



ISSUE 14

PORT MACQUARIE LANDCARE GROUP INC.

WINTER 2015

Better than expected

At the last general meeting President Estelle Gough presented a detailed report on the progress of the Envirotrust Project. We are now halfway through and results exceed project targets.

The project covers the Yarrabee and Wrights creeks from the top of their catchment to the boundary of Kooloonbung Creek Nature Reserve. There are two primary goals—to remove invasive weeds and rehabilitate the native ecosystems, and to provide an enhanced corridor for wildlife.

In partnership with the Port Macquarie-Hastings Council we have broken the area into 17 separate sites. With three years to go, seven of these are at maintenance phase, seven are in the active phase, and three have yet to begin.

This is a great achievement and is the result of much hard work from all of you - our volunteers. This thanks isn't just to our members. It is to the people on the Work for the Dole program, community service participants through NSW Corrective Services, neighbours of site and all the Hastings residents and visitors who have joined in too.



The project is a prime example of just how much can be achieved through working together. This is not about patting everyone on the back but a true acknowledgement of everyone who has worked to create a legacy for the future.

Australia was recently given the sad status of having one of the fastest rates of extinction of mammals. We are blessed to live in an area where our native mammals still live amongst us. This means we have a real role

to play in the provision of safe havens, like the Envirotrust Project, for koalas, wallabies, possums and the like.

It's not just about making our town look nicer (although once you can identify a weed or two this is certainly a bonus!)

In-kind value for 2011-2015

PMHC	\$262,000
NPWS	\$ 48,000
PMLG	\$ 565,000
470 SCHOOLS	\$ 3,700
ACES	\$ 3,000



Port Macquarie
Landcare
Group Inc

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President's Report

The cooler weather has seen many of the 'biters' disappear so we are now into the enjoyable time of the year for working on-site. The big effort put in over recent months will bear fruit as we move forward during the slow growth period of the next few months.

Our group has had an increase of volunteers on sites. Whilst this is fantastic, each volunteer comes with a cost (insurance, OHS gear, equipment). Usually the nursery can help with any shortfall in funds from funding bodies but costs have been so high we find ourselves looking for income from other sources.

Landcare Australia are running a campaign with Taylors Wines to generate donations to Landcare groups through their Facebook page.



We have a post at the top of our Facebook page with more information. www.facebook.com/portmacquarielandcaregroup.com.au. Please visit and encourage your own friends to 'like' it.

As part of our drive for more funds we have passed a resolution at the recent meeting to

increase membership fees to single \$15, family \$20 and corporate \$50. If anyone has any fundraising ideas we welcome them.

We have some good and bad news. The good news is our hard working publicity officer Nikala Sim's ethical publicity and promotions business Good Cause Media is helping to produce Your Local Independent newspaper - congratulations Nik! The bad news for us is that we will lose some of her very valuable skills. We look forward to a strong relationship

with this newspaper, which has been lacking in the past.

So, we are looking for a new Publicity Officer (again). Anyone who can write good stories on a regular basis, has the time and commitment to the environment to donate their skills we would love to hear from you. Nik is happy to help train a new person to help them settle into this important role.

Nik is going to continue with her Facebook posts, they have raised interest in our page significantly. The Facebook workshop (run by Nik) will go ahead at a time and place to be advised.

We will also need to look for someone to help put The Habitatler together; good graphic design and Publisher skills will be a must. Phone Estelle 0432 141 605 all those interested volunteers.

Estelle Gough

PMHC Ecologist - Rebecca Montague

By now, many of you will have met Port Macquarie-Hastings Council's new Ecologist, Dr Rebecca Montague-Drake.

Rebecca has over 20 years experience as an Ecologist, having worked for a range of State and Federal government agencies, universities and private consultancy. She grew up on a rural property at the base of Middle Brother Mountain, Kendall. The wildlife inspired her and there was never any question she would go on to work in the environmental sciences sector.

Rebecca's background is primarily in fauna research, and in working with rural landholders for improved conservation outcomes. She has most recently come from Kakadu National Park where, working with Charles Darwin University, she was researching a new species of Petaurid Glider.

Prior to that, Rebecca worked as a Senior Researcher with Professor David



Photo: Christopher Macgregor

Lindenmayer at the Australian National University for 7.5 years, where she felt very privileged to travel southern Australia working on long-term, landscape-scale research projects. During this time, Rebecca was based in Gundagai where she was an active member of the Gundagai Bushcare Group and could be seen, with her babies on her back, at weekend working bees.

Rebecca says she feels incredibly blessed to be back on the beautiful Mid North Coast and hopes that, in her role as Council's Ecologist, she can make a real contribution to the conservation of our endemic biodiversity and in supporting the efforts of community volunteers, such as Landcare.

"I am just blown away by the Landcare movement in our area - there is so much enthusiasm, knowledge and dedication by so many and the on-ground results are clearly evident," she said.

