



MEMBERSHIP  
AND DONATIONS



## Landcare Linkup 2018

*Monthly Eco-conversations with  
Noosa & District Landcare*



**Our new event booking system is here! Book and pay for Noosa Landcare events by [clicking here](#). We hope it will be quick, easy and clear!**

### **Next LANDCARE LINKUP 2018 Monthly Eco-conversations:**

- Thursday 21 June, 5-7pm: **'THREATENED SPECIES'**. [Book here](#).
- Thursday 19 July, 5-7pm: **'HEAL YOUR SOIL THE FUNGI WAY'**. [Book here](#).

These monthly events are free for Noosa Landcare Members and Bushlandcare Program volunteers and \$10 for general entry.

Scroll down for more local events.

[Join Today](#)

[Click here](#) to become a Noosa Landcare Member

Find us on  



*Gerry, our dedicated Volunteer installing a mill ventilator, allowing some welcome relief from the summer heat!*

## **Welcome to our June - July 2018 E-news**

### **Volunteering - what a way to make a difference**

*by Ered Fox, Nursery Manager*

Volunteering ... what a way to make a difference in our community. Bringing strangers together with a common interest. Sharing knowledge, companionship and working towards a productive outcome for all to enjoy.

At Noosa Landcare we are very lucky to have a varied group of intelligent volunteers who offer a wide skill base and help to create a welcome and inclusive environment, where the outcome is greater than all of its individual parts. A rewarding part of working at an environmental organisation like ours is getting to see how people interact and use their skills for the common good of our environment.

Currently at Noosa Landcare we have approximately 18 Volunteers who contribute in our Nursery and grounds. We also have a team of up to 26 Waterwatch volunteers who contribute to the local community by checking and recording the water quality of 40 sites in our catchment area.

People volunteer in many different ways and for different reasons, but the benefits speak for themselves. In my time working with volunteers, I have seen how people evolve and show special interest in certain areas. This in turn spreads the enthusiasm through the whole network and the skills are shared and often improved upon. Volunteering is often a pathway to employment. Many of Noosa Landcare's employees are in fact former volunteers themselves.

The opportunities are there for the taking and this benefits everyone. New friends are made and community ownership is fostered, no matter where you volunteer your time.

In summary, volunteering is like a hug ... It costs very little and the benefits are immeasurable. Noosa Landcare would like to thank all the Volunteers and wish you (a belated) Happy National Volunteer Week!



## Coming up in June and July

### With Noosa Landcare:

**5-7pm, 21 June: Threatened Plant Species of the Noosa Shire**, monthly eco-conversation with Liam Scanlan and Owen Snowden of Noosa Landcare, and Joel Fostin, all of whom are working on important current projects to help protect plant species that are under threat in the Noosa region. [Click here](#) to book.

**5-7pm, 19 July: Heal Your Soil the Fungi Way**, monthly eco-conversation with Dr Sandra Tuszyńska, Environmental Mycologist. Learn about fascinating fungi and its vital role in soil health. [Click here](#) to book.

### And beyond:

**5 June: World Environment Day.**

**8 June: World Ocean's Day.**

**9 June: Sunshine Coast Environmental Education Workshop for young leaders**, with experienced environmental educator, Pat Armstrong. Half-day workshop run by the Australian Association Environmental Education Sunshine Coast branch.

## Florabunda Bushcare

*by Phil Moran, General Manager*

Florabunda Bushcare is a community native nursery established to supply local plants to the Maroochy River Catchment area. Their Coordinator, Suzie Pearce, contacted the Richmond Birdwing Conservation Network (RBCN) to see if they could get someone to do a talk on the Birdwing butterfly. They had recently had sightings reported and even had eggs laid on their Birdwing vines (*Pararistolochia praevenosa*) in their nursery at Woombye in the Sunshine Coast hinterland. I got the gig.

I was fortunate to have a presentation by another member of the RCBN that was used recently at a workshop at Indigiscapes at Redland Bay, so I brazenly stole this and added my two cents' worth. The author was Richard Bull, whom RBCN readers will know as a passionate advocate for all things, including Birdwings, particularly around Mt Tamborine. We have indeed had heaps of sightings of butterflies this season, which is really encouraging. The Richmond birdwing is the second largest butterfly in Australia!

The talk touched on the previous extent or range of the Richmond birdwing butterfly, and the decline in numbers due to fragmented habitat.

**9-10 June: Australian Plant Families & Rainforest Plant Identification botanical training course** with Dr Mike Olsen, one of the most experienced field botanists in private industry. This course emphasises the development of field knowledge and skills. In Tewantin and Kin Kin on Saturday and Sunday respectively.

**To 17 June: Wild/Flower Women II exhibition**, Caloundra Regional Gallery, features pioneering Qld artist and activist Kathleen McArthur and collaborations with other 'wild/flower' women such as Judith Wright and their campaigns to protect the environment.

**24 June: Noosa Festival of Water** at the Noosa Botanic Gardens on the shores of Lake Macdonald. Keep up to date on the festival's [Facebook page](#).

**13-15 June: Queensland Garden Expo.**

**27 July: Schools Tree Day.**

**29 July: National Tree Day.**

### **SURVEY: Noosa Rural Enterprise Plan**

Do you live on or manage a rural property in the Noosa Shire hinterland (greater than one hectare in size), or service rural industry and your business is located in Noosa shire? Your input to Country Noosa's Rural Enterprise Program Survey would be very much appreciated.

The program is funded through the Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation to foster a range of environmentally and economically sustainable farming and other rural enterprise opportunities that will complement a positive Noosa hinterland environment.

To undertake the Survey, [click here](#).

For further information about the Rural Enterprise program please [visit here](#).

