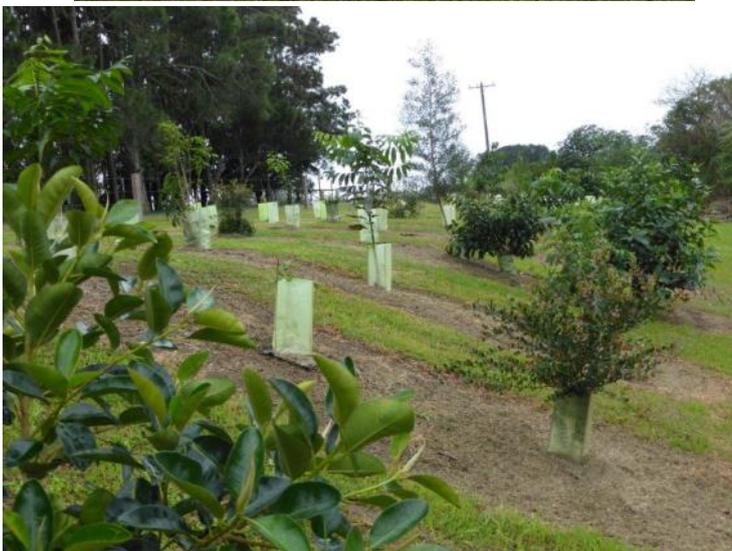


### LOCAL LANDCARE PROJECT

In future issues of the newsletter, we are keen to promote local projects or stories related to Landcare. This issue we are presenting the work of Roger and Jenny Gifkins. Living in the Belmore River area, they have been actively revegetating their property for over 30 years. Most recently with funding from the Macleay Landcare Networks *Lowland Rainforest Project*, they planted approximately 69 mixed rainforest trees endemic to the floodplain. And the results have been wonderful, with a loss of only 4 plants and the growth of plantings charging along. The funding of this project came from the NSW Environmental Trust, a State Wide Grants Program that we apply to frequently for various projects to run in the Macleay.



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### UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES

*Bob Shaffer all about soil—Saturday 17th May*  
*Carol Rose Wet Pasture Management—Wed 28th May*  
*Floodplain Farming for Production AND Biodiversity Field Day— Mid June (see below)*  
*Salt Marsh Field Day—(Date to be advised) see page 11*  
*Bitou Bash 10th-25th May (page 8)*  
*Grassy Head Working Bee—see page 10*  
*South West Rocks Working Bee—as above*  
*Hat Head Dune Care—20th May*

### Floodplain Farming for Production AND Biodiversity - Field Day

Turning a Tip to a Treasure- come and see how one person has changed the future of a degraded wetland in only 18 months and learn more about how these changes can improve your farming business in the long term. This free event will feature wetland experts and practical information from local landholders.

**Location: Gladstone**

**Date: Mid June**

**RSVP: 6562 2076 or email [admin@macleaylandcare.org.au](mailto:admin@macleaylandcare.org.au)**



## RECENT EVENTS AND FOLLOW UP

### Tree and Produce Fair March 1st

Despite the rainy weather the combined Kempsey Tree and Produce Fair and the Riverside markets were a success. The Fair attracted 14 stalls selling a variety of goods from native and exotic seedlings, sustainable books, and fresh local produce.

As part of the Australian Government funded project 'Biological Farming in the Macleay' the Landcare tent hosted a presentation by local (retired) organic and biodynamic dairy farmer and soon to be chemical-free Lucerne producer, Roslyn Rowe. The group was very interested in Roslyn's story and what she has learned from a very long history of observing natural responses and processes to her organic and biodynamic practices. There were lots of practical questions answered during the extended session as Roslyn shared her wisdom with the group.

As the weather deteriorated, so too did the crowds for Harry Kibbler's presentation about Australian Native cut flowers. We will try to have Harry back again to talk about this industry and his initiatives to make it more sustainable on his farm at Verges Creek.



