

# NOOSA & DISTRICT LANDCARE

Winter 2019  
E-News



Noosa & District  
Landcare



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# Landcare Linkup

UPCOMING LANDCARE LINKUP WORKSHOPS  
ECO-CONVERSATIONS

LANDCARE  
LINK-UP  
WORKSHOP  
SERIES

## INSPIRING STORIES

**15 August 2019, 5-7pm**

**With Craig Doolan- Noosa Council and Dr John Stocker AO**

*Norfolk Island is described as "Paradise" it offers history, culture, food, drink and unique flora and fauna. But what is it like to live there? Craig will tell tales about this beautiful Isle off the east Australian coast.*

*Dr John Stocker was appointed an Officer in the Order of Australia in 1999 for service to Australian Scientific research and its applications for economic and environmental benefit. He is a medical graduate and has served as Head of the CSIRO, as Australian Chief Scientist, as a director of a number of leading companies and as chairman of the Australian wine industry research and development bodies.*



## TICKS

**19 September 2019, 5-7pm**

**With Buzz and Brooke – Sunshine Coast Vets Pomona**

Brooke and Buzz are the local vets in Pomona and collectively have over 30 years of experience with our furry friends, including helping the native wildlife when required. They have a deep understanding of the effects of ticks on animals. Gain the latest update in research on ticks, what to do with them and how to treat their effects.



## LOGGER OR GREEN? MARINE TURTLE AWARENESS

**17 October 2019, 5-7pm**

**With Coolum Coast Care – Leigh Warneminde & Co**

Coolum Coast Care have long been involved in marine turtle care of the populations on the Sunshine Coast. From November through to March, turtles will come up onto our local beaches to nest and this dedicated team is involved in protecting the nests against predation and damage. Come and listen to more on Green and Loggerhead turtles and how you can help.



The staff at NDLG are very excited to see that more and more people are registering online through our web site to come along to these fabulous evenings. We are getting new people from a wider audience, getting the Landcare message out there. Fantastic! There are still a few of you though who are resisting our change of registration! Please, as the word gets out on what's on offer at these great evenings and they become more popular, it is absolutely necessary for you to register online. It's free, it's easy, it's important. We don't want to turn people away, but we do need you to register. And remember, if you have registered, but cannot make it please let us know as soon as you can. We always have people wanting to come on a waiting list and they may be able to take your spot for the evening.





# General Manager Muses

## *Burrawingee Nature Refuge - A journey*

BY PHIL MORAN

I grew up in Hamilton, a suburb of Brisbane and my first job was at the Breakfast Creek Hotel. This was followed by Tangalooma Resort on Moreton Island, The Crest International Hotel in the city, and 8 years with my own catering and gourmet food outlet in Ashgrove...the perfect grounding for an aspiring, ageing treehugger!

I moved to Cooroy in 1991 and lived on 5 acres when I joined Noosa Landcare and did some volunteering at the nursery. During all this time, I had [and still do] one friend who lived on 17 acres at Brookfield, an outer western suburb in Brisbane. I think this is where I got the bush bug.

Circumstances change and I found myself looking for somewhere to live. I loved this area so wanted to stay around, and was really enjoying meeting and learning from passionate people like Janet Hauser [botanical artist] and Dave Burrows who worked for Noosa Landcare at the time. I wanted to get "more land, and less house", and I certainly got that. I ended up purchasing 33 acres of spotted gum country with a nice shed with lots of live-in wildlife in 1998.

I had no power at all for about 5 years, which was fun for my young son to visit on weekends. We went exploring all over the place and found a lovely rainforest gully and basalt rocks in amongst the ancient phyllite.



The property had been 'cowed' and was not in good nick. I had the agisted stock removed and began to see the country recover. It was never really grazing country anyway. Living in a shed with only candles gives you a close up look at nature, which was really educational...You really feel the heat in summer, the cold in winter, the sound of the storms on the tin roof. It was actually a great way to connect with the bush. Early on I found out about the Land for Wildlife program and promptly joined up. Another good learning curve listening to other landholder's journeys.

