



Urban Landcarer

Volume 24 - Issue 4 - July/August 2023

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National Volunteer Week celebrated

In May, we celebrated the unwavering dedication and tireless work of volunteers with forty-five Landcare volunteers as well as staff at our National Volunteer Week celebration. Participants were thanked for their massive contributions to Lake Macquarie by Cr Jack Antcliff and Landcare Co-ordinator Jason Harvey. They were then treated to a presentation on small mammals and were introduced to the Bionet fauna database by Landcare Support Officer Wendy Gleen.



Volunteers enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with friends they had not seen for some time, as well as meet others with similar interests from different volunteer groups.



Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers!!



LAKE MACQUARIE CITY

THANK YOU

The theme of this year's National Volunteer Week is 'The Change Makers', and what an appropriate way to describe you and the thousands of other tireless volunteers across Lake Mac.

The efforts of volunteers like you change our city for the better in so many ways. They keep the wheels turning on organisations, initiatives, improvements and projects that build our community and make it a more welcoming place for everyone.

On behalf of everyone in Lake Mac, thank you so much for everything you have done, and for what you continue to do as a volunteer.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK
15-21 MAY 2023
THE CHANGE MAKERS

Blacksmiths Dunecare turns 33!

In June, one of our longest standing volunteer groups, Blacksmiths Dunecare, celebrated a very special milestone of 33 years since forming. The group enjoyed a cake at their working bee where they also undertook their regular weeding and restoration of the hind dune system. They were joined by the Green Team for this special occasion.

Congratulations to all the Blacksmiths Dunecare volunteers and especially to Team Leader Nigel who has been there from the very beginning – you can learn more about the group, their formation and achievements in our Landcare Site Video and Case Study. Visit www.lakemacquarielandcare.org.au for links.



Join Lucilla Ridge Landcare

By Team Leader, Heather Carter

Lucilla Ridge Landcare has been operating for just over a year with 3 adults and one young person. Our first site near Lawson Road has little to any native seed stock. It is highly disturbed with compacted soils. The Green Team helped us, initially, plant 80 trees, shrubs and groundcovers to begin revegetating the site. We have since conducted a second planting of grasses and some wattles.

We work on a second site on the north-east flank of Munibung Hill where we are working to remove Formosa Lily, Crofton weed and Lantana.

We meet every second Saturday, depending on people's commitments, from 9am-10am in the winter and 8am-9am in the summer.

We would love people to join us. Contact the Landcare office on 4921 0392 or Iro@lakemac.nsw.gov.au for more details.



***Acacia ulicifolia* flourishing at Lucilla Ridge now that regeneration is able to occur**

News from the Network Committee



wandering trad and reduces the growth of the plant by disrupting its ability to photosynthesise."

Controlled testing in NSW, over the past 3 years, with good results, has proven that it is "highly host specific to wandering trad and does not affect any native plant species related to trad." It will be interesting to follow the progress of this research.

June news by LMLVN Chair, Marion Lugg

The Network has two Microscopes!

Earlier this year, the Network received 2 microscopes and 3 hand lenses, very kindly donated by one of our Landcarers.



Amy Trello, Landcare Support Officer, came to our last meeting, to demonstrate them and talk about some ideas she had for their use. One of the microscopes is battery-operated and suitable to take out in the field. The other one needs to be plugged into power, so that will have to be kept and used at the centre.

Fortunately for us, Amy is experienced with microscopes - she told us that she used them almost daily during her studies. She explained that they will be a useful educational tool for any interested Landcare groups, and especially valuable for school students.

In fact, on a recent visit to a local high school, she took the lenses and the field microscope to their Landcare planting day. The students were very interested in the amazing detail they could see when plant parts, like flowers and leaves are magnified. Amy said this then led to talking about future study with some of them being very keen to take up studies of the natural world. In her words, "Some minds were blown!"

And for the higher resolution, plug-in microscope, plans are that it will be set up from time to time as part of a display in the foyer of our new building. It will be fascinating to find out what level of detail can be seen through that one.

April news by LMLVN Chair, Marion Lugg

This is a new segment in the newsletter. Your committee manages the business of Lake Macquarie Landcare Volunteer Network Inc. We meet monthly at umali barai-ku, and when something is covered at the meeting that we find interesting, it occurred to us that it would also interest other Landcarers who volunteer across Lake Macquarie.