Environmental Trust Project - sign up

We've ticked off another box for our \$250,000 Environmental Trust-funded project. The Yarrabee Creek sign is up on the Braemar Drive site next to Hastings Public School. This was where we held our inaugural National Tree Day last year and what was once a weedy and unkempt walk way for school children is now a thriving area of indigenous plants. Thanks to everyone – community, neighbours and members for your help.



Yarrabee Creek

Port Macquarie Landcare Group Inc.

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

Yarrabee 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, concessional 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

Landcare is supported by ...

Port Macquarie Landcare Group Inc.



Port Macquarie-Hastings Council Environmental Officer Thor Aaso, Port Macquarie Landcare Group President Estelle Gough and Port Macquarie MP Leslie Williams celebrate a milestone for one of the town's largest environmental projects.

Landcare milestone

ANOTHER step forward for a major project in Port Macquarie is a good sign for the environment.

The regeneration of 56 hectares of land along Yarrabee and Wrights creeks is at its halfway point.

To acknowledge this milestone an information sign was installed on Monday.

The momentous event was attended by the many volunteer hands of the Port Macquarie Landcare Group.

Pictured below from left to right: Geoff Teasdale, Roz Anderson, Anne Gilligan, Todd Atwells, Thor Aaso, Margaret Butcher, Peter Duckett, Estelle Gough, Port Macquarie MP Leslie Williams, Lorraine Moore, Lorraine Beveridge, Jeff Woodgate and Brian Grant.

The \$250,000 Environmental Trust project had another three years before it was complete but already the in-kind value of volunteer hours from a number of organisations had increased that to more than \$1 million, President Estelle Gough said.

"Everyone has worked together so effectively we are actually ahead of schedule as a result," Mrs Gough said.

"Extra hands from NSW Corrective Services and the Work for the Dole program have helped make this happen."

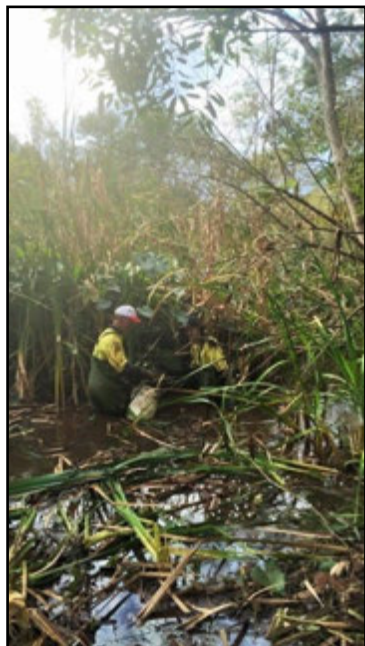
The success of the project was underpinned by the collaborative partnership of the Port Macquarie Landcare Group, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Port Macquarie-Hastings Council.

"We couldn't do it without the support of Council and National Parks," Mrs Gough said.

Council Natural Resources Officer Thor Aaso said many people were unaware of how vitally important the Environmental Trust project area was. The two creeks created a corridor for wildlife that kept them safe.



Taro Removal



Matt Atkins from Gondwana Bushland Restoration and his team have done a lot of the very difficult works on our EnviroTrust site, namely removing woody weeds from deep waterways in Y1.

When the Taro looked like getting behind schedule the call went out for him and his

team to help. They have done amazing work, up to the top of the waders in water, removing Taro as tall as 8 feet in some areas. No job too big for these guys. They have been taking the corms off site in bags piled high on Matt's Mule, what a great little machine. The Taro infestation is such

a long way from the road, this system reduces costs and makes it easier on the workers. Matt says there is probably 4 to 6 weeks work on the primary knockdown of this weed to do, lots of water fun ahead for us in winter with not a leech in site. Thanks for the assistance Matt and Team.

Weed Wackers

Our weed removal practices are informed by years of experience and the knowledge of many organisations who specialise in the area. We are always learning more as new information and techniques are discovered.

A great resource is available for download as a pdf from our website. The 127 page booklet contains information on nearly 100 weeds and how to remove them for the best result.

Safety information and techniques are covered and should be followed to the 'T'. To download go to www.landcareportmac.com.au



Common name: Elephant's Ears/Purple Taro **Latin name:** *Colocasia esculenta*/*Xanthosoma violaceum*
FAMILY: ARACEAE
ORIGIN:
Noxious Weed Category: Class 4 (Locally Controlled) (*Colocasia* spp.)

Description

Habit: A variable species of perennial herb 1-2 m tall; large "elephant's ear" leaves grow from the base, upper surface glossy green to bluish-black. Occurs in many variants. **Flowers:** Flowers appear on a fleshy stalk enveloped by a long yellow bract (spathe). **Leaves:** Leaves are usually very large, arrowhead shaped, dark green and velvety. **Fruit:** Fruit a small berry, in clusters on the fleshy stalk.

