



National Tree Day



The success of our first national nature-care event is evidence of what can be achieved when community works together. 1300 indigenous seedlings were planted by 25 enthusiastic Port Macquarie Landcare Group volunteers and 55 residents. These contributed to the million plants put in the ground during Planet Ark’s National Tree Day on 27 July.

It took much organisation and strong partnerships to lay the groundwork for National Tree Day. The Holiday Coast Credit Union Community Partnership Grant of \$1883.30 paid for the plants and materials. Port Macquarie News sponsored the event, doubled our advertising exposure and spread the message with their news coverage. Port Macquarie-Hastings Council put on a barbeque, Landcare volunteers spent time in preparation and caring community members happily dug in the mud.

The National Tree Day site is at Candelo Close in Port Macquarie, next to Hastings Public School. The riparian land is part of the Yarranabee Creek catchment and falls within our Environmental Trust project. The site was cleared of weeds and mulched in preparation for planting prior to the event.

The heavens opened the day before so all heaved a sigh of relief when the sun came out on our morning. Many of those who attended were neighbours and the majority were young families. Council ecologist Bill Peel gave an informative walk-and-talk on the day. “It was great to see such a range of people attend,” he said. “The questions asked were very interesting and very pleasing and it was wonderful to hear one of the kids describe the area as ‘paradise’. It was fantastic to feel part of a much bigger event and there was a real camaraderie about it not just being our little patch.”

Port Macquarie Landcare Group president Estelle Gough said the amount of effort made by volunteers was “just amazing”. “It was a really early start but everyone worked together to set up, help people put in the plants and then cook the barbeque.” The spirit with which volunteers and community members approached the national event created a “nice chilled-out” atmosphere, Estelle said. “A big thanks to everyone who made our inaugural event a success. We look forward to supporting National Tree Day every year for the foreseeable future.”

Nikala Sim



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President's Report

Landcare was recently represented at two Federal Government events. The first was a Department of Agriculture information session in Coffs Harbour about Community Landcare. Funding has been reduced by some \$400 million but in the future will be easier to access.



The reduction in 'red and green tape' is very welcome. There are a number of grants that our community group will be able to access for on-ground works. The second event was in relation to the Save our Species funding that is open now. This funding looks well structured and has a

comprehensive plan that will help in the ongoing fight to save the many threatened species in our area. These are large scale grants for partnerships across regions of \$300,000 to \$1million.

Local employment agencies Wesley Employment and Training and Verto will be sending us volunteers. We look forward to welcoming newbies into our ranks and showing them the ropes.

Mini volunteer information sessions are being held at the Port Macquarie Neighbourhood Centre. Our representatives, Brian Grant and Danielle Bermingham, have said this is a

friendly and relaxed way to make contact with new volunteers. We are producing a collapsible banner, with the aid of Roger Speaight, to aid in promoting this endeavour. Roger has 40 years experience in the graphic design field and is lending his expertise to us and other volunteer groups in our area. He has also kindly produced the invitation to our next Thank You BBQ.

Our first National Tree Day got off to a flying start and will be a great event to add to our yearly calendar. A big thanks to the organising committee and everyone who helped on the day on behalf of the Port Macquarie Landcare Group.

Estelle Gough

Smoky Horizons

When the sunset has an orange hue and there is a tangerine blush to the air it is usually an indication of smoke. At this time of year it is also a sign of land-owners undertaking hazard reduction burns.

Mosaic hazard reduction burns are one way to reduce the risk of large bushfires. Another strategy is to create an Asset Protection Zone (APZ) around your house or shed. An APZ is a fuel-reduced area around a built structure. This helps reduce the impact of bushfires in conjunction with house and property maintenance and a Bush Fire Survival Plan.

Landcare works closely with Council to ensure weed removal, bush regeneration and revegetation takes into consideration bushfire risk. Areas adjacent to bushland and housing are carefully planned to retain biodiversity whilst minimising fire risk.

Implementation of bushfire protection measures does not necessarily mean all vegetation must be removed. This is good because most of our community enjoy and appreciate the leafy outlook and the presence of birds within APZs.

The link at the end of this article goes to a webpage that explains how to combine the principles of bird-friendly native gardens with effective APZ design.