This month, Mardi Lee from local eco-living business French for Tuesday, came to speak to the Network committee this month. Mardi showed us the French for Tuesday website, which features local information on environmental and sustainability events, as well as articles on sustainable living. We felt Landcare would benefit from this wider reach to the community, and some members of the committee were quick to think of ideas that Mardi could include.

All Landcarers are welcome to attend our monthly meetings. They are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 1pm. Please contact the Landcare office for further information.

March news by Committee Member, Pam Montgomery

Talking SMUT - *Kordyana brasiliensis* to be exact!

At the February LMLVN committee meeting, we were told of a fungus being released onto infestations of Wandering Trad *Tradescantia fluminensis* on 8 Landcare sites in Lake Macquarie. One of those 8 sites was found to already have the fungus busy at work!

According to a research article by Ben Gooden and Isabel Zeil-Rolfe (CSIRO) in the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators Newsletter 155 May 2023, it is "a leaf smut fungus, which infects the leaves of

Save the date for National Landcare Week

Save the date for National Landcare Week 7-13 August!

This year a bus trip will take Landcarers and interested community to Landcare sites in Wye and Bonnells Bay area to share challenges and successes on Tuesday 8 August.

An information session on Thursday 10 August will run in conjunction with the over 55s program to introduce community to what Landcare is all about and how to get involved.

To find out more please contact the Landcare & Sustainable Living Centre on 4921 0392 or lro@lakemac.nsw.gov.au or keep an eye on our Facebook page.



The graphic features a green circular logo with the Landcare Australia emblem and the text "Get involved in Landcare" and "Be inspired, be empowered, be a landcarer." To the right, an orange circle contains "Landcare Week 2023 August 7-13". Below this, the text "Save the date" is written in a large, bold, green font, flanked by blue leaf-like shapes. At the bottom, two event details are listed: "TUES 8 AUG - BUS TRIP - LANDCARE SITES IN WYEE AND BONNELLS BAY" and "THURS 10 AUG - LANDCARE INFO SESSION @ LANDCARE & SUSTAINABLE LIVING CENTRE". The bottom of the graphic shows an illustration of an orange bus and green trees.

Inspire through Landcare Week video

**Can
you
help us
inspire
others?**



This year's Landcare Week campaign theme is 'be inspired, be empowered, be a Landcarer' and we will be showcasing people across our community as to why they volunteer with Landcare in the hope that we can inspire others to feel empowered to get involved.

We encourage you to spread the word and let us know why you like volunteering for your Landcare group.

"I volunteer with my local Landcare group because..."

We are asking for volunteers to reach out to be a part of this short video showcasing the amazing people that volunteer for us, highlighting some of the reasons they get involved in Landcare to inspire and empower others to join.

Please contact the Landcare office at lro@lakemac.nsw.gov.au or 4921 0392 by July 14 to get involved.

Fridays in the field

Follow us on Facebook to see our regular segment 'Fridays in the Field' with Landcare staff. Here are some snippets from recent weeks.

12 May with Wendy

Every Landcare site is special, and they jostle for my affections. Narara Street Landcare (photos below) is going to be an all-time favourite, and with so many interwoven stories of natural and human history, our morning tea stretched a tad longer than usual; the Landcarers who have nurtured and grown the site for years held us spellbound.



The bike path curves through 5 or 6 different ecosystem types, including two Ecologically Endangered Plant Communities; there are massive Red Gums *Eucalyptus tereticornis* with loose bark draping their habitat hollows, reed-filled swamps, mangroves jumping with tiny birds, and a Melaleuca forest right out of Lord of the Rings. All this in the space of a 5-minute walk! I am passionate about exploring biodiversity at different scales (we usually just focus on species scale) and here is landscape diversity in all its glory!



2 June with Effie

This past Sunday marked the second time I've joined Andrew and the Landcarers at Tathra Reserve Landcare site (photos below). I rustled up a group of keen friends who absorbed Andrew's extensive knowledge and the beauty of the site while being inducted. I began my battle with morning glory alongside the creek bed with Dave, who has been helping care for the site for over 7 years. Listening to Dave, I learnt that each Landcare site comes with its own characteristic flora and fauna - but also its own special people that carry and contribute to the history and uniqueness of the land. We finished up our session by tackling a forest of privet covered in Lantana while learning bush regeneration techniques. This site is home to some of my favourite native species, such as the sandpaper fig and native raspberry, and I'm thrilled to contribute to its progress alongside such passionate and dedicated Landcarers.



