



# ENVIROTRUST PROJECT 2012 - 2018

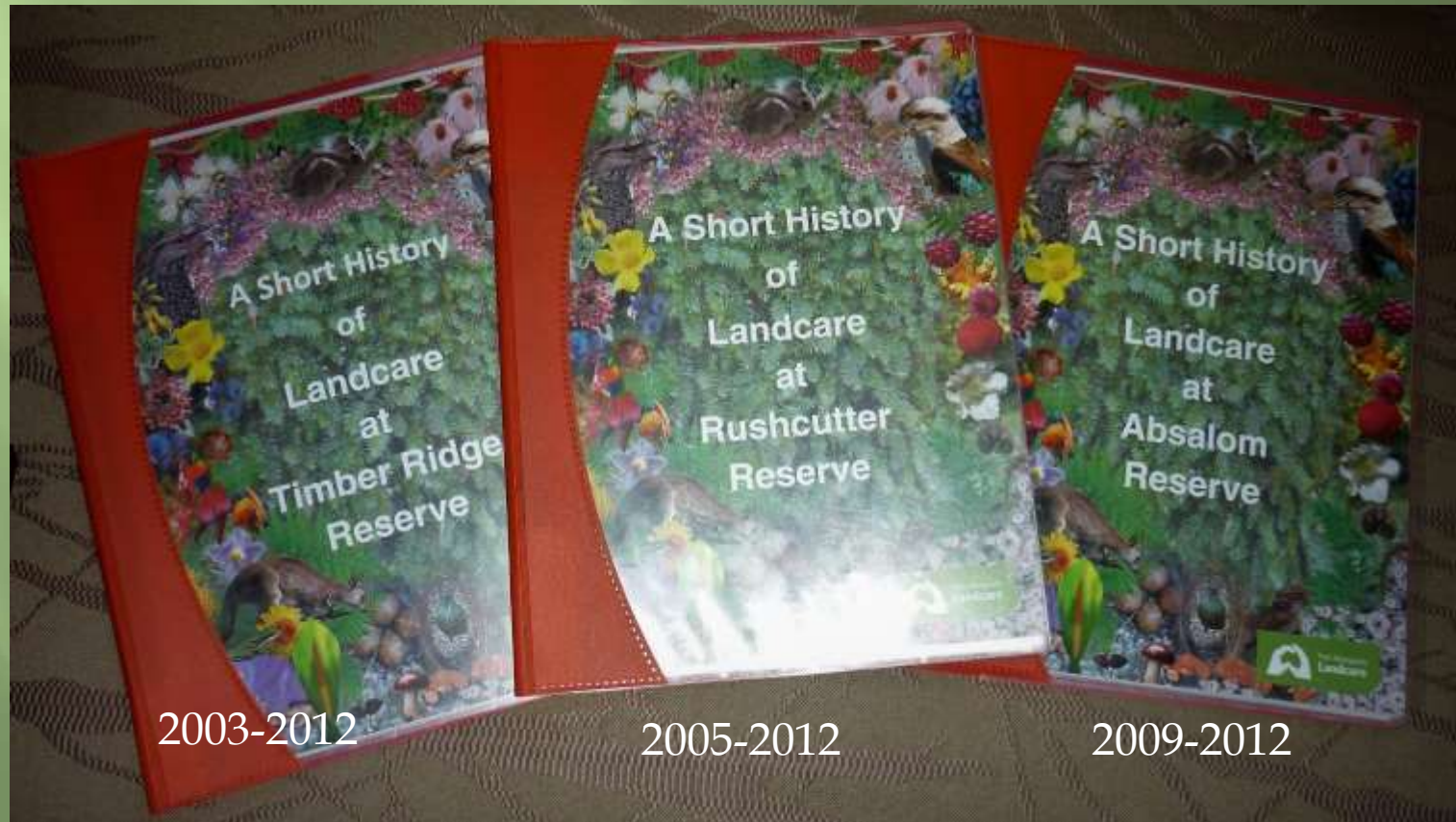
Covering the years 2012 -2018

# How did it come about?

- ▣ 2009 Bill Peel conducted the Bushland Reserve Management Reform for PM-HC
- ▣ 2010 First mention of Wrights Creek project at meeting held at end of review
- ▣ 2012 January \$250,000 Grant applied for
- ▣ 2012 September project commenced

# What preparation did Landcare need to do?

- ▣ Handover 3 completed sites to Council
- ▣ Timber Ridge 2003-2012
- ▣ Rushcutters Reserve 2005-2012
- ▣ Absalom Reserve 2009-2012







What area  
does it  
cover?

