



ISSUE 4

PORT MACQUARIE LANDCARE GROUP INC.

AUTUMN 2012

## President's Report



The acquisition of our Working Bee Van and its fit-out and launch have been the highlight of early 2012.

We thank the Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation for the funding that made this possible. Julie and Steve Ho did a remarkable job of developing and executing this project. They have contributed long hours over many months to bring to fruition something that will benefit all our volunteers for years to come. Well done Julie and Steve!

I want to thank all the volunteers who donated extra time to come to the van launch at Town Green. We certainly made a splash in the media! It was also great to see volunteers we have not seen for a long time come and join us for this event; it was wonderful to re-new contact.

The 'Thank You' BBQ for our volunteers was well attended and our hosts Tony Bischoff and the rest of the Blair team did a splendid job of showing us the site and its importance to the community.

The Publicity Officer role on the committee came vacant again as Suzy Berry had to take on extra work. The position has been taken up by Bill Quaglio who has fitted perfectly into the role, as you can see by our continuing exposure in the media.

When visiting Sea Acres you will see that our plant trolley has had a face lift with great signage raising the profile of this service we provide to Sea Acres and the community.

We are now able to formalise our induction of new volunteers with the completion and distribution of our Weeds Manuals and New Member Induction Pamphlet. Many thanks to Bev Sibthorpe for all her hard work on the Induction Pamphlet and to those who provided feedback on the draft. These will go a long way to helping new volunteers understand our role in the community and learn about the weeds they will be dealing with on our different sites.

- Estelle Gough  
[nursery@landcareportmac.com.au](mailto:nursery@landcareportmac.com.au)



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**"We should be thanking u and Landcare 4 the dedication 2 keeping the environment 4 the next generation."**

- Rebecca Guest

This message came from the mother of two teenagers who are volunteering on our sites. An important part of our role is educating the community about the importance of environmental conservation so it's great to get this kind of feedback. We're also delighted that we now have 5 teenagers from 3 families working on our sites. Hopefully we can recruit many more to help replace our retiring volunteers.

- Estelle

## Meet our Volunteer



**Pieter Schouten**

I was born in Holland in January 1942 and migrated to Australia in 1950. In 2001 Lenie and I decided to move to Port Macquarie, a beautiful place far enough from Sydney but close enough to family.

Being nearly 60 with little hope of employment I was committed to Centrelink and this is where my volunteering began.

Along this journey I met the Goughs. Estelle (the 'Rainbow Warrior') heard of my culinary skills and it didn't take her

long to volunteer me for BBQ duties.

Then looking for someone to do the water testing she gave me a second hat. When I'm water testing Landcare volunteers seem to pop up everywhere like the weeds they are working hard to eradicate.

Both these jobs I enjoy and they also give me social contact.

I have asked 'De Chef' for one of his secret recipes. With winter coming on he suggested this old Dutch one from his mother.

### HUTSPOT

Quantities to suit number of people

Pork shoulder - cut into 4cm pieces and brown in butter

Braise approx. 1 ½ hrs or until tender

Potatoes – add salt to suit and boil

Carrots & onions - cut finely and cook

Mash the potatoes, carrots & onions with butter

Place the pork on the mash, spoon on gravy from braising

Ideally served with smoked sausage or kranksy.

Enjoy! 'De Chef'



## Waterwatch

Hi, I'm Pieter Schouten, your Waterwatcher. I will give you a little insight into what Waterwatch is all about.

Water testing is not like taking a urine sample to the pathologist. The process begins onsite with the addition of chemicals to the sample to allow later testing for phosphate. I sample eight sites and take the samples home for testing for pH, turbidity (clarity), phosphate, dissolved oxygen and electrical conductivity. The data are entered into the Waterwatch online data base.



*Leni and Pieter Schouten collecting water samples from Blair Reserve*



The water at Lilypond Reserve is very low in dissolved oxygen which is normal at times for small deep wetlands though this may kill organisms that rely on oxygen in the water. [Bill Peel - This happens because the oxygen rich surface waters may cool suddenly and sink to the bottom, putting the oxygen poor water at the surface for a time, until plants can recharge it with oxygen].

For the sites from Timber Ridge to Blair Reserve the main problem is phosphates which do vary but are regarded as being at fair levels. [Bill Peel - Phosphates can be pollutants that encourage algal blooms.

But the good news is that wetlands along waterways (swampy sections with Cum-bungi, reeds or paperbarks/swamp oaks) take up the phosphorous via plant roots and this is then shed as leaves or dead plant material. This then sinks to the bottom and is bound up in the muds thereby taking the phosphorous out of the water, which flows on downstream clean of the 'phosphorous pollution'. The phosphorous is available for future use by plants, but not available for the algae that may use it to produce a bloom].