9 June with Amy

This week I helped out the lovely group from Coal Point Progress Association at their site in West Ridge. While clearing and cutting the weeds away we came across so many little beauties including helmet orchids, fungi and regenerating natives providing some winter colour with their flowers. What a treat!



New Landcare videos on YouTube

Learning with Landcare series

Landcare staff have been helping with education opportunities for Family Day Care groups through the development of a series of videos on topics like vege seed collection and propagation, worm farms and insect hotels. Jump on our Youtube channel to learn tips for your own gardens or share with your family and friends.



Family Day Care
LakeMacLandcare - 5 / 6

- 1 **Parts of a Plant and What They Need to Grow**
LakeMacLandcare 9:14
- 2 **Collecting Seeds**
LakeMacLandcare 4:12
- 3 **Planting Seeds**
LakeMacLandcare 6:27
- 4 **Planting Seedlings**
LakeMacLandcare 4:08
- ▶ **Insect Hotel**
LakeMacLandcare 12:21
- 6 **Worm Farm**
LakeMacLandcare 11:00

Biodiversity concepts - What small mammals can teach us

Learn about the significance of small mammals in understanding genetic diversity, landscape diversity, and ecosystem function.

Grab a cuppa and watch a 30 minute presentation from Wendy Gleen, Lake Macquarie Landcare's resident fauna expert, as part of our recent National Volunteer Week celebrations



Visit our Youtube Channel www.youtube.com/LakeMacLandcare to watch videos including recordings from workshops you may have missed

National Sorry Day at umali barai-ku

Around 100 people turned out to the new Landcare and Sustainable Living Centre umali-barai-ku in May, to recognise National Sorry Day.

Local residents and people from a range of organisations, including Lake Macquarie City Council, attended the event, which recognises a landmark day in Australia's history.

Aunty Daniella gave a stirring address to the crowd, sharing a lot about her history and what it was like growing up as an Indigenous person. She emphasised that we must always remember Australia has always been a multicultural country, citing the huge number of Indigenous nations that have existed across the country for thousands and thousands of years.

Mayor Kay Fraser also spoke, thanking Aunty Daniella for her words and also talking about the importance of National Sorry Day as part of ongoing reconciliation.

Attendees then took part in a smoking ceremony, before heading into the Landcare centre for the rest of the event. National Sorry Day is held on May 26 each year.



Healthy Moving when Landcaring

Thanks to volunteers who joined our 'Healthy Moving for Landcare' session this month. We learnt valuable tips for preventing injuries and maintaining physical well-being, including:

- Adopting a wide stance, maintaining good posture (chest up, natural curves), and driving through the legs while keeping loads close to the body for weight-related tasks like lifting a watering can, removing weeds, or pushing a wheelbarrow.



wide stance



chest up, natural curves



drive through the legs



keep loads close to the body



- Adapting tasks by knowing your limits, using appropriate tools, seeking help when necessary, rotating tasks and taking breaks for stretching.

Participants shared their experiences and insights, and we invite you to share yours too! Let us know how you apply these healthy moving tips to enhance your tasks on the Landcare site.

Landcare groups seeking members

The following groups would like to attract new volunteers. If you would like to advertise or update your group's details on this page and our website, please contact us on 4921 0392.

The groups have been organised under wards and suburbs to make them easier to locate, especially for those wishing to volunteer close to home (see map at right of wards in Lake Macquarie).



