



WINTER 2011

Winter has come upon us fast and the chill factor in this office has dropped dramatically. But who's complaining whilst the sun is shining! The end of the financial year is also upon us translating into lots of reports for Joy and I and applications for funding, which are ongoing anyway the whole year.

Applications are open for the CMA Incentive Grants so if you would like some assistance with applying, give me a call as soon as possible so we can get onto the application as these grants are competitive and have fairly strict guidelines. If you want under \$5000 you don't have to jump through so many hoops. There is a better chance of success with this funding for your riverbank works compared to other funding.

Fireweed is starting to pop up already and keep an eye out for that new Myrtle Rust as it is apparently spreading fast in this area, see below. There is plenty of volunteer work going on in Nambucca Heads lately, there is a very active Nambucca Dunecare group that meets regularly. Maybe you would like to join in just for a day helping in the littoral rainforest at Black Rock, Nambucca or at Brazel Park in Scotts Head. See the article on page 3 for details.

Myrtle Rust

A new fact sheet has been developed "Myrtle rust: everyday management" which explains why we need to be concerned about this plant disease, areas to protect from infection and the basic concepts underlying the risk assessment process.

Find out about how you may be spreading the disease in your everyday work activities by downloading the fact sheet at

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/plant/myrtle-rust/management

These rusts are serious pathogens which affect plants belonging to the family Myrtaceae including Australian natives like bottle brush (*Callistemon* spp.), tea tree (*Melaleuca* spp.) and eucalypts (*Eucalyptus* spp.).

Calendar of Events

NVL Executive Meeting

Monday July 4th 2011 at 5.30pm

In the Landcare Office.

All welcome.

Soil Biology Workshop

Presented by Jeremy Bradley and Cathy Eggert

A bit of a closer look at what's in the soil on your farm. Rebuilding soil fertility using the organisms that built the soil in the first place makes sense to Jeremy Bradley, self-confessed "extreme carbon farmer". Jeremy grows topsoil along with beef cattle and vegetables on a small property in the Hastings Valley. The workshop will outline how you can reverse soil fertility without spending too much money.

Topics for the day are:

- Soil food web basics
- How to make biological inoculants (aerated compost tea)
- How to apply biological inoculants using existing machinery
- How to monitor soil and compost biology

Where: Missabotti Hall

When: Tuesday 12th July 10am – 3pm

Microscopes and equipment supplied.

Morning tea provided, bring your own lunch.

Ring office to register.

Buz Brazel Park and Littoral Rainforest Volunteering opportunities

With Mark Robertson from Northern Rivers CMA and Pierre Wilkinson's bush regenerators.

Buz Brazel Park- Scotts Head

When: to be advised

Tree planting in the area around the park.

Wear appropriate clothing, shoes and hat.

Black Rock- Nambucca Littoral RF

When: to be advised

See article on Page 3 for more details and ring the office if you would like to participate to find out when. (Both should be within the next month)

NRCMA Incentive Program.

This is probably the best way to apply for funding. The applications are relatively easy and the strike rate, in the past, has been better than most programs.

Applications close 4pm Friday 10th June 2011.

Here are a few dot points to summarise.

1. Small projects up to \$5,000

Small project will be the way to go for most individuals. The application is relatively simple and the reporting not too onerous. There is a contract but it is relative simple.

Having said that, funding is competitive and projects will have to be well planned and offer value for money. A single farmer doing work on their own property will have to display significant catchment benefit.

2. Plan Development up to \$5,000.

This will probably be the best way to go in the long term. It enables the land managers to list and quantify action that will benefit their NRM issues and meet the NRCMA targets. Those eligible include individual landholders, groups of landholders, NRM community volunteer groups, NRM organisations, local government and state government agencies.

3. Majors projects for \$5000-\$75000.

Major projects can go for either one or two years but all Major Projects must have a Recognised NRM Plan to back their project proposal. Major project must be well planned and the proponent must show proof that they are able to successfully implement, record, report and maintain the project site. Major projects have a major contract associated with them.

4. Aiming for September 2011 start and June 2012 finish.

NVL will be able to provide potential applicants with in-depth project assistance and help participants to develop the nuts and bolts their project. I do recommend that you contact the office before starting the application and run it past us before you submit it.

6. Agreement Guidelines for small and major projects. Guidelines and application forms are available on the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority web site or through the office.

7. Eligibility and assessment criteria

- Contribution to NRCMA Priority Project Activities
- Ability to deliver NRM outcomes, address NRM issues and demonstrate best management practice and strategy
- Value for money
- Current site values and condition
- Ability to engage partners and build community capacity
- Ability to maintain project outcomes beyond the term of the project
- Ability to undertake ongoing resource condition monitoring
- Ability to manage project delivery
- Be very aware of each of the criteria when planning the project and applying.