Australian Government



### Dirty Deeds Done Cheap!



**Bernard Doube** from Dung Beetle Solutions Australia was recently in the Macleay valley to present his latest and very practically written book 'Dung Down Under'. Together with **Ian Poe** from the North Coast Local Land Service, they emphasised the importance of the humble dung beetle in sustainable agriculture and the chemical free role that the beetle plays in controlling Buffalo Fly, in improving soil fertility and structure, trapping and storing carbon and increasing soil moisture retention. There are about 5 or 6 species of dung beetle that are active in the warmer months on the mid north coast. But this doesn't help graziers during the cooler months of Spring and Winter.

'But what about Winter active dung beetles?' you ask. Well a University of New England PhD student is asking the same question about what can be

*'The annual production of dung from a mature cow contains about 720kg of carbon and 880kg of minerals – Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium (NPK) in the approximate ratios of 3:2:1 which dung beetles bury into the soil. Dynamic Lifter has a ratio of 3.5:2.4:1.6 and costs \$1 per kilogram to buy'. Dung Down Under, pg 38.*



done to make it more suitable for winter dung beetles in our climate? Macleay Landcare will be following his research closely and reporting on his findings. Where time and funding allows, MLN will also investigate the chances of trialling *Onitis Caffer*, a species that is active in Spring on the Atherton tablelands. If anyone knows a cattle farmer up there who may be interested in collecting some caffer beetles for us, please contact our office.

Bernard Doube's latest book may be purchased by contacting him on 08 8339 4158, or emailing [Bernardo@dungbeetlesolutions.com.au](mailto:Bernardo@dungbeetlesolutions.com.au) or visiting his website

[www.dungbeetlesolutions.com.au](http://www.dungbeetlesolutions.com.au). A University of New England PhD Candidate Zac Hemmings, will shortly begin his investigation into the factors limiting the abundance of dung beetle species in Northern NSW. Macleay Landcare will keep in touch with Zac and let you know about the outcomes of his research. Additionally there are early plans to trial *Bubas Bison* on the Mid North Coast and MLN will be there to communicate any findings.

## STOP PRESS! Uralla Winter Active Dung Beetle Trial a SUCCESS

A beef cattle breeder in the Uralla area has successfully trialled a release of the winter active dung beetle *Bubas Bison* on his New England Tablelands property. Evidence at the trial site suggests *Bubas Bison* was able to bury substantial amounts of dung in well drained, friable, loamy soil and that the beetles were able to breed successfully in that environment during 2013-14, despite dry spells. Dr Bernard Doube who has been heavily involved in the trial suggests that the warmer climate of Northern NSW allows the beetles to have only a one-year life cycle, compared to a two year life cycle (diapause) recorded in colder areas.

### Land for Wildlife Workshops

The Land for Wildlife Workshops held in March., provided attendees with some valuable and innovative information to help them manage wildlife on their properties. The workshops combined to cover topics which informed participants on ways to not only improve wildlife habitat but also improve productivity at the same time. Participants received a reminder that conservation and utilisation of our natural resources are important to increasing sustainable agricultural production through diverse agricultural systems. The MLN is hoping to run similar workshops in the future.



Steve Maginnity enlightened us on the many benefits of utilising native bees adapted to our environment. Research has indicated that native bees might be more efficient at pollinating various crops particularly tropical fruits. Trials and research into the economic and production benefits of native bees is continuing. Early observations have shown where native bees have been introduced to farms, pollination rates have increased without any other management practice changes. Greater pollination means increased production and hence increased profitability.







Macleay  
**Landcare**  
Network Inc.



North Coast  
Regional  
**Landcare**



Hastings  
**Landcare**  
Inc.

# BIOLOGICAL FARMING

**‘Understanding Nutrients and the role of Microbes in building soil’**

**along with a trade display from local suppliers of biological products and services**



Bob Shaffer is coming to the Macleay Valley in May. He is a horticulturist, agronomist and viticulturist in the USA. Bob has been consulting and training farmers in sustainable, science based farming systems in sub-tropical and temperate environments for 35 years.

He is broadly experienced in development and management of cover crop systems for farms, orchards and vineyards. Bob looks at cover crops from a whole-farm perspective including soil biology, soil physics and how the cover crop interrelates with food production

and quality. Bob has experience in crops as diverse as taro, coffee, ginger, avocados, macadamias, pineapples, herbs, tea, vegetables, mangos, nursery crops, spices and more.

