



Urban Landcarer

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Inside this issue:

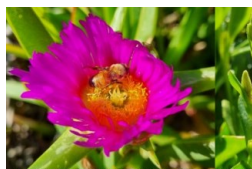
I volunteer because... 3



Landcare week at the Over 55s Hub 4



Fridays in the Field 5



Groups seeking members 8

Native of the moment 14

Landcare sightings 15

Landcare week showcases sites

To celebrate National Landcare Week, Lake Macquarie Landcare hosted a bus tour on Tuesday 8 August to visit three different Landcare sites. Around 31 participants, including volunteers, and interested local residents, joined the tour and were guided by Landcare Team Leaders for walks and talks at each of the three sites. The tour showcased the endangered ecological communities of Foreshore Redgum-Rough-barked Apple Forest and Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest at three different stages of guardianship.

The tour started at Dora Creek Boat Ramp, a relatively new Landcare site started by Team Leader, Lee, which has been supported by the bush regeneration team and home to a choir of birds including Golden Whistlers and Eastern Yellow Robins.

The next stop was Lakeview Road Morisset Park, whose Team Leader, Karen, explained the importance of adaptation, patience, resilience, the positive place of some weeds and the power of positive thinking in working with a Landcare site that may sometimes feel overwhelming more often than not.

The final stop was to a larger site, Wyee Point Reserve, where Team Leader Sharyn has restarted a Landcare group to help tackle Lantana and improve diversity on site, triggering fantastic regeneration. The group was blessed to spot some Eastern Grey Kangaroos basking in the sun's rays through the canopy.



Lakeview Road Morisset Park Landcare



Wyee Point Reserve Landcare



Dora Creek Boat Ramp Landcare

A huge thank you to the Landcare groups involved in this year's bus tour, and to the participants who joined in the day with sharing knowledge and admiring the important work being done.

The Landcare site tour - a volunteer's perspective

By Julia Stenton, Dora Creek Landcare

Being reasonably new to the Landcare volunteer community (four years interrupted by the Covid pandemic), I was looking forward to seeing what work is being done on other sites in the Lake Mac area and what I could learn from them. The three sites selected for the tour included the Dora Creek Boat Ramp, at which I volunteer, as well as sites at Morisset Park and Wyee Point.

Our Dora Creek site, home to the endangered Swamp Oak Flood Plain Forest, had been over-run with Lantana and Asparagus Fern, which initially looked quite daunting in terms of clearance, but is slowly being returned to its natural state. However, when the tour took us to the large site at Morisset Park, and I saw the volume of non-native invaders, the infestation at our Dora Creek site rather paled in comparison.

Our tour group was advised that the site had been home to a variety of exotics, and that initially trying to eradicate the Lantana, Madeira Vine (*Anredera cordifolia*), Cats Claw Creeper (*Dolichandra unguis-cati*) amongst others across the whole site proved overwhelming (it may be attractive, but seeing Bougainvillea established in the tree canopy is disheartening), so a smaller, more specific area was selected and what has been achieved is amazing. It was heart-warming to hear that natives such as Dianella and Commelina, are starting to make an appearance in the cleared area, and that the beautiful bird-song at the site has not diminished too much with the removal of the bird-attracting exotics.

The third site on the tour, Wyee Point, contains the critically endangered Foreshore Red Gum - Rough barked Apple species, and is the largest of the three sites, the major weed infestation being Lantana. Although the volunteer group has only been active for less than a year, it was an eye-opener for me to see what has been achieved in that short period of time.

Walking through the area that has been cleared so far, I was able to compare it to what has been achieved at Dora Creek, albeit Dora Creek is a smaller area. The



similarities being both sites where the Lantana has been removed are now filled with filtered light, encouraging native regeneration. We were also able to watch a family of Eastern Greys enjoying the freedom to forage, another positive from the removal of the Lantana.

Apart from the hard physical work that was apparent across each of the three sites, helped of course by the Green and Bush Regen Teams, I realized just how much of ourselves emotionally we invest in our Landcare projects; the satisfaction we feel after clearing away the various noxious weeds; and the joy and delight when we see new native growth.

