

NAMBUCCA VALLEY LANDCARE



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Winter 09

Three floods in 3 months

The Nambucca held up reasonably well in the first flood. I was heartened by the lack of major damage nearly to the point of boasting about the resilience of the system. Then came the second flood. North Arm and Missabotti suffered damage that I have never before witnessed. Hundreds of meters of riparian vegetation removed and thousands of tons of alluvial top soil dispatched to the Pacific Ocean. Most of the Landcare project sites held up well but areas that have been stable in the past suffered extreme damage. Some reaches widened by 30% to 40%. The third flood was not as damaging; maybe because the damage had all ready be done. The third flood was a bit lower but came with serious winds. The beach lost meters of sand. I was talking to a couple of guys who reported that a log washed ashore on Foresters Beach (South Beach) 60years ago was exposed in the flood.

Just a thought.....

What is a slab of beer worth? It seems to be the currency of friendship.
Cars get fixed, fire wood cut, fences repaired and areas slashed for a cartoon of beer.

Valla Beach Walkway.

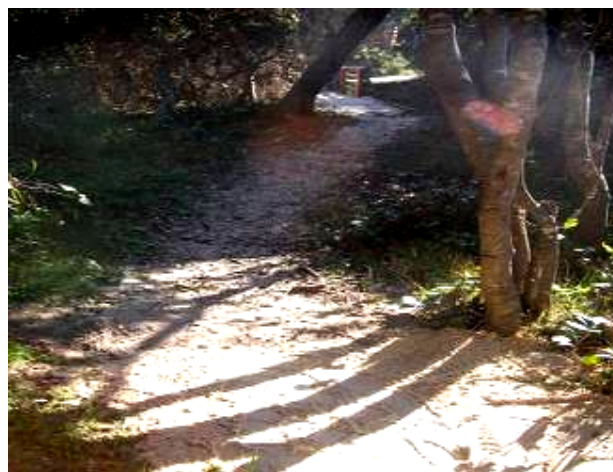
NVL applied for a grant from Envirofund to formalise a beach access next to the four wheel drive track at Nth Valla. Local residents and the Valla Lions were concerned about the safety of pedestrian traffic walking on the four wheel drive track, particular at holiday times. NVL received \$9K which wasn't enough to build the entire length of the walkway with a board walk using the Nyambaga Goori Green Team. The Green Team did a sterling job erecting a board walk across the worst part of the dune but the dilemma was what to do with the rest of the walkway now that the money had run out.

NVL and Phil Micallef from Geofabrics Australia devised a cheap and effective solution. Geofabrics

have a product called "Bunker Mat" that is designed to hold sand on the side of bunkers on golf clubs. The rolls are about \$800 for 25m x 2m, but when cut to a width of 1m will cover 50meters of walking track. Bruce Anderson (Valla volunteer), Phil and Tim Ryan were able to lay 25meters of geofabric in a couple of hours! With experience, 2 workers could prepare and lay 50 meters of beach access track in a morning. This is a cheap, low impact, environmentally friendly solution that is easier on the feet than chain and board, and not slippery like a conveyor belt. NVL donated the cost of the geofabric to the project and have some left to be used somewhere else in the future.



Tim hard at work (for a change!)



The finished product

INDIAN MYNA CONTROL PROJECT

Indian Myna HOTLINE 0438 218 261

The Indian Myna Control Program is up and running on the mid-north coast, with a new Indian Myna Project Officer. Tien Pham is employed 3 days/week to coordinate activities over the next 12 months. In 2008 Nambucca Valley Landcare, in partnership with Bellinger and Coffs Landcare were successful in applying for Environmental Trust funding to implement the Project across the Nambucca, Bellinger and Coffs Harbour LGA's.

The main objectives of the project are:

- To co-ordinate and service community groups, individuals and government agencies in Indian myna trapping and control activities.
- To assist with the preparation, review and monitoring of future strategies in Indian myna control in the LGA's of Nambucca, Bellinger and Coffs Harbour
- Monitor and collect data relating to bird locations and numbers within the designated area
- Collect, record and map data collected on birds numbers and impacts of trapping/eradication activities
- Develop promotional materials, documents and website access for a public awareness program
- Develop and deliver education and information workshops relating to the Indian myna project

Since commencing her position in April, Tien has been busy attending local Fairs and Shows to increase community awareness. With materials contributed by Council, community groups such as the Nambucca Valley Men's Shed have been engaged to build more myna traps which will then be dispensed to volunteer trappers throughout the community. Currently, Tien is also engaging schools throughout the project area to participate in trapping programs. As part of a class project, students will be involved in designing experiments to determine the most effective trapping methods. For example, experiments to determine whether live decoy birds are effective in attracting other mynas to traps or placing a mirror in the trap to see if that alone attracts other Mynas.

Information workshops will be held in various locations throughout the 3 valleys in July and November 2009.

The following topics will be covered:

- Indian myna control – trapping and other strategies
- Establishing an effective trapping network in your community
- Correct species identification/ Indian myna look-a-likes
- Impacts of Indian mynas
- Indian myna control – trapping and other strategies
- Establishing an effective trapping network in your community.

TAFE Planting Day

NVL would like to thank the TAFE concreting class that helped plant a Missabotti riparian project site. As part of the course, the class has a community sustainability module. Joy and Tim met the class of 8 and teacher, Lyn Orrego, at Missabotti Hall for morning tea. After a quick chat about river function, bed controls and the nature and importance of riparian vegetation, the team hooked in. 200 plants including lomandra, tea tree, bottle brush and water gum were planted in 2 hours at a site where 2 bed controls had been installed. A variety of species could not be planted because it is not the right time of year for planting. All were happy. The river bank was vegetated, the land owner was saved hours of work, the class learnt a little about the river and planting, and Tim is able to report on another finished project.



Flood Relief.

Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority was able to secure a small amount of funding for Flood damage for the Northern Rivers Catchment Area. NVL was asked to compile a list of sites that needed work after the floods. Because of the extent of flood damage and limited funding only 4 sites in the Nambucca were funded totaling \$37,000. Work on the sites will start as soon as the money arrives.

NLP Small River Grants.

All recipients of funding under this grant should be finishing off their projects now and sending NVL any invoices that may need paying. 14 landholders received a grant this time round carrying out projects on a range of rivers in both the estuarine and freshwater reaches of the Nambucca, totalling \$45,000. Although there is no sign at present of any future funding for river works we ask that landholders contact us if they wish to do a project on their property. Tim will visit the site and assess the work needed and then NVL will look out for avenues of funding.



NATIVE PLANT PROPOGATION WORKSHOP

TUTORED BY:- JOHN ROSS
(LACEBARK NATIVE NURSERY)

WHERE: Ngurrala Aboriginal Corporation
Wirrimbi (Opposite Newee Ck Mill)

WHEN: **Thursday 25th June**
9:30am to 3:00pm

COST: **FREE with tea, coffee and morning tea provided.**
Bring your own lunch.

- Course will cover seed collection, extraction, treatment and potting up
- Propagating from both soft wood and hard wood cuttings will also be covered
- Both eucalypt and rainforest plants will be included

Places are limited – for bookings contact
Tim at Nambucca Valley Landcare on

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