



# Hatch

*Landcare in the Hastings and the Camden Haven*

*supporting  
voluntary natural  
resource management in  
the Hastings and Camden  
Haven catchments*



**44a Cameron St  
Wauchope**

Tuesday- Thursday  
9:00am-12:30pm  
or by appointment  
call 65864465

## PLEASE HELP SAVE RESOURCES

We can email this newsletter  
to you in COLOUR or advise  
you when it is available on the  
website, just send us an email

[office@hastingslandcare.org.au](mailto:office@hastingslandcare.org.au)

[www.hastingslandcare.org.au](http://www.hastingslandcare.org.au)



A Biodiversity Fund Project  
funded by the



**Australian Government**

## Incentive Funding Opportunity

*'Greater Hastings – building resilience through riparian landscape links'*

The project will work with  
landholders along the Wilson,  
Hastings, Pappinbarra and  
Camden Haven River systems  
and targets :

- **REDUCED GRAZING PRESSURE** on riparian corridors through actions such as fencing and off-stream watering
- **BIODIVERSE PLANTINGS** to enhance the riparian corridor and habitat connectivity
- **MANAGEMENT AND CONTAINMENT OF WEEDS** along riparian zones through best practice weed control.

Upper catchment lands and  
new and emerging weeds such  
as Camphor Laurel are control  
priorities.

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS  
from the HASTINGS and  
WILSON RIVER catchments**

OPEN Wednesday 9th December

**CLOSE 4 pm Monday 15th  
February**

CALL Daintry at the Landcare  
Office on 65 864465  
to get an INFORMATION PACK  
and ARRANGE A SITE VISIT.

## First National Biological Farming Conference



### Send us your sign

We're planning to update the Landcare signs throughout the Hastings and Camden Haven and you can help us by emailing a picture of your local signs.

Want to promote Landcare action on your property? We now have gate signs available. Contact us soon to collect your sign, numbers are limited.

I recently had the opportunity to attend the National Biological Farming Conference and Expo 2015 – 'Regenerating Our Soils', held at Southern Cross University in Lismore. It was a great learning experience and definitely worth the drive up. Over 250 people were in attendance, coming from as far away as Western Australia and we all had one thing in common – an interest in promoting healthy soils.

We heard from the likes of speakers such as Gary Zimmer, Bob Shaffer and Colin Seis, to name a few. Hastings Landcare was represented with our very own Chris Eggert, covering the topics of 'Managing Soil Fertility for Cow Nutrition on an Organic Farm' and 'Dairy and Livestock Grazing with Managed Pasture Egg Production'.

The quality of the speakers was very high, the topics presented were of great variety and for different interest and experience levels, with each presentation I attended delivered in an easily understood format with the ability to ask questions of the speakers.

Networking with people has always been beneficial at any conference, meeting, tour, etc. I have attended, and this was no exception. The biggest take home message I learnt was that everybody's situation is different. If you have an idea or plan, then someone says that it didn't work for them, or it didn't work for you but it worked for them, ask why. You may find solutions to problems. Asking questions can help in so many ways.

I thank Hastings Landcare for the opportunity to attend and I encourage people to become involved in our local and national group events. And with that I'll leave you with a few lines from one of my current favourite songs, "Dirt", by American country band Florida Georgia Line.

'You get your hands in it, plant your roots in it,  
When it rains you get stuck on it  
You've mixed some sweat with it,  
taken a shovel to it,  
You know you came from it (dirt)  
And someday you'll return to it'

Karyn Cassar

The NSW Rural Assistance Authority have released the Farm Business Skills Professional Development Program. It makes up a part of the NSW Government's \$300 million Drought Strategy. A \$45 million Farm Business Skills Professional Development Program has been developed to support farm business in all conditions, but particularly in relation to preparing for and responding to drought.

Farmers will be able to complete pre-approved courses, or apply for consideration to attend another course which they have identified as meeting their particular requirements. Approved participants will be able to claim reimbursement of costs upon completion of the course.

A maximum reimbursement of \$5,000 over five years applies for any farmer with reimbursements capped at \$9,000 per farm business.

Three professional development priority areas have been identified:

- Risk management
- Financial and business management
- Farm business planning/drought preparedness

Contact the NSW Rural Assistance Authority on 1800 678 593, email: rural.assist@raa.nsw.gov.au or visit www.raa.nsw.gov.au

**Rural Financial Counselling Services** are free of charge, confidential, impartial, mobile and totally independent.

Contact your local Rural Financial Counsellor to improve your farm business management and develop your succession plan.

