



ISSUE 5

PORT MACQUARIE LANDCARE GROUP INC.

WINTER 2012

Million Dollar Project

Environmental Trust Grant

Port Macquarie Landcare Group has secured funding of \$250,000 to commence a 6-year project to rehabilitate Wrights and Yarrabee Creeks in urban Port Macquarie. This funding, together with over \$800,000 in labour from Councils' two Bush Regeneration Teams and Landcare volunteers, will result in well over \$1,000,000 dollars of additional investment in the environment in Port Macquarie over the coming years. We also anticipate that it will bring in new Landcare members as neighbours see work happening adjacent to their properties.

The project covers significant remnant forest corridors that survive on Yarrabee and Wrights creeks. They include three state and/or nationally threatened ecological communities that provide habitat to at least 11 threatened animals and two threatened plants. This biodiversity is currently threatened by weeds that also increase fire risk to

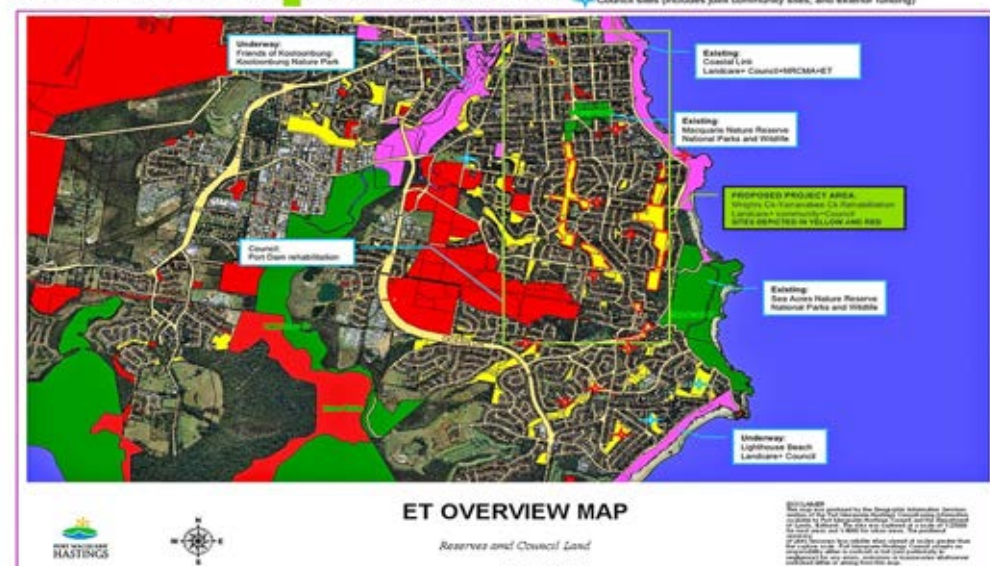
these sensitive riparian areas. The project will control weeds from the top of each catchment, following Asset Protection Zone establishment by the Council. Landcarers will lead community groups and neighbours by coordinating contractors to regenerate these reserves and their precious cargo.

Revegetation with fire-retardant rainforest species will seal edges, extend corridors and improve links. Connectivity will be improved, biodiversity and threatened species will benefit and ecosystem services will be enhanced. Macquarie Nature Reserve and Kooloonbung Creek will benefit from the reduction in weeds upstream from their valuable ecological systems.

These works cover 56ha, bringing the total area worked on to 80ha and substantially increasing Landcare's visibility. The funding is approved, the planning has been done down to "Start of Works" stage and we are

Continued page 2

OVERVIEW : PROPOSED , AND EXISTING SITES ★ Existing Landcare sites (on community land); ★ Council sites (includes joint community sites, and exterior funding)



This map shows the project area (green rectangle). Council owned sites/reserves (yellow areas) that are part of the project are outlined in red. Macquarie Nature Reserve is not owned by Council but is part of the project and will be managed in conjunction with the council areas. Red stars denote existing Landcare sites. Blue stars denote existing Council sites in conjunction with community and other project funding.



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Million Dollar Project continued

ready to roll in August. Landcare will commence at Timber Ridge (T5) on the **second Sunday of August** and at Kennedy Drive (K7) on the **third Sunday in August**, making these regular monthly working bees for Rex's Sunday team. One week day a month will be allocated to the Pacific Drive site (P6), also commencing in August.

Contact Rex jandrmoir@gmail.com or 0429680131 if you would like to be involved in this new phase of volunteering for Landcare.