For me the day was a great learning experience and I am full of admiration for Team Leaders Karen (Lakeview Road Morisset Park) and Sharyn (Wyee Point) for what they have achieved in a relatively short period of time, while not forgetting Lee our Team Leader at Dora Creek, who has overseen the transformation of our site.

I would also like to thank Jason, Simon, Stephanie and Effie from the Landcare office as well as Marion Lugg and Lois Simpson from the Landcare Volunteer Committee for their invaluable insights and knowledge as we toured the three sites.

I volunteer because...

This year's Landcare Week campaign theme is 'be inspired, be empowered, be a Landcarer' and we spoke to a number of Landcarers as to why they volunteer with Landcare in the hope that we can inspire others to feel empowered to get involved.

Watch the video with their inspiring quotes on our Facebook page or YouTube channel.



Landcare Week at the Over 55s hub

In honour of Landcare Week, Lake Macquarie Landcare collaborated with Council's Over 55s Hub to showcase all things Landcare. Around 21 participants attended, learning how important Landcare is in protecting and supporting the web of life through a presentation by Lois Simpson and discussing their curiosities with a panel of local Landcarers, including Janet White, Roslyn Cornish, Wendy Davidson and Andrew from Tathra. The event finished with an activity run by Nursery Apprentice, Stephanie Taylor-Peters.



You can find a short video on our Youtube channel www.youtube.com/LakeMacLandcare to hear from those that attended. Thank you to all those involved in the day!

Join in at the hub

Council are hosting weekly meetups to empower over 55s residents to get informed, learn, and connect with likeminded people.

Enjoy workshops, informational presentations, and activities alongside your community.

Sessions are held every Thursday from 10am to 12pm at Landcare and Sustainable Living Centre, umali barai-ku.

Find out more and sign up to the Over 55s e-newsletter by visiting www.lakemac.com.au/For-residents/Community/Over-55s



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.

7 July with Wendy

What is causing these mysterious sandy mounds at Dora Creek?

The lovely Lee, of Dora Creek Boatramp Landcare, has given us an intriguing mystery to solve. In an area around 30m by 30m



there are 80 or more small sandy mounds, some freshly dug, others older, covered with casuarina needles.

We gathered the following clues from an initial inspection:

- The mounds are about 30-60cm diameter and maybe 10-20cm high.
- The ground feels 'spongy' underfoot.
- No droppings visible
- No tunnels or diggings visible.

Could it be a tunnelling mammal; a rat for instance? Or an invertebrate; yabby or insect? Or a process, like water inundating a cavity just below the surface – or a combination of factors?

Lee, Marion and I are investigating further with wildlife cameras.

...and the follow up on 21 July with Wendy

The culprit behind the sandy mounds at Dora Creek Landcare Boatramp has been revealed as the Brown Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*), one of the two feral rat species found along the Eastern Coast of NSW. The other species is the Black Rat (*Rattus rattus*) which is more widespread in NSW; Brown Rat colonies appear to be found in more isolated pockets, especially close to water. Brown Rats can be identified by their short ears, stout tail, and large size, with adults growing up to 500g. While their burrow system is truly impressive, Brown Rats are less likely to climb and prey on small bird nests compared to Black Rats, some good news at least for the Yellow Robin seen on site.

Fortunately, bush regeneration efforts by the Dora Creek Landcare group and Council teams are removing Lantana and Asparagus Fern, reducing a

food source for Brown Rats and increasing their vulnerability to predators. Baiting is not recommended due to its short-term nature and negative impact on native



species. The local community and visiting fishers have an important role to play by cleaning up bait, taking rubbish on departure and not leaving pet food or any other food source outside, to avoid attracting and supporting feral rats.