Ecology: In some parts of the world this fast growing wild taro (*C. esculenta*) is harvested for its potato-like tubers and it can be easily grown by re-sowing sections of the same. It spreads rapidly by vegetative means (rhizomes as well as tuber parts) and this is further enabled by its preference for boggy and waterlogged conditions. On occasion it sets viable seed, but this is not considered a primary means of spread.

Dispersal: It is still widely planted and, as such, humans are a primary dispersal vector. Tubers can be distributed in the lower water of riparian systems, particularly during flood disturbance.

Control:

Note: Care should be taken when handling all plant parts, as the tissue contains needle-shaped raphides in uncooked plant cells — severe gastrointestinal distress can occur. The initial effect on the mouth is an immediate painful irritation, burning and swelling of the lips, tongue and other mouth-parts with a subsequent feeling of local anaesthesia. It is also toxic to handle, care needs to be taken with removal. Wear gloves and avoid coming into contact with plant parts.

HAND: For individual plants or small infestations, dig up rhizome and dry out. Larger infestations: dig up and remove, though this can cause a large amount of soil disturbance. **CHEMICAL:** The plants can be sliced across near the base with a cane knife and near glyphosate dabbed on the stem, if possible mostly on the green part of the new leaf which takes up the poison-juice. This will kill the tuber and possibly new plants that are growing by sprouting from the roots nearby. Trial foliar spray with glyphosate and water at 1:50 (20mL/L) &/or metsulfuron methyl (e.g. Assosol®) at 1.5g/10 L, + non-ionic surfactant (sprayable treatments needed); or trial cut, scrape and paint or drill & inject rhizome with glyphosate and water 1:1.5 &/or metsulfuron methyl at 10g/10L. Trial wiping of leaves with metsulfuron methyl mix. Only use metsulfuron methyl in terrestrial areas. To control dense patches of the plant near waterways, trial glyphosate 1:9 (via a sprayer gun) or 1:20 with a wick-sprayer. Use only formulas that are registered for use near waterways. Usually some material will be left and new plants will continue to emerge, which have to be treated gradually. Others will appear after having drifted downstream, and yet others will come up from seed.



Native Plant: Glochidion ferdinandi

The Cheese Tree grows as a bushy shrub up to a medium sized broad tree to 10m in height. The bark is light coloured and slightly flaky in appearance. Foliage is bright shiny green, often showing many colours in the cooler months. Flowers appear between July and December, they are small and greenish-yellow in colour.

Fruit is a characteristically pumpkin shaped or "edam" cheese shaped up to 20mm in diameter, splitting when ripe to reveal seeds covered in a bright red orange aril within.

This tree has a lifespan of more than 60 years. On our sites this tree is used as a pioneer plant and it is

one we see coming up wherever we have removed weed loads from the bush. It is a useful small tree for gardens with a dense shady canopy or for providing a screen but may sucker if root zone is disturbed. It tolerates a wide range of soils as long as

there is adequate moisture for growth and is quite hardy once established.

Fruits are eaten by several bird species, including the Lewin's Honeyeater, Olive-backed Oriole, rainforest pigeons and doves, and parrots.

It is a food source for butterfly larvae of the Shining Pencil-blue, and the Common Oak-blue. These can make this beautiful tree look quite awful some years, but we love the butterflies and moths that hatch as a result.

Take the time to look these butterflies and moths up so you can enjoy them when they hatch. Arhopala micale and Candalides helenita butterflies and the moth Syntherata janetta.

Estelle Gough



Weed: Glory Lily

Gloriosa superba is a stubborn weed. It has rhizomes that grow horizontally at depth and snap off when you try to dig it out. I recently found a specimen at Mahogany Hill with 48cm of tuber (and a fat seed pod 10cm long).

Be ruthless with this plant because it can kill you. All parts of the plant, especially the rhizomes, are toxic to humans, livestock and pets. The rhizomes may be mistaken for sweet potatoes.

A member of the Colchicaceae plant family, glory lily contains high levels of colchicine, which is used to treat gout. This plant is grown commercially in India and harvested in the wild to obtain medicinal colchicine.

However colchicine is a toxic alkaloid and if enough glory lily is ingested, the result may be pain, vomiting, seizures, coma and death. (Alkaloids are organic compounds containing nitrogen, bitter in taste and having powerful physiological activity; other examples are



nicotine and morphine).

Wikipedia says glory lily has been used in murders and suicides. It is also used in traditional medicines for a

variety of complaints, from internal parasites and worms to sexually transmitted diseases and infertility. Some people believe glory lily has magical properties, and use the flowers in religious rituals.

Native to Asia and Africa, glory lily was used in Nigeria for arrow poison and in India as snake

repellent. It is the national flower of Zimbabwe and the state flower of Tamil Nadu.

To understand why it is a significant weed in Australia note this warning from the NSW

Department of Primary Industry: "...glory lily can form dense understorey carpets in dune systems along the coast, competing strongly with native flora.