- Estelle Gough



Mandy Smith NPWS Ranger for Macquarie Reserve, Mark Edenborough PM-H Council Drainage Engineer, Peter Michael Council's Bush Regeneration Teams Coordinator, Bill Peel Council's Ecologist, Thor Aaso Council's Natural Resource Officer, Estelle Gough Landcare President, Mel Losh Council Fire Officer and Rex Moir Landcare Project Manager at the inaugural planning meeting with all stakeholders after the successful bid was announced



Congratulations to Julie Ho our amazing Funding Officer for her dedication to securing the grant for Landcare - well done and thank you



Estelle, Peter, Bill and Mel inspect the Timber Ridge site



Meet our volunteer

My name is Janet Slater. I'm 62 years old with a 'Wattle Day' birthday.

Presently I'm Public Officer for Landcare and Minute Taker at our two-monthly meetings. Aside from working full-time in an office (we hire out boom/scissor lifts and vacuum lifters) I'm never far from my potted plants, small vegetable garden and worm farms both at home and at work.

I first got involved in Landcare when I was asked by Estelle Gough and Julie Ho to look after some native seedlings in polystyrene boxes (circa 2004/5). Then there was the Green Tree Frog survey and Cane Toad eradication – the last *Bufo marinus* was captured 3/4/2006



at Wangi Place pond area, which was a memorable Landcare moment.

By this time I was a regular at the Shelly Beach project, followed by intermittent volunteering at other projects from then until now.

Full-time work always hinders my Landcare work.

Learning more about native plants and invasive weeds with a group of volunteers wishing to protect our urban bushlands is the joy I get from Landcare volunteering, and the physical exercise is an enjoyable way to offset the demands of busy office work. Other interests I enjoy are movies, live shows, writing/reading stuff, beginners yoga, goldfish, and my iPad.

- Janet Slater



President's Report



The success of our Environmental Trust bid is the most exciting thing that has happened since our last issue. Coupled with this great initiative our membership has increased by twelve. Our new volunteers have come to us from word of mouth, the Volunteer Expo and our website. Our continuing high profile in the press is making recruitment of new members more sustainable than in the past. The resulting increase in numbers in some teams has raised the question, 'how many volunteers are too many on a site?'

The answer is of course site specific and depends on the way the work is organised.

We've had up to 22 volunteers at Blair over the last few weeks. This is a result of combining the Blair team with Rex's team to help this site recover from a shortage of volunteers over the last couple of years. An immediate thought is that the bush might be trashed with so many people working in one area. Not so. Firstly, the bush recovers rapidly - if there are any broken seedlings (unusual as they mostly bend) they reshoot. Secondly, the large group is broken down into teams of three. We appoint a team leader, usually someone who can support less experienced volunteers to become skilled in a particular bush regeneration skill - e.g. vine control, initial knockdown or fine maintenance work. The teams are then allocated areas and tasks. We've had the Alexandra-Palm-eradication team quartering the whole site (hundreds have been removed); primary-vine-weeds-knockdown teams with sharp eyed clean-up teams picking up any missed runners as follow-up; and other teams working in quadrants to combat weed seedling regrowth.

With this careful planning we're not on top of each other and at the end of the day we can say, for example, that Area 5 has been completed, ready to seal an exposed edge and that primary knock-down is almost complete in Area 6 and it's ready for the clean-up team.

For Landcare to continue to forge ahead we need to pass on our skills to newer volunteers (the weed manuals are helping) and we need volunteers to take on these team leader roles within the larger groups, under the protective wing of the Project Manager. Our expansion into more sites in our new, big Wrights Creek and Yarranabee Creek rehabilitation project means that planning, organisation, leadership development and up-skilling need to continue apace.

-Estelle Gough

nursery@landcareportmac.com.au



Site Profile: Kinny's Timber Ridge

The Kinny's Timber Ridge project is situated at the top of the catchment of Rushcutter Reserve and the Wrights Creek corridor. It has a healthy intact section of Subtropical Rainforest bordered on the north by a degraded, weed infested wetland and drainage area. Landcare work on this site is important to all the works carried out further downstream in both catchments, reducing the likelihood of weed propagules spreading into Wright's Creek and on into Kooloonbung Creek. Future work will improve the corridor between the healthy ecosystem that is Sea Acres and this reserve, allowing greater movement of birds and animals.