East Ward Groups

Suburb	Group Name	Meeting Time	Contact Details
Blacksmiths	Blacksmiths Beach Dunecare	Every 2nd Wed of the month, Meet at 9am at 8 Carawa Street, Blacksmiths	LML 4921 0392
Blacksmiths	Pelican Area Sustainable Neighbourhood Group	Varies	Greg 49714808
Catherine Hill Bay	Catherine Hill Bay Landcare	First Mon of the month, 3-5pm at Carpark at Graveyard Beach	Carmel Brown 0438 499 636
Dudley	Fern Creek Landcare	1st Saturday of the month 8:30 – 12 noon	Gabi 0478 670 146, www.facebook.com/ FernCreekLandcareDudley
Eleebana	Stobbart Creek Landcare	Every three weeks, 8:30-10am	LML 4921 0392
Floraville	Floraville Ridge & Rainforest Reserve	Variable	Winsome 4945 4336
Jewells	Ballantrae to Halewood	Varies	LML 4921 0392
Lakelands	Biddabah Creek Landcare	Every Monday 8:30am	Vina 0437 492 387
Pelican	Lakeview Parade Pelican	Monthly, usually on Wednesday mornings	Ted 0418328466, tedlougher@hotmail.com
Swansea	Lakeside Drive Landcare (cnr Wallarah St & Lakeside Dr)	Every 2nd Wed 8:30am-3pm and Fri 9am - 3pm	Garry 0400 033 006
Valentine	Allambee Gardens Reserve Landcare	Last Sun of month 2-4pm	LML 4921 0392
Valentine	Green Point Foreshore Reserve Landcare	Every Wed 8-11am	LML 4921 0392
Warners Bay/ Eleebana/ Lakelands	Warners Bay Landcare	Usually 1st Sun, 2nd Thurs and 3rd Fri of the month, 9am-12noon	LML 4921 0392

*** Have your group details changed? Please contact Lake Macquarie Landcare on 4921 0392 to update ***

West Ward Groups

Suburb	Group	Meeting Time	Contact Details
Bolton Point	Awaba Bay Landcare	1st Sun of each month, 9am-12noon, The Ridgeway between Bolton Cl & Fulton Cl	LML 4921 0392
Carey Bay/ Coal Point	Coal Point Progress Association Landcare	Every Thursday 8am-12:30pm	LML 4921 0392
Eraring	Payten Street Landcare	Variable	LML 4921 0392
Fennell Bay/ Bolton Point	Kooroora Bay Landcare	8.30-11.30am, first and third Wednesday of every month (please call to confirm)	Tony 040 889 1411
Macquarie Hills	Torrens Avenue Landcare	Varies	LML 4921 0392
Mirrabooka	Dandaraga Road - Fishery Point Landcare	1st Thursday or 3rd Saturday of each month.	Email Wilma on wilvk123@gmail.com or call LML 4921 0392
Morisset	Lakeside Retirement Village Landcare	Varies - several times a month	LML 4921 0392
Morisset	Yunung Landcare	1st Wednesday of the month and as needed	LML 4921 0392
Sunshine	Sunshine-Silverwater Landcare	1st Saturday & 3rd Thursday mornings of each month	LML 4921 0392 or email Marion melugg2@gmail.com
Toronto	Toronto Lions Park	2nd Friday of the month, 8-10am	LML 4921 0392
Toronto	Toronto Greenway Landcare	Every Sat from 8am.	LML 4921 0392
Wangi Wangi	Wangi Landcare (Oval site Cnr Donnelly Rd & Dobell Dr)	Last Tues of the month, 8-10am	Janet White 4975 5715
Wangi Wangi	Dobell Drive Reserve Landcare	2nd Sun of the month 8am –10am	LML 4921 0392
Wangi Wangi	Myuna Bay Landcare	2nd Fri of the month, 9am – 12noon.	LML 4921 0392 or email rmontgomery962@gmail.com
Wangi Wangi	Wangi Ridge Preservation Board Landcare	Sun, 8-10am, meet at water tank at Cres Rd	LML 4921 0392
Wyee Point	Wyee Point Reserve 2022	Varies	LML 4921 0392

North Ward Groups

Suburb	Group Name	Meeting Time	Contact Details
Cardiff	Afton Close Landcare	2nd & 4th Sat of month 9-12, end of Close	LML 4921 0392
Charlestown	Flaggy Creek Landcare	2nd Sat of the month, 8am, meet at corner of Kaleen & Wakal Sts	Robert Gibson 4943 7486
Holmesville	West Wallsend District Landcare	Third Sunday of the month from 8am Eastern Summer Time, 9am for the rest of the year, Western end of Elizabeth St. Holmesville	Paul Lindsay – Secretary, WWDSNG 4953 2252
Kahibah	Kenibea Landcare (Cnr Kenibea Ave & Ocean View Pde)	Variable	LML 4921 0392
Kotara South	Tathra Landcare	Variable Sundays 8-10am. Meet at end of Neerim Ave	LML 4921 0392
Mount Hutton	Mount Hutton Landcare	Fridays, from 8:30am	LML 4921 0392
Rankin Park	Central Rankin Park Landcare	Wednesdays, Sundays	LML 4921 0392

Call for helpers at the Living Smart Festival

The Living Smart Festival is coming up on Saturday 16 September and Lake Macquarie Landcare will be having a stall to spread the word about all things Landcare, as part of the Nature Zone.