You can utilise fire protection design principles and plant appropriate

species to help provide protection from ember attack and radiant heat impacts.

www.birdsinbackyards.net/Bird-friendly-Gardening-APZs

Melinda Losh is the Port Macquarie-Hastings Council Bushfire Management Officer and Stevens Street Project Manager.



Volunteers the Gold in Landcare!

It's the tireless commitment of our volunteers that makes the Port Macquarie Landcare Group such a success. Our region's degraded ecosystems are loved back to life by passionate people willing to contribute their time and energy on-site and at the nursery.

New volunteers often have limited knowledge but it doesn't take long for experienced and enthusiastic members to pass on what they know. There are many good reasons why volunteers become unable to continue with the physical work that is needed to keep our many projects going. For this reason it is vital to keep a flow of new recruits.

As with previous years, the *Port Volunteer Expo 2014* was a great opportunity to recruit potential members. We attended the festive event, held in May at the Mid North Coast Maritime Museum, with around 30 other volunteer groups. This celebration of all things "volunteer" included an award ceremony for people from across the Hastings nominated for their outstanding service to the community.

Port Macquarie Neighbourhood Centre's Beck Miles did a great job of organising the expo and the location couldn't have been better. A big thanks to our members who sat on the organising committee and those who helped set up the stalls. The Port Macquarie Landcare Group stall looked great and generated a lot of interest. Member for Port Macquarie Leslie Williams enjoyed a chat with volunteer Danielle Bermingham. Indigenous plants from our nursery were given away and lots and lots of photos taken to promote our work to the broader community.

We also attended the Family Picnic Day at Port Macquarie-Hastings Council's new community garden – The Lost Plot. This was held during the April school holidays and the turnout was fantastic. This was a wonderful opportunity to promote Landcare and resulted in enthusiastic The Lost Plot President and Chairperson, Adam Dean, joining us for our inaugural National Tree Day in July.

Estelle Gough



Above: Annette Prigg, Roz Anderson, Harry Mitchell and Sue Lawrence.



Above: Carol Jungblut nurtures our future Landcarers.

Right: Danielle Bermingham with Member for Port Macquarie Leslie Williams



Joshua and Bitou Bush

It's great to know that our young adults care about their natural environment and look to Landcare for information.

Joshua is a year 11 student at Port Macquarie's MacKillop Senior College. He is undertaking a study of Bitou Bush in the Lighthouse Beach sand dunes for geography. Joshua posed some good questions and in my replies I included the results of an Ecological Survey designed by Bill Peel, a PowerPoint presentation, photos from 2008-2010 showing the reduction in Bitou Bush, and copies of the Landcare signs that illustrate the regeneration that has taken place over the years.

Joshua sent a courteous reply including the following: "I may get back to you and come down one day and see the work that you do on the dunes and help out myself, as I believe it would be a great experience and so I can try to thank you for the time and effort you have put in to responding to my enquiry."

Q1. What is the current Bitou Bush concentration in comparison to previous years?

A: It varies along the beach but overall concentrations of Bitou are small now. There continues to be a seed bank in the soil and

Bitou Bushes that survive each season produce seeds.

Q2. What are some specific removal strategies that are used on Bitou Bush? (Poisoning, hand removal etc.)

A: Integrated Weed Management by Port Macquarie-Hastings Council has been very effective and includes annual spraying with herbicide when native plants are dormant and unlikely to be damaged. Council staff also drive along the beach and deliver spray from a special vehicle onto the Bitou Bushes at the front and top of the dunes. Landcare volunteers help to hand-pull Bitou Bush on the landward side of the dunes at the southern half of the beach; currently we are working near the camels.

Q3. Has there been an increase of native fauna feeding and living in the Lighthouse Beach dunes after Bitou Bush has been removed and the dunes have been re-vegetated with native flora (to your knowledge)?

A: An ecological survey done in Area 3 shows that birds are using this regenerated area (previously sand mined), and that seeds spread by the birds are bringing back the bush,

including plenty of rainforest species. It is significant that a male scrub turkey built a mound in Area 3 last year. It is now common to hear whip birds which prefer dense forest – a sign that rainforest species are returning, the canopy is closing, and the Bitou Bush is in decline.