When Dr Noel Kinny came in retirement to Port Macquarie, he established this project with Landcare in 2003. The most vexing problems were the sheer volume of weeds on the site including a large infestation of Madeira Vine, the lack of volunteers to help and the destruction of vegetation by youngsters building bike tracks and cubby houses. With his wife Margaret, Noel worked on the site for 7 years and played an important role in Port Macquarie



Weed infested wetland January 2009



Same area of Kinny's Timber Ridge June 2012



Landcare Group Inc, taking on the role of President.

Noel and Margaret decided to retire (again) in 2010, leaving Timber Ridge in a far better state than when they found it. Happily we had a team ready to take up where they left off. At Landcare we're always conscious of succession planning. Without this, stepping down would be difficult and our sites would go backwards.

The new team has finished what Noel and Margaret started. The Subtropical Rainforest has been extended and edged, the wetland area has had all the weeds removed, and the reeds, grasses and rushes are regenerating, making this a haven for birds and insects. Funding has now been obtained to further extend the site into the degraded road reserve that will be given back to the community as improved bushland. This funding will also allow signage to be erected, educating the public about the work carried out here.

- Rex Moir jandrmoir@gmail.com



Site Profile: Hastings Public School



Environment Friends

The future of Landcare in Port Macquarie is looking bright with all the great work being done by the students at Hastings Public School – our next generation of “greenies”.

Not only are the kids keen to visit the rainforest, but they also show an interest in learning about the plants and animals and discussing conservation, and want to look after their local environment.

Since about 2006 a group of students from Years 3 to 6 have been helping to maintain the vegetation along their school boundary. Each week the students spend a lunch time in the rainforest. Up to 50 students have registered an interest in the group and depending on other commitments such as football training, choir rehearsal etc about 20 turn up for working bees.

With thanks to funding from Hastings Landcare and Port Macquarie-Hastings Council an area along Yarranabee Creek has been transformed. Parent working bees saw the initial removal of the dense cover of lantana.

A Conservation Volunteers Australia team followed up with the herbiciding of numerous large Camphor Laurels. Contractors were then paid to cut and mulch these dead trees.

Students were then involved with the construction of paths leading from the playground into the wetland. Hundreds of native trees were planted, tree guarded and continually watered. This reveg area is now well established, creating habitat for many birds and reptiles.

In recent years a Landcare work site has been created at the school. A handful of volunteers are working in a new rainforest restoration area, to the north of the school. Again it involves a lot of weeding – Lantana, Tobacco Bush, Morning Glory. NRMA funding helped with the removal of Taro from a nearby wetland by a professional bush regen team. With one area already revegetated by the students using hundreds of rainforest seedlings from the PML nursery, the project is progressing nicely.



Anyone wanting to help with the project or just come and look at the site is **MOST WELCOME**. Regular Monday morning working bees will recommence in October (when Janet is back from WA and the McKays return from the USA.) Access to the site via the school grounds is limited at other times.

- Janet Watson
gavjan1@gmail.com



Students get mobile

On June 26, 55 Year 8 students from St Joseph's Regional College helped Landcare turn phones into forest. They planted 700 seedlings at the bushland reserve at Lighthouse Beach that were paid for by recycling old mobile phones. The project was part of **Old Phones, More Trees** which raises funds by recycling mobiles through **MobileMuster**.



Maddy Seaborn, Natasha Woodbury, Branston Charles (at back) and Billy Bambey spread the word

fire-retardant rainforest plants grown in the Landcare nursery were used.

The students were guided by 20 Landcare volunteers who had prepared the 2ha site. The event rounded off 1,000 hours of preparation to stop weeds by spraying and mulching.

- Julie Ho



Students dig in to save our sand dunes

The money generated is given to coastal community groups to improve beachside bushland by replanting native trees. Last year MobileMuster awarded \$2,000 to Port Macquarie Landcare for revegetation to stabilise dunes.

The enthusiastic students blitzed the planting, in spite of rain. Since they were planting in hind-dune areas, appropriate



Lisa Sharman and Maddie Owen



Pitching in at Wattle Street

Whatever you do Landcarers, don't turn your back on your sites. In no time weeds can try to take over again. That's what happened at Wattle Street following the work by the Year 8 students from Port High carried out last December. We were lucky to have another group, the Year 9 Geography students from Port Macquarie High School led by enthusiastic teacher Dianne Davison, who were able to deepen the mulch and extend the area under management.

With good preparation by Landcare the students threw themselves into shovelling, transporting and spreading mulch at the site adjacent to the



2012 Yr 9 Geography students from Port High

Macquarie Nature Reserve. The result will go a long way towards bringing this area to sustainability.