If you are keen to volunteer at the stall or to help with a hands-on activity as part of the Nature Zone please get in touch with us on 4921 0392 or lro@lakemac.nsw.gov.au



Lake Macquarie's first Tiny Forest

Ideally placed next to the Landcare and Sustainable Living Centre, Lake Macquarie's first Tiny Forest is sprouting thanks to Releaf Lake Mac and incredible community efforts.

More than 170 community members have helped create the Tiny Forest by soil testing, buying raffle tickets and mulching and planting out the site with 757 local native plants. Students from Teralba Public School also helped with planting.

These Tiny Forests provide important stepping stones for wildlife to move through urban areas. Full story at: <https://www.lakemac.com.au/News-articles/Tiny-forest-sprouting-big-benefits-for-the-environment>

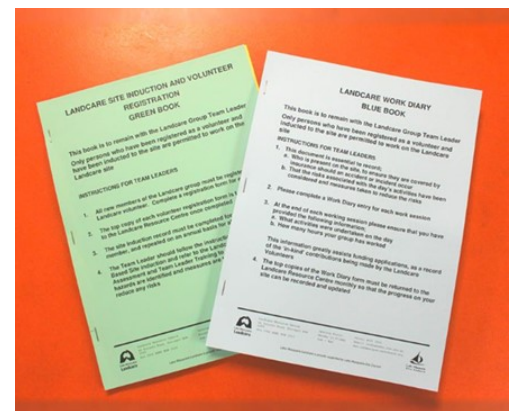


Volunteer Registration Forms

Landcare Team Leaders are reminded to fill out the green Volunteer Registration Forms completely when inducting new volunteers to their site. It is important to have all the relevant information needed to ensure that volunteers continue to be covered by Council's and Landcare's Personal Accident insurance.

Team Leaders are also reminded to ask new inductees if they would like to be subscribed to the fortnightly e-newsletter as the older Volunteer Registration Forms do not include this option. Please email names and email addresses to lro@lakemac.nsw.gov.au for new subscribers.

Please contact the Landcare office on 4921 0392 if you have any questions about how to complete your Landcare diaries. We can also send you new work diaries and reply-paid envelopes to assist you in returning completed diaries to us.



Cultural Resurgence exhibition

It is well worth a journey to the Newcastle Museum to see the incredible collaborative works that are part of Speaking in Colour's Cultural Resurgence exhibition (on until 31 July). The works have been made using traditional Aboriginal techniques and have involved 600 school students and community members from across the region who have been a part of cultural enrichment programs with Speaking in Colour. The Cultural Resurgence program is an important way for Aboriginal people to connect with culture but also for all Australians to learn more about Aboriginal culture.

One of the artworks featured in the exhibition was made as part of an Aboriginal weaving workshop with staff and volunteers from the new Landcare and Sustainable Living Centre, umali barai-ku. The artwork aims to capture the essence of umali barai-ku - to do for the earth - and to celebrate the coming together of different groups and communities to work towards a more sustainable future for our planet. The umali barai-ku artwork will be properly framed following the exhibition and return to hang at the new Landcare & Sustainable Living Centre in August.

You can find out more about the exhibition at <https://newcastlemuseum.com.au/exhibitions/special-exhibitions/cultural-resurgence>

UMALI BARAI-KU - LANDCARE AND SUSTAINABLE LIVING CENTRE



'umali barai-ku – to do for the earth'

Participants involved: Staff and Volunteers of Landcare and Sustainable Living Centre

Artists: Marion Lugg, Lois Simpson, Wendy Davidson, Bob Montgomery, Pam Montgomery, Ruth Hinds, Gabrielle Clappison, Vina Chubb, Bruce Tozer, Gayle Russell, Meg Butler, Judy Teear, Rhonda Palmer, Andrew Bryant, Chris Harle, Jason Harvey, Bindi Flook, Debra Punton, Kate Meares, Stephanie Cassel, Zoe Johnson, Lucy Kelliher, Anna Noon, Stephanie Taylor-Peters, Alex Wilson, Amy Trello, Wendy Green, Simon Lukinski, Sue Edgar.