We talked about its life cycle, which includes four stages: egg, larvae, pupa, adult, and showed some of Richard's pictures. Questions came thick and fast from an engaged audience made up of volunteers for the Florabunda nursery and other victims/guests. A common question is food ... adult butterflies need strength and will feed on many flowering plants including Lantana, Pentas and Richard's favourite, the Buddleia or Butterfly bush. It is the larvae that are species-specific. In this case the Larval food plants are two native vines: *Pararistolochia praevenosa* in the lowlands and *Pararistolochia laheyana* in areas above 600 metres.

Much spirited discussion was had about survivability of vines, as some guests have had trouble getting the vines established. A slide I have, that shows the fine root system, goes some way to explaining that the young vines in particular need ample moisture during establishment. Soil type is also a factor, with some in the audience having sandstone derived soils, whereas the birdwing vine traditionally likes alluvial soils. They can be grown particularly in gardens where you can look after them as you would a Labrador pet.

That morning I had got up really early to collect some Dutchman's pipe (*Aristolochia elegans*) to show the group. I am more at home talking weeds! I had photos, but wanted everyone in the room to crush and smell a leaf ... a smell you will not forget. As readers are aware, this nefarious vine tricks the adult into laying its eggs on this vine, not *Pararistolochia praevenosa*, resulting in the deaths of the larvae. So, we need to plant good vines and kill these imposters.

A brief tour of the nursery followed, with a look at Suzie's vines, including one with seed pods. One honest, over-enthusiastic guest accidentally knocked the seed pod off! It was obviously ready to pick, so no harm done, however some mirth followed the announcement of this pernicious act!



## Bring Back the Fish Project

### Oysters and prawns: food for Noosa River fish

*"For years we thought nothing we did could have an effect on the oceans."*

Sir David Attenborough, Blue Planet 11

He could just as well have been talking about the Noosa River and lakes system. Oysters were taken, prawns netted and a wide variety of fish caught in vast quantities, assuming that our once phenomenally rich aquatic system would provide bumper catches indefinitely.

But Sir David concluded of humankind's impact on the oceans:

***"Now we know that (assumption) is wrong".***

This is also the case in Noosa where the system no longer supports catches at past levels.

See the full article on the [Bring Back the Fish project here](#).

*(Photo: Sunshine Coast Council)*



## Thank you, Steve Blight

*by Ered Fox, Nursery Manager*

Recently, local legend Steve Blight parted ways with our Noosa Landcare Nursery volunteer crew, due to a move south. Steve started with Noosa Landcare about nine years ago. In this time, he has seen a lot of change.

Starting out as an all-round helper, he provided an outstanding example of punctuality and dedication. From his former life as an electrician, he often had useful skills to share with the nursery team regarding electrical issues and often teamed up with other retired tradie volunteers to work through any sort of problem we could dream up. Towards the end of his time with us, Steve evolved into chief plant mover and fertiliser.

He will always be remembered for his comic wit and timely insight to nursery tasks. Steve has moved further afield now and will always be welcome at Noosa Landcare.

Thank you Steve Blight.

[For our latest Nursery News, please click here.](#)

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## Native Plant of the Month

### ***Allocasuarina torulosa***

(Family: ***Casuarinaceae***)

(Pron: Al-oh-cas-you-ah-REEN-ah toh-roo-LOW-sah)

### **Rose She-oak**

This hardy, adaptable, fast-growing tree is native to coastal

eucalypt forests from Cairns in northern Qld to Nowra in NSW, from sea level to hilly country. It is suitable for moist, rich to nutrient-deficient soils. It grows 10-25m tall with a slender, pyramid shape and graceful weeping foliage and pinkish new growth.

The **bark** is greyish, corky and cracked lengthways. The **leaves** are not the long, green 'needles' that create the weeping foliage - they are actually branchlets. The true leaves are four (rarely five) teeth in whorls around the joints of the branchlets and are barely visible to the naked eye.

Male and female **flowers** occur on separate plants and appear in Winter. The **fruit** is a woody cone up to 4cm x 3cm, with warty swellings.

**Propagation:** readily by seed, no pre-treatment necessary, germinates in approximately five days.

**Uses:** food tree for Red-tailed and Glossy Black Cockatoos; useful windbreak tree; shelterbelt or shade for stock; reddish pink to brown timber with attractive grain suitable for cabinetry.

We currently have *Allocasuarina torulosa* in stock. [Click here](#) for our nursery opening hours and new Native Plant Guide!



## Weed of the Month

### *Chrysanthemoides monilifera ssp. rotundata* Bitou Bush

A native of southern Africa, Bitou Bush is a Weed of National Significance in Australia. It is an aggressive invader of coastal dune vegetation, where it can outrun, and often eliminate, native flora.

It is a perennial, evergreen sprawling shrub up to 2m tall. It can form canopies up to 10 high. Its stems are branched and woody, the upper **stems** often purple. The **leaves** are smooth, alternate and slightly fleshy, 3-8cm long and oval to oblong in shape. The young leaves can have a cottony down covering.

**Flowers** are bright yellow and chrysanthemum-like, up to 2cm in diameter and are clustered at the end of branches. The small fleshy **fruits** are 6-9mm across, change from green to blackish upon maturity and contain a single hard, egg-shaped, brown to black seed up to 7mm long.

**Dispersal** is mainly by seed via many avenues—birds, land animals, wind, waterways, ocean currents and human activity, eg vehicles. Each Bitou Bush plant produces up to 50,000 seeds a year! Seedbanks in the soil can contain up to 5,000 seeds per square metre.

**Control:** [Click here](#) for information on control measures (eg, mechanical, chemical and biological) for small infestations through to large-scale infestations requiring a sustained effort.



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