Taree: Andrew Ellem 65515879  
Macksville: Terry Pearce 65683888

### Current Government Assistance Packages

Many of the current assistance packages are based on drought or disaster recovery and require you to be in a disaster-declared area. However, there are a few other opportunities for assistance that might help you and your farm business:

The **Farm Household Allowance**, administered by the Department of Human Services (Centrelink) provides income support equivalent to NewStart for up to 3 years for eligible recipients.

The **Farm Innovation Fund**, administered by the Rural Assistance Authority provides loans of up to \$250,000. This is an incentive-based initiative to assist farmers within New South Wales to identify and address risks to their farming enterprises, improve permanent farm infrastructure, ensure long term productivity and sustainable land use plus aiding in meeting changes to seasonal conditions.

The **Flying Fox Netting Subsidy** is still available to orchardists from the Rural Assistance Authority.

## Rural Training and Support Opportunities

### Biological Farming

**TAFE Courses** will start in February at **Wollongbar TAFE**. Dave Forrest will teach the 9 x 4 hour sessions each for Biological Farming I and II.

Biological Farming Course I starts 10 Feb 2016.

Biological Farming II, "Plant nutrition/pest management" starts 11 Feb 2016.

TAFE Fee \$400.

When: 4.00 PM to 8.00 PM,  
starting Wednesday, 10 February 2016 and weekly thereafter, dependent on a minimum of 15 enrolments.

Dave Forrest is a certified organic farmer and producer with a vast knowledge of biological farming principles and practice and is a highly skilled and enthusiastic teacher. It amounts to a fair bit of travel but it may well be worth the trip. Let us know if you're planning to attend.

### On-line Faecal Worm Egg Counting Friday 12 February, 2016

Learn how to:

- Use worm egg counts to detect worm infestations early
- Do your own worm egg counts and interpret the results
- Use tests to determine which drenches are effective on farm
- Use WormBoss to help with your decision making

Hastings Landcare has microscopes and USB eye pieces for loan that are suitable to use in this course and we may be able to source egg counting slides. Contact us to organise this. You will still need to register by early February to allow time for a manual to be posted to you.  
www.ruralbiztraining.com.au

Hastings Landcare Inc.  
supports  
**NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**  
on this property  
www.hastingslandcare.org.au 65 864 465

HASTINGS LANDCARE MEMBERSHIP FALLS DUE ON 1 JULY

PLEASE ENSURE YOUR FAMILY OR GROUP'S MEMBERSHIP IS CURRENT

Membership remains at \$15 per year or \$40 for three years and you can now PAY ON LINE via  
www.hastingslandcare.org.au





## Frugal Forest LIVE at the Glasshouse January 9 - 24

The Frugal Forest is a Frugal Arts Inc project, supported by One Off Makery and based in Pappinbarra, NSW. It involves artists, musicians, scientists, schools and community across the Mid North Coast. To date over 1020 people have contributed, from making leaf litter to designing massive palm trees, creating soundscapes and videos or building websites. The aim: to create an arresting and immersive forest installation, entirely from stuff that was headed for landfill. Why? Because a forest is a living example of an endlessly sustainable zero-waste system, in which waste is an opportunity and there's no such thing as a dump. In a world of dwindling resources and a growing waste problem, we could learn a lot from that.

There are all sorts of ways you can get involved: come to a workshop, contribute materials or ideas, find us on Facebook, or subscribe to our monthly newsletter.

[www.frugalforest.oneoffmakery.net.au](http://www.frugalforest.oneoffmakery.net.au)

9th -24th January 2016: Frugal Forest finally goes public at the Glasshouse!

## AIMS Introduction to Pasture and Grazing Management

23-24 February & 22 March 2016

The over-arching objective of this very popular 3-day introductory course is to increase the productivity of grazing enterprises through changes in pasture and grazing management, soil fertility, water-use and animal feeding strategies. The increased pasture growth allows for greater stocking rates without taking many risks. Participants learn simple, quick and effective ways to monitor pasture and how to use this information to improve their grazing business.

