



SUMMER 2011

What's On for Young and Old

More details on workshops page 5

- **Executive meeting** All welcome
 Mon 14th March 5.30pm in the Landcare office
- **Invasive Grass Field Day**
 Thurs 10th March 9.00am -1.00pm Valla Hall
 Morning tea provided.
- **Nambucca Littoral Rainforest Workshop.** Wed 23rd March 9.30- 1.00
 Black Rock, Nambucca Heads
- **Northern Rivers Landcare Awards Presentation** Grafton Friday 1st April 2011
- **Tree Fair**
 Sat 9th April 7.30am-1.30 pm Bowra Race track

NAMBUCCA VALLEY LANDCARE held its AGM on the 22nd November 2010. There was a good turn up and the provision of a light supper made for a successful meeting. We welcome the new members of the executive and are grateful to the old members for their continued advice, time and experience.

John Pass is the new chair of NVL. John has a property in the wilds of Tamboon and has been active member of NVL for many years.

If any members would like to attend the executive meetings let the office know and we will keep you informed.

Chair – John Pass
 Vice Chair – Joy van Son
 Secretary – Tien Pham
 Treasurer – Jeffery Unwin
 Public Officer – Tim Ryan
 Executive –

Alex Statzenko, Brian Grace, Betty Allen, Sue Salvin, Pete Keogh, Paul Schadel, Kara Smith

Gone are the days of a one person office. Because of increasing levels of reporting, booking keeping, accountability and professionalism, NVL now relies on a team of people experienced in different fields.

We owe thanks to Our-Tien Pham-Indian Myna Officer, Damon Telfer- River Health Officer, Stu Johnson-Management Plans, Peter Krish-Web Site and IT, David McCormack-Accountant; Kara Smith-MERI, Pierre Wilkinson-Bush Regenerator; Peter Keogh-Regen volunteer; and of course Tim Woodward-NSC, Alex Statzenko-CMA and the Goori Green team. Without any of the above, the ship would list.

The Nambucca Estuary- River Restoration Guide

This pamphlet was first produced by NVL in 2000 and is a guide to assist landowners in selecting the right plant species for riverbank restoration works in the estuarine waterways of the Nambucca.

It has now been revamped by John Schmidt at DECCW and is available at the office.

2011 Northern Rivers Landcare Awards Presentation

Highlighting leading lights of Landcare
 Supported by Northern Rivers CMA and NCRLN

Northern Rivers Landcare Awards Winners will be announced at the 2011 Northern Rivers Landcare Awards Presentation and Celebration night on Friday the 1st April 2011 in Grafton. For details of this event contact the office.

Award categories-

- Individual Landcarer Award
- Innovation in Sustainable Farm Practices Award
- Local Landcare Facilitator/Coordinator Award
- Local Landcare Partnership Award
- Coastcare Award
- Urban Landcare Award
- Landcare Primary Producer Award
- Northern Rivers Soil Health Award
- Indigenous Award
- Young Landcare Leader Award
- Community Group Award
- Schools Education Award

New Projects for 2011



NVL's application to Caring for our Country-Community Action Grants for \$15k to reprint the second edition of the **Nambucca Valley**

Vegetation and Planting Guide was successful. NVL and NVCA produced the 1st edition of the guide in 2007 in response to public demand. The 1st edition relied on an enormous effort and in kind contribution from NVL, NVCA and volunteers. 1000 b& w copies were distributed within a year and our website statistics show more downloads than any other resource.

The 2nd edition will be a more valuable, easy to use educational and awareness raising resource with the addition of a few colour photos of plants.

The project will enable 5000 vegetation guides to be printed and distributed to urban, rural residential and rural landholders that will include native trees, shrubs, vines and ground covers, a guide to selection and planting natives, special plantings eg riparian zones, under power lines, wetlands, wind breaks, urban gardens. There will also be chapters on legislation, rare and threatened populations, protected species, weeds, obligations under law, replacement natives and potential weed species.

The old guide will continue to be posted on NVL web site until the new edition is finalised



River Reach Plans

River Reach Plans (RRP) are now the main mechanism by which to gain funding through the NRCMA for river and riparian projects particularly in the fresh water reaches of the catchment. There are a number of parameters that determine if a reach is eligible. Once a plan is done for your reach you will be able to apply for funding to carry out the works on your property under that plan. Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority and NVL will develop 3 River reach plans across the valley in 2011 and these will be posted on our web site when completed. There will be one plan for the upper catchment of North Arm, one for a section at Upper Buccrabendinni and one on TA. If you are interested in have your property included in a reach plan please contact the office.

The Nambucca Valley Borefields Bed Control Project

\$30k Funded by NRCMA

This is a project for which I have been trying to get funding for years. Experience in the Nambucca has shown bed controls to be the best value-for-money structure that will improve river health. The function of a rock bed control is to mimic large (and I mean large) woody debris (i.e. big trees) that have been incorporated in the bed of the river. In the absences of bed rock, these structures protect the river from bed erosion. In the 70's the Nambucca River was systematically de-snagged, causing the water to run faster, therefore having more energy, therefore having more erosive potential.

