

MACLEAY LANDCARE NETWORK INC

Edition 39 Autumn 2012

Newsletter for the Macleay

Photo: Penny Tamblyn- Macleay Argus

MACLEAY IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The North Coast Regional Landcare Awards were held on 7th March. These awards highlighted achievements in a range of areas including sustainable farms, individuals and volunteer efforts across the Landcare movement. This year, 5 Macleay projects, programs, individuals and volunteers were nominated, and on the Awards night 5 winners were announced for the Macleay area. Regional awards recognise achievements in the North Coast region, all winners will go into the running for State Awards.



The Landcare Forum and North Coast Regional Awards focussed on sustainable farming and our agricultural future.

Macleay award winners were Booroongen Djugun Aboriginal Corporation in the Indigenous Landcare Award, Kempsey Mobile Outreach Team with Kempsey Council and Landcare Groups for the Landcare Partnership Award, Kempsey Family Centre for the Urban Landcare Award, Grassy Head Nursery Reserve Trust for the Coastcare Award and Lyndel Wilson from Macleay Landcare Network for the Community Support/Landcare Facilitator Award.

Lyndel spoke recently on the ABC Rural Report with Kim Honan and said "It's great to see the spotlight back on the Kempsey area, after the South West Rocks Dune Care recent National Landcare win".

These awards definitely highlight the value of partnerships in the community between volunteers, agencies, organisations and the wider community working towards environmental goals. The 5 award winners showcase the value of Landcare and the achievements towards environmental management and community building in the Kempsey region.



With potential funding cuts to NRM agencies such as CMA, DPI and LHPA, and flow on funding setbacks to Landcare, this is a time for the community to stand up and have their say about their support to Landcare. On March 19th a Local Land Services Consultation session was in Coffs Harbour at the Ex Services Club 9-12, another Information Session in Wauchope Country Club on **Thursday 28th MARCH** will also be held where community can find out more

about impacts in their region.

Lyndel also said on radio "I hope the government won't cut funds to Landcare, I don't want to lose the momentum of the Landcare movement in the region. With these recent awards there's certainly lots of great things going on in the Kempsey area that I would like to see continue with government support."

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UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES

Saturday 23rd march- East Kempsey Island Work Bee
9-12pm Wharf St, East Kempsey

Thursday 28th March- Local Land Services information session- book via Macleay Landcare 6562 2076
9-12pm

Saturday 6th April Tree and Produce Fair
8-12pm

Monday 22nd April- Junior Landcare Holiday Activities!
10-2pm



ABOUT YOUR AWARD WINNERS– REGIONAL LANDCARE AWARDS



Booroongen Djugun Aboriginal Corporation won for their threatened species recovery program. The 'Jidaanga Cultural Project – Endangered Swamp Orchid' was a project of discovery and conservation. The project has worked to locate, protect and replant this endangered orchid, ensuring it's long term survival in the region, with the lost cultural connections and dwindling populations surrounding this orchid now enhanced and regrown.

The Mobile Outreach Team is a great initiative of Kempsey Correctional Services. The team is overseer Ken Buckley, a great role model, and 5-10 offenders from Kempsey Correctional Centre who are nearing their return to the community. The team has supported Landcare related projects with over \$43,500 in kind labour in the last 7 months and services to local NRM projects and has been a mutually beneficial program with environmental outcomes, individual achievements and relationship building.



Winners Kempsey Family Centre- working with Housing NSW, ETC, Macleay Landcare, local schools and Kempsey Council. The centre runs Junior Landcare and urban Koala Corridor project, healthy eating programs, propagation and vegie growing for young and old, with volunteers trained in Natural Resource Management supervising employment teams, school groups and adult training activities. The centre is a hub for sustainable living and conservation in the township of Kempsey. Volunteers are welcome for the Monday propagation

program and are invited to contact Landcare on 6562 2076.