Topics covered during the program include:

- a description of the features of perennial grass growth and why managing the grazing is so crucial to pasture productivity.
- Understanding the water cycle and how to improve rainfall use efficiency
- Interpreting soil tests and improving soil characteristics

- The Pasture Checklist a simple and effective pasture monitoring tool
- How to estimate herbage mass and conduct a feed budget
- Developing your own grazing plan

On offer to Hastings Valley graziers, this training is provided by Judi Earl and Lewis Kahn of AIMS (Agricultural Information and Monitoring Services) with funding from North Coast Local Land Services.

Book with Hastings Landcare 65864465.



## NSW Farmers Small Farmer network

NSW Farmers recognises that small scale farming can be a viable business and lifestyle that contributes much to rural communities and local food and fibre production.

Supporting local food and fibre production and farm viability is firmly behind the ethos of NSW Farmers when it comes to lobbying Government and working with other stakeholders in the agricultural industry.

So why not join the NSW Farmers Small Farmer network? In return for your support, Small Farmer members are entitled to a long list of benefits, discounts and services.

Check out the NSW Farmers Small Farmer Network on Facebook and get in touch with your local representative Michael Burt on 0428 228 988 or email [burtm@nswfarmers.org.au](mailto:burtm@nswfarmers.org.au).

The Mid North Coast has vast quantities of unused agricultural land, yet many young would-be farmers are leaving agriculture, or the region, because they don't have the funds to buy their own farms.

Affordable Farming is a new project by RDA to help connect the landowners of unused agricultural land with willing farmers, via a sharefarming or leasing agreement. Both options provide an investment income to the landowner and an agribusiness opportunity to the farmer. They can also be a great avenue for succession planning.

Sharefarming is a system where farmers make use of agricultural assets they don't own in return for a percentage of the profits.

Leasing occurs when a tenant farmer pays the landowner an agreed amount to run their business on that property and retain all profits.

The Affordable Farming project involves creating an online platform to connect land owners and agribusiness professionals who are interested in these opportunities. People will soon be able to register their interest through a website, or by contacting the RDA office, and receive a list of farms and farmers who are willing to connect. We are also working with NSW Farmers and the NSW Business Chamber on the legal aspect, so farmers and landowners who are members of these organisations can access business support and legal advice to help them understand the process.

The Affordable Farming website will be launched in 2016.

### Launch of "Pathways into Agriculture" for Young People

A new project called "Pathways into Agriculture" has been launched that aims to map out the many career pathways that young people can take into agricultural industries on the Mid North Coast.

Regional Development Australia Mid North Coast (RDA) has employed a full time Project Officer to facilitate the initiative that targets young people, including Indigenous people and youth



## Affordable Farming and Pathways into Agriculture

at risk of long term unemployment, who may want to follow a career into agriculture or food production. Theresa O'Connell has spent many years helping people from a variety of backgrounds find the right career pathways. In her new role as Project Officer, Theresa will draw on knowledge from her own farming background and her connections with many local Indigenous groups.

"I'm looking forward to developing ways that will make it easier for high school students and the unemployed to identify their pathways into agriculture and food production," Theresa says. "I am especially interested School Based Traineeships because I think they are a fantastic program for kids who are practical, hands on learners."

"I am also passionate about finding ways that Indigenous kids can stay on their country, make a career and possibly start a business enterprise to keep themselves and their families on country."

Pathways into Agriculture is the brainchild of RDA CEO, Lorraine Gordon, and was funded by the Foundation of Rural and Regional Renewal. It will map out the various training and career pathways across our region's major agricultural industries, from food technologists to agronomists, plant operators to process workers,

and identify any current skills gaps and labour needs.

Lorraine explains, "The on-the-job experience, networking and trade references gained from this project will be an important step for participants towards paid work in the industry. RDA will also be working hard to get careers advice on agriculture and food manufacturing into schools as a foundation for future years."

"The Agriculture and Food Manufacturing industries on the Mid North Coast support over 4,600 jobs.

Now we need to start supporting these industries by looking to the future."

Many local farmers are already in favour of the project, which aims to fill a growing shortage of skilled labour. The Pathways into Agriculture project will establish a database of local employers willing to take on apprentices and work experience students, which can be accessed by participating careers advisors, Ag teachers and job service providers.

RDA is currently accepting expressions of interest from farmers and educators who would like to get involved or know more about the project. Interested parties can phone Theresa on 5525 1588.

RDA is a joint Australian Government and NSW Government initiative.

A three year project in partnership with Hastings Landcare & Bolwarra Environmental Services with support from the Office of Environment & Heritage (NPWS local branch). Concluded Oct 2015.