The Northern Rivers CMA now no longer funds Waterwatch. The chemicals and other items will have to be funded by us but the data base will continue. I have received several e-mails from NRCMA to verify this (applause).

Thank you very much.

-Pieter Schouten





## Site Profile: Absalom Reserve

Absalom Reserve is at the top of a small catchment that begins where Livingstone Rd and Beechtree Circuit intersect and runs down to Ocean Drive and on to Lake Innes. This is an important corridor, used by wildlife including koalas, that was severely fragmented.

There is remnant Subtropical Floodplain Forest, an Endangered Ecological Community, on the site. This has been increased in size by taking back a mown area. The threatened species *Melaleuca biconvexa* or Biconvex Paperbark is on the site but struggling to survive. Planting of this species has been done to enhance its chances of survival. There is also a road reserve that is a degraded remnant of Littoral Rainforest. We have simply removed the weed load from this patch of forest and it is regenerating well.

Landcare became involved in this site in 2009 through one of the neighbours "taking an



*Planting at Absalom Reserve April 2010*

interest in the bush over the back fence". The project was able to go ahead as it was at the top of the catchment and there were volunteers able to do the work. The works that are carried out reduce weed and nutrient run off into Lake Innes. This site has now reached maintenance stage and needs only vigilant

*Absalom Reserve February 2012*



removal of transforming weeds on a regular basis. We have been joined in this by the ACES group who are helping look after the site on a weekly basis under their Team Leader Renee Benwell and assisted by Landcare volunteer Roz Anderson.

Pleasing outcomes from our work on this site include one neighbour removing Cocos Palms from his yard and another planting indigenous trees from our nursery to compliment our work.

As at all our sites we are still faced with ongoing dumping by neighbours, but with the education programme the Council is putting in place this may improve over time.



- Rex Moir 0429 680 131  
jandrmoir@gmail.com

## ACES partnership with Landcare

On behalf of Access Community Education Services (ACES) Incorporated and the users of our services I would like to say a very big thank you to Landcare and its members for their time and knowledge, especially Roz Anderson for making every Monday fun and interesting for all.

When I first heard talk of a Landcare program coming up I jumped at the chance to be the support worker for that program. While living on the Central Coast I was a volunteer for St John's Ambulance for 2.5 years. I remember how being on duty or showing up for the community at a football game or cross country run, being part of a team, learning from my peers, social-



*Garry, Jessica, Renee, Richard, Roz and Sam*

izing with the community and meeting new people made me feel so happy that I was part of something great, and that my time was very much appreciated.

ACES provide many fantastic day programs and I now have 5 very interested services users in the Landcare for people with a disability program. If I didn't keep these users informed about the program while it was getting up and running, rest assured they would find me. I thought "wow, what great enthusiasm!"

On the first day the services users arrived eager to meet Landcare members, receive their shirts, gloves and hats and get started. The look on their faces said it all – "Now we're ready to be a part of Landcare." Roz walked us around the site and showed us what Landcarers have already achieved with clearing and planting. The ACES team members were saying, "it must make you feel good when you look at what you've done!" We look forward to our growth in the Landcare program. Again, thank you Landcare and members.

-Renee Benwell



# Site Profile: Lighthouse Beach Dunecare



Walking path to Lighthouse Beach.  
Photo taken 1994

Twenty years ago Steve Cartwright and friends formed a Dunecare group, and they are still working to protect the dunes east of Matthew Flinders Drive and opposite Vendul Crescent.

Incipient dunes allow sand to come and go in natural cycles, however foredunes are the essential line of defence against ocean surge. Plants growing on the dunes arrest sand movement and the best dune plants are natives.

To stop beach users trampling those plants, Council built timber fences directing people onto walking paths.

The challenge for Dunecare was to return native plants, firstly by getting rid of Bitou.



Bitou *Chrysanthemoides monilifera* was introduced from Africa to stabilise beaches after sandmining, but its growth habit did not lead to healthy dune structure. It became an aggressive weed, spread by animals that ate its juicy fruits.

Bitou changed the landscape, overwhelming coastal native vegetation and often forming a monoculture. It was declared a Weed of National Significance.

Eventually Council got funds for integrated weed management of Bitou along the beach, including use of herbicide. This was complemented by Dunecare's years of hand weeding Bitou and other weeds, especially morning glory.

Stubborn ground weeds on the Dunecare site are now suppressed with herbicide and mulch after Council's Community Grants paid for research there.