Bob also specializes in compost development and use. He understands soil, plants, their health and their diseases and works with farmers to develop management practices that fit each farm’s environmental, social and personal needs. Meet Bob as he encourages San Francisco residents to recycle for farmers:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=0OFI5n13qWM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0OFI5n13qWM)

*‘I have spoken to many people about soil health over the years but have never listened to anyone as knowledgeable as Bob and more importantly he knows why things happen and how to amend the problems we have...’* workshop participant feedback.

**When? Saturday 17th May, register at**

**9.15 am-3pm**

**Where? RSVP by 14th May call 65622076 or email**

**admin@macleaylandcare.org.au online at**

**www.macleaylandcare.org.au**

**Delicious morning tea and lunch are provided**

**FREE at this event.**

**“...The foundation of sustainability begins with respect for nature and feeding the soil”**

*Bob Schaffer*



CARING  
FOR  
OUR  
COUNTRY

This project is partially funded through North Coast Regional Landcare Network Inc., Macleay Landcare Network Inc., Hastings Landcare Inc., and the Australian Government’s Caring for Our Country Program.

# DPI Agronomist Carol Rose to present on Wet Pasture Management

**Wednesday 28th May 10am - 2pm**



Macleay Landcare Network is very excited to invite DPI Agronomist Carol Rose back to the Macleay Valley to share her local experience and wisdom with us once more.

## **Carol will be presenting a day on managing your pasture on the flood plain**

Many people think of the flood plain as uniform country, but it is far from it. There are of course the great soils that grow kikuyu and clover, but with only a little drop of rain, and higher water table and the pasture changes to being couch dominated. A bit lower, and it's water couch / buffalo grass country. ***But there are many other pasture species that grow in this zone too.***

Carol Rose has undertaken research into the feed quality of water couch and other species when she worked in the Macleay. She will share her research findings and insight into the value of these wet pastures for grazing on the Macleay floodplain.

If you would like to know more about managing your wet pastures on the Macleay floodplain, come along to the field day! ***Bring your raincoat if it's wet!***



**When?** Wednesday 28th May 9:45am register to start 10am– 2pm

**Where?** 1673 Right Bank Road, Belmore River (B & M Scott's Property)

**RSPV by 23rd May** by calling 65622076 or emailing [admin@macleaylandcare.org.au](mailto:admin@macleaylandcare.org.au)

or booking online at [www.macleaylandcare.org.au](http://www.macleaylandcare.org.au)

**Morning tea and lunch are provided at this Free event!**



This workshop is proudly brought to you by Macleay Landcare Network and the Australian Government through the 'Biological Farming in the Macleay 2014' Project



Australian Government

## 2014 National Landcare Conference: Call for abstracts

Landcare Australia is pleased to invite submissions for abstracts for this year's National Landcare Conference, which will celebrate 25 years of Landcare as a national program.

Taking place in Melbourne's Crown Conference Centre from September 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>, the Conference program will be based around the theme - *Celebrating our history, growing our future* - and promises to be the key knowledge sharing event for the Landcare community as it reaches its significant quarter of a century milestone.

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Bringing together people with an interest in sustainable land management, food security, community Landcare, and environmental conservation, the National Landcare Conference will celebrate the achievements of Landcare while exploring what its future may look like.

Submissions are invited from anyone involved in Landcare, including community groups, land managers, farmers, farming systems groups, natural resource management professionals, industry and regional bodies. The Conference Steering Committee is looking for a diverse range of presentations that will help build an exciting and engaging program.

**Abstracts** of no more than 500 words should be emailed to [abstracts@landcareaustralia.com.au](mailto:abstracts@landcareaustralia.com.au) by 5pm (EST) on Friday, May 16th, and should adhere to the submission guidelines outlined on [www.landcareonline.com.au/nationalconference](http://www.landcareonline.com.au/nationalconference).

The National Landcare Conference is being delivered by Landcare Australia in partnership with the Australian Government Department of Agriculture.