60ha of  
Wrights/  
Yarranabee  
Creek catchment

# How is it managed?

- ▣ Landcare are the overall project manager backed up by Council.
- ▣ The project is broken down into 17 sites
- ▣ Each site is approached as a stand alone project and as part of the whole
- ▣ Landcare coordinate all the external contributors to the project, contractors, council departments extra funding and events.

# Original Overview

## SITE STAGING AND ALLOCATION

| Locality (number) | Area (ha) | Perimeter (m) | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 |
|-------------------|-----------|---------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1                 | 3.8       | 1,072         | C1     |        |        |        |        |        |
| 2                 | 3.1       | 995           | C1     |        |        |        |        |        |
| 3                 | 7.5       | 2,575         |        | C1     |        |        |        |        |
| 4                 | 1.5       | 585           |        |        | C1     |        |        |        |
| 4A                | 3.4       | 900           | NPWS   |        |        |        |        |        |
| 4B                | 1         | 885           |        |        | C1     |        |        |        |
| 4C                | 0.4       | 335           |        |        | C1     |        |        |        |
| 5                 | 1.6       | 805           | C1     |        |        | PMLC   | PMLC   | PMLC   |
| 6                 | 0.5       | 380           | C1     |        |        | PMLC   | PMLC   | PMLC   |
| 7                 | 0.6       | 353           | C1     |        |        | PMLC   | PMLC   | PMLC   |
| 8                 | 3         | 660           | C2     |        |        |        |        |        |
| 9                 | 4.3       | 1,100         | C2     |        |        |        |        |        |
| Calwalla (10)     | 6.2       | 1,195         |        | C2     |        |        |        |        |
| 11                | 3.6       | 985           |        |        | C2     |        |        |        |
| 12                | 0.7       | 435           |        |        | C2     |        |        |        |
| 13                | 0.5       | 447           | PMLC   |        |        |        |        |        |
| 13 A              | 8.8       | 1,460         | NPWS   |        |        |        |        |        |
| 14                | 1.5       | 820           |        |        |        | C2     |        |        |
| 15                | 0.2       | 285           |        |        |        | C2     |        |        |
| 16                | 2         | 700           |        | PMLC   |        |        |        | PMLC   |
| 17                | 1.3       | 915           |        | PMLC   |        |        |        | PMLC   |

Primary  
orange  
Secondary  
yellow  
Maintenance  
green

# Overview as it is today

| Locality (number) | Area (ha) | Perimeter (m) | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 |
|-------------------|-----------|---------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1                 | 3.8       | 1,072         | C1     |        |        |        |        |        |
| 2                 | 3.1       | 995           | C1     |        |        |        |        |        |
| 3                 | 7.5       | 2,575         |        | C1     |        |        |        |        |
| 4                 | 1.5       | 585           |        |        | C1     |        |        |        |
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| 6                 | 0.5       | 380           | C1     |        |        | PMLC   | PMLC   | PMLC   |
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| 8                 | 3         | 660           | C2     |        |        |        |        |        |
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| 16                | 2         | 700           |        | PMLC   |        |        |        | PMLC   |
| 17                | 1.3       | 915           |        | PMLC   |        |        |        | PMLC   |

## ▣ Objectives:

1 Increase community awareness of the value of native vegetation and the benefits of controlling weeds by providing education and opportunities for participation in activities that will contribute to the protection of vital corridors between coastal reserves and the hinterland

2 Restore habitat, protect Endangered Ecological Communities and 13 threatened species along 60ha so as to increase the resilience and connectivity of the existing native vegetation communities through targeted weed control and revegetation over the next 6 years.



# Outcomes objective 1

- ▣ Booklet and letters to residents (sending education letters re dumping of green waste)
- ▣ 4 Information BBQ'S
- ▣ 2 National Tree Days with information signs installed
- ▣ The Habitatler newsletter, Weed Manual, Plant Profiles, Eco systems and nursery species list available on updated website. Now with links on Council website
- ▣ Facebook page commenced
- ▣ Planting days with schools and council
- ▣ High visibility of volunteers
- ▣ Increased publicity
- ▣ Neighbours spending money on removal of weed trees
- ▣ Less reporting of “piles of sticks” from neighbours to council
- ▣ Less reporting of dumped rubbish on sites
- ▣ Mentions in Parliament
- ▣ Focus Magazine articles relating to the EnviroTrust
- ▣ Increase of 16% in sales at the nursery
- ▣ Weed Swap initiative ongoing education

# Yarranabee Creek



Port Macquarie has an amazing variety of birds and plants which need our help to survive into the future. They live throughout our remaining green areas. Many of these spaces are in poor condition and must be rehabilitated.

