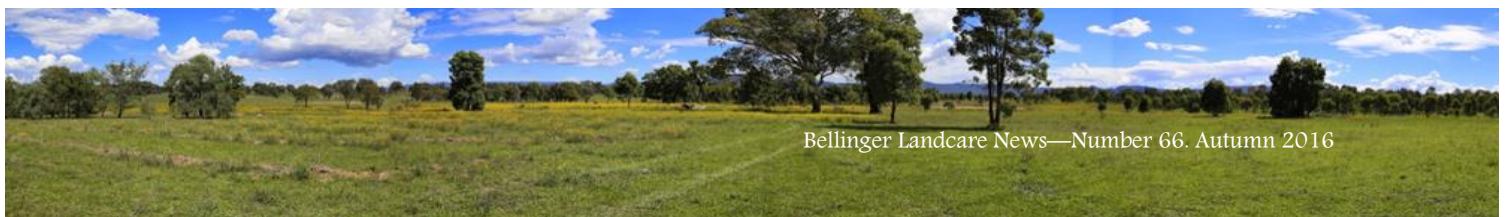
# Office Resources



We have great resources in our office. We have a lot of literature meant for you, the landholder. The majority of information we have is for free, some things are at a small cost. The Farm Dam Handbook is available as a PDF, not too big a file and is very informative. If you would like a copy please email

[nenglishbellingerlandcare@gmail.com](mailto:nenglishbellingerlandcare@gmail.com) with the title Farm Dam Handbook.

'A healthy farm dam is an important resource to keep stock healthy and provide water for farming properties. It also provides a valuable habitat for local wildlife. This book provides advice to help you keep your dam in good condition to enhance the health of your property.'



## INTERESTING APPS:

### Make A Difference Every Time You Shop

Try the [Good On You app](#) to check how ethical your clothes are, where they came from, ask questions of companies etc.

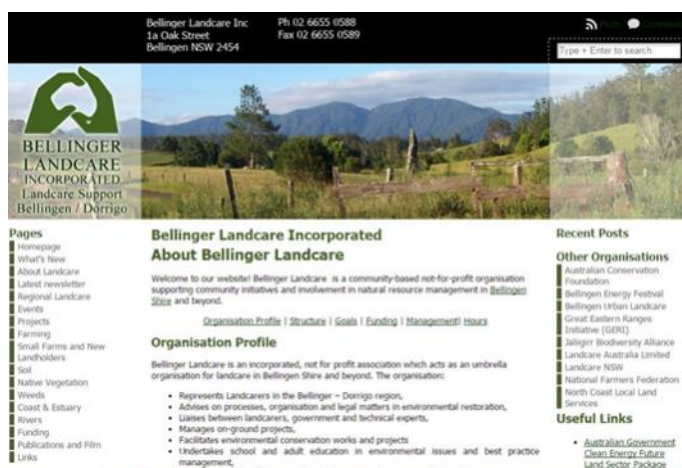


Use the [Choice Free Range egg app](#) to see how free range your eggs are by simply scanning the barcode.

CHOICE's [New Things Lab](#) has launched a free augmented reality app to help shoppers avoid dodgy free-range eggs in the supermarket.

The app, [CluckAR](#), comes in the wake of consumer affairs ministers' disappointing decision last week to sign off on a national standard for free-range eggs that has no requirement for hens to ever actually go outside, and allows free-range eggs to be produced by hens stocked at up to 10,000 birds per hectare – more than six times the current voluntary limit of 1,500.

If you have an interesting app to share, let us know at Bellinger Landcare - we can spread the love.



In the interests of moving Bellinger Landcare into the digital age, we will be overhauling our website to an updated interface, hopefully in a few months time. My hope is that I can send electronic updates from time to time that will provide a link to our website for further information and provide links to other Landcare groups and similar organisations. Eventually I would like to showcase Bellinger Landcare activity in images via Instagram and would welcome your input on this once we get rolling. All suggestions are welcome.

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) has recently updated website information about using the herbicide glyphosate.

This update provides chemical users, growers and home gardeners with more information about the safe use of products containing glyphosate.

It also explains the processes underway, both in Australia and internationally, to assess the findings made by the International Agency for Research on Cancer in 2015—results of these assessments are expected in mid 2016.

This information is now available on the website: (<http://apvma.gov.au/node/13891>)



## North Coast Landcare Coordinator host organisations announced

North Coast Local Land Services and North Coast Regional Landcare are pleased to announce that 11 local Landcare organisations will be hosting 15 part-time Local Land Coordinator positions. The NSW Government's \$15 million Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative is providing a network of more than 60 locally-based coordinators who will work with 62 local organisations across the state to build capacity and connections within their communities.

Bob Jarman, Chair of the North Coast Regional Landcare Network, said this additional support is a significant achievement for not only the Landcare community, but the community at large.



"The North Coast has a well established, strong and resilient Landcare networks who are embedded within the community.

"These locally based coordinator positions will allow our Networks to re-engage with Landcare groups and support volunteers, landholders and the wider community across the North Coast." Bob said.

The North Coast Landcare Partnership Agreement, signed by North Coast Local Land Services and North Coast Regional Landcare in 2015 is ensuring that both organisations work collaboratively to achieve outcomes for the north coast region.

Royce Bennett, Manager Land Services for North Coast Local 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 support the community to undertake natural resource management and sustainable agriculture activities.

"This initiative builds on the resources already committed at the local level and offers centralised support meaning volunteers will be able to focus their efforts on on-ground works.

"The local coordinators will work closely with North Coast Regional Landcare, the Landcare networks and the local community to build capacity and resilience.

This newsletter is produced by the Bellinger Landcare Officer with assistance received in funding from the North Coast Local Land Services. Whilst we make every effort 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.