### Tropical Soda Apple Update-Bill Larkin (Kempsey Shire Council)

Kempsey Shire Council and Mid North Coast Weeds Committee held two Tropical Soda Apple Workshops in Bellbrook and Kempsey in March with a total of 88 landholders attending. **A third workshop is planned for late May or early June.** The workshops updated the latest status of this highly invasive weed and educated landholders on the latest techniques to tackle it. Eight sub-catchment groups have been formed along the Macleay catchment and through funding from NRCMA Council is assisting landholders with TSA property management plans and chemical to control TSA. Since recent rain events, rapid growth and germination is occurring in the riparian areas along the Macleay River at present.

Accordingly, Macleay Landcare Network's Upper Vine Weeds Project has similarly been tackling Cats Claw, Madeira Vine, Lantana and TSA on Thunghutti Land and beyond with the help of our Indigenous Contractor Henry Dunn, and the New England Weeds Authority (see photos)



**Tropical Soda Apple in full flourish up river**



**Henry Dunn and his crew working on Cats Claw while James Browning looks on.**

# BIGGEST BEACH BITOU BASH

bashing billions of bitou

7th - 25th May 2014



**ALL MOST WELCOME: YOU NEED TO REGISTER FOR FREE CAMPING**

**Sat May 10 REMOVE BITOU AND / OR PLANT AT DELICATE CAMPGROUND & HELP OUT COMPETE THE BITOU!**

Meet: 9:30am at Delicate campground (6km from Crescent Head on Plomer Road ) You can camp for free in Delicate/ Racecourse campground FOR FREE CAMPING YOU NEED TO REGISTER PLEASE

**Sun May 11 HELP PROTECT ENDANGERED SPECIES FROM THE BITOU MENACE GOOLAWAH NP:** Come and help FOR FREE CAMPING YOU NEED TO REGISTER PLEASE Meet at: 9:30am Racecourse campground (6km from Crescent Head on Plomer Road )

**Mon May 12 WELCOME & BRIEFING FOR NATURE NOMADS Arakoon National Park at Trial Bay Shelter Shed**

**Meet:5pm**

**Tues May 13 HELP CRESCENT HEAD PUBLIC SCHOOL CONTINUE BUSTING BILLIONS OF BITOU** Meet: 9:30am at Crescent Head caravan park, north side .We will assist the intrepid and look at work done in the past.

**Tues May 13 HELP WEED THE BUSH TUCKER GARDEN AND EDGES ARAKOON NP** Meet: 9:30am at Trial Bay Shelter Shed.

**Wed May 14 HAT HEAD BITOU BASHERS BEAT BACK THE BITOU RANKED NUMBER 1 IN NSW** Come and help ; meet 9:30am at Gap carpark at Hat Head. We will have 2 groups: one flat and one steep so take your pick.

**Thurs May 15 REMOVE BITOU AND / OR PLANT AT DELICATE CAMPGROUND & HELP OUT COMPETE THE BITOU!** Help Crescent Head Public School. Meet Delicate campground at 10am.

**Sat – Sun Ma 17-18 REMOVE BITOU ON EDGES OF SMOKY CAMPGROUND** Meet at beach access at Smoky campground at 9:30am each day

**Tues May 20 HAT HEAD DUNECARE** needs your help. Meet: 9-12 Hat Head Caravan Park brick shelter; Planting and weeding in Themeda grasslands and salt marsh : Endangered Ecological Communities. Kempsey Shire Council is a partner here and has done rehab work here. Kinchela and West Kempsey Public Schools are the partners here.

**Wed 21 May LITTLE BAY WEED ATTACK & PLANTING** Help Arakoon Bush Care, Pandanus People. Meet: 9-11am Nursery, Beach access, Arakoon NP. GAOL TOUR AFTER

**Sat 24 May SPECCY SMOKY VIEWS WHILE YOU WORK:** pull out Mother of Millions and other nasties. Meet: 9:30am carpark Smoky Cape Lighthouse

**Sun 25 May GORGEOUS GAP BEACH** Meet: 9am carpark for NORTH GAP 4WD needed; for transport ring Alan 0419 012 640; Nic 0411 842 407 LUNCH after.