## 56 Hectares of gold

Yarranabee and Wrights creeks are important because their waters run into Kooloonbung Creek Nature Park. The creeks provide water for threatened communities of plants, and individual plants and animals in threat of extinction. The creek-side vegetation provides food and shelter for creatures that travel to and from distant parts of our town.



## Why rehabilitate?

Our original plant species are best suited to provide food and shelter for our native creatures. By removing weeds we give our native species a chance. Rehabilitation will also increase the water quality in the creeks and decrease the 'fire load' which poses a threat to neighbouring houses.

## The bigger picture

This project brings together diverse groups in our community: neighbours, school children, Landcare, Council, green teams, recreational and employment services, individuals, families and visitors. These catchments are a vital link in the connection between the Port Macquarie Dam, Sea Acres, Macquarie and Lake Innes nature reserves, the hinterland and beyond to the Great Divide.



THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN ASSISTED BY THE NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT THROUGH ITS ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

[www.landcareportmac.com.au](http://www.landcareportmac.com.au)

Landcare is supported by ...



# Yarranabee Creek

## A Biologically Significant Area



Port Macquarie has an amazing variety of birds and plants which need our help to survive into the future. They live throughout our remaining green areas. Many of these spaces are in poor condition and must be rehabilitated.

## The Community Participates on National Tree Day 2015

Port Macquarie Landcare Group volunteers and other community members planted 3,000 native plants in this reserve on 27th July 2015. The work was funded by a Holiday Coast Credit Union Community Partnership Grant, and supported by Port Macquarie-Hastings Council. This will become healthy bushland, resistant to weed invasion.



## What lives here?

This corridor offers great habitat for many birds, including the Regent Bower Bird and Pheasant Coucal (pictured) as well as reptiles, such as the Eastern Water Dragon, Land Mullet and Carpet Python. At night, the bushland comes alive with owls, possums and gliders. These are just a few of the reasons to rehabilitate these areas.



## A healthy Koala corridor

Koalas can move safely through the suburbs if food and shelter are provided by a variety of native trees. Two species of primary koala food tree, Swamp Mahogany and Tallowwood, were planted here together with flowering and fruiting understorey species, such as Pittosporum. The forest structure was completed with ground plants such as Curjelva.



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Landcare is supported by ...



Port Macquarie Landcare Group is a not-for-profit organisation. All funds raised are used to support the project.



# Stakeholder and community education and participation

| Stakeholder participation       | Projected | Achieved |
|---------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Individuals engaged             | 150       | 397      |
| Consultants/Contractors         | 2         | 4        |
| Combined hours contributed      | 6,135     | 3,803    |
| Non Trust funded staff          | 7         | 7        |
| Combined hours contributed      | 840       | 2,131    |
| Volunteers involved             | 300       | 384      |
| Combined hours contributed      | 14,000    | 36,485   |
| Secondary School students       | 94        | 103      |
| Combined hours contributed      | 188       | 215      |
| Organisations engaged           | 3         | 10       |
| Awareness raising events        | 4         | 13       |
| Attendees at events             | 100       | 463      |
| Individuals potentially reached | 100       | 601,925  |

# Outcomes objective 2

- ▣ All sites are at maintenance and plans for ongoing maintenance in place
- ▣ Use of Forestry mower led to success
- ▣ Landcare's ability to source funding and extra workers when required
- ▣ Proof of success shows in quadrats, photos and anecdotal evidence of improved movement and abundance of wildlife



# What is the Forestry Mower?



The first use of the Forestry Mower  
Y1 2012



Start of works Y3 2013 (NTD site 2015)



# Another version used at W14





## Other machinery used throughout the project





But wait there's more!



Atal and Ben on the Mule





# Coordinating Council onsite





# Who made these results possible?





All these wonderful volunteers contributed \$1,349,945 to the community





# Landcare increased equipment



2012



2013



# The funding officer and treasurer played important roles



Ken kept a tight rein on the money and the food!!