Grassy Head Nursery Reserve Trust have worked steadily since 2003 and have developed strategies in vegetation management, with a formalised plan and the more informal 'over a cuppa' session. The volunteer group has co-ordinated with agency and group efforts across a wide area, including correctional services and other community health programs, raising community awareness and supporting the revival of the local dune care group in their small coastal village. Anyone interested in joining them can go the web site www.grassyheadvolunteernursery.blogspot.com.au



Finally Lyndel Wilson from Macleay Landcare Network won the Community Support/Landcare Facilitator Award. Lyndel has developed a landcare team around her, worked with a wide range of partners and community imparting training, guidance, strategic planning and support to the region. Macleay Landcare with Lyndel's support have secured 5 project staff and permanent administration support, secured over 1.6million in funds for projects, community group support, resources and programs and supports 200+ landcare members. More information about Macleay Landcare can be found at www.macleaylandcare.org.au

Thanks to Kim Honan– ABC, Andrew Stoner MP and local papers for spreading the good news!

STAFF CHANGES IN LANDCARE

To keep you informed of what's happening in the office, there are a few changes of late. Firstly we have to say farewell to Katrina Boland-Administration Officer. Katrina was employed for 12 months to fill in for Amanda while on maternity leave. Katrina has brought her own interest in sustainable farming, along with her accounting skills, and been very much responsible for the success of our local Tree and Produce Fairs getting off the ground. We thank her for all her efforts as an extended Landcare Family member. Katrina will still be involved in the upcoming Tree and Produce Fair, if you wish to extend your best wishes.

Amanda Locke has now returned to her Administration Officer role, to escape the clutches of her family on Mondays and Fridays. We welcome Amanda back.

Natasha English, Project Officer for the Lowland Rainforest Protection on Farms Project, has left us for several months escaping to the hills of France. Justine Elder myna@macleaylandcare.org.au, current Indian Myna Project Officer has taken over Natasha's roles and will be working Mondays, Tuesday and Friday on both the Myna and Lowland Rainforest Projects.

Jasmine Oakes project1@macleaylandcare.org.au is still working on the Dungay Creek Restoration Project, and Jamie Locke and Terry Flanagan, as contracted Project Officers are also working on Junior Landcare and East Kempsey island projects respectively.

Above: Lyndel , Andrew and Katrina promoting the Upper Macleay Vine Weeds project through Environmental Trust

Macleay Landcare gets recognition



Andrew Stoner recently announced \$250,000 in state funding for local landcare projects in the Macleay. Mr Stoner was given a briefing of the projects from Lyndel Wilson and Katrina Boland.

LAND FOR WILDLIFE– JOIN NOW



 Community Environment Network


Environmental
TRUST

Hastings and Macleay Landcare Networks have joined forces via a NSW Environmental Trust Grant to deliver a project aimed at establishing the LFW program within the two regions. LFW is a voluntary, non-binding property registration program that supports landholders interested in managing areas of their property for wildlife conservation.

Registration is free and does not alter the property's legal status. LFW is co-ordinated in NSW by the Community Environment Network (CEN) under a conservation partnership program with the NSW Government. Hastings Landcare operates as a regional provider on the mid north coast across the greater Hastings and Macleay River catchments. The Project Officers for this three-year LFW project are Vanessa McTyer and Matthew Bailey. They are currently working with over 15 landholders in the Macleay and Hastings area, and some of the feedback is that many landholders didn't feel they were eligible, but after a site visit by Vanessa they discovered that their riverbanks, wetlands and even weedy areas are important for a range of wildlife. The assessment is the most valuable part of this program, so if you are interested in learning more about the habitat potential of your property, then give Vanessa a call or email to arrange a property visit.

What are the benefits? Eligible landholders receive the following:

- a site assessment outlining habitat values, significant flora and fauna and land management issues
- a site action plan to assist property management
- assistance with nest-box installation and monitoring
- ongoing support regarding flora and fauna identification, funding applications and land management issues
- regular newsletters
- access to natural resource management (NRM) industry professionals
- an opportunity to connect with other conservation-minded landholders
- A LFW property display sign that recognises landholder commitment to conservation



Am I eligible?

Eligible landholders are simply those that wish to manage at least 0.5 hectare of their property's native vegetation as wildlife habitat. Properties containing High Conservation Value (HCV) vegetation and those located within vegetated corridors are particularly encouraged to apply, however even properties that do not currently fulfil registration criteria may participate in the scheme under the 'working towards registration' category. The aim of LFW is to integrate nature conservation alongside other land uses such as agriculture and tourism. Community-owned properties such as schools, golf courses and parks are also eligible for registration.