Glory lily also compromises bitou bush (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera* ssp. *rotundata*) control programs because, once the bitou bush is removed, glory lily can form a dense understorey. Stem densities of at least 70 stems per square metre are not uncommon on removal of overstorey."

On the Mid North Coast it is a Class 3 weed and must be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed. It cannot be sold, propagated or knowingly distributed.

Julie Ho

Rhyme for Robbo

*I'll not forget the day he came, to meet the team at Blair
"I live 'round corner, in next street, I've cum to join Larnd
Care".
His accent rang of Mother Land, but we put all that aside
For he ripped down vines with his bare teeth, and he
poisoned weeds with pride!
He left his mark o'er many years, Tobaaco and Lantana
But when he saw the Taro grow, Old Robo went bananas!
8:30 every Tuesday was another Landcare story,
With spray-pack Rob went marching off, in all his
Morning Glory
Those happy smoko's under deck are memories I treasure
The bonding and the friendships formed, impossible to
measure
And so old mate I'll close this note, but I'll never close the
door
'Till I see again your smiling face, and your bald old head
once more!
William Shakespeare 1066.*



Robert "Robo" Pearson 1941 – 2015

By any measure, Robo was a great Aussie bloke. He lived in the next street to us, and we frequented each other's house often. We worked together in Blair Reserve for five or six years, and he was a lover and active supporter of the natural environment. With our wives, we enjoyed many activities together – caravanning, dancing, card games, Pension Railway holidays, dinners and theatre. He had a quirky sense of humour, and with that huge smile on his dial he even made removing horrible Morning Glory fun!!!

Tony Bischoff

on behalf of all Blair Reserve and PM Landcare volunteers

What the Fungi?

This issue I would like to remind everyone that I will be one of four guest speakers at the Kendall District Gardeners' Biannual Horticultural Speakers Day.

I will speak about fungi and cover topics including: what are fungi, what is involved in identification and examples of different Classifications and Sub-groups.

The other speakers will talk about weeds and grasses, garden design and Garden of the Year.

This event will be held on Saturday July 25 at the Kendall School of Arts Hall from 10am to 3pm. The cost for the day is \$15 per person and includes morning tea, a pre-booked \$12 lunch is also available. For bookings or information call 6556 9615 or 6556 9677.

I do apologise for this article not being my usual fungi related topic but the little spare time I have has been spent working on my talk and presentation. I do hope to see some familiar faces on the day to help me through my first time speaking to a large group.

Angela Millett



The Early Days: Part Two

The Lilypond in the 19??

Oh dear - the mistakes these two brand new regenerators made! Firstly, I believed that any growth was good and would hold the soil in place but you name it and it came up. A plethora of weeds which the paspalum took care of! I declared war on it but silly me, I left the tobacco bushes to be 'parent plants' for our babies. Ken had to hire a chain saw to get rid of them.



So twelve months later, we were back to a clear area and most of my planting had survived. Next problem was that the children saw this as an extension of their play area, so Mr Pontifax gave permission for us to erect a temporary fence of wire mesh that ran along its length. I also planted wild raspberry, "ouch", and now the patch began to thrive.

My nephew, Terry Schmitzer, was Council's Weeds Officer at this time and one day on his way to the dump with some root bound Alloasuarinas, he called in to see if I wanted to give them a go. (I did and they are all now 20 metres high and healthy.)

He was impressed with my embryo forest and suggested I form a group of helpers and maybe we could attract some funding or at the very least, some plants. I hadn't thought to take that direction, but he did and two weeks later there was a letterbox drop calling a meeting with the aim of form Landcare in Port Macquarie. There was a large attendance at the Council Chambers and on 9th December, 1997, the new group met, eighteen (18) attended, Ken Errington elected President, Joan Wilson as Secretary and Bill Sawyer the Treasurer.

We had \$180 (from fees), no tools but enthusiasm was in abundance. The Lilypond

Project began to expand with so many willing workers and we gradually moved east and west. I wrote to the Port News asking for any donation of tools that may be languishing in sheds and the response was overwhelming – calls came the whole area so tools were collected, fixed, oiled, sharpened and finally put to use. The Pond and surrounds responded and began to take shape, not

without opposition though - 'We will have to sell our home because by clearing the lantana, you will let people in' - 'You are creating noise pollution' – 'I can hear the cars on Koala Street' - 'You are a spoiled brat and just want your own way' – were some of the opinions hurled at us. Explaining that we were removing weeds and planting native vegetation didn't work, so we just put our heads down and in time, they all became enthusiastic as the forest gradually emerged.

Chapter 3 next issue

Yvonne Errington,

co-founder of the Lilypond



Scrunchies save wildlife from being killed

Local NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service ranger Cathy Mardell alerted us to this fantastic idea when she shared it on her Facebook page. Her posts are great so make sure you 'like' Ranger Cathy Mardell so you get her feeds.