Shortly after this, the Queensland Government introduced the Nature Refuge program. This entails signing a covenant that protects [some say locks up!] part of your land in perpetuity under the Nature Conservation Act 1992. As I never had any intention of subdividing, I thought it was a no brainer for me. If I croaked, then I would have done my bit to look after a bit of the Noosa hinterland. So I became the first Nature Refuge in Noosa shire – Burrawingee Nature Refuge was gazetted on 18th August 2003. "Burrawingee" is an indigenous word for *Auranticarpa rhombifolia*, or diamond pittosporum. I was lucky to be joined in my journey by Kim Maddison in 2004, who was to become my wife and a big part of the appreciation of, and transformation of, this piece of country. Kim came with three daughters, the youngest, Molly, was keen on Lantana removal!

There is some good bush on the place, and as keen amateur botanists we found about 242 species of plants on the property. We are still finding new ones to this day. We also had a good collection of weeds. With the grazing pressure removed the land began to recover, as did the weeds. Probably the earliest things we noticed after removing the stock was the ground covers, grass and herbaceous plants reappear, and small areas of natural regeneration occurring. Without the hard hooves, erosion was eased, trampling stopped and the repair of the land started.



With the cattle gone, species such as Perennial horse gram [*Macrotyloma axillare* var. *axillare*] began to climb and choke native vegetation. We have been slowly pulling this one out, particularly when the soil is soft after rain. Another stock grass was Guinea grass [*Megathyrsus maximus*]. Without grazing pressure this one has quite a hold. It can grow to about 2.5 metres and does not allow any native plants to become established. Our issue was compounded by many large basalt rocks which makes slashing not possible.

Kim did most of the plantings, mainly around the shed [now with a real, live house next to it] to join up patches of existing bush. Up behind the house was Lantana [*Lantana camara* var. *camara*] and Guinea grass. I did the killing and Kim did the planting and maintaining the plants up there. It was a tough site, being on a saddle coming down from the ridge. You go through stages in this work, and it takes time. After brush-cutting and treating the Guinea grass, we had a sea of Cobbler's pegs [*Bidens pilosa*] and whilst not a big threat to an ecosystem, was a real pain. It took us a while to finally exhaust the seed bank to a point where it is manageable now. This is helped by a canopy developing, and after some internal 'discussion', the Tobacco bushes [*Solanum mauritianum*] were left on this site to give more shade.

Around the house Kim planted many native shrubs which have really encouraged the wildlife, particularly bird species. By using natives, we don't have issues with Noisy minors but have heaps of Honeyeaters, wrens, fantails etc. Kim kept these plants pruned. Whilst frowned upon in some circles we believe this creates a bushy, healthy plant with more flowers and habitat. Hugh and Nan Nicholson [authors of the excellent 6 book series Australian Rainforest Plants] pointed this out some time ago, and we are converts.

The Guinea grass is still a problem, however we have adopted a containment policy. We have cleared it out of the 'good' bush, and have drawn a line in the dirt, across which it will not pass. We can then remove a section at a time.

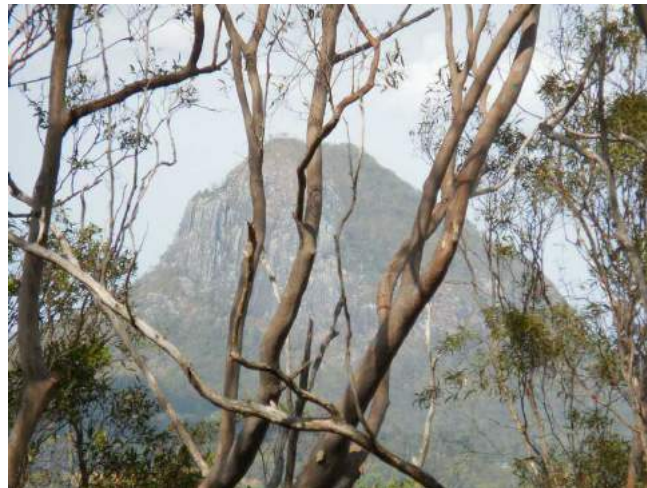
Kim hates Lantana – I don't mind it, particularly on the dry ridge. We have come to an arrangement whereby she does her Lantana killing closer to the house, and I can leave mine alone on the ridge.