MobileMuster (Landcare Australia) has provided funds to plant canopy, understorey and groundcover seedlings that enhance rainforest regeneration.

The Coast Banksia Forest is now enriched with littoral rainforest species, and the site is part of an important wildlife corridor linking Sea Acres to the Cathie Plain.

- Julie Ho 0439 597 926  
julianneho@hotmail.com



Mobile Muster March 2011  
John Reeve and Rex Fletcher



## Fauna: Galah

The generic name *Eolophus* comes from the Greek 'the appearance of the rising dawn' referring to the pale rose-pink crest. The species name *roseicapillus* also refers to the 'rosy cap'. This species is 35cm in length with a wingspan of 75cm. It is widespread, abundant and familiar to most people over much of Australia.

Galahs breed in holes and hollows, mostly in smooth-barked Eucalypts. They are no doubt appreciative of Landcare's outstanding efforts in replanting such trees in previously cleared or degraded habitat. They are considered a pest in grain-growing regions where they are often shot or poisoned. Many are struck by vehicles when they feed on spilt grain on the roadside. Cats are a significant predator (as they are with numerous species of ground feeding fauna).



*Eolophus roseicapilla*

Galahs are sedentary, with 86% of almost 1,000 banded birds being recovered within 10km of the banding site. The oldest recorded age of a wild bird is 20 years. They eat seeds of grasses and herbaceous plants, including cereal grains – also fruits, berries, roots, green shoots and leaf buds.

Galahs are highly gregarious and social throughout the year, being commonly seen in flocks of thousands down to small groups and pairs. Originally they were only found in inland areas, but began to appear on the east coast in the 1940s with a more rapidly increasing population since around 1970.

- Tony Bischoff





## Native Plant: Cunjevoi Lily



### *Alocasia brisbanensis* - Cunjevoi Lily

The cunjevoi is a beautiful landscaping plant, with the largest leaves in our native flora, that is perfect for shady, damp areas in any home garden. Its native range extends north from the Illawarra district to Queensland and into South-Eastern Asia.

Indoors in a pot or outdoors in a shady moist situation they are stunning in a massed planting, border or as an accent plant.

They suit tropical, contemporary, bush designed gardens and are great in a water feature. They will tolerate droughts and frosts by dying back to their large woody rhizome, and then resprouting when it rains and the weather warms up.



Cunjevoi have greenish lily-like flowers with an alluring perfume that spreads as far as 15 metres. The flowers are followed by dramatic, attractive red fruits loved by birds. Like many garden plants, all parts of the cunjevoi are poisonous.

The cunjevoi is easily propagated by removing some of the flesh from the seeds by rubbing between 2 sieves and then sowing.

- Estelle Gough

## Weed: Madeira Vine



### *Anredera cordifolia* - Madeira vine

This succulent climbing vine is a native of South America but because of its lush growth and fragrant white "lamb's tail" flowers, it now has a worldwide distribution.

Mahogany Hill, Blair Reserve, Timber Ridge and Rushcutter Reserve are some of the Landcare Projects that have this invasive weed to control. It has just been named a Weed of National Significance (or WoNS) due to its capacity to degrade intact native forests and produce large numbers of persistent reproductive tubers and the difficulties associated with its manage-

ment. In areas of heavy infestation (Timber Ridge for example) soil densities of up to 1500 (fallen) aerial tubers per 2 square metres is possible. Research indicates that aerial tubers can persist for 2-15 years and subterranean tubers for 5-10 years. This shows how long we need to do follow up on our sites.

Dispersal occurs mainly via human involvement - dumping in bushland, disposal through green waste, garden cultivation etc - and via gravity and water movement down catchments. Mammals and birds can also play a part. Blair Reserve sharp eyed volunteer, Bronwyn Newton, spotted a new infestation at Blair that due to its position could only have been spread by a bird or mammal. This infestation had managed to spread up several trees and had tuber clusters of fist size in significant numbers. To gain access to the vine without disturbing the aerial tubers some pruning of the trees it was in was required and two juvenile trees were removed. Some of the tubers were hanging over the watercourse so we put shade cloth over the water to catch them and tarps over the ground before commencing

to remove them from the canopy. The stem and exposed roots/tubers were scraped and painted with herbicide. We are monitoring this area closely for any tubers that may re-sprout and watching for any that may have escaped into the watercourse. The waste was sent to landfill for disposal.

- Estelle Gough



Ian Morrison shows underground tubers

# Weeds of National Significance

## WoNS

In 1998, Australian governments endorsed a framework to identify which weed species could be considered WoNS within an agricultural, forestry and environmental context.