We will keep the weeds under control prior to planting out this area with low growing tufted plants and ground covers. NPWS have allowed us to do some control work on their side of the fence that will make this site more resilient in future.

- Carol Jungblut



Barbara Southern and her granddaughter Katie Harris

Volunteer Expo

It may seem simple to say a group like Landcare exists because of volunteers. But it isn't simple to find people with enough interest, commitment and time to be active members. Four years ago Estelle went to the Port Macquarie Neighbourhood Centre to rustle up support for her idea of how to get the people who want to volunteer together with the people who need volunteers.

This golden nugget was based on an Eco Expo that Landcare had been involved in. The Neighbourhood Centre agreed to participate and the Volunteer Expo was born.

There is no shortage of groups and organisations in need of volunteers in the Hastings so getting these on board was always going to be the easy part. Many discussions later and a plan was hatched for enticing volunteers - prizes, prizes, prizes.



Ian Morrison, Carol Jungblut, Brian Grant and Bronwyn Newton at the Landcare stall during the Expo in May 2012

Port Macquarie Landcare has played a significant role in obtaining major and minor prizes for each Expo as well as donating native plants as giveaways. Our group has always been part of the planning committee. Estelle sat on this until Brian Grant, who came to us through the Expo last year, very kindly offered to take over.

The Port Macquarie Hastings Council has thrown its support behind the Volunteer Expo. It now uses the event to announce the winners of its Volunteer of the Year Award. This has nicely extended the reach of the event and entrenched it in our community's culture. I am sure that being able to talk face to face with active volunteers is the thing that makes the Expo work. The members who come to us through this event seem to stay with us. On average we get five new members each year. If these five volunteer seven hours per week with their labour valued at \$37 per hour this makes a whopping \$11,760 per year contribution to the community.

- Nikala Sim



Native Plant: Red Fruited Olive Plum



The red fruit and flowers of Elaeodendron australe

Elaeodendron australe

This is a large shrub or small tree to around 7 metres with a spread of 4 metres. It has thick glossy leaves. The flowers are insignificant but are followed by the spectacular fruit that cover the tree from March to July. Red Fruited Olive Plum tolerates dry conditions and is frontline salt tolerant, but it does like some shade.

A very ornamental tree/shrub, it can be used as a screening plant. It is fire retardant. Its natural range in Australia is the Coastal Strip from Tross Head to Windsor Tableland, North Queensland.

This attractive plant is not used extensively but deserves a place in our gardens. Any Landcare volunteers who would like one should get in touch with Estelle. nursery@landcareportmac.com.

Weed: Corky Passion Flower



Corky Passion Flower vine and fruit

Passiflora suberosa (Native to South Eastern U.S.A, Mexico, Central America, The Carribean, and tropical South America).

Corky Passion Flower is an aggressive vine weed that grows up to 6 metres high on supporting vegetation, smothering shrubs, small trees and upper canopy species. It can also spread horizontally, trailing stems which bear roots when in contact with the soil and creating a dense "carpet" that smothers the native ground covers.

It grows in light shade to full sun, preferring soils rich in organic matter but it can also survive in poorer soils. Seedlings require moisture but once established the plants do not require a lot of water. They can tolerate a moderate amount of salt wind without injury.

The stem of a mature plant from soil entry upwards becomes "corky" which is a readily identifiable characteristic. However, the leaves are extremely variable in shape, which makes Corky Passion Flower easily confused with native varieties of Passion Fruit. They are usually variants of a 3-lobed shape but may also be ovate. There are two raised glands on the leaf stem between the middle of the leaf stem and the base of the leaf.

Flowers are 1.5cms across with no petals. They have yellow green "sepals" with a purple inner fringe. Fruit are 1-1.5cms across, changing from white to light-green to purplish to black. The size of the fruit distinguishes it from native species.

Seeds are dispersed by the birds and animals consuming the fruit, by trailing stems, by water transport or by gravity –

as well as the usual dumping from ornamental gardens.

Young plants can be pulled from soil, but any stem part left with roots will regenerate. The scrape and paint method should be used to deal with this weed.

The native look-alike (in leaf shape only) is the Native Passionfruit, *Passiflora herbertiana*.

- Rex Moir



Corky Passion Flower leaves and stem



What the Fungi?