# COMBOYNE CORRIDOR CONSERVATION & REMNANT RESCUE 2012 - 2015

•Conserve & protect high conservation value corridors within the Northern Management Zone (Comboyne) Port Macquarie to Bulga Connector (OEH mapped Climate Change Corridor) to enhance threatened species recovery & resilience to a changing climate

⇒ 112 ha area covered across five private properties & Bridal Veil Falls Nature Reserve in a 'search & destroy' primary & secondary weeding mission prioritising higher resilience terrestrial areas and outlier infestations of Privet & Camphor Laurel (private & public land), 9.5ha area intensively weeded

⇒ Why? Invasion of ecosystem transforming weeds (*Privet spp.* and *Cinnamomum camphora*) into good condition well connected plateau edge & remote mountainous areas will cause biodiversity loss and significant degradation if nothing is done. The damage these weed types can do is well established in scientific literature & field work. Outlier & early woody weed invasion stage areas require immediate management to contain their spread and this is the best value for restoration money stage

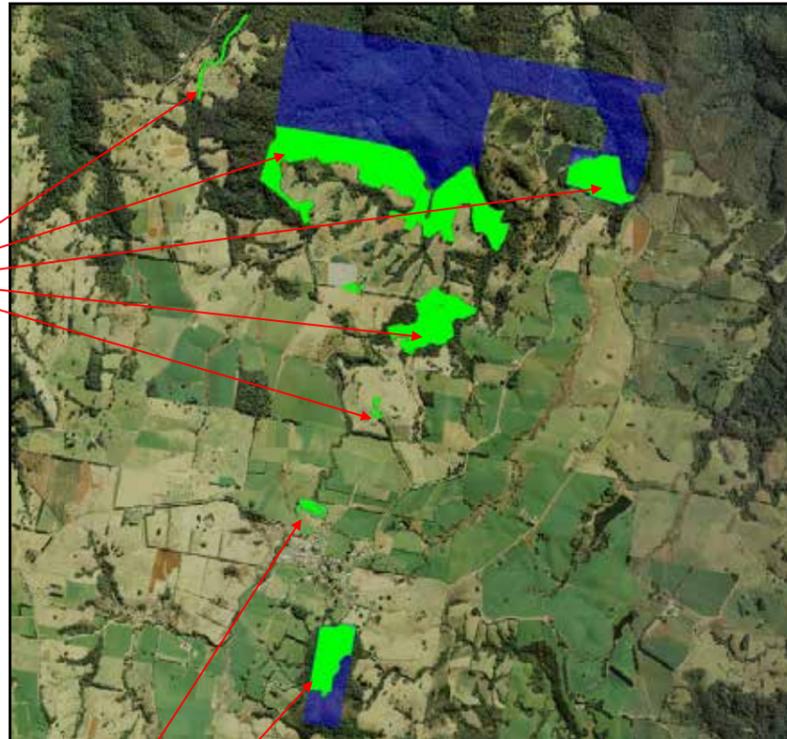
•Concurrent weed GIS mapping performed which will allow planning for future works (particularly in riparian zones)

•24 nest boxes installed. Fauna surveying (>500 new records).