Vanessa and Matthew are currently working with over 15 landholders in the Macleay and Hastings area, and some of the feedback they have had is many landholders weren't sure they were eligible, but after a site visit by Vanessa and Matt they discovered that their riverbanks, wetlands, swamps and even weedy areas are important for a range of wildlife. The assessment is the most valuable part of this program, so if you are interested in learning more about the habitat potential of your property, then give Vanessa a call or email to arrange a property visit.

Where can I find out more?

For further information or to obtain a LFW *Expression of Interest* form, go to the Macleay Landcare Projects Page www.macleaylandcare.org.au/projects.html or contact Vanessa direct.

Vanessa McTyer (Project Officer, Hastings-Macleay Land for Wildlife Project) PO Box 77 Comboyne NSW 2429 6550 4080 vanessa@bolwarra.com

Daintry Gerrard (Community Support Officer, Hastings Landcare Network) PO Box 126 Wauchope NSW 2446 6586 4465 hastingslandcare@midcoast.com.au

Lyndel Wilson (Community Support Officer, Macleay Landcare Network) 1/80 Belgrave St Kempsey NSW 2440 02 6562 2076 cso@macleaylandcare.org.au

LOCAL LAND SERVICES- LOBBYING

You may have seen these posters at the Bypass Fun Day and at the office. Macleay Landcare are lobbying hard to the government to secure Landcare's momentum through the Local Land Services takeover of CMA, DPI and LHPA and funding cuts. This has not been done alone, you, our members and volunteers have also assisted our Lobbying efforts and we believe that over 40 letters have arrived at Andrew Stoner MP's desk regarding this matter. We have also had meetings from representatives from local NRM agencies and the North Coast Regional Landcare Network, and excellent media coverage about some of the changes.

If you wish to place one of these posters on a notice board, office window or other area your community, please contact the Landcare Office- we have 5 themes: Environmental Projects, Training and Education, Floodplain Projects, Volunteer Support and Members Benefits.

We can also provide you with template letters to sign, or you can write your own.

CONSULTATION SESSIONS

Tuesday 19th March was the Consultation Session in Coffs Harbour for the Community regarding the changes to CMA, DPI and LHPA and funding cuts and services changes. These changes affect Landcare, as our funding is most likely to be cut from July 2013 onwards, unless we lobby for the government to address this issue. If you did not make this session you can also attend an **Information Session on March 28th at the Wauchope Country Club 9-12**. An online **Webinar (computer based interactive workshop)** is to be held in April for community members with web access who were unable to make face to face consultation sessions. More details

<http://engage.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/locallandservices>

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

Macleay Landcare has run over 2 million dollars across 19 projects since 2003. These projects have supported over 178 landholders and assisted with revegetation, fencing, river protection, weed control, education, coastal management, restoration on private and public lands and supported local volunteer groups and regions.

State and Federal Funding cuts may reduce future support in this area.

Support with Estuary, Floodplain and River Restoration

Support with Biological Control release

Support to working bees and volunteer activities

Planting of over 24,300 native plants

Installed over 20km of fencing

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Landcare in partnership with Council, NRCMA and DPI has run over 68 training events in the form of field days, workshops, training days and assisted over 1100 individuals providing information, developing educational materials and booklets in the last 3 years. These training events are supported through a range of funding support

State and Federal Funding cuts may reduce future support in this area.

Farming workshops- soil, dung beetles, IOPG, pasture plants and more

Landholders attended tours and socialised

Training to students and schools

native plant identification

Expert presenters- Carol and Harry Rose- DPI and more!

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL LANDCARE NETWORK

www.macleaylandcare.org.au

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Left: Healthy cows on Ag research station Right +Top- Mara Seeds Compost system

HOLISTIC FARM MANAGEMENT COURSE IN KEMPSEY

Brian Wehlburg from Inside Outside Management and owner of Kindee Valley Farm who produces ethically produced pasture food on the Mid North Coast is the training presenter for this excellent 16 day course to be run in Kempsey over July-November run with 2 day block sessions (so 8 x 2 day sessions) held during the week, at the Kempsey Tafe.

The course covers holistic principles and biological farming activities such as grazing management, planning, ecosystem functions, personal farm management goals and good business planning including social, financial and production management.

The course is social, and participants will also develop local networks and learn from each other through this course. Farmers are encouraged to book in soon, as places may fill up. The course is \$450 and well worth it if you are serious about better farm management in terms of productivity, finances and personal advantages! Photo- Brian at the 2011 course looking at pasture health.



Feel energized and in control of your business!