Cultural teacher: Kristin Sheldon

Interwoven Design: Kristin Sheldon, Stephanie Cassel, and Gabrielle Clappison

Artist statement: Our centre has undergone a rebranding, from the Landcare Resource Centre to the Landcare and Sustainable Living Centre, umali barai-ku. We wanted our artwork to reflect the centre's new identity of coming together. We chose to title our artwork after the centre's Awabakal name, umali barai-ku, which means 'to do for the earth' and reflects the important work done by the two organisations that now call the centre home - Lake Macquarie Landcare and Sustainable Neighbourhoods Alliance.

To acknowledge the identity of the numerous individual groups that come together at the centre, we decided to incorporate smaller meeting places, represented by coils and U-shapes that symbolize people. The large coil symbolizes the centre itself and is woven with green and blue colours to represent Landcare and Sustainable Neighbourhoods, respectively, as a nod to the natural environment. The process of creating the artwork was a collaborative effort that strengthened the relationship between Lake Macquarie Landcare and Sustainable Neighbourhoods Alliance. It was a meditative and grounding experience, bringing together individuals from both organisations to share their ideas and contribute to the final design.



We recognize and honour the rich cultural history of the Traditional Custodians of the land we care for and acknowledge their ongoing connection to the earth. Our artwork aims to capture the essence of umali barai-ku - to do for the earth - and to celebrate the coming together of different groups and communities to work towards a more sustainable future for our planet.



Community Recycling Station

There is a new Community Recycling Station currently located in the foyer at the Landcare and Sustainable Living Centre for the public to use.

Problem wastes collected in these stations include mobile phones and accessories, smoke detectors, CDs and DVDs, light globes, and household batteries.

These wastes must not be placed in household kerbside bins as they contain heavy metals and minerals. Wastes collected in these stations will be taken away for recycling and responsible disposal.



Remember you can also collect free compostable bags for use in kitchen caddies for your Green Waste bin by asking at the Landcare & Sustainable Living Centre



Soft plastics trial and battery waste reminder

A soft plastics collection and recycling trial starts at the Community Recycling Centre (CRC) at Awaba Waste Management Facility on 15 July. Lake Mac residents are encouraged to collect their soft plastics, including shopping bags, bread bags, frozen veg bags, bubble wrap etc, excluding metallic and foil based plastics and take them to the CRC to be recycled by manufacturer Plasmac. They will be recycled into fence posts, sleepers, bollards and pallets, and Council has agreed to purchase back some of this recycled material to be used in projects across the City. This free service is only open to Lake Mac residents and only household quantities will be accepted.

Take charge of your battery waste

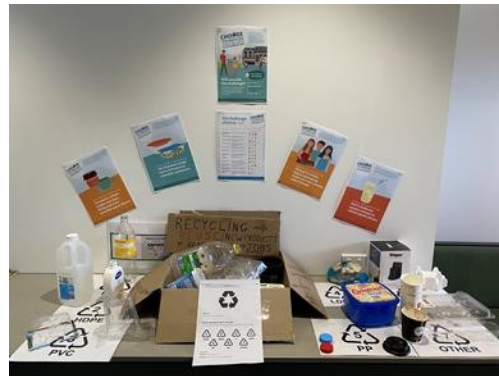


Council is also currently running a safe battery disposal campaign called Take Charge of your Battery Waste to inform residents of the dangers of placing batteries, particularly Lithium-ion batteries found in many rechargeable products, in kerbside bins. For further information visit www.lakemac.com.au/For-residents/Waste-and-recycling/Take-charge-of-your-battery-waste

Plastic Free July foyer display

A group of volunteers from the Sustainable Neighbourhoods Alliance and the Lake Macquarie Landcare Volunteer Network have come together to utilise the free space in the foyer of the Landcare and Sustainable Living Centre. The aim is to use the space for educational purposes so those who drop by can get a greater understanding of what it is these two organisations do, and what the centre itself stands for.

This month's display focuses on Plastic Free July and provides material and information to discourage single-use plastic and inform the community on ways to recycle different plastics. The displays will change every month, so be sure to check it out next time you drop in to the centre.