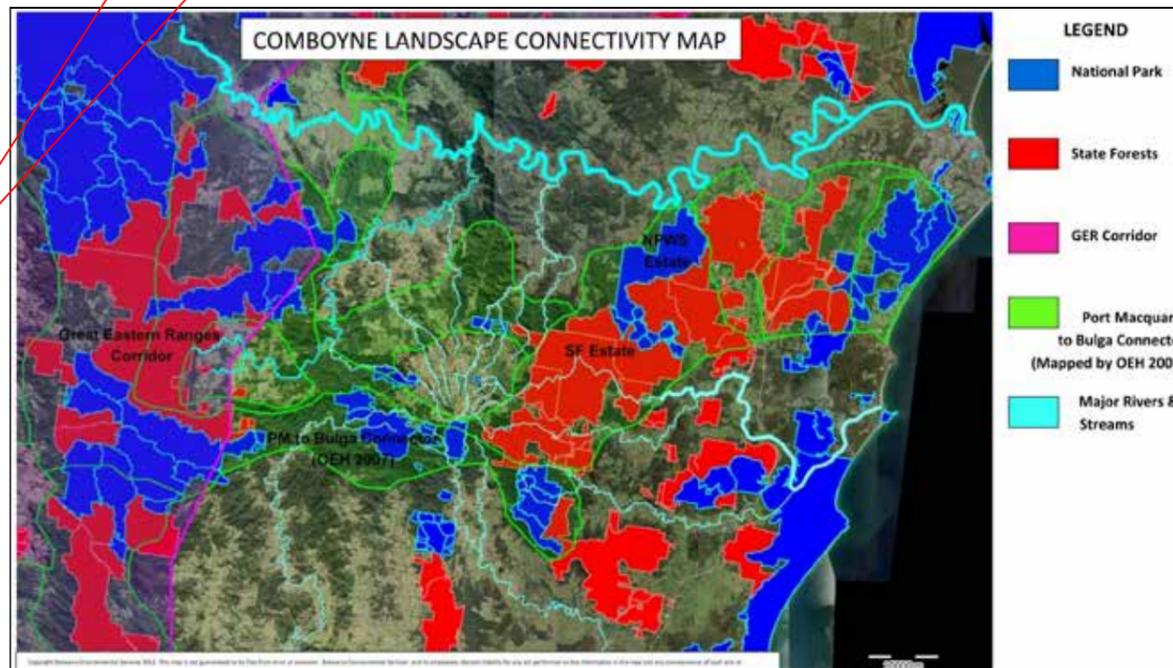
•Conserve, protect & restore high conservation value 'stepping stone' habitat within the Central Plateau Management Zone

⇒ Regeneration work on 2 previous Comboyne Wildlife Project sites (private and Comboyne Nature Reserve (Mt Bulli)). > 6 ha was weeded and a total area regenerated of 12 ha

Why? Within the over cleared central plateau area, the better condition stepping stone habitat patches will degrade further if the 'do nothing' approach is taken. This will severely reducing the value of these remnants as stepping stone habitat for a range of mobile threatened fauna across the plateau. 'Doing nothing' in a higher altitude (>600metres ASL) fragmented landscape with ecosystem transforming weed threats places remnant vegetation at significant risk in the face of climate change and heighten the risk of local extinctions. The risk of local extinctions in over cleared landscapes is recognized in the NSW Biodiversity Strategy.



Blue = National Parks  
Green = Project work areas



The series of images on the right are of one of the 'stepping stone' project sites, Comboyne Nature Reserve or Mt Bulli. Mt Bulli is one of a number of residual volcanic plug remnants in the Comboyne area. Rising from 600 to 767 metres elevation it straddles a portion of both the Thone River and Upsalls Creek sub-catchments. This vegetation patch is located fairly centrally on the plateau which is approximately 8km in diameter. As such Mt Bulli provides an important piece of 'stepping stone' habitat for mobile species allowing movement from the northern edges of the plateau to the Lansdowne/Comboyne Escarpment to the south for example. Close by, narrow bands of vegetation on Upsalls Ck and the Thone River allow movement of species like the Swamp Wallaby between habitat patches and potentially across the plateau.

Comboyne Plateau receives on average 1815.6 mm annually (BoM 2006). Comboyne NR occupies a 23 hectare rectangle centred on Mt Bulli & this diverse reserve contains heath, sedgeland, woodland, wet sclerophyll forest and subtropical rainforest.

Though the reserve is predominantly in good condition ecosystem transforming weed invasion had begun. The main weed species, Large leaf & Small leaf Privet are mostly at higher densities on the lower slopes closer to pastured land. These woody weed species however require adequate light. This fact together with their capacity to form closed canopies & increase soil moisture meant a serious threat for the plant communities of Comboyne NR, but probably less so for the rainforest portion.

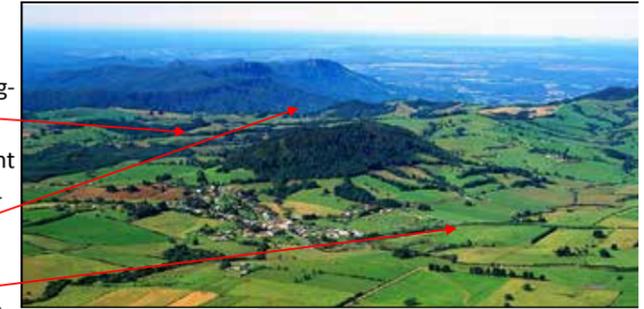


Photo above: Microbat nest box installation

To restore & protect this reserve a .5 hectare area suffering a medium Privet infestation was intensively worked by professional bush regenerators. Across a 12 hectare area 'search & destroy' weed control missions were performed with hundreds of scattered mature Privet spp. killed (also Lantana & Ginger Lily). These including a number of Privet on the summit of Mt Bulli.