Subject: A New Stinkhorn

I got a phone call on Sunday afternoon 22/4/2012 from my mother Bronwyn who had been working hard at Blair Reserve. The team had discovered fungus different to any we had previously seen at our other sites, so with camera in hand I set off. My directions were simple...too simple... down near the path under a tree... a big tree. Yeah right I'm in a park!!!

A quick phone call sent me in the right direction and there it was right under "the big tree" standing proud as...well let's just say proud.



I would like to introduce *Phallus indusiatus*. This fungus belongs in the same family as *Phallus rubicundus* (featured in Issue 1), the difference being the beautiful veil hanging from beneath the cap margin on *Phallus indusiatus*.

The stem colour can vary from white to slightly pink and the cap from yellow to orange (even bright red). The cap size can cover the top third or almost reach the egg sac. The egg sac is grey but can have a pinkish tinge and has spines, though these can drop off as the egg expands.

Although it smelt rotten, it was not quite as putrid as the other stinkhorns I have come across - it had a sweeter, slightly perfumed smell.

I noticed lots of egg sac around the area, so Monday after work I headed out once again to the "big tree" and there I found several more beautiful specimens with full veils showing. What a find!

Thank you to Rex and Bronwyn for your enthusiasm in finding the weird and unusual.

- Angela Millett



Veil hanging from beneath the cap



Phallus indusiatus

A little too wet in Widderson Street

They say we'll know there's been too much rain when we get webbed feet. Well, I've been checking mine everyday in the shower lately, just in case! After a week of rain I thought I'd also better go check on the reserve to see what'd been happening. To my great delight it appeared Council had had the excavator in and removed the silt and all the Trad from the drain - one less weedy spot, whoo hoo!! So with blue sky above and a spring in my step I returned home to pick up our dog and take him over for a run.

The ground was pretty squooshy and slippery-slimy as we headed off to play. We came to the side of the drain where we normally cross. I stood on the edge carefully finding my footing when A.J gave an excited "hurry up lets go" tug on the lead and down I went! Sliding very unceremoniously on my left rump in the sticky red mud I came to rest in a nice cool mud puddle at the bottom. (Luckily it wasn't my right rump or my mobile phone may have had issues!)

Needless to say I wasn't very impressed by the half-inch covering of thick red mud which ran from my waist all the way to my ankle. I was also not amused by the three-inch thick mud encrusted on the side of my now very soggy sneaker. Ah well. The sun was shining and nothing was broken, thank goodness.

I grabbed a clump of leaf litter and began scraping off the worst of the offending mud - much better - at least now it wasn't dropping off in sticky clumps as I walked. Let the games begin. I threw A.J's toy back and forth, having a great time, until he decided to cool off and plonked himself down in a huge mud puddle. He does what I call the 'Crocodile', lying flat on his belly with only his eyes and the top of his body visible.

I laughed out loud. What a fine pair we made! Me with mud down one side of my body and up both arms and A.J the choc-dipped dog, white choc on top and dark choc on the bottom. We played on for an hour or so then headed for home. We must have looked good standing on

the side of Widderson St waiting to cross.

Then I realised that in the euphoric state I'd left in (remember the cleared drain and the vanquished Trad) I'd left my keys on the table and was now locked out of the house. I muttered "bah humbug" and let out a big sigh. Breathe in, breathe out. Believe me I am capable of a lot of things, but looking like the creature from the black lagoon and then climbing through a window is not one of them.

Luckily my phone had chosen the dry right rump pocket and came in handy. I sheepishly called my husband at work to come home and let me in. Before long I heard him at the front gate saying "oh no, down dog, down" and as I emerged from the backyard he laughed and said "Goodness you two look like you've had a good time!" And the truth was we had!

See you in the bush

- Ann Ryan



Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoo

Calyptorhynchus funereus are quite commonly seen in our local area. Forest birds, they have a large range down the east coast from Queensland through NSW and Victoria, feeding on wood-boring larvae in Banksias, as well as Eucalyptus, Acacia, Casuarina and *Pinus radiata* seeds. Females are distinguished by a larger yellow cheek patch. They have a strong pair bond, breeding from March to August.

The female incubates two white eggs in a large eucalypt hollow lined with wood chips. The second egg is laid a few days after the first. When it hatches the mother is already feeding the first chick, so generally does not feed the second one, which then perishes. Sometimes the parents do raise both, but that is only possible if there is ample food available. Perhaps this is the case in our local area, as we often see them in family groups of 3 or 4, constantly calling to each other. The male feeds the female during the incubation process and later helps her feed the chicks for 6 months after hatching. Chicks mature at 4 years, growing to 65cm.