30 June with Steph

Hello from the nursery team! We've been out and about a little bit more these last few weeks looking for the few plants that seed this quiet time of year. Blacksmiths Beach was a great spot for Pig Face (*Carpobrotus glaucescens*) and Coastal Fan Flower (*Scaevola calendulacea*), which were being enjoyed by some bees. We also headed over to Redhead for some Beach Birds Eye (*Alectryon coriaceus*) and the vols did an awesome job scavenging as much as they could! We spotted a Paper Wasp (*Polistes humilis*) nest in the Alectryon! Sometimes the smaller you are the more important your role is in the bigger picture; adult Paper Wasps feed on nectar making them great little pollinators. They also take smaller insects to feed their offspring, keeping populations under control. Of course, I love plants but seeing the small birds and insects fluttering about, using them as homes or food dispensers, really brings it all together and makes it that much more special to be a part of.



Delta support at Wyee & Dora Creek Landcare sites

Lake Macquarie Landcare again received bush regeneration support funded by Delta Electricity last financial year, this time focussing on two Landcare sites: Wyee Point Reserve and Dora Creek Boat Ramp. This support allowed professional bush regenerators to treat Weeds of National Significance and environmental weeds in areas that were densely infested and beyond the volunteer group's capacity.

At Wyee Point Reserve Landcare site weeding of Lantana in mosaics helped to enhance habitat and movement for native animals like the local kangaroos and promote regeneration of native species (photos below show before and after impact of the work). The Landcare group also worked to achieve an excellent level of weed removal alongside the bush regeneration project.

Dora Creek Boat Ramp are a relatively new Landcare group and their site benefited from initial treatment of Lantana, Ochna and Asparagus Fern by the professional crew who were able to work with the volunteers of the group to build their capacity (see photos below right). The groups new achievements at this site were even recognised in a recent parliamentary Hansard.

Delta Electricity has been a long running supporter of Landcare in Lake Macquarie, funding a number of projects over the years at different Landcare sites since as early as 2006 at Wangi Ridge, and we thank them for this ongoing support.



Dora Creek Boat Ramp Landcare recognised

The Dora Creek Boat Ramp Landcare group has received some wonderful recognition receiving a certificate from Mr Greg Piper. The photo at right shows Team Leader Lee, members of Council's Bush Regeneration team, and group member Julia on site.

The group was recognised in NSW Parliament on 24 May 2023.

Mr GREG PIPER (Lake Macquarie)—"I'd like to acknowledge the efforts of Dora Creek Landcare Group and the Green Team which has spent the past few weeks toiling away at a site near Dora Creek boat ramp. Volunteers have made major inroads against the relentless spread of lantana, asparagus fern and bitou bush in the area, spending hours digging out and breaking down these invasive weeds. They also cleared out mounds of rubbish from the iconic spot to help rehabilitate and restore this valuable habitat. The bushland at the newly rejuvenated boat ramp site is classified as Swamp Oak – Rushland. There is very



little of this vegetation type left in the world so the groups is doing some extremely important work in protecting it. It's wonderful when community members come together for the betterment of the local environment. I acknowledge and thank the Dora Creek Landcare volunteers for their ongoing passion to help preserve our natural bushland for future generations."

Community planting at Flaggy Creek Landcare

By Robert of Flaggy Creek Landcare

We had a very successful day for National Tree Day on 30th July. We hosted a community planting event and was thrilled with the turnout. I was expecting about 20 people to turn up and we ended up with 59 (I will have to order more plants next time). Admittedly the perfect weather had a lot to do with it.

The Greater Charlestown Sustainability Neighbourhood Group provided funds for the bamboo stakes and tree guards and two local bakeries, the Bee Sting Bakery in Kahibah and Bakers Delight in Charlestown, donated a delicious morning tea. There were 59 people (including 8 from our Landcare group) that attended the event, including Cub Scouts from the 1st Valentine Pack.

Our thanks to Lake Macquarie Landcare for providing the plants. We planted 100 plants which were staked, guarded, mulched and watered. It was great to see so much enthusiasm and engagement from the local community and we look forward to more planting events in the future.