So, we mainly concentrated on 'stopping the threatening process' as the books would say.

The main lesson we have learnt, and try to pass on to others, is that we/you are on a journey. You cannot 'fix' everything overnight. Even if you throw lots of money at your property, you may end up putting infrastructure in the wrong place [Dams, roads, sheds]. Take time to learn about the land in all weather conditions, listen to advice [even if you don't take that advice], and proceed at a pace that you can maintain. No point is planting 500 trees only to see 450 die. Better to plant 20, then another 20 etc.

With your weeds, remember that weeds can be your friend on this journey. Not the dreaded Cat's claw creeper [*Macfadyena unguis-cati*] or Madeira vine [*Anredera cordifolia*]. Some weeds will help hold soil, provide shade which cools the surface of the soil and encourages the critters in your soil to recycle nutrients, provide habitat for lots of animals, and help with natural regeneration.

And, most of all, enjoy the journey...



Following page top to bottom;  
Zeva the Labrador inspecting the property  
View towards Imbil + Kandanga.

Top to bottom; View of Mt Cooroora to the east through the trees,  
big Spotted Gum and Revegetation planting at Burravingee



# Noosa Koala Habitat Rehabilitation Project

Giving care for free..... that's what over 120 people did on the morning of Saturday 22nd June 2019 as we kicked off the start of the massive Noosa Koala Habitat Restoration Project at Ringtail Forest.

WORDS RACHEL LYONS  
PHOTOS JAZZY CONNORS







Working off the back of the amazing initiative of the Noosa Parks Association, Noosa Council and the Queensland Environment Department.

In partnership with HQ Plantations & Queensland Koala Crusaders, Noosa & District Landcare received an amazing grant from The Body Shop World Bio-Bridge Program.

The grant was doubled by the incredible staff at The Body Shop stores around Australia along with The Body Shop At Home Australia consultants. Over \$160,000 was raised!

Peppers Noosa Resort & Villas have also come on board raising over \$30,000 to date (& rising) for the project. Just amazing!







Thanks to the many many beautiful people who came along with their generous energy and smiles to help make the community tree plant a resounding success. Including many of our awesome staff who all volunteered on the day.

Lastly thank you to Wildlife HQ for bringing along Amari the lovely Koala.

*For more photos watch this slideshow*  
<https://youtu.be/vQ-GdwhiX2Y>





# JOIN THE NDLG MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The management committee (MANCOM) of Noosa and District Landcare Group (NDLG) is responsible for governance of the organisation, sets the strategy to meet its objectives and oversees the risks associated with the work of the organisation.

The MANCOM is presently made up of seven members with diverse backgrounds and skills such as the operations of companies or not-for-profit community organisations, conservation and natural resource management, agriculture and media and most have been on the MANCOM for more than three years.

To ensure that the MANCOM continues to be representative of the members, transparent and innovative we encourage members of NDLG to nominate for a position on the MANCOM. The duties of board members carry significant responsibility but are not extremely demanding in terms of time taken and are supported by staff. All members of MANCOM apart from Phillip Moran, the general manager, are volunteers. Approximately nine MANCOM meetings are held annually and ideally members should attend all.



If you feel you would like to contribute to the continuing success of NDLG by focusing on the strategic direction and governance of the organisation we encourage you to nominate. Any appointment would be for the period up to the AGM, currently planned for November, and any extension would be subject to a members' vote at the AGM.

If you are interested or if you know of someone who you think might be interested, we would love to hear from you. Please contact me at [admin@noosalandcare.org](mailto:admin@noosalandcare.org), any of our committee members, or leave your contact details at the office at the Futures Centre, Pavilion Street, Pomona.