Caring for our Country Grants

This is a way to get big and small projects but it is highly competitive and the application is serious. The good thing about CfoC is that if you get the funding you are able to get on with job without loads of paperwork and progress reports.

Applications close 5pm Monday 30th May

There are six priority areas for investment of which Nambucca residents have a chance of 3.

Sustainable farm practices

Coastal environments and critical aquatic habitats,

Community skills, knowledge and engagement.

To be eligible for Caring for our Country investment you must meet all of the following:

- be a legal entity
- clearly identify in your proposal which targets you seek to address
- have or be able to obtain before agreed commencement all necessary planning, regulatory or other approvals
- have no overdue reports or acquittals from previous Australian Government funding
- have the agreement of a key partner organisation to submit the proposal (for example, president of a community group).

NVL will investigate a joint application with Mid North Coast Farm Foresters. If you or your organisation would like to have a go, please contact the office first. The applications are a lot of work.



Community gardens – first meeting

Bowraville Community Gardens

NVL is applying for funds through the Caring for our Country to establish a community garden on a vacant block owned by Bowraville Central School.

Bowraville Central School will be an important partner but the gardens will be open to the whole community. Partners include NVL, Bowraville Central School, Bowraville Local Aboriginal Land Council, Bowraville Community Technology Centre, TAFE, Beyond Empathy, Youth Directions and the community. The gardens will be used as an education facility for the all the residents of the Nambucca Valley to promote sustainable living and provide the skills to reduce the carbon footprint of the community. The garden will not be fenced and will not exclude any member of the population from participating. The grant will supply some remuneration to cover the expenses of volunteers and champions of the gardens, supply materials for a number of community groups to manufacture the infrastructure of the gardens and educational materials and specialist presenters for community workshops.

The gardens will be open to the residents of the Nambucca Valley. Bowraville Central School will use the gardens for their environmental and trade courses. Nambucca Valley Landcare will use the gardens to hold workshops. Bowraville Local Aboriginal Land Council and TAFE have expressed

interest in running horticultural and environmental outreach subjects. Local Garden Clubs will be encouraged to hold meetings and share experiences on site. The Gardens will encourage residents to connect with the "Slow Food Networks" and explore other sustainable agricultural options. Any one will be able to wander in off the street to chat and to plant a plot as their contribution and to harvest.

Volunteering Opportunities

As a part of Caring for our Country Coastal Communities that is being administered by the Northern River Catchment Management Authority, NVL has been contracted to deliver on the protection of littoral rainforest, control of weeds of national significance and community engagement. To date the project has contributed 8ha of bitou control and 7.5ha of littoral rainforest enhancement. There is still a small amount of money remaining that will be directed to the following 2 projects.

Buz Brazel Oval – Scotts Head

This Scott's Heads Oval is an asset to the valley as are the volunteers that train the kids and maintain the facility. Landcare has been involved after the fields have been extended. The project will include weed control, spreading of mulch, encouraging regeneration and planting natives for biodiversity and amenity.

Mark Robinson from the NRCMA will lead a discussion on the importance of the site, plans for the regeneration and the time table of works. There will be a team of bush regenerators present to schedule work days and to be available for members of the community participate.

Black Rock – Nambucca Heads

Nambucca Valley has a number of remnant littoral rainforest sites. Littoral Rainforest is listed as a threatened ecological community and is one of the Federal government's targets for funding. This is an opportunity to talk to a range of people experienced in the protection and enhancement of this important coastal plant community. Come in appropriate attire for doing a bit of weeding.

Directions to Black Rock—Turn in Palmer St at the water towers in Nambucca. Veer left in Mahogany Rd. Right at the water treatment works.

Indian Myna Update

NVL has been successful with another grant from the NSW Environmental Trust who has allocated \$100,000 to enable the Indian Myna Control Project to run for another three years.

Project Officer Tien Pham will now be able to continue to work with volunteers in the three Shires to control the spread of this harmful species. “This funding extension will allow the community to build on the successes gained so far. In the last two years we have made immense progress in raising community awareness and supporting volunteers in their myna control activities. This funding will allow us more time to solidly establish a control network within the community.” Tien said.

In March volunteers from across the project area met at Bongil Picnic Area in Bonville for a celebratory BBQ. 34 people attended. Also in attendance alongside local volunteers were the Grafton and Stuarts Point Myna Action Groups, as well as representatives from participating Councils, Landcare organisations and NPWS.

Our neighbours in Kempsey and Hastings Shires were also successful with an Environmental Trust grant this year to control their mynas, so that's good news for us too.