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, usually meet Tues 8:30am Grannies Pool Carpark	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
Dora Creek	Dora Creek Landcare	Minnie Street or Boat Ramp - every Tuesday 9am – noon at one or the other	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
Morisset Park	Lakeview Road Morisset Park	Varies	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 Landcare	Varies - see Wyee Point Reserve Landcare Facebook page	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	3rd Sun of the month from 8am or 9am, Western end of Elizabeth St. Holmesville	Paul Lindsay – Secretary, WWDSNG 4953 2252
Kahibah	Kenibea Landcare	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
Whitebridge	Fernleigh Track Whitebridge	1st Sat and 3rd Fri of month, 8 -11am. Fernleigh track rest area, entry from Paterson Close, Whitebridge.	LML 4921 0392

Keith Barry Oval Landcare site hits 3 year milestone

By Wendy Davidson, KBO Landcare Team Leader

I took on the Keith Barry Oval site in September 2020, less than a hectare, as it had appeared to have so few weeds. Most of the weeds I recognised were on the newly formed area designated Zone 2. I wanted to get in and remove those weeds before they took hold. It was four or five months before I learnt about *Paspalum quadrifarium*, that invasive aggressive weed that had taken hold along the eastern and southern sides of the site.

The site had the benefit of being surrounded by natural weed barriers. To the east and south are the two football fields, one fenced and the other with a simple fence around it. To the north is Stony Creek with bushland on the other side where there is a sewerage farm. So there are no homes with backyards close to the site, so no garden escapees except for the occasional seed blown across the playing fields.

Except for a few ground asparagus plants, and a lot of Ehrharta grass on Zone 2, I feel I can say that after almost three years I have cleared the weeds that were on KBO when I started work. I have also kept on top of the maintenance of the main areas of infestation, with regular attention to the various sites to remove the regrowth and the new weeds that have blown in. The Green Team have helped with some of the heavier work, especially on the *Paspalum* tussocks and the Lantana. I consider that now I am up to the maintenance stage, so I do not need weekly visits to this KBO site.

I am now starting on an extension to the Keith Barry Oval site and it is going to be a challenge. The extension is on the western side, over a hectare of bushland. The area nearest the lookout road has Lantana, Privet, and *Paspalum quadrifarium* aplenty. Unlike the rest of the site, the area close to the industrial area is covered with just about everything seen on other sites. The area is impenetrable. I plan to systematically weed sections as I have done in the main site, to eventually remove the target weeds. This area should also have good regeneration potential so it will be rewarding to see native plants come back and to support the important wildlife of the area (see my photo of a White-bellied Eagle nest on the Landcare sightings page).



Above: Wendy and her dog 'Buddy' at Keith Barry Oval Landcare Site among dense bracken that has regrown following *Paspalum* removal

Video of Healthy Moving session

For those unable to attend the Healthy Moving for Landcaring session by Ethos Health, you can still catch all the valuable insights by watching the recording. This session was thoughtfully curated to offer essential tips for injury prevention and maintaining your physical well-being during Landcare activities. Contact the Landcare office on 4921 0392 or Iro@lakemac.nsw.gov.au to access the recording and stay informed about the best practices for a healthy Landcare experience.



Biddabah Creek Landcare update

By Vina Chubb, Biddabah Creek Landcare Team Leader

This is a new Landcare site and our group was established in October last year.

Our site is surrounding a waterway on Biddabah Creek which flows down from Munibung Hill. This area provides habitat for a range of birds including Wood Duck, Pacific Black Duck, Chestnut Teal and the Purple Swamp Hen.

Our site is also the home of bandicoots and we have sighted "nests" and many diggings on parts of the site. Ring-tailed possums have been sighted as well.

The site is thickly vegetated with Swamp Mahogany, Paper Barks, Melaleucas and Casuarinas Trees and bushes. A third of the site was invaded by Morning Glory and other weeds such as Farmers Friend, Paspalum, Crofton Weed and Noogoora Burr.

Our first priority was to rescue the trees from the Morning Glory. This came to a halt during Autumn as midges kept us from entering too far into the site. We have been since working at the front near the roadway to dig out a large area of Paspalum. Recently Wendy and the Green Team visited our site to assist with the Morning Glory eradication and to do some plant identification with us. Their visit was greatly appreciated and as always enjoyable and informative.

The group meets on Monday mornings between 7.30-10.30am, weather permitting and new members are encouraged to join!