Q4. Does Bitou Bush ever tend to re-appear in areas where it has been removed, or in re-vegetated areas?

A: Birds and other animals introduce Bitou Bush seed into re-vegetated areas. This seed will germinate if there is enough light for example in areas where the tree canopy is still fairly open. I recently saw a fox in Area 6 which I assume lives there in the bushland: foxes are known to eat Bitou Bush fruit and spread its seeds.

Q5. What is the average number of volunteers that come to help with bitou bush removal and dune re-vegetation projects?

A: Currently we have 6 to 10 volunteers who contribute about 50 hours of work each month to Lighthouse Beach.

Julie Ho is our Funding Officer and Project Manager for three sites.



Native Plant: Hibiscus splendens



As far as individual rainforest flowers go, this is probably the most beauty pageant pretty of the lot; icing sugar pink, satiny, sculptured, burgundy-eyed and huge. Closer inspection often reveals a host of insects that also think that Hibiscus are pretty good stuff. Luckily the blooms are large and extravagant enough to be visible at some distance, so it is possible to enjoy the visuals without necessarily having a family of Katydid fall on you.



The Pink Hibiscus requires just a touch softer conditions than the white *Hibiscus heterophyllus*, the Native Rosella, and is usually found in or near damper gullies, enjoying edge habitats where it can obtain sufficient sunlight for its fast and showy lifestyle.

Handle with care, although the little glassy prickles hidden on the densely fuzzy branchlets are not injurious, they can be annoying. Pink Hibiscus are fast growing leggy shrubs to 6m tall. Like *H. heterophyllus* they are not long lived, but will regenerate from seed.

☑ Fast growing shrub to 6m.

☑ Very large and showy pink flowers.

☑ Short lived, but regenerates readily from seed.

The seeds of Pink Hibiscus are ripe to sow when the capsules start to open. Sow immediately in trays of seed-raising mix. Semi-hardwood cuttings are also easy to root.

You can find out more about this hibiscus and other rainforest plants of our region in Jan's book which is available from Sea Acres Rainforest Centre.

Reference: Carson, J, *Rainforest Plants of the Hastings*



Weed: Silver Leaf Desmodium



Silver Leaf Desmodium has taken root at Lighthouse Beach Reserve where it has become a bushland weed.

This perennial tropical legume is originally from South America and its botanically name is *Desmodium uncinatum*. It has a trifoliate dark green leaf with silver along the midrib and feels strangely sticky to the touch. At the base of each leaflet there are stipels which are rather like stipules.



It is also known as Velcro Vine because it is covered with fine Velcro-like hooked hairs that attach to clothing or animals. Apparently the "velcro" can trap small creatures which die because they can't get free.

According to the Gold Coast Council's book on environmental weeds Silver Leaf Desmodium can cause a skin reaction. I've always worn gloves when handling it.

Desmodium uncinatum produces allelopathic chemicals which may inhibit the growth, survival, and reproduction of other plants and organisms.

Silver Leaf Desmodium is widely grown as fodder, is not toxic to the livestock that eat it and has high nutritional value. Being a legume it has root nodules, and fixes nitrogen.

No doubt it was accidentally introduced into the reserve at Lighthouse Beach. It grows among other weedy grasses near the road and scramblers over the Breynia bushes and other native vegetation. There is no indication it is eaten by animals or insects to keep it in check.

The stems of Desmodium grow several metres long and can root at the nodes if they touch moist soil.

It produces pink pea flowers in a raceme at the end of a long stem. These are followed by brown seedpods covered with hooked hairs that contain olive-green seeds.

This plant develops an extensive root system and may have to be dug out. It has persisted after being sprayed with glyphosate but we have had success with metsulfuron methyl.

Julie Ho



Funding Gives us an Edge over Weeds

When we remove weeds we must replace them with another functioning plant community, according to Ecologist Bill Peel.

That is a simple but profound message. It makes sense to restore what Nature put there in the first place: local provenance native plants.

Supplementary planting with the original native species will bring the right composition, the right structure, and a stable framework for a healthy ecosystem. A functioning community of native plants develops, with strength in numbers to out-compete feral species trying to stage a comeback.