Story courtesy of ABC online:

A fashion relic of the late eighties and nineties, the humble scrunchie has found a new lease on life preventing the slaughter of wildlife by domestic cats.

In a new study, West Australian researchers found putting a scrunchie-like collar on cats reduced the amount of native wildlife killed by more than half. Murdoch University PhD student Catherine Hall spearheaded the research which observed the behaviour of 114 cats for two years.

Over the course of the study, the owners of the cats froze everything their pets caught, both with and without the collar. She said the results showed the scrunchie-esque neckwear reduced the number of birds, reptiles and amphibians captured by the cats by 54 per cent.

"Bright colours are very noticeable to songbirds, they should see the cats further away, allowing them to escape earlier," Ms Hall said. "Because it's based on colour and vision, cats won't be able to learn to make it stop working. Unlike what people say about bells. [They say] that cats can learn to make them less effective over time."

The study found the collar did not make a



difference to the number of mice and other mammals caught as their colour vision was not as good, meaning owners could still use their cats to catch garden pests.

"For people who want their cats to catch small rodents like rats and mice but don't want them to catch birds, this is an effective device to use," Ms Hall said.

Serpentine resident Robyn Brown's two cats, Chocco and Milo, were recruited for the study.

She said they used to be active wildlife hunters and would often leave birds like wrens on her doorstep.

"We were very concerned about that. We've

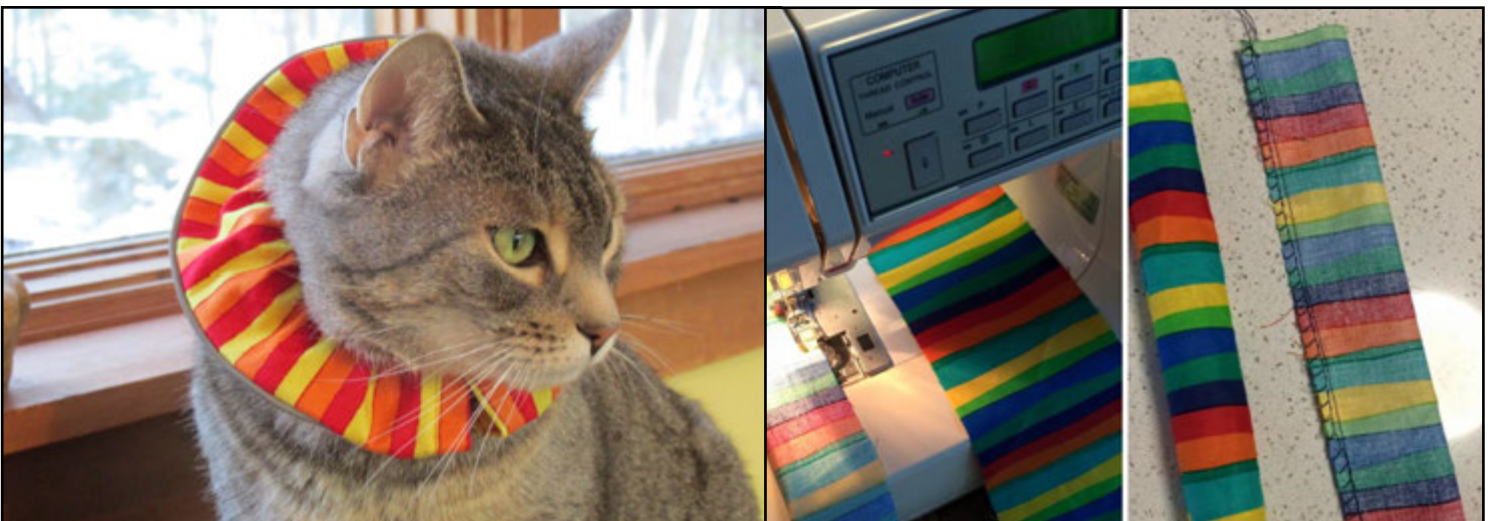
tried everything. We've tried double bells and all kinds of things and we've tried locking them in at night time," she said.

But she said since the collars were placed on her cats more than two years ago, they had not caught a single bird.

"We just can't believe it. We're very happy," Ms Brown said.

"I've always loved cats ... I didn't want to give up cats because I had birds as well, and I loved having them in the environment, but now I can have both."

*Stephanie Dalzell
ABC March 20*



Site Profile: Mrs York's Garden

Another email from Estelle, and another call of support for Landcarers to get behind a local 'bushland' project ... so, on May 6, I joined Estelle at Mrs York's Garden for a public opening of the project site and introduction to the newly formed Friends of Mrs York's Garden group. Local media captured the event and all the participants that have helped to get this project up and running again (after 50 years) were there. Four of Mrs York's grand-daughters, including Glenys Pearson, heard Mayor Peter Besseling sing the praises of the self-funded community group of volunteers who are working diligently to reconstruct Mrs York's vision.