States and territories nominated 71 weed species to be assessed and ranked under this framework. Four major criteria were used in determining WoNS:

- the invasiveness of a weed species
- a weed's impacts
- the potential for spread of a weed
- socio-economic and environmental values.

Twenty WoNS were identified through this process. The Australian Government and the state and territory governments then endorsed the final list in 1999.

This was the first attempt to prioritise weeds over a range of land uses at the

national level. It is not a purely scientific process, but an attempt to draw together meaningful indicators on which to base future weed decision-making. It also provides a framework to prioritise weed management at the state, regional and local levels.

### Managing WoNS -

Individual landowners and managers are ultimately responsible for managing WoNS. State and territory governments are responsible for overall legislation and administration.

The issues concerning WoNS are of such a magnitude that they need coordination among all levels of government, organisations and individuals with weed management responsibilities. Each WoNS has a strategic plan that outlines strategies and actions required to control the weed, and identifies responsibilities for each action.

There are three phases of national management for WoNS. In phases one and two, each WoNS has a Management Coordinator and a National Management Group/Steering Committee to oversee implementation of the goals and actions of the WoNS strategic plans and to develop and coordinate priority actions. In phase three, state and territory governments take responsibility for national coordination within their jurisdictions. State agencies report to the Australian Weeds Committee on progress against any remaining actions under the strategic plans.

As soon as the second round of weeds that have been assessed as WoNS have been finalised you will be able to follow it at <http://www.weeds.gov.au/weeds/lists/wons.html>

- Estelle Gough



stamp out Madeira vines

## Weed Manuals

### Weeds Manuals have arrived!

After 12 long months in the making the site-specific Weed Manuals are now to hand and are being given to volunteers to study at their leisure. They are aimed at making training new volunteers simpler and easier and at being a reference for more experienced volunteers. The project has been jointly funded by Council and Landcare, the Council doing the large printing job and Landcare covering the cost of collation.

There have been many willing participants and my thanks go to Peter Michael for the great job he did of editing the weed profiles once we had got together the master list; Rex Moir for the wonderful job he did on the extra photographic work that has contributed so much to the professional end result; Peter Crundwell for getting the profiles ready for printing; and to the Project Managers who took the time to list their 30 most common weeds.

These weed manuals will be living documents - as we encounter more weeds (perish the thought) they can easily be added.



Roz Anderson, Bronwyn Newton, Carol Jungblut and Barbara Southern assembling the manuals



John Sherwood, Rex Moir, Steve Ho, Harry Mitchell, Ian Morrison, Bronwyn Newton and John O'Reilly

Peter Crundwell has already put the Master Weed Wackers Manual up on our website for use by everyone with an interest in weeds and their impact on our environment. This makes the full list of weeds available for volunteers who are interested in further study.

We also donated a copy to the other conservation group in Port Macquarie, Friends of Kooloonbung Creek Nature Park. They have since had Council print copies for each of their members.

- Estelle Gough



Colin Hardwick (Friends of Kooloonbung) accepting the weed manual from Estelle Gough



## Tree Planting at The Hatch

### Lions and Landcare join forces for the environment



On Sunday, 25 March these community groups worked together to help plant 2,500 Subtropical Rainforest plants at the Hatch on the Maria River (a project funded by the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority's Incentive Grants Program). The community planting day arose from the need for the regional Lions Clubs to participate in an international tree planting project. They approached Council for a planting site. Landcare graciously provided the catering in exchange for their costs being covered and a donation from Council to Landcare for their efforts on the day.

This rainforest is usually found on the natural levee banks of the rivers where there is good fire protection. The saline margins of the banks are usually protected by Swamp Oak and the tidal toe of the bank by mangroves. This Lowland Subtropical Rainforest is nationally listed as critically endangered.

The rainforest has fallen on hard times because its habitat is very fertile and well watered and so is much sought-after as agricultural land. This section of land that previously had rainforest on it has become available as a result of the subdivision of the adjacent farm. The original Crown Land river frontage had begun to erode away after years of cattle grazing destroyed much of the protective mangrove and Swamp Oak vegetation on the river bank. Council negotiated a more adequate new frontage to arrest this erosion. This planting will help restore the nationally listed and critically endangered rainforest. It will also help reduce the risk of bank failure which would threaten the subdivision.

Thanks to the 10 Landcare volunteers - enthusiastic planters Rex and Jan Moir, Zac and Rebecca Guest and Bronwyn Newton - and the support group who put on the BBQ for the 32 Lions volunteers.