This project will place 1 bed control in the Nambucca River below the Bowraville Borefield's weir, just upstream of Lanes Bridge. NSW Fisheries has identified this weir as a substantial obstruction to fish passage. By placing a bed control below the weir we aim to partially flood out the weir therefore reducing the obstacle to fish passage while lifting the bed level of the river, thus lifting the level of ground water and increasing the storage of the Nambucca Bore fields that supply the Nambucca Valley with water.

If you can follow that you're doing OK. There will be a number of contributors including Northern Rivers CMA, Nambucca Shire Council, Department of Water and Energy, Fisheries and DECCW. The project will be reliant on the generosity of the landowners.



Bed control on Taylors Arm.

Weed and Vegetation News.

The office has been a deluged with information and requests regarding weeds and vegetation. Here are some examples.

Tropical Soda Apple (*Solanum viarum*)

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-weeds/weeds/profiles/tropical-soda-apple

Tropical soda apple, is an aggressive prickly perennial shrub 1–2 m high. It invades open to semi shaded areas, including pastures, forests, riparian zones, roadsides, recreational areas, horticultural and cropping areas. It reduces biodiversity in natural areas by displacing native plants and disrupting ecological processes. Its foliage is unpalatable to livestock, thus reducing carrying capacity.

Mist Flower (*Ageratina riparia*)

We all know what mist flower is and how it can dominates along riparian corridors into pristine catchment headwaters and negatively affect biotic diversity in ecologically important areas. As a result of research around the world, 3 biological controls have been identified.

The **white –smut fungus** has proved to be the most successful and, although not purposely introduced, has found its way to Australia. The first Clue that the smut fungus is present is a die-off on the leaves and stems of mistflower, usually starting at the bottom of the plant and moving upwards. On closer inspection the upper surface of the leaves have brown spots and some leaves may be brown at the tips. However, other things can cause these symptoms. The key trait indicating that the damage is caused by the white-smut fungus are white patches on the underside of the leaves.



Mistflower leaf
White-smut under leaf surface
Photo by L.Morin

Mistflower white-smut
upper leaf surface.
Photo by L. Morin

Under leaf surface of Mistflower
showing white-smut
Photo by L. Morin

Shon Schooler, (Ecosystem Sciences PO Box 2583 Brisbane QLD 4001) is collecting information on the presence or absence of the fungus.

If you find a large patch of mistflower that you think may be affected by the smut fungus, please email : 1. a brief description of your observations 2. the location (preferably GPS coordinates in latitude and longitude using decimal degrees - this makes it easier to map the coordinates in GIS) 3. a photo or two of the patch and a leaf with or without the damage, to (shon.schooler@csiro.au) If you are not sure if the damage is due to white-smut fungus contact Dr Schooler to arrange for samples to be sent for identification. If you have a large patch of Mist flower that doesn't have the fungus but you just want to assist Shon Schooler she would like to hear from you.

Myrtle Rust (*Uredo rangelii*)

This is a newly described fungus that is closely related to the Eucalyptus/Guava rusts. 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.).

Myrtle Rust is distinctive in that it produces masses of powdery bright yellow or orange-yellow spores on infected plant parts. It infects leaves of susceptible plants producing spore-filled lesions on young actively growing leaves, shoots, flower buds and fruits. Leaves may become buckled or twisted and may die as a result of infection. Sometimes these infected spots are surrounded by a purple ring. Older lesions may contain dark brown spores. Infection on highly susceptible plants may result in plant death.



You can help stop the spread of Myrtle Rust:

1. Contact Tim Woodward at Nambucca Shire Council on ph: 041702710378 if you suspect detection or report to the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881.

2. Never move suspected contaminated or infested material unless directed by an officer of the NSW Government.

3. Always practise good hygiene when working with native plants and general nursery stock. Clean equipment like containers and secateurs after use.

Report from Tim Woodward (Weeds Inspector NSC)

General inspections and re-inspections were performed throughout various areas of the Nambucca with a new infestation of Kudzu found to be established in the Eungai area. **Kudzu (*Pueria lobata*)** is a new and emerging weed with patches found in various locations around the Shire, Missabotti, TA, highway. Kudzu is a climbing, coiling, and trailing vine native to southern Japan and southeast China. It spreads by vegetative expansion, via stolons (runners) that root at the nodes to form new plants and by rhizomes. Kudzu will also spread by seeds, which are contained in pods and mature in the autumn, although this is rare. One or two viable seeds are produced per cluster of pods. The hard-coated seeds may not germinate for several years, which can result in the reappearance of the species years after it was thought eradicated at a site.

Follow up inspections were also performed on properties with Broad Leaf Pepper, Yellow Bells and Groundsel Bush. Giant Rats Tail Grass is proving to be a difficult species to manage, with five known infestations throughout the Nambucca. An infestation on a dairy enterprise has been present since the 1980's and although intensive farming/management has been performed the infestation is persisting.