In 1963 Amy Bertha York began to weed an area above Town Beach. Mrs York transformed the area into a picturesque terraced garden with walkways, seats, a gazebo and a pond with a wind-powered waterfall as she worked tirelessly through the 1960s. In 1968 the area from Town Beach to Allman Hill was put aside for 'Mrs York's Garden' by local government. Sadly Mrs York passed away and nearly half a century later the area had fallen into disrepair.

In the new millennium Port Macquarie-Hastings Council recognised the importance of the once-rainforested site as an important habitat link for species (particularly birds) migrating from Pelican Island. Paul O'Connor contacted Estelle and around 2002 and Landcarers helped to

plant melaleucas and allocasuarinas on the lower, wet slope.

The Friends group is affiliated with Port Macquarie Landcare (for funding support), and works closely with Matt Rogers and Rebecca Montague-Drake (for advice on garden design and plant selection), and Peter Michael's bush regeneration crew (who do all the site preparation, weed spraying and brush cutting).

Since October last year, when the Friends of Mrs York's Garden was formed, 13 volunteers

have been working on Stage 1 of the project. Under the supervision of Carol Smallman, they have been landscaping east of Grant St involving terracing the embankment and planting 150 native plants from Port Macquarie Landcare, with mulch from the Port Tree Fella. Shrubs and groundcovers from the community nursery have included native *Lasiandra* and Swamp Lillies. Future plans include more native trees being planted and a bush tucker garden.

Janet Watson



Critter Profile: The Noisy Pitta



Photo: summerdrought

It's that time of the year again, when the beautiful Noisy Pitta (*Pitta versicolor*) joins us again in Port Macquarie's coastal areas, having returned from its summer journey to hinterland breeding grounds. The Noisy Pitta is

mostly found in rainforests but also in nearby wet and dry sclerophyll forests and sometimes in mangroves.

These spectacularly coloured birds are shy and often detected by their distinctive call which is a high-pitched sequence of three ascending notes, usually described as "walk to work, walk to work". They have a distinctive bright blue wing patch, visible upon flight.

The Noisy Pitta is a bird of the forest floor where it rummages through the leaf litter for the snails and other invertebrates on which it feeds. While foraging, it will bob its head up and down and flick its tail from side to side. Its

diet sometimes includes fruit. Noisy Pittas use anvils to 'crack' foods such as snails. Anvils can be a polished stone, a tree stump, or even a broken bottle. Some anvils are used for years.

The populations of Noisy Pittas have declined due to the clearing of forests for agriculture and for the planting of pine plantations. They are also often preyed on by cats, and used to be shot by pigeon-shooters. Works, such as those by Landcare that restore the ground layer of rainforest environments, are important for the conservation of Noisy Pittas through maintaining their nesting and foraging habitat.

Rebecca Montague-Drake

National Tree Day

You Can Grow So Much is the theme for National Tree Day 2015. This year we will grow food and shelter for our native fauna and will turn a cleared area into resilient bushland that supports wildlife such as koalas (a Threatened Species).

The 2015 location in Port Macquarie is an easily accessible creekside reserve located on both sides of Herschell Street, near Innes Street. The site is safe, accessible to all, and suitable for environmental reasons.

Planting in this location will help to restore an essential green corridor, as part of our six-year NSW Environmental Trust project. We will use only local provenance rainforest species and koala browse trees, all sourced from the Port Macquarie Landcare Group Community Nursery.

This large planting will also sequester carbon, helping the community to address climate change. Other benefits to the community include weed control without costly mowing, erosion control, and reduction of fire risk.

The response to last year's National Tree Day revealed that residents need more opportunities to plant trees, so this year's event will be twice as big, with 3000 plants. We expect to increase resident participation from 50 to 70, and we hope to recruit more new members than we did in 2014. You can enjoy this free outdoors activity with your children and grandchildren.

We aim to raise awareness of the benefits of gardening without weedy exotic plants, and keep the asset protection zone free of encroachments. We expect our event, listed on the website of promoter Planet Ark and Your Local Independent newspaper to be even more successful than in 2014.

When: Sunday, 26 July 2015 9am to 12pm

Where: The creekside reserve at the bottom of Herschell Street - look for the Landcare sign

Suitable for Children: Yes

Accessible for disabled: Yes

Lunch: A free barbecue will be provided after the event.

Notes: Please provide your own drinks, sun protection, sensible outdoor work attire (including gloves if you have them) and hat. Landcare members will welcome visitors and provide advice. Plants will come from Landcare's Port Macquarie Community Nursery. Landcare will provide tools and equipment.