- Julie Ho



Cockatoos in Banksia taken at Lighthouse Beach Area 4 December 2011

Pearl Vine

Sarcopetalum harveyanum

Recently, several Landcarers were puzzled to see bunches of small bright red grapes hanging from a vine which was entwined around a large tree. The vine also trailed across the ground and continued further into Rushcutter Reserve. Further investigation uncovered the startling fruit of the Pearl Vine.

Sarcopetalum harveyanum (meaning 'fleshy petals') is a native common in or near rainforest and moist eucalypt forest, chiefly in coastal areas along the eastern seaboard of Australia, from Victoria through New South Wales right up into Queensland. The leaves of this woody climber are distinctly heart-shaped and, when young, a lovely apple green. They can be distinguished from other vines with similar shaped leaves by seeing

where the stalk joins the leaf. With the Pearl Vine the stalk has a 'pearl like' join to the leaf right at the top of the heart.



Pearl Vine and Snake Vine leaves



Apparently you have to be very lucky to see the flowers as they are tiny (3mm long petals) and only last a day or so. They pop straight out from the trunk of the vine, generally on the old wood, which is usually high in the canopy of the rainforest, hence the difficulty in spotting them.

The fruit is a globular berry, 5 to 8mm in diameter, slightly flattened. They are brown to begin with, like a brown lentil, then swell and ripen turning pinkish and then red. They can appear on the ground on an old stalk where there are no leaves.



- Carol Jungblut

Pearl Vine has 7 clear veins radiating from the stalk



Things were buzzing at The Lilypond !!

It's Monday, June 25 and the Lilypond is quiet, basking in the lovely morning sun.



At 8am a good pile of mulch stands waiting, cars with yellow-shirted volunteers start arriving and the Landcare Van and trailer pulls into the assembly area. Car doors open, the trailer cage is opened, tools appear, a WH&S briefing is delivered, jobs are allocated and the morning calm is shattered.

Project manager Ken Errington welcomes everyone for a much needed working bee and our work team, led by Rex and Janice, is on a roll. Top of the list is the removal of feral trees in the middle of Yvonne's forest and three able young professionals from *Port Tree Fella* swing into action. Ropes, pulleys and safety devices are put in place, chainsaws roar, timber shavings spurt and eight long hours of tree felling begins.

Out of harm's way the mulching crew with their wheelbarrows and forks are hard at it, making light work of the pile. There's laughter and conversation aplenty and a great job is done, with the ladies leading the way. The pole saw crew trim around the boundaries then cut up the fallen foliage while weeding is carried out within the forest areas. The tree fellers keep working while our team breaks for a well earned morning tea and yarn. Mud cake, shortbread with choc chips and butter oat biscuits are offered around and all soon disappear.



The ACES crew turn up to lend a hand, the tree fellers take a break and the mulching and clean-up crews get stuck into clearing all the fallen debris. With pole saws and chainsaws roaring the local bird life wonder what is going on. Time flies and soon our BBQ team turn up and put on a very welcome hot lunch. Two of the tree fellers stop for a bite, but Matt is still at the top of a tree, so his hot roll is hoisted up by rope for him to savour.

It's late and the day's work - over 100 hours - is nearly done.



What a great effort everyone has made and what a great accomplishment!

When the noise stops the Lilypond has had a terrific makeover and some volunteers have learned a few things. The birds settle down and all is calm again.

It was a terrific day that I hope everyone enjoyed as much as we did. I agree with Albert when he said with sincerity "It's all behind us now Ken and it looks great." What a terrific bunch of people we have.

- Ken Errington



National Threatened Species Day



National Threatened Species Day is held on 7 September each year to commemorate the loss of the last known Tasmanian tiger in captivity, which occurred in Hobart in 1936.