# The nursery played a pivotal role





# We had a lot of fun on this journey



# Monitoring and evaluation before and after photos

- ▣ 4 photo points per site were monitored
- ▣ All showing significant improvements to vegetation condition on each site as a result of the project works
- ▣ All broken connections were restored
- ▣ 21 of these documents sent with the report each year



# Photo points

PMLG 2011/CBR/0065 Before and After Images

PMLG 2011/CBR/0065 Before and After Images



W13 1 2016



W13 1 2018 Regen commencing



Y3 6 2013



Y3 6 2018 Recovery continues from tree falls and camphor removal



W13 2 2016



W13 2 2018 Improvements in creek flow and start of regen



Y3 7 2013



Y3 7 2018 Regeneration of creek edges starting to show



W13 3 2016



W13 3 2018



Y3 8 2013



Y3 8 2018 Edge closed.



# Photo points of last 6.6ha

## Riparian habitat restoration in Port Macquarie Before and After Images W14



W14 2 June 2017 Start of council works



W14 2 October 2017 growth of plants in 6 months



W14 2 December continued good growth of plants



W14 2 June 2018



W14 1 October 2017 planting completed



W14 1 June 2018

## Riparian habitat restoration in Port Macquarie Before and After Images W16



W16 1 with school children



W16 1 June 2018 showing results of early maintenance and growth



W16 2 2017 the original state



W16 2 June 2018 plants in and starting to show growth

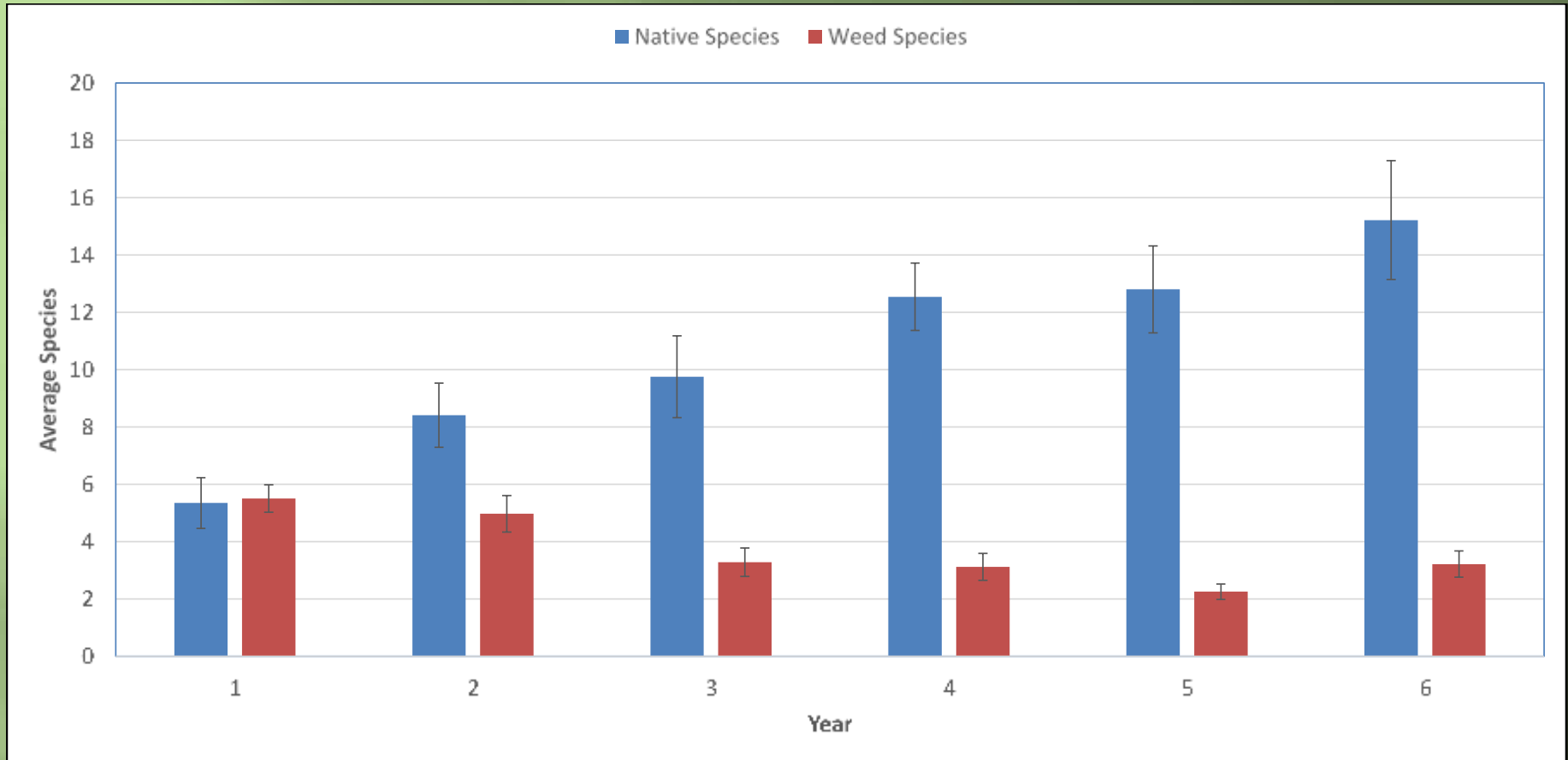


W16 3 This is the site prepared in October 2017 ready for planting



W16 3 June 2018

# Monitoring and evaluation quadrats



## Summary:

- Last year was much drier than this year- perhaps accounting for the lower diversity of weed species in Year 5 than Year 6 and also the relatively lower gains in native species from Year 4 to Year 5 relative to previous years.
- Overall the quadrats have experienced a significant (statistical) increase in the diversity of native species and a significant (statistical) decrease in the diversity of weeds over the life of the project (and even indeed between some consecutive years in the project).

# Port Macquarie Landcare Group Project in kind contributions

| PMLG 2011CBR0065 in kind contributions            |   |                 |                         |               |                |                |             |              |             |                    |
|---|---|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Name (applicant, volunteer group or organisation) |   | \$ Value / hour | Total projected outputs | Year 1        | Year 2         | Year 3         | Year 4      | Year 5       | Year 6      | Total \$ Years 1-6 |
| PMHC Ecologist and NRM                            | Project design, advice on project   | \$45            |                         | (200)9,000    | (180) 8,100    | (104) 4,680    | (120)5,400  | (120)5400    | (120)5400   | 37,980             |
| PM-HC -- APZs                                     | APZ establishment and maintenance   | N/A             | 244,300                 |               |                | 188,006        | 47,118      | 37,613       | 36,176      | 308,913            |
| PM-HC Bush regeneration team 800 hours            | On ground bush regeneration   | \$37            | 29,000                  | (240hrs)8,880 | (821hrs)30,377 | (361hrs)13,357 | (605)22,385 | (483) 19,320 | 840         | 92,870             |