Species List for National Tree Day

Common Name	Scientific Name	Growth Form
Cunjevoi	<i>Alocasia brisbanensis</i>	Tufted Plant
Rose Myrtle	<i>Archirhodomyrtus beckleri</i>	Small Tree
Narrowe-leaved Palm-lily	<i>Cordylina stricta</i>	Branching Shrub
Murrogun	<i>Cryptocarya microneura</i>	Small Tree
Blue Fax Lily	<i>Dianella caerulea</i>	Tufted Plant
Tallowwood	<i>Eucalyptus microcorys</i>	Large Tree
Swamp Mahogany	<i>Eucalyptus robusta</i>	Large Tree
Wild Quince	<i>Guioa semiglauca</i>	Small Tree
Native Frangipani	<i>Hymenosporum flavum</i>	Medium Tree
Brush Mutton-wood	<i>Myrsine howittiana</i>	Shrub
Rough-fruit Pittosporum	<i>Pittosporum revolutum</i>	Shrub
Kangaroo Apple	<i>Solanum aviculare</i>	Shrub

Julie Ho and Rebecca Montague-Drake



Work for the Dole partnership

Your Local Independent - The Hastings

Thursday 9 July, 2015

3

Work for the Dole leads to full-time employment

By NIKALA SIM

A NEW program for unemployed people has paid off for one young man.

Port Macquarie Landcare Group embraced volunteer Ian White when he was referred to them, six months ago, under the Work for the Dole trial.

The program, now officially in force, pairs unemployed people with not-for-profit organisations to transition into the workforce.

"I had been on and off unemployment benefits for three years," the 22-year-old said.

"Working 25 hours a week with Landcare has improved my general feeling about myself and got me into the swing of being somewhere."

The Bonny Hills man was advised to list this volunteer work on his resume prior to attending a job interview with Hastings Arbor, but forgot.

When he first went into the interview with Anthony Harris he thought he didn't seem that keen.

"But once he found out about Landcare his tone changed and he became really keen about putting me on as a trainee arborist," Mr White said.

"I feel really excited – I haven't done it before but I am willing to learn."

Participants in the Work for the Dole program are able to choose the organisation they would like to donate their services to.

"The fact that Ian chose to volunteer with Landcare ticked all the boxes for me," Mr Harris said.

"That and his down-to-earth and mature attitude."

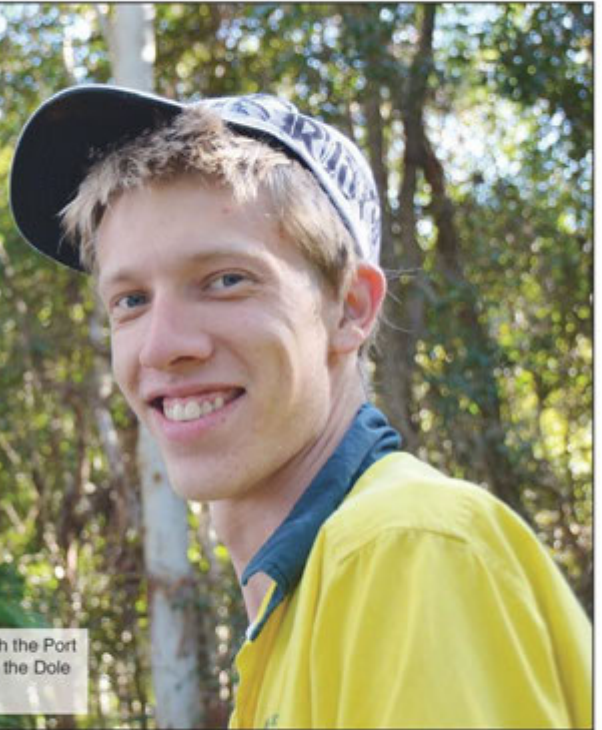
Port Macquarie Landcare Group President Estelle Gough said Work for the Dole was a great help – practically and financially.

The extra hands had helped put their Environmental Trust Project ahead of schedule and the government funds for each person would help pay for tools and equipment.

The group had taught Mr White to identify

Career starts with a can-do attitude

Ian White got himself a job through volunteering with the Port Macquarie Landcare Group as part of the Work for the Dole program



native plants, how to remove weeds, teamwork and occupational health and safety.

The Work for the Dole participant had fitted in well, been responsible and reliable, took direction and showed a willingness to learn, Mrs Gough said.

"Ian is a delightful young man and the fact that he can now put those skills into a new job is

fantastic," she said.

The Hastings Arbor business began last December and Mr White will be its first employee aside from the owner.

"I would say to someone if you have the chance do Work for the Dole – get out of the house, see new faces have a bit of a laugh," Mr White said.

*** NATIONAL Tree Day is not far away and the Port Macquarie Landcare Group invite you to join them. The inaugural event last year was so successful the amount of natives to be planted has been doubled to 3000.**

Put Sunday July 26 in your diary and get along to Herschel Street, between Granite and Lord streets, between 9am and noon.