The success of this strategy can be seen on Wrights and Yarranabee Creeks where we are making great progress in restoring riparian (waterside) vegetation to provide more habitats for Threatened Species. The Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority has made a major contribution to this vital work. It gave us \$7791(ex GST) for our *Native Plants to Enhance Bush Regeneration in Riparian Corridors* project.

Administered by Hastings Landcare, this welcome Small Grants Program money came at exactly the right time, early this year. With it we purchased 3785 plants, enough for 20.3 ha. They were planted right away, into creek-side areas already weeded and mulched to minimise

weed re-invasion and to add stability.

We work downward from the top of each catchment to reduce dispersal of weeds downstream, but there is still a risk of weeds re-invading because drainage is directed into the creeks. Also, these creek reserves have long perimeters (edges) in relation to area. Weeds have a big advantage on the edges as there is sunshine and space, so “closing the edges” is important.

By planting the edges with fast growing ground covers and shrubs we put up a green wall against weeds that try to invade. Lomandra (spiny mat rush) is very useful for this and also deters animals, including people who might be tempted to vandalise our seedlings or run over them.

Behind this green wall, native shrubs and young trees can quickly grow, undisturbed by trampling feet and machines. Supplementary planting is also cost-effective because it reduces the need to buy chemicals and use them in sensitive areas.

To know what to plant for regeneration projects, we look to reference sites where the conditions are close to what was there 200 years ago. If only we had a time machine so we could find out exactly what grew where!

Julie Ho



What's the Buzz??



Photos: Bruno Ryan

Native Stingless Bee



Native Carpenter Bee

A wonderful turnout of 30 people attended the Native Bee presentation organised by Hastings Landcare Inc. at Pembroke's Gale Farm. This presentation was part of the "Land for Wildlife" program funded by the N.S.W. Government, Local Land Services North Coast.

Our enthusiastic and very knowledgeable presenter Gail Albertoni and her husband Mick from Camden Haven Landcare gave us a very engaging insight into the industrious and mostly un-thought-of lives of our native bees. Stingless bees have been around for 80million years, their remains are captured in amber showing they changed only a little to present day species.

There are around 1600 species of native bees so far identified in Australia, mostly appearing on the East Coast from Northern Territory (tropical and sub-tropical) to the South Coast of N.S.W. The three types of bees discussed today were:-

- Stingless Bees – Social bees, about 12 species in Australia
- Solitary bees
- Semi solitary bees

One of the stingless bees common to our area is *Tetragonula carbonaria* also known as *Trigona carbonaria* and to bee watchers known as "TC's". These little bees are between 2mm and 4mm in length and are called social bees because they form hives and produce honey.

- The Queen bee produces all the workers, drones and some potential new queens for future colonies
- After laying eggs, the queen loses wings and never flies again
- Their hives are tree hollows and ant mounds
- 3 Main elements for bee life, honey, pollen and nursery, called the brood
- The brood is made from cerumen, which the bees make from special glands in their bodies and tree resin

- Hexagon cells are then made to store honey and pollen, eggs and young bees
- Nursery cells are stocked with honey, pollen and glandular secretions by worker bees into which the queen lays an egg, the cell is then sealed
- Incubation takes 50 days for larvae to hatch
- The queen chooses whether to lay fertilised eggs which develops into a worker, or sterile eggs which develop into sterile females. Drones are produced from unfertilised eggs in a process known as parthenogenesis.
- Hives are a spiral, larger at the base and narrower at the top with a few larger "cells" around the outside edge for future queens.
- These princesses are kept under guard at all times and may be used to create new colonies, if not needed they will be killed
- Ideal hive temperature is 26°C–28.5°C, outside this may be fatal
- Each hive can contain between 3,000 to 10,000 bees and can produce 1/2kg of honey per year.
- They are efficient plant pollinators

The first main difference with solitary and semi-solitary bees is that they do not live in a hive or produce honey. Some bees you may find in our local area are: The Blue-banded Bee, Teddy Bear Bee, Carpenter Bee, Neon Cuckoo Bee, Leaf Cutter Bee, Resin Bee and Reed Bee.

Big thank you to Hastings Landcare, the Gale Farm, Gail and Mick Albertoni.