Threatened species are protected under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act) which is the Australian Government's central piece of environmental legislation. It provides a legal framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places — defined in the EPBC Act as matters of national environmental significance. <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species.html>

The EPBC Act affects any group or individual (including companies) whose actions may have a significant impact on a matter of national environmental significance. This includes, landowners, developers, industry, farmers, councils and state/territory and Commonwealth agencies. Under the Act, there are 6 categories of threatened species:

extinct - there is no reasonable doubt that the last member of the species has died.

extinct in the wild - it is known only to survive in cultivation, in captivity or as a naturalised population well outside its past range; or it has not been recorded in its known and/or expected habitat, at appropriate seasons, anywhere in its past range, despite exhaustive surveys over a time frame appropriate to its life cycle and form.

critically endangered - it is facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future

endangered - it is not critically endangered; *and* it is facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future

vulnerable - it is not critically endangered or endangered; *and* it is facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium term future

conservation dependent - the species is the focus of a specific conservation program the cessation of which would result in the species becoming vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered; *or* the following apply: (i) the species is a species of fish; (ii) the species is the focus of a plan of management that provides for management actions necessary to stop the decline of, and support the recovery of, the species so that its chances of long term survival in nature

are maximised; (iii) the plan of management is in force under a law of the Commonwealth, State or Territory; (iv) cessation of the plan of management would adversely affect the conservation status of the species.

The NSW Department of Environment and Heritage provides information about Threatened Species <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspecies/> although the time of writing (18 July) the site "currently has a serious system failure" and you cannot access a list of plants and animals. You can however, still find out about sightings of local threatened and protected species in the Port Macquarie-Hastings LGA by searching the *Atlas of NSW Wildlife* <http://www.bionet.nsw.gov.au/>." Local threatened animal species sighted since January 1, 2010 include the Regent Honeyeater (critically endangered), Green and Golden Bell Frog (endangered), and Koala, Spotted-Tailed Quoll, Squirrel Glider, Olive Whistler and Wallum Froglet (vulnerable).

Landcarers make a very direct and tangible contribution to local, state and national efforts to help ensure our wonderfully rich fauna and flora will be around for future generations.

- Bev Sibthorpe



Chainsaw Maintenance and Safe Use



The Blair crew were recently fortunate to have an impromptu chainsaw (and polesaw) refresher with Peter Berecny of Port Tree Fella. We discussed the essentials of chainsaw maintenance and use including checking, cleaning,

chain tension and chain sharpening. Peter demonstrated use of the sharpening file and the importance of using the correct file size, sharpening to the correct angle, removing the resulting burrs and checking the depth gauge on each tooth. Keeping the scabbard on the saw when not in use, checking the chain frequently for visible damage and avoiding hitting dirt, rocks or other abrasive material are also important. Safety was a hot topic of discussion, with Peter stressing the importance of always wearing chaps and other safety equipment and not operating a chainsaw in situations that could result in the operator losing their balance or full control of the saw. Even very experienced operators can slip up

and this can lead to very serious, life threatening injuries.

- Bev Sibthorpe



Impromptu refresher on chainsaw sharpening with Peter Berecny

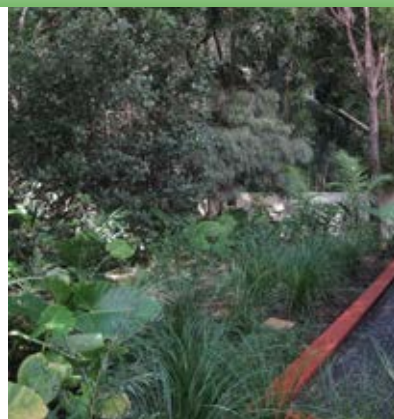


A Landcarer's Garden



When Tony Bischoff moved into his new home adjacent to Blair Reserve, his back yard and the adjoining Reserve area were all mown grass. What a difference he has made! The large trees are regularly visited by koalas, possums and birds and the shrubs by butterflies, small birds and mammals. The grasses help protect the Buff Banded Rails that now visit his yard on a regular basis. Tony has even gone so far as to cut access holes in his paling fence to encourage their access.

The Blair Landcare team enjoy morning tea in Tony's backyard and are often visited by the Rails. These usually shy birds are so used to us

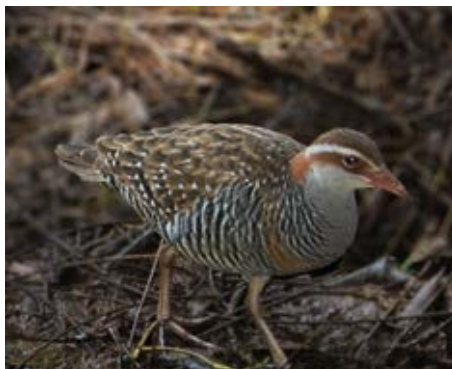


they have a tendency to get under our feet when we are working on the site.

We encourage everyone to think about how they might enhance habitat for wildlife by choosing local native species for their gardens.

We're happy to provide advice about what plants suit what situations and Landcare volunteers are welcome to obtain plants for their garden from the Landcare Community Nursery free of charge.