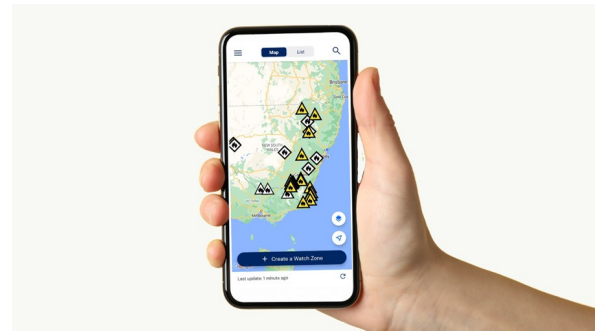


Hazards Near Me and BOM Weather Apps

From 30 June 2023, Lake Macquarie City Council will no longer subsidise subscriptions to the Early Warning Network service.

You can stay up to date with weather warnings and advice with the free Hazards Near Me NSW app.

Hazards Near Me gives emergency warnings and advice for fires and floods around the state. You can set up 'watch zones' to keep an eye on incidents and advice near your home, work, or the home of family members.



For further information visit www.nsw.gov.au/emergency/hazards-near-me-app

It is also recommended Landcare volunteers opt in for notifications from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) about weather warnings such as storms and high winds. Download the BOM Weather app or visit www.bom.gov.au/inside/mobilewebsite/ for further information about BOM services including phone services.

Create an artwork for Waste to Art 2023

Registrations for the 2023 Sustainable Neighbourhoods Waste to Art exhibition are now open.

Community members, artists, groups and school students from across the region are invited to create an artwork for our exhibition in October. Explore and share your ideas about waste, litter and overconsumption and showcase your artistic ability.

This year's exhibition will be held from 13 October to 7 December in Swansea and Toronto.

Registrations close 4 September 2023. Find out more at sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/waste-to-art.



Mysterious Mistletoe

By John Sharples, Arbore Close Landcare

That mistletoes mimic the host plant is a common misconception. They do, however, closely resemble their preferred host. *Amyema cambagei* (photographed below left) only attaches to the She-Oak. *Amyema congener* is epiphytic on *Allocasuarina* and *Acacia* but not *Eucalyptus*. It is this similarity to the host that makes Mistletoes difficult to spot.

Thanks to the keen eye of Wendy Davidson I was alerted to the presence of *Amyema cambagei*, in flower, on the bank of Stony creek opposite the Toronto Workers club.

While photographing the cambagei I noticed some odd looking leaves growing out of it.

A bit of research identified this growth as *Notothixos subaureus* (photo below right), a mistletoe that grows on other mistletoes including cambagei.

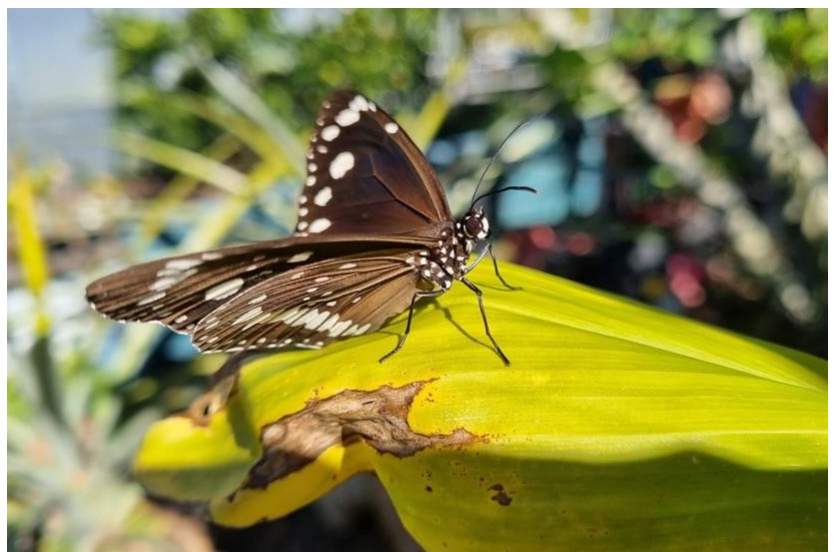


Critter of the moment: Common Crow Butterfly

This Common Crow Butterfly *Euploea core* was snapped in the nursery by Landcare Nursery Apprentice, Stephanie Taylor-Peters.