More information can be sourced at: <http://www.aussiebee.com.au/> and <http://www.australiannativebees.com/>

Ann Ryan is the Widderson Street Project Manager



The Adventures of 'Mr Squirt' and the Graffiti Bandits

Our resident Mr. Squirt (Ken Errington) is in constant demand these days, ridding the Landcare signage of graffiti. The latest attack in Blair Reserve has unearthed a new bandit, calling him or herself, 'GRANDE', a new addition to the long line of irresponsible boffins who walk among us, not only at this site, but others as well. Most graffiti bandits use these pseudo names, hoping to make a statement of profoundness and/or recognition, but it's their way of hiding from prosecution for breaking the Law and snubbing society standards. Invariably their intelligence and mindset leaves a lot to be desired and the majority of people are not impressed by their actions, especially Mr. Squirt but things were different in the olden days.

Though we deplore the vandalism and costs of graffiti, the act of graffiti is not new to society and some surprising facts have been uncovered. Modern graffiti goes back to the ancient days of Greece, Egypt and the Roman Empire, being used to impart messages, drawings, advertisements, love declarations, languages, political rhetoric, curses, magic spells and simple words of thought.

The scratching and carving of stone, rocks, metal and wood and using chalk or coal was a bit harder than using spray paint etc. today. In fact, the first known surviving example of graffiti is found in modern Turkey (ancient Greece) and is an advertisement for prostitution.

Many other examples survive in Pompeii, preserved after the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius and during the 6th to the 18th centuries. 1800 pieces of graffiti were also made in a citadel in Sri Lanka (Ceylon). These examples

were etched by persons of royalty, high society, professionals, clergy and officials. This demonstrates a high level of literacy and appreciation of the 'arts', very much unlike our latest 'cultural' bunch.

The most surprising fact is that graffiti is the fastest form of modern art. It has been used by huge corporate companies to advertise their goods and products the difference being the graffiti has been done with the permission of private and public owners. This distinct from the 'sneak' who cares for nothing but his or her own gratification and cares not where it is done, so long as they aren't caught. The ancient days had their drawbacks compared to our present day, but it seems that whilst ever spray paint, marking pens, textas and the like are around, graffiti will escalate.

With that in mind, I think after I concrete the new pathway at home, I'll put my initials or put my handprint in it when I'm finished. I know it's graffiti but I have permission - it looks good, very arty and I'm not a sneak.

Oh!, by the way, GRANDE's work has disappeared from Blair Reserve. Now all the normal people can read about the wonderful work done there - the habitat created for our native creatures and all the flora that can be found, thanks to our band of Landcare volunteers. I have to squirt somewhere now, so I'll see you around soon. Cheers All.

Ken Errington is the Lilypond Project Manager and graffiti removalist



"Mr Squirt", aka Ken Errington, with Blair Reserve information signs. These are regularly attacked by vandals. Ken's prompt removal of the graffiti will hopefully act as a deterrent in future.



What the Fungi?

Lichen is unique in the sense that it is the result of a symbiotic relationship between two different organisms - a fungus (mycobiont) and algae (cyanobacterium). It sometimes consists of more than one fungus and algae.

The algae component of the relationship contains chlorophyll which allows the manufacture of carbohydrates through photosynthesis. As fungi cannot make their own carbohydrates they rely on the algae to produce carbon for harvesting, an ongoing process. An exception to the rule is the fungi Basidiomycotas which can only survive until the host, usually fallen dead matter, has been depleted of all carbon.

The surfaces (substrates) on which lichens grow vary from the natural: soil, rock, wood, bone - to the man-made: bitumen, concrete, glass,



canvas and metal. Worldwide there are over 20,000 species and in Australia approximately 3,000 are known. Lichens can be found growing in almost all parts of the world. From the ice-free polar areas to the tropics. From tropical rainforests to those desert areas free of mobile sand dunes, and even a few aquatic lichens are known.

As well as having important ecological roles, lichens have also been used by humans as food, medicine and for the dyeing of cloth. For example, traditionally lichens were used to produce the colours of Harris Tweed. The dye-producing lichens are known as crottle. Colours can vary from black, grey, green, pink and vibrant yellow as shown in the pictures below.

Angela Millett is our Funky Fungi lady.



Nursery Natterings

We were pleased to welcome one visitor but had to chase the other off the premises.