**Wed 28 May SCHOOLS VISIT :** Stuarts Point and SWR schools are coming to help us out. Ring Ranger Cath Ireland for details

**WHAT TO WEAR:** Long sleeved shirt and long pants, sturdy footwear, hat. **WHAT TO BRING:** Relatives, friends, food, drinks, sunscreen, insect repellent CONTACT Ranger Cath Ireland on 6566 7589 or 0459 846 833 to REGISTER FOR FREE CAMPING AND FOR CATERING AND TOOLS PROVISION THANK YOU! .

Schools, community groups, visitors and community are invited to join in on the Biggest Beach Bitou Bash where we will be eradicating billions of bitou. Free camping in NPWS campgrounds for participants.

Contact Cath Ireland on 6566 7589 or email [cath.ireland@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cath.ireland@environment.nsw.gov.au) Supported by:



Hat Head Dune Care  
Hat Head Bitou Bashers  
Grassy Head Dune Care  
Grassy Head Nursery Reserve Trust  
South West Rocks Dune Care  
Arakoon Bushcare  
Pandanus People  
Local Schools and Caravan Parks



Catchment Management Authority Northern Rivers

## Recent Small Grants Success

Under a recent Small Grants Project funded by the former Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority, the McGinns on the Belmore have charged ahead and planted two long tree corridors which are fenced from stock. They are keen to point out that primary producers can also be the champions of sustainable practice by nurturing the land and replacing lost vegetation.

Essentially the project was addressing the lack of vegetation cover and how this is impacting the overall biodiversity and soil health. Mature trees are important also for providing shelter for stock and this improves production overall. By erecting fencing to protect trees as they grow and also allow for resting pasture in a rotating grazing system. They received approximately \$6,200 for fencing materials and a contractor and they planted over 100 native trees and contributed their own time and some materials to the project. Congratulations on completing this work and hopefully we can revisit this in years to come to see how the trees have thrived.



## Native vegetation – what does it do?

Native vegetation plays a vital role in the shape of our landscape. Native plants help produce oxygen, form and protect soils, maintain biodiversity, protect water resources, provide carbon sinks that absorb greenhouse gasses, provide shelter for native animals and much more.

Native vegetation assists landowners in:

- maintaining water table levels and prevent salinity; providing shade and shelter to stock;
- providing windbreaks for crops; contributes to soil erosion control;
- providing habitat for natural predators of crop pests (such as birds and carnivorous insects);
- maintaining microclimates which assist water retention and quality;
- providing sites for tourism and recreation;
- conserving genetic resources for future development of pharmaceutical or agricultural products; and
- providing timber and other products (such as honey and flowers). [DEST 1995]



Native vegetation also has a range of direct economic benefits that include:

- Windbreaks for crops
- Soil erosion control
- Shelter and shade to stock
- Timber and other products such as honey and flowers
- Maintaining microclimates which assist water quality and retention
- Providing habitat for natural predators of crop pests
- Providing deep rooted vegetation which assists in maintaining lower water tables
- Conserving genetic resources for future development of pharmaceutical products or hybridisation
- Cultural and social benefits e.g. providing a sense of identity and place and providing for recreation

<http://www.csiro.au/Organisation-Structure/Flagships/Sustainable-Agriculture-Flagship/SAF-overview.aspx>



Glenn Hopkins CMA (<http://www.ghcma.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/native-vegetation/>)

## National Tree Day



## Community & Environment groups- National Tree Day

Be part of the country's biggest nature care and planting initiative. Branch out to the community in a meaningful way and inspire your neighbourhood to dig in for their local environment and help nature thrive. You'll be joining hundreds of community groups, environmental agencies, sport clubs, faith groups, youth networks, families and schools, in making a difference to their community area, fostering a love of nature and creat-

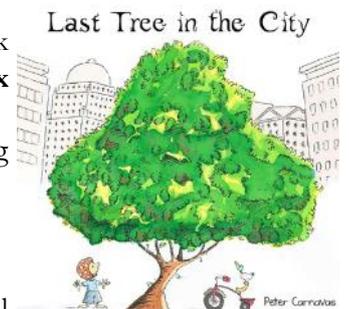
ing positive environmental change. Nothing so simple could be more important for the planet or future health and well-being of our children.