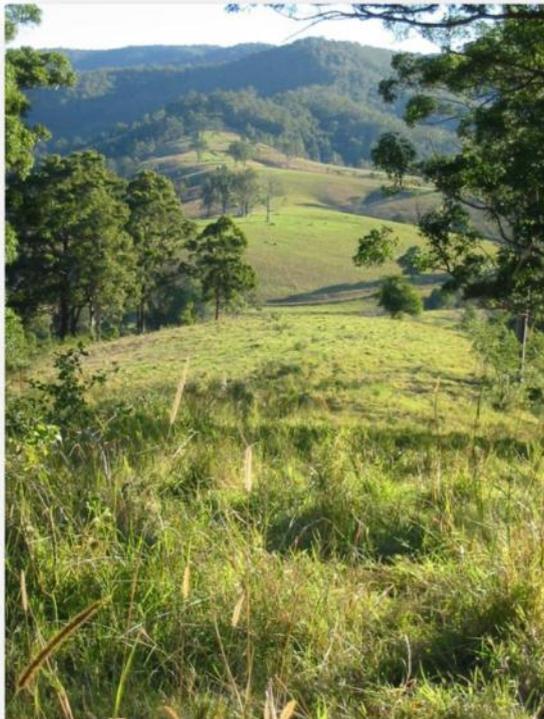
Be confident about the decisions you make!

Feel positive about your environment!

Create real surplus wealth!

Use it - don't lose it!

Build it - don't abuse it!



Nationally accredited HOLISTIC MANAGEMENT Training via TAFE Western Institute

Bringing Allan Savory's thinking to your decision making - sound decisions towards you, your soils, your animals - and your bank balance!

Make the best decision right now!
Contact Brian at 0408704431 or brian@insideoutsidemgt.com.au

"I have experienced a valuable learning process through the Holistic Management course, the knowledge gained will significantly improve our management and outcomes"
Bruce Davison (Candelo)



Holistic Management brings a very positive feeling to approaching the future of farming" Wayne Keith (Brogo)

This course is an essential understanding for all and I mean all Permaculture designers if you intend keeping livestock on your land". Nick Huggins (Permaculture Business World)



"Holistic Management: A New Framework for Decision Making and increase your capacity as a decision maker and positive activist at all scales so we can overcome the problems that all of us face now".
Darren Doherty (HeenanDoherty)

Presented by Inside Outside Management www.insideoutsidemgt.com.au
Course fee \$450 including materials, teas and lunches

Fee waived for flood repair works

The NSW Government will help flood affected farmers by waiving application fees on any flood repair work that required approvals under the *Water Management Act 2000*, Minister for Primary Industries Katrina Hodgkinson said today.

Ms Hodgkinson said significant areas of northern NSW had been badly affected with floods and the repair bill on top of production losses was a double hit for agricultural businesses.

“I am pleased we can provide these landholders some relief by waiving the fees of \$423 for flood repair works,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“This is available to landholders who need to repair flood damage in and near water courses in areas with a natural disaster declaration, which may include repairing a river crossing or undertaking erosion control works.”

Under the *Water Management Act 2000*, ‘controlled activities’ such as repairs to driveways which cross waterways, or removing debris or vegetation which may affect natural flows require approval from the NSW Office of Water.

Ms Hodgkinson said the licensing process ensures there is no damage to the environment or third party impacts, which is even more important following the floods.

“Applications for flood works are being processed as a priority by the NSW Office of Water and can normally be processed within three days following a property inspection,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

The Office of Water can be contacted on 1800 353 104 for controlled activity applications.

Nineteen local government areas have been declared natural disaster areas, triggering a number of disaster assistance schemes to help with the cost of storm relief and recovery.

These disaster assistance schemes are made available by the NSW Government through the NSW Disaster Assistance Arrangements and they are jointly funded by the Commonwealth Government through the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements.

Flood affected farmers should contact the NSW Rural Assistance Authority on 1800 678 593 to determine what assistance they can access.

Information on the range of assistance available under the NDRRA can be found at www.disasterassist.gov.au.