The delightful Koala came strolling through the nursery gardens and then climbed to safer territory in one of the many Koala food trees on the site. The NPWS Depot has been made wildlife friendly with plantings of Koala food trees when the Depot was first established. Later when the chain link fence was completed, poles for Koalas to climb were installed to allow them access to the many food trees on the Nature Reserve that they had been visiting for many years. We see many Koalas moving



through the depot but this is the first time we have managed a photo to share.

The other visitor who had strayed behind was an Eastern Grey Kangaroo and was not nearly so welcome as he had decided the nursery seedling were a smorgasbord of tempting morsels for his pleasure. The NPWS staff tried to round him up on a few occasions but it wasn't until the full nursery team of 10 went into action that a successful result was reached. We all surrounded the bushland in which he had made himself at home and walked through it, herding him towards the gate. We made enough noise to get

him moving and a clap of Carol's hands had him out the back gate and on his way. The seedlings are slowly recovering from their untimely pruning.

Estelle Gough



Site Profile: Stevens Street Project

A new project for Landcare is about to kick off adjacent to Settlement Point. The site consists of four different vegetation communities, three of which are Endangered Ecological Communities. At this point in time it is a weedy blister adjacent to a number of managed bushland sites and nature reserves.

The map shows its proximity to Woregore Nature Reserve and Pelican Island to the East and Pelican Point to the North. Settlement Shores lies to the South of the site. All these adjacent areas have been actively managed and this piece of Council owned land is an unfortunate weed source reinfesting the

adjacent areas. It is part of the corridor running North to South and is used by a variety of bird life.

The restoration/rehabilitation of this site will be invaluable in reducing the re-infestation of the adjacent managed sites.

The site itself consists of: Littoral Rainforest in the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South-East Corner Bioregions, Swamp-Oak Floodplain Forest in the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South-East Corner Bioregions, and Coastal Saltmarsh in the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South-East Corner Bioregions. There are fingers of Mangrove Swamp jutting into the lower lying areas as well. The site is teeming with many bird varieties.

It is also a hotspot for biting insects but can assure future Volunteers these do not tend to be active except early morning and dusk.

This new site is home to the usual range of nasties including Ipomea (Morning Glory), Acetosa (Turkey Rhubarb), Lantana, Wandering Jew, Senna and Coral Trees.

Melinda Losh



Meet our Volunteer: Joan Wilson

I first was involved in Landcare in the 1990s as environmental community representative on the then Hastings Camden Haven Catchment Management Committee. Rick James and the Hastings Landcare Committee helped landholders set up Landcare groups doing major works on local rivers, improving water quality and farming techniques.

I wondered if Port Macquarie residents would be interested in Landcare in town because Kooloonbung Creek rehabilitation and Dune Care were already operating. We organised a meeting and many people came. Soon Ken and Yvonne Errington, Susan Phillips, Bill Sawyer and others started meetings, linking with the Lily Pond Landcare Project and Lighthouse Beach Dune Care (Steve Cartwright). People started Landcare in their neighbourhoods including Jenny Owens at Hastings School which I also worked on, Julie Ho at Mahogany Hill, and Shelly Beach.

During my years as Secretary of the first Port Macquarie Landcare Group Inc I saw skills develop, in making plans, gathering maps and equipment, applying for money in Landcare. It was a wonderful way to meet like-minded people.

Mind you, as every Landcarer knows it's often an exhausting task to rehabilitate degraded areas. Things that went wrong seem rather insignificant now when the results have outlasted the interruptions.

So the Council coming to spray along the new planted edges of Lily Pond area, or local kids who thought the new saplings would make good swords, are all in the life of the resilient Landcarer! Never mind the clay that fought us when trying to plant koala trees at Mahogany Hill or those little insects that enjoy a juicy young leaf!

Some of my best moments, were:

- * being part of removing that almighty mass of lantana so the Lily Pond became a wetland encouraging wild life and a walk for the community.
- * organising and planting a mix of 100 Melaleucas to soak up wet areas adjacent to Lily Pond
- * helping children plant trees (photo from early Lily Pond days of local cubs/



Joan Wilson teaches young people about the beauties of the bush.

brownies planting). This year I planted trees at Candelo Close with my grandson, nearly two-years-old. He loved it.