De Chef (aka Pieter Schouten) was in full control as usual and produced a great lunch enjoyed by all, assisted by Peter Helman and Leni Schouten. Ken as always was the shopper and Steve Ho helped get the gear to and from the site. Landcarers contributed 60 hours to the day.

Thanks to the Council's Bush Regeneration Team led by Bill Peel for the great preparation of the site, without which we would still be planting.

Well done everyone! - Estelle Gough



*Estelle Gough and Peter Fulton (Lions)*



*All that hard work builds up an appetite for the enthusiastic workers*



## Seniors Week



*Thor Aaso PMHC Natural Resource Officer and Peter Michael from the Bush Regeneration Team*



On Wednesday, 21 March a group of seniors were treated to a morning information session about Landcare at the Port Macquarie-Hastings Council Chambers. Estelle Gough, Thor Aaso, Peter Michael and Rex Moir spoke about the importance of Landcare's work in the community.



*Estelle Gough speaking at the Information session held at PMHC*

Complimentary refreshments were served and after receiving a free native plant, people boarded a bus for a guided tour of the Lilypond Reserve.

- Carol Jungblut





# Working Bee Van



The "Over 55s" with the new van

## The Working Bee Van Story

As the activities and membership of Port Macquarie Landcare Group expanded over the past half dozen years, the need to improve our transport resources became all too apparent.

For as long as I could remember, Landcarers in Port Macquarie had had to use their own private transport to move tools, materials and equipment to and from project sites. Using sedans and station wagons for this sort of activity can have a damaging effect on them. In addition, the Landcare trailer, which was upgraded in 2008, had to be towed by private vehicle.

The idea of getting Landcare's own dedicated vehicle was brought into sharp focus one day a couple of years ago when I spied a dual cab, 4 x 4 Toyota Hilux on Gordon Street which was attractively sign written and belonged to a Landcare group based in Toowoomba, Queensland. As "The Newcastle Song" suggests – "don't you ever let a chance go by....."!!

From that time onwards, I was on the lookout for a chance to get funding for our own Landcare vehicle. That chance came in the middle of 2011 when the **Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation** advertised for applications for funding of community projects. My wife, Julie, tackled the comprehensive application form and after a nervous waiting period, we were rewarded for her efforts by a phone call from the Foundation telling of our success.

The application had been framed around a Hyundai iLoad van. Many types of vehicles were researched before deciding on a van for its capacity, accessibility and Workplace Health and Safety merits. The Hyundai iLoad was selected because of its availability in diesel combined with an automatic

transmission, three door access to the load area and safety features such as stability and traction control. Price was also a major factor.

The vehicle was ordered in December, 2011 through Miedecke Hyundai after comparing deals from outlets up and down the coast. Because we were so close to Christmas, and stability and traction control were not in stock in Australia, delivery date was set for February, 2012.

Good things come to those who wait! Eventually the van arrived and with great service from Miedecke the cargo barrier, aircon screen and tow bar were fitted, along with the passenger side cargo door window. It was then taken to Barrier Signs in Taree for signwriting and made resplendent with "Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation" and "Donate yourself to Landcare" signage and logos.

Then it was off to Sydney for an internal fit-out. Caddy Storage at Blacktown performed this very efficiently, fitting two banks of shelving, a vice for sharpening chain saws, a hand washing system, fire extinguisher and first aid kit. A lot of hand tools and other equipment were loaded and the van was operational. The official handover by Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation took place at Town Green on Wednesday, 4 April. -Steve Ho



Landcare volunteers at Town Green during the official handover



Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation representatives with Port Macquarie Landcare volunteers



Estelle Gough, PMLG president, accepting the cheque from Michael Slater, Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation chairman

## Excerpt from Media Release

### \$41,000 to bring native bush land to life in Port Macquarie

Volunteers at the Port Macquarie Landcare Group have been rewarded for their dedication to environmental protection and rejuvenation with a \$41,642 grant.

The grant from **Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation** (Charitable Foundation) has allowed the Landcare Group to purchase and fit out a new vehicle to transport plants, water, tools, equipment and signs to projects and working bees throughout the Hastings area.

Charitable Foundation Chairman Michael Slater said the Landcare Group is actively ensuring there are areas of native vegetation in the Port Macquarie area, despite the challenges of increasing urbanisation. This is an excellent outcome for the local community.

"The 140 volunteers from the Port Macquarie Landcare Group work tirelessly to ensure that the community can enjoy the native bushland around the area. The Charitable Foundation funding will take pressure off volunteers and allow them to focus on protecting and restoring native bushland," Mr Slater said.