| Camphor Laurel removals                           | Weed Tree removal   |                 | Extra                   |               |                |                | 11,000      | 8,000        | 27,880      | 46,880             |
| PM-HC Drainage Section                            | Wrights Creek bank works  |                 | Extra                   |               |                |                |             | 250,000      |             | 250,000            |
| NPWS  | In-kind weed removal work Macquarie Nature Reserve                                      | \$37            | 3,700                   | 20,000        | 10,940         | 17,000         | 9,650       | 4,935        | \$3,515.00. | 66,040             |
| ACES: Involvement ceased after Year 1             | Weed removal  | \$20            | 14,400                  | 2,880         |                |                |             |              |             | 2,880              |
| Landcare volunteers                               | Project management, bush regeneration planting, school liaison (2333 hrs/year \$86,321) | \$37            | 518,000                 | 100,418       | 233,063        | 232,249        | 343,693     | 198,135      | 242,387     | 1,349,945          |
| Landcare Nursery                                  | 1957 Plants donated   | \$2             | Extra                   |               |                |                |             | 3,914        | 10,000      | 13,914             |
| Landcare Nursery                                  | Hire Bush Regen Contractor  |                 | Extra                   |               |                |                |             |              | 6,000       | 6,000              |
| Neighbours  | Removal of weed trees   |                 | Extra                   |               |                |                |             | 30,000       |             | 30,000             |
| Schools   | Mulching and planting to close edges - 200 hours  | \$20            | 4,000                   | 3760          |                |                |             |              |             | 3,760              |
| Landcare Australia                                | Funding to supplement plants  |                 | Extra                   |               |                |                |             |              | 10,000      | 10,000             |
| PM-HC   | Funding for plants  |                 | Extra                   |               |                |                |             |              | 2,500       | 2,500              |
| PM-HC   | Funding for Bush Regenerator  |                 | Extra                   |               |                |                |             |              | 5,000       | 5,000              |
| Sub Totals  |   |                 |                         | 144,938       | 282,480        | 455,292        | 439,246     | 557,317      | 349,698     |                    |
| GRAND TOTAL                                       |   |                 | 813,400                 |               |                |                |             |              |             | 2,226,682          |
|   |   |                 |                         |               |                |                |             |              |             |                    |