- * being part of removing Lantana at Hastings School, with Green Corps helping the school to create a sustainable rainforest linked into Wrights Creek reserve, and my daughter becoming Environmental Minister at Hastings School. I believe they now have a Landcare session once a week at lunch. Amazing!

While working in Kempsey for some years I took time off Landcare, but recently resumed with Julie Ho at Mahogany Hill and Lighthouse Beach.

The recent successful National Tree Day also made me reflect on the progress of Landcare.

It was wonderful to see a large number of Landcare sites on the map. Improved equipment, technology, transport, and the Landcare nursery were an obvious testament to the hard work and commitment of Port's growing Landcare movement.

One special moment in Landcare was with Stewarts Creek landholder Brian Fletcher. I worried how we could get Port Macquarie people to look after their own areas and free the town of weeds (yes very ambitious and naive!). He reminded me how hard my ideals were to achieve as "Landcare has to come from the heart" to sustain the work and effort needed. Too true, so it is brilliant to see that so many Port Macquarie residents of many generations are helping the cause, especially the long termers as we see in our present Landcare committee.

Joan Wilson



New Policy on Noxious Weeds

Landcare were delighted to see the list of newly declared weeds, at a recent public workshop held in Wauchope, and to learn of the new policy direction this marks for Invasive Weed Management in NSW. 65% of all new weeds come from garden escapes and these are now being targeted instead of just agricultural weeds that have an impact on primary production.

We have long commented on the new weeds that we see coming up on our sites but are discouraged when we see the parent tree seeding profusely in a neighbours' garden. The new policy will mean there will be classes of plants that will now have to be stopped from reproducing. We all know how time consuming (but effective) removing seeds from plants is; the easiest way for our neighbours to control these plants will be to totally remove the offenders.

There are four Classes of Weeds:

Class 1: The plant must be eradicated from the land and the land must be kept free of the plant - (Notifiable Weed, State Prohibited) Bridal Veil Creeper, Frogbit/Sponge plant,

Tropical Soda Apple. (As yet we do not see these on our urban sites).

Class 2: The plant must be eradicated from the land and the land must be kept free of the plant - (Notifiable Weed, Regionally Prohibited) these include 3 *Asparagus* species *africanus*, *macowanii* var *Zuluensis* and *falcatus*. (We have not seen these on our sites yet either).

Class 3: The plant must be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed - (Regionally Controlled) these include Chinese Tallow Tree (*Triadica sebifera*) Ginger Lily (*Hedychium gardnerianum*), Glory Lily (*Gloriosa superba*), Yellow Bells (*Tecoma stans*). (These we see on our sites on a regular basis).

Class 4: The growth of the plant must be managed in a manner that continuously inhibits the ability of the plant to spread (Locally Controlled) Ground Asparagus

(*Asparagus aethiopicus*), Rhizomatous Bamboo (*Phyllostachys Spp*), Camphor Laurel (*Cinnamomum camphora*), Madeira Vine (*Anredera cordifolia*), Privets (*Ligustrum lucidum*, *L. sinense*).



How wonderful to see these weeds that have caused us so much hard work will now be managed in an effective manner and reduce the weed load on the natural environment into the future. Congratulations to the Mid North Coast Weeds Coordinating Committee for their work in getting

these changes made. We can assist this process by advising Grant Taylor, Port Macquarie-Hastings Council Noxious Weeds Officer of any on the above plants that we come across, giving him the address of where they are sited. He can be contacted by email at grant.taylor@pmhc.nsw.gov.au

Estelle Gough

DATE / TIME	EVENT DETAILS	CONTACT
9 September Commencing 7pm	Annual General Meeting followed by General Meeting Port City Bowling Club Owen St, Port Macquarie	janetslater1237@bigpond.com.au
11 November Commencing 7pm	General Meeting Port City Bowling Club Owen St, Port Macquarie	janetslater1237@bigpond.com.au
22 November Commencing 5.30pm for a 6.30pm sit down	Christmas Party Port Macquarie Race Club at the Port Macquarie Racecourse	treasurer@landcareportmac.com.au or phone Ken Gough on 6583 6508
13 January, 2015 Commencing 7pm	General Meeting Port City Bowling Club Owen St, Port Macquarie	janetslater1237@bigpond.com.au

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