Post Details

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts



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702 People Reached

51 Likes, Comments & Shares

48 Likes	48 On Post	0 On Shares
3 Comments	3 On Post	0 On Shares
0 Shares	0 On Post	0 On Shares

39 Post Clicks

8 Photo views	0 Link clicks	31 Other Clicks (if)
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NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

0 Hide Post	0 Hide All Posts
0 Report as Spam	0 Unlike Page

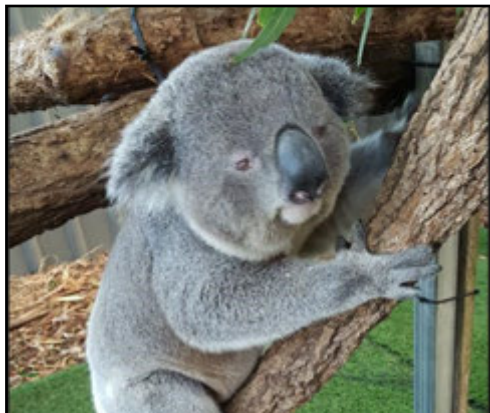
Even though I have resigned from my position as media officer I have been busy promoting the hard work and achievements of the Port Macquarie-Landcare Group to the community. I also continue to work to improve the reach of our Facebook page.

If you haven't had a look at our Facebook page I really recommend it. We get lots of interesting environmental news from across the region, nation and world. Stories are posted morning, lunchtime and evening so there is always something new to read.

We have over 170 people who have 'liked' the page and each day about 220 people read our stories. The screenshot on the right shows just how far reaching Facebook can be. This simple and beautiful photograph was seen by 702 people and 48 had a closer look – fantastic!

Nikala Sim

Nursery Natterings



We have put aside 3000 plants for this year's National Tree Day event. Last year 1200 were planted in no time due to the great support from residents. We look forward to similar support this year.

We have been approached to supply 4000 Koala food trees for the Koala Preservation Society for plantation early next year. It is great to have this partnership with such a like-minded group. We restore habitat for the Koalas and the society looks after their health.

We are also growing for Lions Club around 1000 plants for their reconstruction of the garden at Gaol Point.

Estelle Gough

FOUR thousand trees will become a source of food for Port Macquarie's international icons. The plantation will be harvested by Port Macquarie Koala Hospital volunteers to feed sick and injured koalas.

Clinical Director Cheyne Flanagan said the early morning hunt to find suitable food was becoming harder as trees in town matured and became too tall, or were felled for development. Early this year the hospital purchased 237 acres of farm land on Port Macquarie's North Shore, thanks to donations and a bequest.

Koala food-tree plantation project manager Graham Hargreaves said endemic species used by koalas would be planted on the site. "Two thirds of the land will be retained for conservation with the rest planted according to the University of NSW Taronga Zoo

plantation model," Mr Hargreaves said. "This means we will densely plant the trees and coppice to keep them short, making it easier and safer to harvest fresh leaves for our sick koalas."

Forest Redgum, Tallowwood, Grey Gum and Swamp Mahogany would be grown from locally-harvested seed and planted to support a varied koala diet. Volunteer of 15 years Chris Rollands will collect the seeds which will then be grown by Port Macquarie Landcare Group volunteers at their community nursery.

"Currently it is a massive undertaking to hunt for food in all weather conditions," Mr Hargreaves said. "People start, every day, at 4.30am and safety is becoming a real issue."

The project would also put less stress on wild koalas in town because it would negate the need to source their food. Funding was being sought to support the growing and planting of the 5000 trees.

Nikala Sim

Your Local Independent 28/5/15

Can You Help?

There are a few committee positions that have become available (the people filling them have sadly become unavailable!) The committee is a great way to share your skills and ideas. It is also a wonderful way to help if you are physically limited and unable to weed or plant out on site.

Minute Taker

We need a Minute Taker as Janet is resigning at the next AGM in September. This is a committee position and the job is not onerous as the reports are supplied prior to our meetings, held every 2nd month on the 2nd Tuesday of each month starting in January. The only areas to take minutes are *business arising and general business* as a general rule. The minutes need to be collated and sent by email to all members. Janet will be happy to mentor anyone wishing to gain experience in preparing Minutes in draft form ready for editing.

Publicity Officer

This position is critical to our need to keep in the public eye to promote our group and to attract more volunteers. Please talk to family and friends and see if there is a possible candidate out there for us who would like to donate their skills to our group. This is a committee position and the main role is writing stories for release to the media when we have a suitable event to interest them. The Publicity Officer is required to keep an archive of all news media. Nikala is happy to mentor someone in this position.

The Habitatler

We need another person skilled in graphic design to help put the newsletter together. Nikala has done a wonderful job of simplifying this process and it should only take a couple of days every three months.

DATE / TIME	EVENT DETAILS	CONTACT
15 July Commencing 7pm	General Meeting Port City Bowling Club Owen St, Port Macquarie	janetslater1237@bigpond.com

Habitatler Team: Sam Dobner and Nikala Sim

Email submissions to:

habitatler@gmail.com