Regards,  
Geoff Black  
Secretary

## NOTES FROM THE FIELD

by Brent Whitworth

We welcome Jennifer Coleman our latest recruit to the team as one of our Crew Supervisors who couldn't have arrived at a better time. The conservation crew saw many teams flying left, right and centre to meet all our clients needs as the end of financial year run brought out a sweat that's for sure!

Many thanks to all the crew for a mighty effort this year hats off particularly to the Tug of War team. Congratulations to the King of the Mountain Corporate Tug of War Champions for 2019!





# KEEPING IT IN KIN KIN

By Rae O'Flynn

SOIL! It does not have soft fur, sweet fluffy ears and doesn't even sing! It is however vitally important to the local landholders of Kin Kin; those producing coffee beans, alpaca fleece, natural beef and loads of leafy greens! The reality is, that the best place for soil is on pasture not at the bottom of Lake Cootharaba wasting as a layer of benthic sludge.

Way back in 2015, Rachel first got NDLG on the slippery mud path to slowing sediment entering Lake Cootharaba from the Kin Kin Catchment. Since then we have obtained the scientific background knowledge of the LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging), combined with the talented team at Healthy Land & Water to produce valuable mapping information, gained the financial support of the Noosa Biosphere, Noosa Council and the Thomas Foundation and collected a number of supporting groups along the way.

We have built trust in the Kin Kin community which shows in the numbers turning up at gatherings and information sessions and those who are actively participating in this exciting project, which let's face it, the core element of which is not exactly cute and cuddly.

Just recently we have completed an experimental leaky weir in a small but quite deep narrow gully. This was done with the help and experience of Steve Burgess. A lot of frivolity and jesting was afoot, with some dubious new terminology for leaky weirs that we perhaps should not go into now, but a small group banded together to achieve what we set out to do and it now remains to be seen if we were successful and how it will stand up to what Mother Nature throws.

The top photo shot is of Steve and some of the volunteer helpers on the day putting together straw bales to slow the flow. Now this may not be a solution to your problem, in fact it probably isn't, but that is the beauty of KIICK project. We aim to look at each situation individually and work with what we have to achieve a solution that will keep your soil where it needs to be! Whether it's plants in the ground (mid & bottom pics), or other erosion controls, we are here to help.

For those of you who want more info, a new link on our web site has been created thanks to the fantastic Jazzy and Owen media and tech team duo! Once in our web site, click on the PROJECTS tab, and go to Keeping It In Kin Kin in the drop down box. You will find links to soil information and tips on erosion control. As I get better at doing this I will post more in this form – who said you can't teach an old dog new tricks!

[www.noosalandcare.org/projects/Keeping It In Kin Kin](http://www.noosalandcare.org/projects/Keeping%20It%20In%20Kin%20Kin)

But as always, give me a call 07 5485 2155 or shoot me an email [projects5@noosalandcare.org](mailto:projects5@noosalandcare.org). In the meantime remember an oldie but a goodie....

WATER....

SLOW IT ..... SPREAD IT ..... SINK IT!





# Jane's Place

BY PHIL MORAN

As a result of a very generous donation by a member, Noosa & District Landcare Group [NDLG] are now owners of a 6.35 hectare parcel of land in Pinbarren.



Jane's Place has been a focus for NDLG for on-ground works over a number of years. It is a really special place, which borders Pinbarren Creek, with views over the hinterland. Mostly cleared but with several significant revegetation plantings undertaken, the vegetation near the creek is gallery rainforest on alluvium – Regional ecosystem 12.3.1a and is simply stunning.

It is our intention to maintain the block, use it as a demonstration site, whilst supporting our Skilling Queenslanders for Work trainees to learn weed species, endemic plants and conduct revegetation activities.