"By providing funding for a new van, volunteers will no longer have to use their own cars to transport heavy plants and tools, which was also a safety issue.

- Bill Quaglio Publicity Officer PMLCG

**Thank You** 🌱

Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation  
from all the PMLG volunteers



## Blue Worms

**Blue Worms** - What's the difference between the 'Indian Blue' and the 'Aussie Blue'?

Not much it seems. You would have to dissect them to see a difference and know what you were looking for. There is still some confusion about the two species of worms referred to as 'Blues'. The 'Indian Blue' *Perionyx excavatus* originated from the Himalayan mountains into the lowlands of Malaysia and is now in Australia ([www.informedfarmers.com](http://www.informedfarmers.com)). The 'Aussie blue' *Spenceriella noctiluca* is a native earthworm. Many people involved in composting and gardening/farming earthworms refer to *P. excavatus* when in fact they may be dealing with *S. noctiluca*.

Does that mean that the 'Blues' we Landcarers come across in moist, rich, warm areas are 'Aussie blues' or 'Indian blues' recently arrived? It's hard to say. When

mature both have a beautiful purplish florescence when you first expose them to light; then they appear to be more reddish with a lighter creamy shade on the underside.

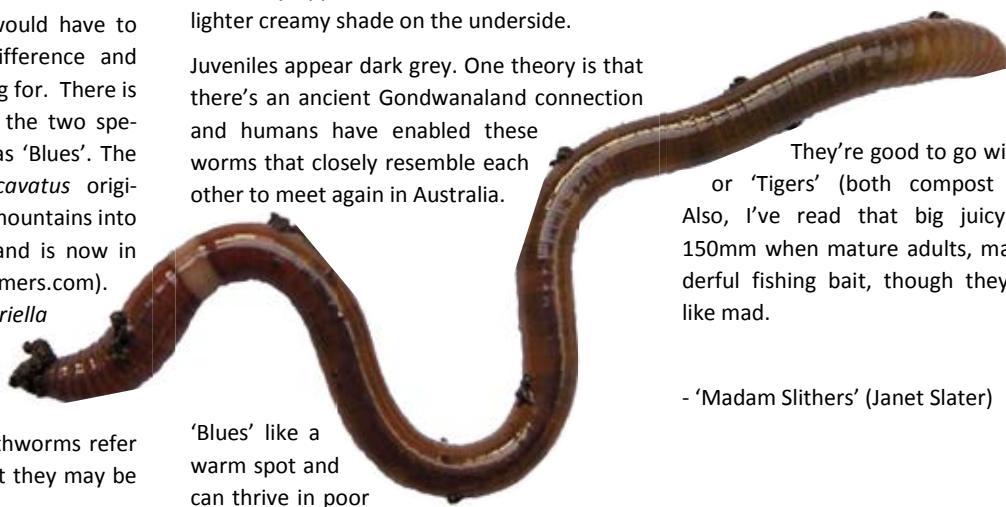
Juveniles appear dark grey. One theory is that there's an ancient Gondwanaland connection and humans have enabled these worms that closely resemble each other to meet again in Australia.

'Blues' like a warm spot and can thrive in poor as well as good soils. Personally I can find them a nuisance when they reproduce in my plant pots because they eat all the goodness out of the potting mix causing the plant to begin to fail.

Keep them in a worm farm and make them work for their keep, I say.

They're good to go with 'Reds' or 'Tigers' (both compost worms). Also, I've read that big juicy 'Blues', 150mm when mature adults, make wonderful fishing bait, though they wriggle like mad.

- 'Madam Slithers' (Janet Slater)



## New Signs



New signs have recently been installed at the Lilypond and Absalom Reserves. They were designed by Port Macquarie Landcare in cooperation with Port Macquarie-Hastings Council and show each project's history, some of the plants and animals to be found on the site and the bush regeneration practices used there.

Says PMLG president, Estelle Gough "Visitors will now be able to get a better understanding of the work that has gone into the reserves and the reasons why it is so important."

- Carol Jungblut



## Clean Up Australia Day



Port Macquarie Underwater Research Group (PURG) again participated in *Clean up Australia Day*, removing rubbish from our shores. And again Landcare members provided support for the divers. We received this email in appreciation:

Hi Estelle,  
On behalf of PURG I would like to say a huge thank you for the support of Landcare members today. As you know we dragged a lot of rubbish out of the river (including 7 shopping trolleys and some tyres) and without land based support our task would be very difficult.



The day was very successful and we are preparing data on the rubbish collected. We are also preparing a news article about the day and will ensure Landcare is mentioned.