Photo above right: Mature, flowering Large Leaf Privet forming a closed canopy beneath Wet sclerophyll *Eucalyptus quadrangulata* dominated forest on the lower slopes of Comboyne NR.

Photo right: >420 Mature Large leaf Privet present in the canopy of rainforest on the lower slopes of Comboyne NR were stem injected and allowed to die in situ. This was performed progressively so as not to 'shock' & possibly damage the native rainforest species by sudden microclimate changes.

Poster authored and produced by Bolwarra Environmental Services



Swamp Wallaby (*Wallabia bicolor*) Mt Bulli summit. A generalist feeder who requires some thick vegetation within its habitat. Has a home range of 16 hectares which overlaps between individuals. This is one wallaby species that continues to do well in fragmented & urban landscapes.



1000's of remote wildlife camera images were collected from the project sites. Image left: Brush Turkey (*Alectura lathamii*) Mt Bulli summit. Brush Turkeys play a valuable ecological role in the leaf litter nutrient cycle which contributes overall to forest health.

## Own rural land and live in Sydney?

Managing a rural property remotely can be challenging for Sydney-based landholders. Greater Sydney Local Land Services is in a unique position to help absentee landholders improve management practices on their property.

Greater Sydney Local Land Services is running a series of free evening workshops across Sydney, which kicked off in June 2015. Two workshops have been run to date on managing feral animals and managing weeds on rural properties. Future workshops will cover issues such as water, native vegetation, soil and groundcover management, farm biosecurity and conservation.

We encourage landholders to come along to hear from experts about how they can improve their land management practices and who to contact for more advice. Poor land management can result in weed, pest and productivity issues, and might even affect neighbouring properties.

These information sessions, made possible with funding from the NSW Environmental Trust, aim to support rural property owners who may not reside on their property full-time.

A smartphone app, to be released later in 2015, will further help landholders look after their land by providing useful advice and information about local support agencies and networks.

For more information on upcoming workshops visit the Greater Sydney Local Land Services events page or email [absentee.project@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:absentee.project@lls.nsw.gov.au)

## Environmental Trust funds Rainforest Restoration

Hastings Landcare and the National Parks Association of NSW, Mid North Coast branch are delighted to announce the award of \$97 000 over a period of three years from the NSW Environmental Trust. The project was one of 29 funded under the trust's Restoration and Rehabilitation program that totaled \$2 345 804.

Some of the funds will go to the final stages of restoration of a rainforest pocket at Dunbogan. The bulk of the funds however, will be spent on cleaning up the effects of the 2013 bushfire that began near Harrington and raged north through Crowdy Bay National Park to Kyllies Beach, south of Diamond Head. Previous grants including one from the Environmental Trust had seen much work and achievement in ridding this area of bitou bush. NPWS had also expended funds on aerial spraying.

The fire however, undid some of this great work by stimulating the germination of bitou seedlings and other weeds from the soil seed store, a store that may have never germinated

without the fire. As well, germination of a Western Australian wattle resulted in dense thickets that outcompeted native plants.

Project coordinators Sue Baker and Daintry Gerrand and NPWS staff are so grateful that the funds will allow a solution to this most difficult issue. Hastings Landcare under Daintry will administer the grant and Sue from NPA will coordinate the volunteer input, which at this year's bush regeneration camp at Kyllies Beach, clocked up a massive 522 hours of volunteer work!

### Wire tree guards and advanced *Lomandra hystrix* available

Used tree guards will need to be flattened for transport.

*Lomandra* are surplus to requirements.

Call the office if you are interested.

## Stewarts River Farm Planning and Native Vegetation Workshops

With support from Hunter Local Land Services, Hastings Landcare will be offering workshops in 2016:

**Managing Native Vegetation** Techniques for managing priority environmental weeds (Camphor Laurel) in the catchment.

**Farm Planning** Introduction to property planning for small farms.

Please call the office to book for these workshops.

The production of this newsletter is supported with funding provided by Hunter Local Land Services & North Coast Local Land Services.