Our Committee, volunteers and staff are particularly excited to actually own land in our backyard. We will ensure that we nurture this place, and be passionate stewards of "Jane's Place"

Acknowledgements: Jane and Margaret; Amy Colley of North Coast Law; Kimberlea Thwaites of Noosa Countryside Realty



*Top; Janes place July 2019  
Middle left to right; Drive way in Lemon scented gums,  
view from shed & Sandpaper Fig on Pinbarren Creek.  
Bottom; Pinbarren Creek through the property*



# NATIVE OF THE MONTH

## "A LITTLE SOMETHING SWEET"

SWEET BERRIES AND SWEET SMELLING SHRUBS,

*Austromyrtus duclis* & *Atractocarpus chartaceus*

By Jo Nicholls

*Austromyrtus duclis* otherwise known as 'Midgen Berry' and *Atractocarpus chartaceus* commonly known as 'Narrow-leaved Gardenia' are both small versatile native shrubs that grow to 1 to 2 meters tall. They are both a bushtucker species that produce beautiful sweet tasting berries.

*A. dulcis* produce small white berries with tiny blue spots which give them a lavender tone.

They have a mild blueberry taste with a hint of cinnamon making them a tasty sweet treat. Children love the novelty of picking these little berries fresh from the bush. Small native birds love these little berries as well and use these species as a food source. These small shrubs also provide great habitat protection. You will find *A. dulcis* from rainforest edges to coastal heathlands. A wonderful addition to either the suburban garden or to large acreage as an understory plant in open forests. It is a great choice for low hedging and filling in the gaps in gardens.

Midgen like the wide open spaces where the hot afternoon sun goes down or the dappled shade of the understory. The versatility of this species makes it a favourite for anyone who loves native species that produce edible fruits and attract small birds to your property.



*Atractocarpus chartaceus* is a small rainforest understory plant that produces a sweet smelling star shaped white flower. The long narrow leaves change as they mature and become double their width, still giving a unique structure to the plant but a softer appearance. This species makes a great addition to the suburban garden or to the understory of the rainforest edges. They prefer fertile soil and a well-drained site.

This species also produces a small showy bright red berry that are enjoyed by small native birds. *A. chartaceus* are something different when it comes to structure in your garden, representing a more delicate spiny feature with the soft gardenia perfume.

You will find both of these delicate native shrubs currently available at Noosa & District Landcare Retail Nursery in Pomona.





# WEED OF THE MONTH

## SALVINIA MOLESTA

REGARDED AS ONE OF THE WORST WEEDS IN AUSTRALIA,  
A WEED OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE.

By Jo Nicholls



*Salvinia molesta* is a free floating fern with bright green oval shaped leaves, originating from Brazil, South America. The leaves have water repellent hairs covering the entire surface. Long and filamentous roots intertwine and reach downward towards the organic layer suspended in the water column.

With the potential to spread rapidly this species has dramatic economic and environmental impacts such as flooding caused by blocked irrigation, water pollution and also effects the enjoyment of recreational activities such as swimming, boating and fishing. The infestation can rapidly grow, creating a thick mat of vegetation across the entire water surface shading out and depleting oxygen exchange for all aquatic species. This also produces a perfect breeding ground for disease carrying mosquitos.

Infestation of *S.molesta* is widespread on the east coast of Australia and further threatens many of the waterways throughout all of Australia. The incursion of this weed species becomes so extensive due to its ability to rapidly reproduce from just a single plant. The area of infestation can double within a 2 week period if left untouched, therefore having devastating impact in a very short space of time. Proportionally small areas of infestation are being controlled but persistence is necessary along the entire water way for significant impact.



Subsequently, if there is a small portion of weed left behind, the rapid growth of this species allows it to very quickly become a serious invasive problem threatening many species within these biodynamic ecosystems.

Alternatively, there is a well-documented biocontrol which has proved relatively successful for large infestations within warmer regions. *Cyrtobagous salviniae* is a species of weevil that is effective and safe for controlling this weed species providing their reproduction is consistent. In regional Queensland in the mid 80's the weevil was known to have chewed through up to 400 tonnes of *S. molesta* within a 2 week period. The weevil devours the flower buds while the larvae consumes the inner stalk causing the plant to sink to the bottom of the waterway.