**You don't have to be planting trees to get involved with National Tree Day - we encourage groups who are working on bush regeneration, coastal and dune care and any other nature preservation activity to register for National Tree Day.** (From the Planet Ark Website)

Visit the website at <http://treeday.planetark.org/teachers/>

To download A FREE copy of the award winning author Peter Carnavas's new book **"Last Tree in the City"** (This is a great book for kids!) Also check out **The Lorax** by Dr Seuss with a similar message written many decades ago.

All forms and signage are available at <http://treeday.planetark.org/coords> or by calling 1300 885 000



## Local Events-Hat Head

If you or your group would like to get involved, contact us for help or visit the well equipped website. There are two events planned for National Tree Day (Week) as part of the Pandanus Project (featured in our last newsletter) where this group will propagate species to regenerate EECs.

The first is on **Tuesday July 15th** meeting at the BBQ Shelter Shed in the Hat Head Caravan Park at 9.00am, this event will focus on the Saltmarsh Estuary—and is a School Tree Day event.

And the second will be on **Sunday July 27th** (Actual Tree Day) at Korogoro Headland at Hat Head .

Call us for further details 65622076 or visit our website.

**Hat Head Dune Care Working bees - 3rd Tuesday of each month from 9am - 12noon. Morning tea, BBQ lunch and all tools and equipment provided)**  
**Contact Gerold Bosch 0406 241 936 (next working bee 20th May - Planting native dunes species in foredunes. Meet at the BBQ shelter shed at the Hat Head Caravan Park at 9am)**  
**Grassy Head Dune Care Working bees - Sunday June 1st and August 3rd**

## Stuarts Point Preschool's Grassy Landcare Adventure

Jodi Byron who is the acting director of Stuarts Point Preschool was delighted with the visit of her small charges to the Grassy Head Nursery earlier this year. Chris from Grassy Head Nursery was on hand to give each child their own pot to put native seeds in. They will be able to come back and observe how they have grown. After that it was a walk to the revegetation site on the dunes, where native wattle was planted with great enthusiasm. We will upload this story to our

website as there were so many lovely pictures. A big thank you to Sharon for setting this up and especially Chris Kaczan for guiding the children.





Feral pig activity has intensified over the last 6 months in the Maria and out to Big Hill. Continued efforts to curb their destruction have been somewhat successful. These photos taken recently show a pig cage and dead animal that have resulted from the Maria River Biodiversity Project which has a feral animal control program as part of its activities.

*Rooting and digging behaviour of feral pigs effectively ploughs up riparian vegetation and destroys native ecosystems, leaving these areas susceptible to soil loss, weed establishment and to the spread of disease such as dieback (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*) through native vegetation.* (<http://www.animalcontrol.com.au/pig.htm>) **For More information:**

The Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre has produced more information accessible at: <http://www.feral.org.au/pest-species/pig/>

## *NEWS ALERT– Upcoming Event in June-July*

### *What is Salt Marsh?*

**Macleay Landcare Network** in collaboration with Max Osborne from the **Local Land Services** and the **Pandanus People** will be hosting a fascinating event that will explore the world of the **Salt Marsh**.

Covering topics like:

Why is it an Endangered Ecological Community (EEC) and what are the implications of this listing;

What species animals use this EEC;

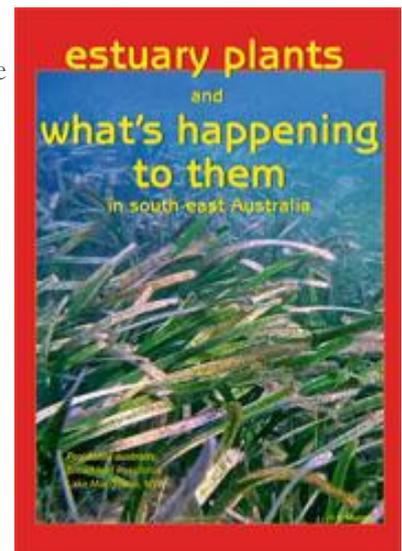
What are the threats eg. mangrove encroachment, sea level rise, stock grazing; and more.

How do you rehabilitate it?

What are the species that make up the EEC – in the field identification?