High Risk Pathways

Coolatai infestations on main arterial roads throughout the Nambucca Shire have been treated with herbicide, with good results. Giant Rats Tail Grass (*Sporobolus pyramidalis*) infestations have also been targeted in the road reserves in the Talarm and Valla rural areas.

The local sale yards have been regularly inspected to ensure there are no new weed incursions at this site. Riparian zones in the Missabotti, Bowraville and Taylors Arm areas were inspected, with no new weeds found to be present. Tung oil (*Vernicia fordii*) is establishing along the length of the Missabotti system, with an old plantation site the seed source of this invasive tree species.

Operational activities

Extensive control works have been performed in the coastal reserve system, with Glory lily, asparagus fern, Creeping Groundsel (*Senecio angulata*), Bitou bush, Turkeys rhubarb and Senna targeted. A cooperative project between Landcare, NRCMA and Council has been initiated targeting WoNs species and reducing weed species within rainforests in the Nambucca area.

Woody weeds have also been targeted within the Council managed reserve system, with Lantana, Camphor laurel and Privets the main species. Excellent growing conditions combined with a "one slasher width" mowing program in the road reserve has seen an explosion of woody weed growth throughout Councils road reserve system.

I will be presenting at the Invasive Grasses field day with Carol Rose and NVL on Thursday 10th March at Valla Hall.

(More on Kudzu in the next newsletter)

Our new North Coast Regional Landcare Facilitator. Jodie Gager.



North Coast Regional Landcare Network Executive: L to R Secretary Daintry Gerrand, Jodie Gager, President Brian Dodd, Vice President Colin Matthews, at the state wide (RLF) Induction in Sydney. Absent Craig Stehn Treasurer.

Jodie's position is a link between the Federal Government and LandCare and the promotion of sustainable agriculture on the North Coast. Jodie will be visiting the Nambucca on Thursday February 24th to acquaint herself with the area, to meet people and discuss issues. If you would like to meet Jodie, contact the Office.

Events Detail

Invasive Grasses Field Day.



10th March Valla Hall 9.00am-1.00 pm

Carol Rose | Extension Agronomist | Industry & Investment NSW (Primary Industries)

Tim Woodward. Nambucca Shire Weed Inspector.

Some invasive species that will be discussed-

Giant Parramatta grass

Giant Rats Tail grass

Coolatai grass

African love grass

Bahia grass

Tropical Soda Apple

- How to identify
- Some similar plants
- Why are they a problem?
- How do they spread?
- How to stop the spread?

Morning Tea Provided

Nambucca Littoral Rainforest Workshop

Wednesday 23rd March 9.30am to 1pm

Black Rock, Nambucca Heads

Mark Robinson, (NRCMA); Tim Woodward, (NSC), Stuart Johnson (Ecologist) and Kara Smith will talk on the ecology, management and threats to littoral rainforest in the Nambucca.

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 coastal plant communities.

Come dressed for a walk. Morning tea provided.



NAMBUCCA VALLEY LANDCARE

Autumn **TREE FAIR**

TREES, SHRUBS, FLOWERS, HERBS, and
LOCAL PRODUCE

SUITED TO THE MID NORTH COAST

Where: Bowraville Race Track
Rodeo Drive

When: Saturday 9TH April
7.30am to 1.30pm

FREE ENTRY

If you have plants or produce to sell and would like a stall
Contact
Nambucca Valley Landcare

The Indian Myna Control Project

Project volunteers across Bellingen, Coffs Harbour and the Nambucca have been very busy over the spring/summer myna breeding season. Overall, volunteers have been highly successful in their trapping efforts, with an increase in the average number of birds caught per volunteer across all 3 LGAs, as compared with Year 1 of the project.

By April 2011 NSW Environmental Trust funding for the Indian Myna Project will come to an end. We are currently working with our project partners to secure alternative funding to maintain the Coordinator's position, which will be vital to the continued success of the Project.

A Volunteer Network Meeting will be held in mid-March. The meeting will provide a forum for volunteers to meet, share their experiences and strengthen network ties. It will be an important opportunity to assess the Project's progress and discuss how we can continue to build on our successes.

Contact the Project Officer Tien Pham to get involved – 0438 218 261

Trapping Results to date

1056 volunteers involved in project

2117 Indian Myna birds have been caught and euthanased!

597 in the Nambucca.

752 volunteers have been trained

21 community groups and 7 schools engaged.

Shire	No. trappers		No. trapped mynas		Average per trapper	
	Yr 1 (Apr 09 – Mar 01)	Yr 2 (to date)	Yr 1 (Apr 09 – Mar 01)	Yr 2 (to date)	Yr 1 (Apr 09 – Mar 01)	Yr 2 (to date)
Bellingen	32	24	125	161	3.9	6.7
Nambucca	50	38	234	363	4.7	9.6
Coffs Harbour	73	64	601	643	8.2	10.0
Totals	155	126	960	1, 167		

Permaculture Design Coarse

12 Day Program

Bello March 11- April 10

Nambucca Heads May6-June 5

Cost \$750 \$650 concession

www.permaculture.com.au

Contact Joe Walker 0438516351

joewalker@y7mail.com

Nambucca Valley LandCare

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