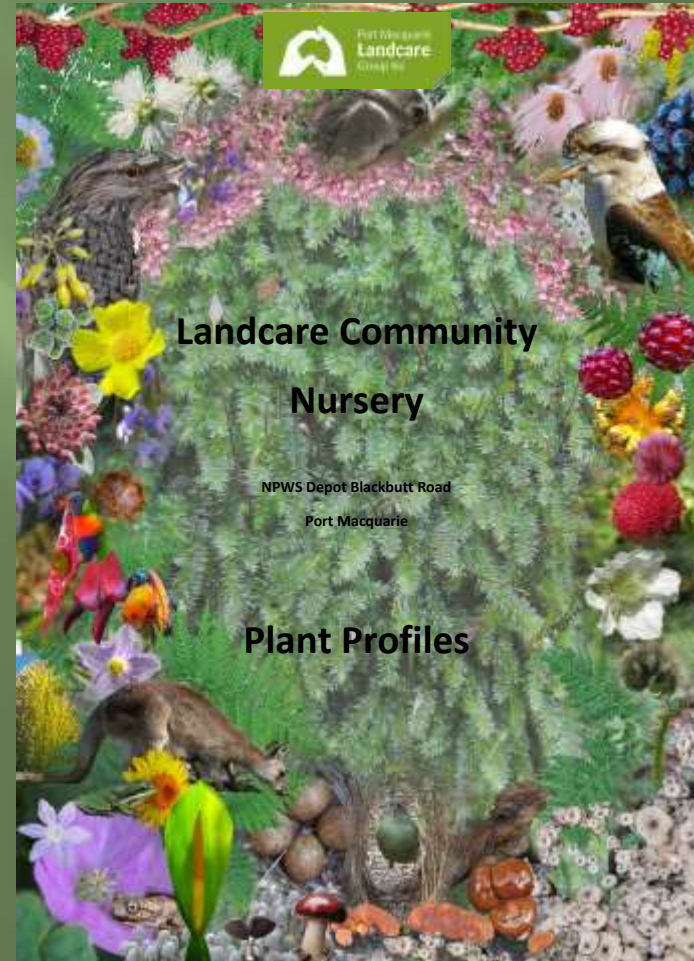


# Partnerships

- ▣ Justice Department 2014-2018 27 months with Bush Regenerator
- ▣ Work for the Dole 2015-2017
- ▣ Port Macquarie-Hastings Council ongoing
- ▣ NPWS ongoing
- ▣ Landcare Australia

# Where to now?

- This whole project to be maintained by Landcare, PM-HC and NPWS
- Change our groups' focus to education through "Weed Swap"
- Strongly lobby for continued support from new staff at Council





# Reporting

- ▣ Year 1 report accepted and funds received
- ▣ Year 2 report accepted and funds received
- ▣ Year 3 report accepted and funds received.
- ▣ Year 4 report accepted with a glowing report and funds received
- ▣ Year 5 report accepted and given an “Excellent” rating and funds received for the last year.
- ▣ Year 6 report accepted and rated as excellent

# This is what we wanted to hear

- ▣ **What positive feedback can be given to the grantee?**
- ▣ The significant achievements by Port Macquarie Landcare Group for the Wrights Creek and Yarranabee Creek corridors cannot be overstated. Dedication of a core group, led by Estelle Gough, with support from Port Macquarie Council and a band of committed volunteers has transformed the 60.8 hectare corridor into a diverse, self-functioning ecosystem supporting native wildlife and providing a show-piece for the local Port Macquarie community. While the funding provided by the Trust has helped enable these works to occur, it is the sustained hard-work and clear and thorough project planning that has ultimately led to the success of the project. The Environmental Trust congratulates Estelle and the entire team responsible for the project delivery on their outstanding achievement and looks forward to hearing of future successes of the Port Macquarie Landcare Group.



# What have we gained?

- ▣ We have the respect and recognition of our partners, Council, NPWS, Corrective Services, Work for the Dole and the Contractors we have used on this project; our funding bodies EnviroTrust and Landcare Australia
- ▣ Higher visibility in the community
- ▣ Highly skilled volunteers
- ▣ Ongoing funds of \$40,000 allocated to the community for continued removal of mature weed trees (including Camphor Laurels)
- ▣ Two catchments fully rehabilitated with corridors connected total 60ha to add to the 24ha already done by Landcare over the last 20 years
- ▣ Improved bushland for the enjoyment of the whole community both people and wildlife