And featuring the book ‘Estuary Plants and what’s happening to them in south east Australia’

**Date to be advised**, please call us to register your interest in this event.



An excerpt from **Coastal saltmarsh** ([http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/459628/Coastal-Saltmarsh-Primefact.pdf](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/459628/Coastal-Saltmarsh-Primefact.pdf)) **March 2013, Primefact 1256, First edition**

**Trevor Daly, Fisheries Conservation Manager, Fisheries Ecosystems Unit**

As with mangroves, coastal saltmarsh have historically been undervalued and considered by many to be boggy swamps and wastelands of little practical use. As a result, many saltmarsh areas have been drained, reclaimed, become degraded from a range of human activities or otherwise lost.

Saltmarsh serves four important and basic ecological roles.

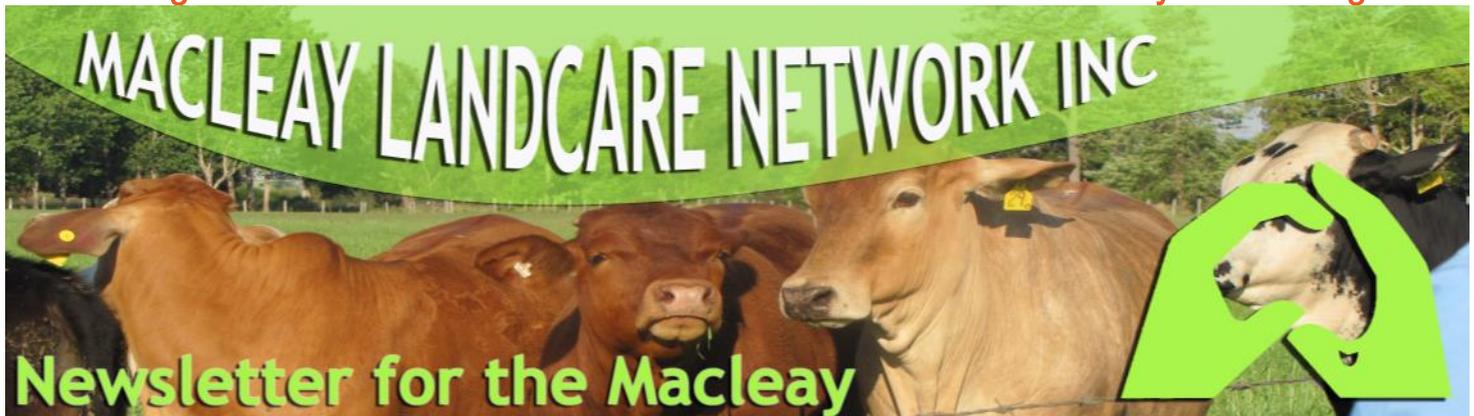
It:

1. provides habitat;
2. provides food
3. acts as a buffer and filter of nutrients; reducing erosion and maintaining water quality; and as
4. a carbon sink.



Welcome to the following new members: **Caroline Adams, Raelene Thurgood, Andrew O'Sullivan, Kieran Berry, David Launt, Maura Luxford, Colleen Allen, Helen Lobry, Michael Clancy, Stuart Glenn, Robyn Hudson, Pauline McCabe, Gavin Saul, Robert Clarke, and Tiffany Cowley**

Don't forget to view the Newsletter in FULL colour online at [www.macleaylandcare.org.au](http://www.macleaylandcare.org.au)



**Local Land Services**  
North Coast

This newsletter is produced by the Landcare Officers and support staff of the Macleay Landcare Network Inc.

Whilst Macleay Landcare Network Inc. makes every effort to publish accurate and up to date information, the MLN and its employees do not accept responsibility for inaccuracies and or opinions that may be expressed in this newsletter.



Macleay  
**Landcare**  
Network Inc.

## MLN Committee Meetings

*MONTHLY every last Wednesday of the month.*

*Next Meetings:*

**28th May starting at 6pm,  
Macleay Landcare Network,  
19 Sea St, Kempsey Showground**

A reminder that members are invited to the Macleay Landcare Network's Committee Meetings. Come along to find out more about this network and how we are working with the community.

RSVP 6562 2076.