## 2012-2015 Hastings-Macleay Land for Wildlife Project

This Environmental Trust-funded project recently came to a close after focusing on establishing the Land for Wildlife (LFW) program in the region for the past 3 years.

Land for Wildlife is a national program co-ordinated in NSW by the Community Environment Network (CEN). The program aims to support landholders interested in integrating wildlife conservation with other landuses. Prior to 2012, the Hastings-Macleay area had minimal landholders registered with the program and also lacked regional facilitators able to perform the property assessments required for landholder registration.

60 landholders have been registered in the LFW program over the course of the project, and staff members from the Hastings and Macleay Landcare Networks have also undertaken training with CEN to enable them to act as regional facilitators for the program in this region.

Landholders involved in the program have diverse interests ranging from commercial farming and tourism to recreation and conservation but all are keen to manage their properties in a manner that supports local wildlife species. Activities that assist wildlife survival can be as simple as leaving dead wood and trees in-situ to provide habitat for species such as ground-dwelling mammals and insectivorous bats.

The 60 LFW-registered properties in the Hastings-Macleay region cover almost 2000 hectares and comprise wet and dry sclerophyll forest, rainforest, heathland and wetland vegetation. The properties are home to a number of threatened fauna species including mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians.

Comboyne had the highest number of properties to register in one location



## Land for Wildlife

(8) as well as the largest number of threatened species recorded by landowners. 12 species of mammals were observed (including the Yellow-bellied Glider), 5 species of birds (including the Powerful Owl) and one plant species, the White-flowered Wax Plant.

The Land for Wildlife program will continue to run in the Hastings-Macleay region facilitated by representatives from the Hastings and Macleay Landcare Networks. In order to participate in the program landholders require an area of at least 0.5 hectare to be managed for wildlife conservation. For further information please contact Daintry Gerrand at the Hastings Landcare office on 02 6586 4465.



### “Christmas Bells near Port Macquarie: Pollination, Conservation & Fire Ecology”

When : Sunday 24 Jan 2016

Time : 3.00pm

Where : Sea Acres Rainforest Centre Theatre.

Cost : No charge but a Gold coin donation would be appreciated.

**Please RSVP to SEA ACRES by Friday 22/01/2016**

Dr Graham Pyke will describe how Christmas Bells are pollinated, pointing out the important role played by floral nectar in this process. He will also discuss the apparent decline in distribution of these plants and consider their conservation, especially in relation to fire management. Throughout his talk he will illustrate his points using results of research that he, colleagues and students have been carrying out near Port Macquarie.”

## How much water?

With Summer well on the way, its a good time to reflect on your stock's daily water requirements and make sure you supply them with ample water. Don't forget on a hot or windy day evaporation from troughs can be substantial and that your stock are almost certainly not the only animals relying on your watering points.

|             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| Beef cattle | 25-50L   |
| Dairy cows  | 50-70L   |
| Horses      | 35-55L   |
| Sheep       | 3.5-7L   |
| Lambs       | 1.2-2.5L |

## Landcare Support

An announcement about the Landcare Support initiative in NSW is imminent. Hastings Landcare is part of two regional bids for Landcare support funding, the North Coast Regional Landcare Network proposal, as well as an emerging network, encompassing the Karuah-Great Lakes, Manning, Manning Coast and Camden Haven: The Mid Coast to Tops Landcare Network.

We are hopeful that funding will come our way to support and build on the momentum of our wonderful Landcare Community.

2015 Local Landcare Champions represented by Julie Ho, Rebecca Montague-Drake, Jeremy Bradley, Richard Cullen, David Gillespie MP, LLS Chair Mark Bulley and Daintry Gerrand

# 2015 Local Landcare Champions and Picnic

Unveiled! The Yeomans Picnic Plow was unveiled on Sunday November 22nd when Hastings Landcare celebrated our 2015 Local Landcare Champions with an old-fashioned Plowmans Picnic.

We've seen Yeomans Plows achieve great results in breaking up soil compaction and retaining nutrients and water in the landscape, but most of us don't have the big tractors that you need to operate them. The Picnic Plow is the smallest of the Yeomans Plows and 'Farmer John' Eggert ably demonstrated it on the day by subsoiling a challenging piece of ground with his old 40HP tractor."

The plow also marks a 'ground-breaking' step in the evolution of Hastings Landcare, with funding and support sourced entirely from the private sector. Yeomans Plow Company provided a very generous discount for purchase of the Plow in 2015, International Year of Soils.