Please extend our appreciation to your members - from my watery vantage point it appeared that they enjoyed the day as well.

Thank you again and I have attached some photos which show Landcare's valuable contribution to the event.

- Regards Russell Shelton PURG



Jenny Reeve, Janice Moir, Rebecca Guest, Jarrad Guest and Estelle Gough

## Roto House Historic Site



Wow! What a difference a day – or two – makes when you have a bunch of enthusiastic and highly efficient Landcare volunteers working on your site! Roto House Historic Site in Port Macquarie has recently had a 'floral facelift' with the help of some green-thumbed Landcare volunteers. The garden beds surrounding the House and the entrance to the historic site have been planted with some locally endemic plants from the Landcare nursery. On selecting which plants to use from the nursery, Estelle and I had to take into consideration the historic concept of the site as well as what is growing naturally in the surrounding nature reserve.

Part of the planting project included the removal of some introduced plants from the historic garden beds that had the potential to invade or were invading the surrounding bushland. Managing significant cultural plantings in an area sur-

rounded by a nature reserve can be a tricky business. Historic plantings need to be managed sensitively in order to maintain the integrity of an historic site but at the same time action needs to be taken when such introduced plants become bush invaders.

The planting at Roto House is all part of a bigger project aimed at enhancing visitor experience to the historic site and the koala hospital by upgrading visitor facilities. This includes the proposal to incorporate a 40-60 seat café in part of Roto House with the remainder being used as a visitor interpretation and historic house museum. The adaptive reuse proposal aims to identify opportunities for business operations and revenue generation for the development of Roto House and its surrounds. The objective is to maximise sustainable visitor use while ensuring historic, cultural heritage and environmental values are maintained. The work that the Landcare volunteers have recently undertaken greatly enhances the historic site, as well as maintaining the integrity of the co-existence of the site and the nature reserve.

During the works a single shrub of *Melastoma affine* (native Lasiandra) was salvaged and replanted in the nature reserve. Cuttings were also taken from the shrub in case the plant didn't translocate successfully, though amazingly it did survive. The

cuttings were nurtured in the Landcare nursery and were successfully struck and replanted in the Roto garden beds, as well as adding to the nurseries plant stock. *M. affine* is a very attractive flowering native plant and a great alternative to the introduced Lasiandra.

Roto House was built in 1890 and is one of the few remaining examples of late Victorian architecture in Port Macquarie. It is currently open to the public seven days a week as a house museum and information centre staffed by volunteers.

Where would our planet be without the help of volunteers looking after our natural environment and cultural sites? Thanks to Landcare and the Roto volunteers for all your hard work.

- Mandy Smith  
Hastings Area Ranger  
NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service



## Autumn 'Thank You' BBQ



In recognition of our hard working volunteers, our third 'Thank you' BBQ was held at Blair Reserve on Sunday, 15 April, hosted by Tony Bischoff and the rest of the Blair team. Again we were spoilt with a lovely sunny Port Macquarie autumn morning.

Our tour guides, Tony and Robbo, provided an entertaining tour around the reserve, with chocolates in hand for correct answers to Tony's questions. They gave us a wealth of information about the restoration of this valuable piece of bushland and its local inhabitants, including frogs, koalas and tawny frogmouths.





## Seed Collecting for the Nursery



This essential task for the Nursery is undertaken by a range of people with an interest in horticulture and /or the environment. Some seed collectors just keep their eye on species that are on or near their residence and either let the Nursery know that they are fruiting or collect them. Another approach is to go looking in bushland (but **not** National Parks).

Your Project manager will be well versed in the plants on your site. Part of a working bee can be spent enjoyably collecting ripe seeds or fruit ready for use at the Nursery.

Sometimes, particularly in the middle of summer, the job is so big we need to use the pole saw and trailer. This makes a nice change – rather than being weeds the trimmed trees are giving us their very valuable produce to carry on helping the rest of the environment.

- Estelle Gough

## Vale - Randall Smallwood

Randall will be sadly missed by the people who were lucky enough to know him and do environmental work with him in Port Macquarie. We would like to say how much we value his contribution to Landcare.

Randall volunteered with Landcare for many years at Shelly Beach, one of our earliest Landcare projects. When we think of Shelly Beach, we think of Randall.

Clearly he loved that area, the rainforest and the wildlife. He joined project working bees and then continued caring for the forest himself. He was a quiet achiever who made a major contribution to the successful regeneration at Shelly.

He also took beautiful photos of Shelly Beach flowers with the idea of publishing a calendar, so that everyone could appreciate them. He was also one of the early Sea Acres guides.

