



# Landcare Support Officer Report for Byron Shire Council

1<sup>st</sup> July – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023

## LFW

**Total of 149 properties registered in Byron Shire**

84 registered by BVL, 64 registered by BSC

8 new EOI's pending assessment

## LANDCARE GROUPS

- 15 BVL locality groups active (a health check was conducted) – 10 working on council owned land.
- Work is underway to reinvigorate the volunteer base.
- 3 BVL special interest groups.
- 10 Incorporated Landcare groups working in Byron Shire (not under BVL's umbrella).

## PROJECTS

- **ET Broken Head Costal Corridor Restoration Stage 3** \$170,000 over 4 years working on 7 properties, 10.18ha of restoration and 4.9ha of planting. Year 1 report lodged (3 year project).
- **LLS Landslip Recovery** – regional project across 4 northern Landcare networks. Phase two of landslip remediations are complete. Reporting delivered to BRVVLN and there are now plans for a community day "Reclaiming Stability, navigating landslip recovery together" which is a day for affected landholders to come together to learn from each other and experts as we reclaim the stability of our landscapes, on 25<sup>th</sup> November at Mullumbimby Civic Hall. This will complete this project. Pictured below is Palmwoods landslip after works and planting.



- **MNES Grant** from LLS (Matters of National Environmental Significance) \$65,084 over 1 year to work on 8 sites with subtropical rainforest that have had 1 year of funding already, and 5 of the landslide sites that are needing weed control work. LLS advised 50% reduction in grant allocation after NSW Treasury accounting mistake realised. BVL currently in negotiation with LLS to increase allocation to 60%.
- **Seedbank Project** BVL have been involved in conversations with Tweed Landcare. Feedback from BVL members has been provided. Tweed Landcare are coordinating the Northern Hub for this project. Currently investigating feasibility and logistics for seed storage and transport to Coffs Botanic Gardens.
- **Community Planting with Positive Change 4 Marine Life** – BVL coordinated volunteers to conduct the planting and hosted the event on private property on 21 September.
- **Seeds of Hope** - regenerative agriculture workshops for secondary students in Grafton Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October. BVL is running the program with funding received from NRCF.

*September 2023 Report by Joanne McMurtry and Harry Hackett*

- **Revegetating Streams for the Brunswick River Catchment brochure update.** Species advice is being provided by Jo Green, Dave Filipczyk and John McVicar. Design quote received from designer (currently overseas, returning late October), next stage is design layout meeting and brief based on confirmed content. Expected timeline for final draft to BSC for approval end November.
- **NSW Government Flood Recovery Water Monitoring** – BVL participated in stakeholder advisory group, run by NSW EPA, meeting in Ballina 19 September. Expressed interest in receiving project monitoring data.
- **Brunswick River Regeneration Alliance** – BVL involved in discussion around formation of this group of interested landholders, community and environmental organisations, with scope for Council engagement. BVL provided a letter of support for an NRCF grant.
- **Native Plants for Native Wildlife Poster** – developed by Margie Hall and produced by BVL for public distribution and as a recourse for local rainforest nurseries.

## **EVENTS**

- **First Aid Course** – In April and on 15<sup>th</sup> July BVL subsidised first aid for locality group members. Both courses had 10 participants and is an important part of our volunteer training program.
- **Landcare Week – 6-13 August 2023** – BVL participated in and organised several events, including:
  - A stall at Federal Family Fun Day at Federal Childrens Centre – Sunday 6 August
  - Science in the Pub at Hotel Brunswick - Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August
  - Membership drive at Mullumbimby Farmers Market – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August
  - Open morning at Heritage Park – Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August



*Stall at Federal Family Fun Day*



*Science in the Pub*

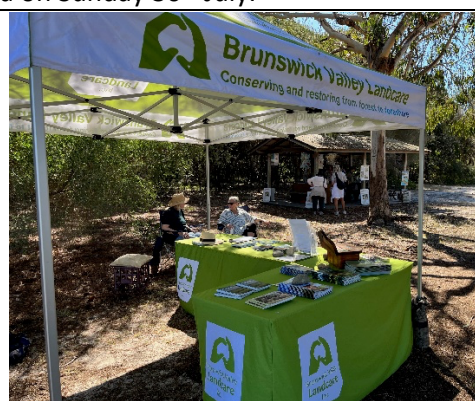


*Mullum Farmers Market*

- **The Giants film fundraiser** – BVL presented this film at Byron Theatre, Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September
- **BVL worked with Plan C** (formerly Resilient Byron) to deliver four workshops to participants during August, each with a different focus. The workshops were:
  - Coastal & Heathland - Friday, August 4<sup>th</sup> (Marvel Hall, Byron Bay)
  - Rainforest - Friday, August 11<sup>th</sup> (Pearces Creek Hall, between Lismore and Bangalow)
  - Riverine & Creek - Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup> (Shearwater Steiner School, Mullumbimby)
  - Hinterland - Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup> (Uki Hall, Uki)

## **COUNCIL**

- **Mending & Tending Art in Nature** – BVL participated in the Council managed Climate Conversations project with Lone Goat Gallery by contributing funds towards a habitat nest box and holding an information stall during one of the on-site workshops at Torakina on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July.





- Presentation to Councillors 5<sup>th</sup> August – by invitation of the Mayor. Presentation on BVL's history of riparian restoration projects. Topics covered included:
  - An overview of BVL's work in the Shire
  - History in water/creek bed restoration/ riparian management/ bush regeneration
  - Byron Shire Council support and collaboration with BVL
  - Will the mutual aim of achieving biodiversity and restoration outcomes into the future

## **BVL STAFFING**

- Joanne McMurtry is working 3 days per week on a flexible basis as Community Liaison Officer. She is working to reinvigorate our volunteer groups which have seen a decrease in volunteering over the last 3 years, with a three pronged approach:
  - Creating new energy around locality group volunteers by offering training and networking opportunities, offering capacity building workshops, as well as holding events to attract new volunteers
  - Working on a Junior Landcare program (grant funded)
  - Working on collaborating more with local Aboriginal groups and individuals
- Harry Hackett is working for BVL as Project Officer on a flexible basis between 1 to 2 days per week. She is managing projects, grant reporting and other stakeholder relationships.
- Alison is now working reduced hours due to her carer's role. Both Harry and Joanne are coordinating workload while Alison takes personal leave.

## **ENQUIRY TOPICS/ ISSUES**

Phone	Email	Website	Social Media	Walk in	In Person
Book request	Complaint about grant funded works on neighbours property – not landcare or Council x 2	What to plant to attract native animals – Koala, birds, butterflies, etc	Enquiries about BVL events		Terrestrial Lidar Scanning
Forming a locality group x 2	Illawarra Plum Seeds offer	Advice on restoring land	Request for planting guides		Forming a locality group
Flood Recovery vouchers	Placement opportunity – work experience				
Planting advice	Carbon Credits				
Letters of support for funding applications	Impact of die back on Koala populations				
Advice on bamboo removal	Invitation to Bitou Bush Biosecurity Meeting				
Enquiries about BVL events and memberships	Invite onto Flood Recovery WQMP stakeholder group				
	Letter of Support for short Bush Management Course via TAFE				
	Brunswick River Regeneration Alliance – meeting to talk about group forming				
12+	10	4	10		2
					<b>Approx. 40</b>