We are grateful for the financial support from The Capararo Trust and the Foundation for Rural and Regional

Renewal that enabled us to turn this opportunity into reality. With this tool available throughout the district, we will see improvements in soil health and water quality, thereby enhancing the profitability of our farms and downstream industries as well as providing enormous benefit to the entire community.

The Plowmans Picnic celebrated local Landcare Champions, Camden Haven Landcare's Richard Cullen, Mid North Coast Microherders' Jeremy Bradley, partnerships between Port Macquarie Landcare Group and Port Macquarie Hastings Council and Hastings Landcare and the National Parks Association Mid North Coast Branch and Hastings Landcare (nominated for NSW Environment Award).

The day was made possible with the generous support of John and Grace Eggert, a small army of volunteers, NSW Farmers, North Coast Regional Landcare and a swag of local businesses who provided donations and discounts to support the event.



North Coast Local Land Services Chair and clean water advocate, Mark Bulley "chaired" the formalities and awards were presented and "Biological Farming on the Mid North Coast" were officially launched by Federal MP David Gillespie and NSW MP Melinda Pavey.

Bob Lynch, Trustee of the Capararo Trust unveiled the Yeomans Picnic Plow which will be available for hire from Mid Coast Irrigation and Horticultural Supplies. A big thanks goes to Heather Cooper for hosting the plow.

Thankyou to Robyn Payne once again for these great photographs and to all of you who came along and made the day a whole lot of fun.



| DATE           | DAY               | TOPIC/PRESENTER  |
|----------------|-------------------|--|
| 21 December    |                   | HASTINGS LANDCARE OFFICE CLOSED  |
| 12 January     |                   | HASTINGS LANDCARE OFFICE RE-OPENS  |
| 9-24 January   |                   | Frugal Forest at the Glasshouse, Port Macquarie  |
| 24 January     | Sunday 3pm        | Christmas Bells ecology, Sea Acres, Port Macquarie   |
| 10 February    | 4pm-8pm, weekly   | Biological Farming 1. Wollongbar TAFE  |
| 12 February    | 8:45am-4pm        | Online Faecal Worm Egg Count. <a href="http://ruralbiztraining.com.au">ruralbiztraining.com.au</a> |
| 15 February    | Monday 4pm        | Riparian Incentives Funding Closing  |
| 17 February    | Wednesday 4pm     | Hastings Landcare Committee Meeting  |
| 23-24 February | Tuesday-Wednesday | AIMS Pasture and Grazing Management  |
| 22 March       | Tuesday           | AIMS Pasture and Grazing Management  |
| 20 April       | Wednesday 4pm     | Hastings Landcare Committee Meeting  |

Please register for all events: 65864465  
[office@hastingslandcare.org.au](mailto:office@hastingslandcare.org.au)



## LANDCARE OFFICER POSITION VACANT

PART TIME (14-28 hpw)

## MACLEAY LANDCARE NETWORK

[www.macleaylandcare.org.au](http://www.macleaylandcare.org.au)

CLOSING SOON

## HASTINGS LANDCARE WEBSITE IS BACK

After some time out in the cyber-wilderness, and with a HUGE THANKYOU to John Tennock, Hastings Landcare's website is now back under our control.

Let us know what you think about the site. We are open to suggestions and contributions.

[www.hastingslandcare.org.au](http://www.hastingslandcare.org.au)



[www.facebook.com/HastingsLandcare](http://www.facebook.com/HastingsLandcare)  
[www.facebook.com/HastingsFarmGateTour](http://www.facebook.com/HastingsFarmGateTour)  
[/HastingsMacleayLandForWildlifeProject](http://www.facebook.com/HastingsMacleayLandForWildlifeProject)  
 search Facebook for Mid North Coast Microherders

On the web:

[www.hastingslandcare.org](http://www.hastingslandcare.org)  
[www.mnccmicroherders.org](http://www.mnccmicroherders.org)

email us:

[office@hastingslandcare.org.au](mailto:office@hastingslandcare.org.au)

## Landcare Community Nursery

Community nursery for community revegetation

The nursery provides local provenance plants. This not-for-profit nursery operated by Port Macquarie Landcare Group enables your project's funding to go further.

NPWS Depot, end of Blackbutt Rd, Port Macquarie  
 Monday 9am-12 noon or by arrangement

**Contact:** Estelle Gough 65836508 or 0432141605