

# NAMBUCCA VALLEY LANDCARE



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## Autumn 2008

How quickly we forget. Being sick of the rain implies that one has forgotten the years of drought. The Nambucca has survived the rains with no reported major bank or bed erosion. It is the best season that I have seen and I'm looking forward with a "glass half full" attitude.

### **Coastcare Local Heroes**

This is a difficult piece to write. There are conflicting concepts; giving an award to individual volunteers who are not looking for personal recognition. Dorothy Nelson (Scotts Heads Dunecare), John Tait and Peter Dingle (Gordon Park Rainforest Walks Committee) are motivated not by self promotion, but rather, the identification of a job that is worthwhile and the satisfaction of achievement.

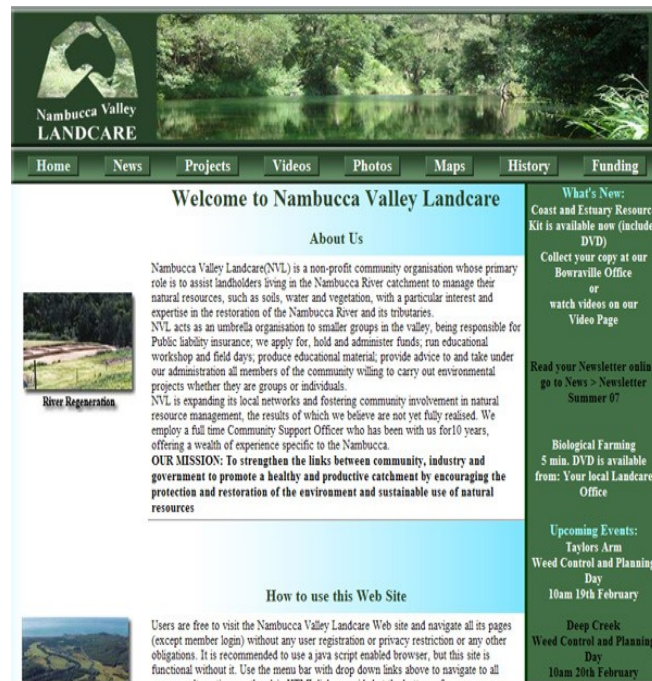
Coastcare have initiated a "Local Hero" program to lift the profile of coastal groups and the work that they carry out. Dorothy, John and Peter have been organising and working with other volunteers to improve public assets from which we all derive pleasure.

In accepting the Local Hero Medal, all three were doing so to encourage others to join in. There will be a small ceremony at Scotts Head Hall Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 3.30pm

### **Announcing Our New Web Site (Web Presence)**

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

NVL would like to thank Peter Krisch of allcreativedesigns [krisch@allcreativedesigns.com.au] for volunteering his time and expertise designing and producing the web site



We will be online by the 24<sup>th</sup> of March 2008 with a wealth of Landcare resource material, video tutorials and more. Send us your favourite photos of local fauna and flora to be included in our web gallery. In the future save some paper and read our newsletter online, check the web site for any upcoming event information, work shops and other news.

## Small Farm Field Day

Cost.. Free

Where ..South Arm Hall

Bowraville.....

When Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April

9am-3pm

Bring lunch, a hat and a chair

Morning Tea Provided

There is an increasing number of people moving to the Nambucca Valley to live on small acreages (hectareages – not the same ring) who have had little experience managing land. Some will come with an expectation of developing an enterprise, others will want a horse or two and the majority will be happy with a life style block that may include a few head of cattle to keep the grass down.

This field day will include something for all of the above.

Carol Rose from the DPI will give a brief overview of soils, pasture management, carrying capacity and grazing systems.

Ian Poe, a vet with the RLPB, will talk about basic animal husbandry, what to do, what not to do and what to never ever do.

The Nambucca is not an easy place to farm. Our climate is on the cusp between subtropical and temperate (some years the mangos do well, some years the oranges do well), rainfall is variable, weeds and pests abound. This will be a valuable chance to listen, ask and share.

If there is enough interest on the day we will look to organise a series of workshops that will expand the information given on the day and cater for the special interest of the group

To register ring the office 65647838  
(RLPB—Rural Land Protection Board)

## Paddock Plant Field Day

Cost. Free

Where ...Missabotti Hall Bowraville.....

When Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April

10am-2pm

There is food and Drink available from the Missabotti Hall Canteen

Bring a hat and a chair

Harry and Carol Rose, the well-known duo from Kempsey DPI, will guide you through paddock plants and what they indicate.

Most pastures contain a large number of grasses and herds that can vary due to management, rainfall and season

The species mixture of a pasture is an important indicator of soil fertility, acidity, moisture content, compaction and grazing history.

If you are looking to maximise grazing potential or are interested in local pasture ecosystems, this is an opportunity to learn and exchange views.

Participants will receive an information package on local grasses and important indicator species common in the Nambucca

## Indian Myna

Joy has been working flat out on the Indian Myna program. The Men's Shed donated their time and skill to manufacture 15 traps that are available to the public. All the traps are out at the moment. People are having various degrees of success. Some residents have trapped over 50 while others have got none. Some have reported that the mere sight of the trap was enough to rid the place of mynas. If you want to be placed on the waiting list or more information, ring the office

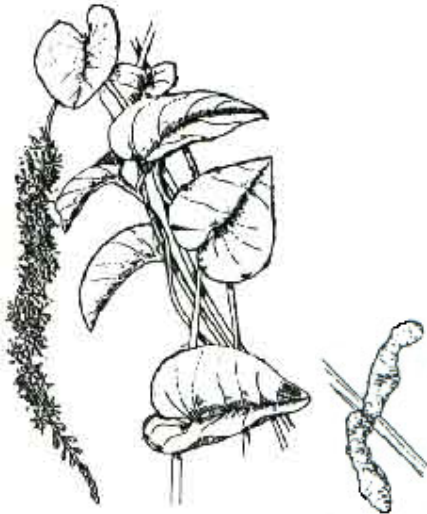


## Anredera cordifolia

**Also known as: Madeira Vine, Potato Vine, Lambs Tails**

**Family: Basellaceae** Photo © Hugh Nicholson

Anredera cordifolia is a native of South America. Anredera was imported because of its attractive white flowers and strong growth habit. It was often planted beside outdoor latrines in Australia, as the leaves, when eaten, were believed to have a laxative



effect.

### Identification

Anredera is most easily identified when it is in flower, between March & May. The flower appears as masses of perfumed creamy white tassels, usually high in the canopy, along the length of the vine stem. A curtain of leaves and flowers is often formed.

The vine has fleshy heart-shaped leaves, light green underneath and darker on top.

Anredera produces numerous stems, reaching from the ground up into the canopy. Mature stems are woody with wart-like growths and can reach up to 20 metres. Numerous potato-like tubers grow from the stems of the vine, and below the ground

### Reproduction

Anredera reproduces prolifically from the production of multitudes of aerial tubers. These tubers are then spread by water, the dumping of garden refuse, rodents and disturbance to soil, and can remain fertile for up to five years until conditions are optimal. Anredera also reproduces from parts of the stem or leaves of the vine.

Thankfully, its flowers are not known to seed in Australia.

Tim Woodward suggests with this weed, get all of the mature plants out of the trees and manage the growth on the ground through treatment with Brush-Off with the addition of Pulse (an organic aduvant) Up to a 98% kill rate on both the plant and tubers have been recorded



**Report by:** Tim Woodward, Noxious Weeds Inspector

Some land holders are not aware of the difference between Rats Tail and Parramatta Grass. Wick wiping programs that are utilized by some producers appear to be ineffective in reducing infestations. It is suggested to also utilize other management techniques, such as lowering stocking rates, pasture improvement and boom spraying with fluproprate based herbicides to prevent the spread of this invasive grass species to uninfested areas.

Groundsel bush infestations were also located, with one land holder using a fire control regime followed by herbicide application to subsequent seedling recruitment with good results. This form of control had reduced an approximate 1.5 hectare infestation of mature Groundsel bush plants to a very small number of seedling reemergence in the area of infestation in a 3 year period

### FUTURE PLANS

- Extension of Lantana and Camphor Laurel control throughout the reserve system.
- Control of all Groundsel Bush infestations on Council managed lands prior to flowering.
- Follow up of aquatic weed infestations on public and private lands.
- Planning for Bitou bush control program in the coastal reserve system.

LANTANA and Others– Removal NO Chemicals  
All dug by hand the old fashioned way.  
7 Days a week  
Phone – Peter Ferguson 0417 617 041

Brick Layer (Licensed ) No job too small. Phone  
Ian 0415537398