In these practical ways he expressed his love of nature, doing the "hands on" aspects.

Randall had a wealth of experience and recently got involved with restoration at the new project of Nobbys Beach - much appreciated by the Landcare team there.

He gave so much of his time to enhance the places and wildlife he cared about and to help



1.8.1951 - 6.2.2012

friends. We thank him for the lasting gift he has made to his community.  
- Julie Ho

### Randall's Memorial Service

On Sunday morning, 19 February Estelle Gough, Bill Peel and Ed Laming led a ceremony at Nobbys Beach to pay tribute to Randall.

Members of the Nobby's team, others from Port Macquarie Landcare and many of Randall's friends from the beach were there

to observe the planting in his memory of a native fig near the spring, now fondly known as Randall's fig.

Bill Peel has since planted cunjevoi around Randall's fig and is collecting cabbage fan palm seed, bangalow palm seed and broad leaf paper bark to also plant.

- Isobel Joiner

This is the beautiful bird, a pheasant coucal that flew from John Downes Park across to the obelisk during the memorial tree planting for Randall. This special moment felt very significant as this bird is rarely seen in free flight.

- Julie Ho



Randall's Memorial Day 19.2.2012

# Werrikimbe National Park

## Progress report – rainforest seedling plantings, Plateau Beech camping ground Werrikimbe National Park

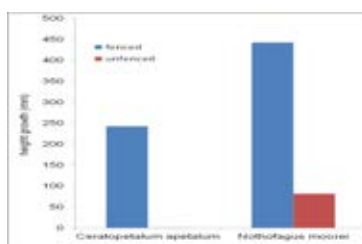
In September 2010, a group of Port Macquarie Landcare volunteers travelled to Werrikimbe to plant approximately 600 rainforest seedlings with staff from National Parks. The seedlings of beech (*Nothofagus moorei*) and coachwood (*Ceratopetalum apetalum*) had originally been collected by Ross Peacock's team as wildlings from the Park's road verges in 2009 and were used to undertake climate change research experiments at Macquarie University's plant growth facility. The seedlings were then 'returned home' in 2010 to plant out part of the Plateau Beech camping ground.

Ross Peacock and John Cook recently re-measured the plants to gather growth rate data on the two species in open conditions with or without protection from wallaby browsing (a parallel experiment is also underway on the relative shade tolerance of both species). While beech is generally considered light demanding and coachwood shade tolerant, the simple field growth experiment quantifying these differences has never been attempted until now. Understanding and quantifying the growth patterns of the two rainforest canopy species at Werrikimbe under different light and browsing conditions is a key issue

to understanding their regeneration patterns and likely responses to global warming

The figure below describes in clear terms the importance of browsing control for young rainforest seedlings. Height growth is expressed as the mean annual increment per seedling in millimeters. Put simply, we measured seedling height at planting and again after one year and four months, then annualized the increment across all seedlings. This approach incorporates differences in seedling height at planting and also includes those with a negative increment; that is they suffered from browsing damage. Survival of fenced seedlings was high (coachwood = 84%, beech = 89%) and poor when subject to browsing (coachwood = 15%, beech = 38%).

The experiment will continue to be monitored over the coming years.



Annual seedling height growth subject to fenced and unfenced treatments at Werrikimbe NP.



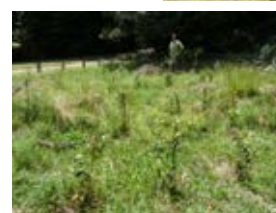
The seedlings in Macquarie University's plant growth facility - measuring gas exchange and stomatal conductance across the leaves of beech. Photo Ross Peacock



Planting in progress Sept 2010. Photo Ross Peacock



Seedlings barely visible above tree guards Feb 2011. Photo Ross Peacock



*Nothofagus moorei* in Feb 2012 with tree guards removed Photo John Cook

-Ross Peacock,  
Scientific Services Division OEH.

## Upcoming Events

Date / Time	Event Details	Contact
Tuesday 8 May 2012 6.45pm for 7pm start	General Meeting of PMLG Westport High School Findlay Avenue Port Macquarie	RSVP Janet Slater jslater1237@bigpond.com
Thursday 17 May 2012 10am - 2.30pm	Volunteers Expo Panthers Port Macquarie	Brian Grant - 6582 0297
Sunday 1 July 2012	Membership fees due for Renewal	Ken Gough - 6583 6508

Habitatler Team: Coordinator and Layout, Carol Jungblut Editor, Bev Sibthorpe Photography, Rex Moir



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