(Photo credit-J Sproule)

BYPASS OPEN DAY– LANDCARE STALL

Macleay Landcare Network were invited to host a stall at the recent Bypass Community Fun Day. This day was a great success and a credit to Nikki Westerweller and the bypass team. **Thousands (5000 by 10:30am!)** of locals flocked over the bridge! More than Landcare anticipated. We gave away 90 native strangler figs to locals for the floodplain, had over 30 signed letters to Andrew Stoner MP about support for funding for Landcare and spoke to over 200 people about a range of issues including Myna’s, Lowland Rainforest Protection and the future of Landcare. Thanks to Sally, Bruce and Amanda (right with me– photo from Macleay Argus Penny Tamblyn) and Nouvelle, Graham and Neil for running the stall on the day!



New members – welcome

At the previous meetings the following New Members were welcomed to the Network:

T Baker, W Loosemore, A Shields, C and J Halliday, L Farley, M Dallacqua, L Connors, G Utterheiner, T and A Kirk

Don't forget to renew your membership! Online forms and direct deposit via www.macleaylandcare.org.au or in person at the office! Thanks to those who have chosen LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS for only \$50!!

We have 9 lifetimers! We hope that you enjoy your eternal membership.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



We have a range of volunteer activities coming up, for young and old!

Join the award winning team at the **Kempsey Family Centre– Youngers and Elders Landcare program**– learn about propagation, native plants with Jamie Locke! **MONDAYS 9-12pm**, schools often are also there on the day, usually in the afternoon. Contact Jamie direct on 0428 326 992 or via gonenative@optusnet.com.au



In **May 13-31st** we are seeking the community to get involved in the **Biggest Beach Bitou Bash– Bashing Billions of Bitou**–working with local volunteer groups from Crescent Head to Grassy Head! Free accommodation in National Parks for registering volun-

teers. Find out more via cath.ireland@environment.nsw.gov.au



UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 23rd march– East Kempsey Island Work Bee 9-12pm Wharf St, East Kempsey www.macleaylandcare.org.au

Thursday 28th March– Local Land Services information session– book via Macleay Landcare 6562 2076
9-12pm Wauchope Country Club

Saturday 6th April Tree and Produce Fair
8-12pm Kempsey Services Club Park
www.macleaylandcare.org.au

Monday 22nd April– Junior Landcare Holiday Activities! South Kempsey Family Centre– propagation activities, planting, childrens books and healthy eating! Lunch provided.. Book in on 6562 2076

MICROHERDERS NOW HAVE A FACEBOOK PAGE

Microherding is a new term for a very old practice. Traditional farming relied on stimulating the soil organisms to maintain, or increase, fertility. Our great grandfathers were microherders, but they could not see their mob of microbes. They just knew what produced good crops and did it. Modern microherders are farmers and gardeners who focus their skills on the biology in their soil. They believe that the millions of microbes present in every spoonful of soil are the key to successful and sustainable agriculture.

Soil consists of minerals and organic matter. The organic matter is everything that is, or was, alive. We can all see the larger organisms in the soil and know that good soil will have crumbly texture, plants with long roots and lots of worms. It is the soil organisms that we can't see that 'organise' the soil. They enable the free flow of air and water, fix nitrogen, make minerals available to plants and fight disease.

Microherders use microscopes that allow them to look at, and identify, what organisms are present in our soil and what is lacking. They can then target different parts of their property for different treatments. These treatments will reduce as soil fertility increases, and the icing on the cake is that fertility will stay up with minimal ongoing costs. Food-security depends on the farms, the farmers and the business of farming to be healthy, renewable and successful. Most farmers are aware that input costs are rising and returns are falling but what is happening beneath the soil is even more of a threat to their business future.

If you are interested in building long-term soil fertility and are sick of the costs and problems of high rates of chemical use then you may be interested in being a microherder. **For more information contact Jeremy Bradley and Cathy Eggert on 6585 6202**
Email ceggert@bigpond.net.au or visit Facebook– and find [Mid North Coast Microherders](#)



Don't forget to view the Newsletter in FULL colour online www.macleaylandcare.org.au



This newsletter is produced by the Community Support Staff of the Macleay Landcare Network Inc. with support for production and distribution from the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority through the "Community Support Project for the Lower Macleay."

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.

MLN Committee Meetings

MONTHLY every last Wednesday of the month .

Last meeting:

Wednesday 30th January

AGM- 27th October

Next Meetings:

*Last Wednesday of MARCH, APRIL and MAY
The Feb meeting was cancelled due to floods.*

**Macleay Landcare Network,
1/80 Belgrave St, Kempsey**

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.