- Estelle Gough



One of Blair's resident Buff-banded Rails

Making a Worm Farm

How to turn an old (or new) BBQ into a double-decker worm farm.

- Disconnect the gas.
- Turn the BBQ back-to-front so that it looks less like a BBQ.
- Place a 25mm deep dark coloured plastic bin on top of the ex-BBQ with a drain hole that aligns with a drainage gap on what was the cook top.
- Underneath place another worm farm bin with a collection container for the liquid fertilizer that the worms produce.
- If the BBQ/worm farm is under the eaves of your dwelling, remember to tip some water through the bins when feeding the worms, to keep the bins moist but not wet. A damp cotton towelling on top of the surface encourages the worms to work the waste right up to the surface as they love the dark.
- Place a cover on the top bin, with a gap for air flow to the worms. If you live in a cockroach prone area, you can use shade cloth on top of the bins, weighted down to repel insect life.
- Compost worms love the warmth in the winter months of living under the eaves, which I guess is similar to their living under rainforest debris in the tropics.
- Only feed the worms enough kitchen waste that they can eat within days, which means you won't get any odour from the decomposing food. Add some Dolomite lime, or dry leaves or dirt, if the material does get smelly and don't feed them again until you notice the food waste disappearing.
- The liquid fertilizer collected can be used on plants without needing to be diluted, but to make this precious plant food go further you can add water until the colour is like weak tea and you will still have a marvellous energy drink for your plants.

- Janet Slater 'Madam Slithers'



Photos



Harry lends a helping hand
with the washing up



Barbara thinks this might make
good art for her wall



Captions

- ♦ Ear-mark that weed !! - Anon
- ♦ What do you think of this earring Ken? - Rex
- ♦ Quiet Rex, plants do talk you know - Anon
- ♦ I have had an earful of this weed - Janice
- ♦ Hello, Estelle Gough speaking - Bev
- ♦ Estelle sings 🎵 🎵 🎵 'From little things big things grow' - Anon
- ♦ Does this clash with the colour of my hair? - Peter
- ♦ Estelle sings 🎵 🎵 🎵 'From ground control to Major Weed' - Jan
- ♦ Pink would be nice, where's my spray can? - Carol

Use of the Working Bee Van



One of the first days on the job
for the van - Nobby's Beach



Herbicide filling station
and extra bottle storage unit



Excellent for sharpening the polesaw



Nursery Retail Outlet



The location of the Landcare Community Nursery at the end of Blackbutt Rd has one big drawback – it's not accessible to the general public. We've partially overcome this by making plants available through a retail outlet at Sea Acres Rainforest Centre.

Our plant stand there has evolved over time and the latest improvements were made possible by the sale of plants to Sea Acres for their recent upgrade.

Janet Cohen, Manager of Sea Acres and Estelle Gough with the new plant stand at the entrance to the Centre

Janet Cohen, Manager of the Centre, was instrumental in the design of the new signage for the stand. The improvements have increased plant sales for the nursery.

- Estelle Gough



Guest Speaking Engagements

Sea Acres Guides - Landcare has been active in the community doing speaking engagements to spread our message. Bill Peel and Estelle Gough spoke to the Sea Acres guides recently. Bill covered the Council's recent adoption of indigenous-species-only plantings for public spaces and why this is so critical to the environment and the work Landcare undertakes. Estelle spoke about the diverse ecosystems that we rehabilitate, the methods used and the stunning results that have been achieved. The Sea Acres guides who are better informed than most of the general public were still amazed at the impact of the work Council and Landcare are doing in the environment.

Port High School - Landcare were invited to speak to Port High School students on World Environment Day as part of their education of the students. Landcare covered the need to change from planting environmental weeds in public plantings and gardens to more sustainable practices. This change leads to the extension of the bush into back gardens and public spaces, extending the environmental estate for the whole community and the resident wildlife.

- Estelle Gough



Jy Lomonaco, Estelle Gough and Jayden Barker at Port High School



Upcoming Events

Date / Time	Event Details	Contact
Sat 1 Sept 2012 at 10am	Spring 'Thank You' BBQ John Downes Park, Nobby's Beach Pacific Drive Port Macquarie	RSVP Estelle Gough nursery@landcareportmac.com.au
Tues 11 Sept 2012 6.45pm for 7pm start	AGM of PMLG Port City Bowling Club	RSVP Janet Slater janetslater1237@bigpond.com

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



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