The Common Crow Butterfly has a strong scent that may allow predators to identify it as inedible. It also produces (from chemicals in its food plants) toxins so strong that eating just one butterfly may induce a bird to vomit. However, not all birds are sensitive to the toxins, and common invertebrate predators and parasites such as spiders, dragonflies, flies and wasps suffer no ill effects from eating these butterflies.

Our Planting for Pollinators factsheet provides examples of local pollinators and their native host plants and can be found on our website www.lakemacquarielandcare.org.au



Landcare sightings!

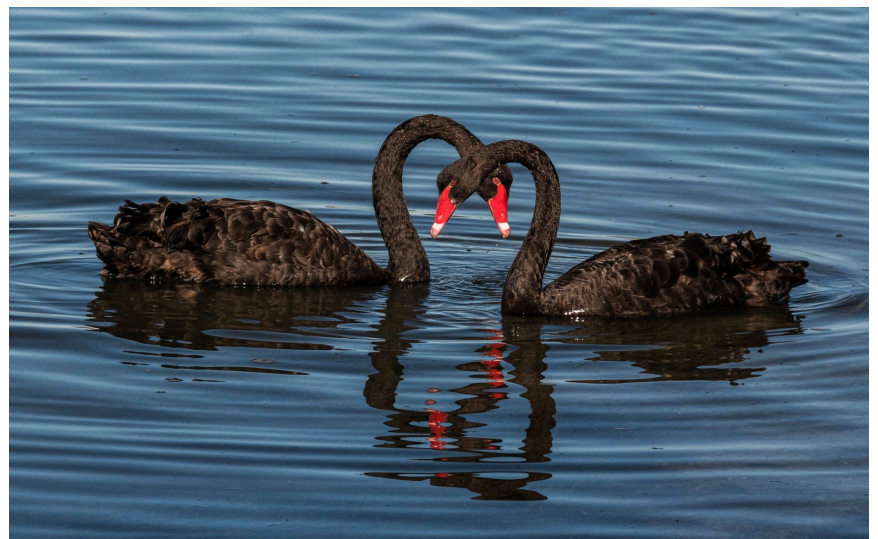
Check out these pictures contributed by Lake Macquarie Landcare volunteers and staff in recent months. Please keep sending in your photos and snippets for our newsletters, website and Facebook page.



Above: Large water dragon on Munibung Hill at Lucilla Ridge Landcare site. (Photo by Heather Carter)



Above: A well hidden Musk Lorikeet (Photo by James Hamilton of Ballantrae to Halewood Landcare)



Above: This beautiful swan photo was taken near Fennel Bay bridge by John Sharples, Toronto Lions Park Landcare



Above: This tiny bug is thought to be a fourth instar nymph of the Australian green shield bug, *Galucias amyoti* (Photo by Marion Lugg, Sunshine Silverwater Landcare).



Left: Amazing Fungi - identification unknown (Photo by Wilma King, Dandaraga Road - Fishing Point).

Plant sales from the Landcare nursery

Local tubestock for home gardens can be purchased from the Landcare nursery on Tuesdays and Wednesdays 8:30am - 3:30pm or by appointment.

Plants available for sales are also listed and described on our website www.lakemacquarielandcare.org.au and can be paid for in advance via EFTPOS over the phone.

Please call us on 4921 0392 for plant sales enquiries. Discounts are available for Landcare volunteers and Backyard Habitat for Wildlife Members – the discounted tubestock rate for 2022-23 is \$4.10 per forestry tube.



Would you like to contribute to our newsletters?

Perhaps you would like to promote a successful project, showcase what your group is up to or just share something interesting happening on your site. Please send your stories and photos to Kate Meares via email lro@lakemac.nsw.gov.au or post to **PO Box 97 Toronto NSW 2283**. Call Kate with any questions on 4921 0392. Deadline for articles for the next newsletter (September/October Urban Landcarer) is 12 August 2023.

Thank you to all the Landcarers who contributed stories, photos and information for this newsletter.

Please circulate this publication within your group or share it with your neighbours.

This publication (and much more) is available online www.lakemacquarielandcare.org.au

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The opinions and views expressed within this newsletter are not necessarily those of Lake Macquarie Landcare Volunteer Network or Lake Macquarie City Council



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