Manual removal of *S.molesta* is also effective where there are smaller pockets of infestation. It is important to remove the plant material, spread it out and solarise it, covering it with a sheet of black plastic till it has all completely perished before deep burial.

Human activity is one of the main causes of widespread infestation of this species, most commonly from the emptying of aquariums into the waterways, therefore more public awareness is needed. Public education is key to providing the tools for people to be proactive and reducing the impacts that this species has on our waterways in the future.





# SEED COLLECTION

*What's coming into  
seed this season?*



Black beans seeds are to be collected from the ground.

Normally the big pods are found along waterways at the base of the mother tree.



Scentless Rosewood fruit should be collected when ripe and fruit is open on the tree.

Take a cutting of a stem with some leaves attached so we can ID the species from both fruit and leaves.



Hop Bush species fruit should be collected when ripe (brown/purple) from the tree.

Take a cutting of a stem with some leaves attached so we can ID the species from both fruit and leaves.

## THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN COLLECTING SEED

*by Jasmine Connors*

When collecting native seed keep in mind that this is also food for our native wildlife. Only collect a maximum 20% of available ripe seed or fruit.

Take a sample of leaf, stem and flowers so we can clearly identify which species it is.

Please drop off to either of our Landcare locations in Pomona. (See last page for the addresses)

Many thanks to Leon Stuart for collecting *Hovea acutifolia* seed.





# WINTER WILDFLOWERS

Photos by Jazzy Connors



*Coronidium elatum* - White paper daisy



*Patersonia sericea* - Native Iris



*Hovea acutifolia* - White Hovea



*Pultenaea retusa* - Eggs & Bacon



*Hovea acutifolia* - Hovea



*Acacia disparima* - Hickory Wattle



*Hibbertia scandens* - Snake Vine.



*Acacia hubbardiana* - Prickly Moses



*Hardenbergia violacea* - Native Sarsaparilla





# Recycle with us

We have registered for the  
'Containers for Change' recycling program.

*Funds raised will go towards our Threatened Species Programs and other various programs of Noosa Landcare*

Bags can be collected from the retail nursery located on Station St, Pomona.

Fill each bag with 50 recyclable items and return back to  
Envirobank deposit station at 5 Johnson Court, Cooroy.  
Use Containers for Change ID **C10147043**



**Please remove  
all lids and  
rinse bottles  
before placing  
into bags**



## Local Events

**15th Aug 2019** Landcare Link-Up INSPIRING STORIES 5pm-7pm

**17th Aug - 1st Sept 2019** Sunshine Coast Wildflower Festival

**18th Aug 2019** Cooroy Mountain Spring Festival  
6.30am - 3pm Cost is \$10 (children under 12 free)

**18 Aug 2019** The Art of Bonsai with Native Plants 9am-11am Cost is \$15

**1st Sept 2019** Noosa Botanic Gardens Plant Fair  
9am - 3pm, Lake Macdonald Drive, Cooroy.

**4th Sept 2019** Findings from the BioBlitz: Fabulous, fantastical fungi 2pm-5pm

**15th Sept 2019** Native Stingless Bee workshop: caring for your hive  
9am-12pm Cost is \$15

**19th Sept 2019** Landcare Link-Up TICKS 5pm-7pm

**5th-7th Oct 2019** Great Noosa Trail Walk

A guided walk over the Noosa Trail Network over 3 days. Starts 7.30am on  
Saturday 5 October at Cooroy Butter Factory (registration).

## New Native Plant Stock List

Our new and improved Native Plant Guide  
shows what we currently have in stock,  
and with just one click, you can view  
information on every species.

**Click here to access**

To subscribe to our monthly stock list visit  
[www.noosalandcare.org/plant-sales](http://www.noosalandcare.org/plant-sales)

### Rural Futures Centre

65 Pavilion Street, Pomona QLD 4568

### Retail Nursery

Station St, Pomona QLD 4568 (Opposite the Pub)

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