Green Team assistance

Each Landcare group can be supported with two Green Team visits per financial year. However, active groups who submit their work diaries can apply for further assistance. If there is room in the calendar once the first round of entitlements are filled, we will consider providing additional support.

Please contact Landcare Staff on Iro@lakemac.nsw.gov.au or 4921 0392 to book your friendly team visit.



Tick Tock its Tick Time

Many of our volunteers may have encountered an increase in ticks on your Landcare sites over the past few weeks. Warmer conditions have meant that these insects have become more prevalent.

The best way to prevent tick bites is to avoid tick-infested areas. If this is not possible, wear the appropriate PPE including long sleeves and pants. It is a good idea to tuck long pants into socks, and wear light coloured clothing to make it easier to see ticks on clothes before they attach to the skin.

Before entering possible tick infected environments apply an insect repellent to your clothes and/or skin. The repellent should be applied and re-applied according to the manufacturer’s instructions. Clothing treated with permethrin is also recommended.

More information is available on ticks and their removal at the websites www.health.gov.au and



www.healthdirect.gov.au.

Please note tick bites or infestations on your daily diaries (blue sheets) and report any serious reactions to the Landcare staff.

Love Letters to the Land

This year, Junior Landcare is celebrating 25 years of opening children’s hearts and hands to Landcare.

To help celebrate, Landcare Australia has teamed up with Junior Landcare ambassador, Costa Georgiadis, for a special letter writing campaign that’s calling on kids to share what they love most about the environment – and the steps they’re taking to protect it. The letters can be uploaded to the Junior Landcare website for a chance to win a visit from Costa himself to your school, Landcare group or environmental centre.



Visit the Junior Landcare website <https://juniorlandcare.org.au/love-letters-to-the-land> for letter templates and ideas to get kids thinking about the natural world around them.

Soft plastics recycling

Lake Mac residents can now drop off household quantities of non-foil based soft plastics free of charge at the Awaba Community Recycling Centre, filling a service gap left by the collapse of the REDcycle supermarkets scheme.

Council will also recover hard plastics such as bumper bars, laundry baskets and planter pots from the Awaba Transfer Station to divert these materials from landfill, along with old CDs and DVDs from the Community Recycling Centre.

These hard and soft plastics will be collected to be pelletised and transformed into a specialty material known as ‘Plasmar’, used to create products such as fence posts, bollards, sleepers and park benches.

Community Environment Grants

The Lake Mac Community Environment Grants Program are open 21 August – 3 October 2023. Incorporated, not-for-profit community organisations are eligible to apply, including school Parent and Citizen groups, community-based pre-schools, service clubs, bush regeneration/conservation groups and Sustainable Neighbourhood Groups. Grants of up to \$5000 per application are available for projects located in Lake Macquarie City. The number of grant applications funded per round is limited. These grants are offered twice a year.

If your Landcare group would like any assistance applying for grants for Landcare works please contact Kate Meares at the Landcare Resource Centre on 4921 0392 or Iro@lakemac.nsw.gov.au . Remember all grants applied for under the Lake Macquarie Landcare Volunteer Network require approval from the LMLVN Committee and the Landholder

Living Smart Festival 16 September

ABC's War on Waste presenter Craig Reucassel is set to headline the event on Saturday 16 September, sharing his wisdom with the community. The free event, at Speers Point Park, will feature workshops, demonstrations, market stalls, a native plant giveaway and a school garden bed competition. The annual Feast for the Senses dinner will return on the Saturday evening and the Living Together Festival will go ahead on Sunday 17 September.

Be sure to visit the Nature Zone to see Lake Macquarie Landcare and other environmental displays!



Are you bush fire ready?

Living near bushland and the risk of bush fire is a part of life in Lake Macquarie. So you need to live bush fire ready.

A bush or grass fire can happen at any time of the year but the risk is higher during the warmer months, when bush, grass or scrub is drier. You don't have to live right near the bush to be at risk.

Even if your home is a few streets back, you may be at risk. That means knowing your risk and having a plan for what to do during a fire.

You can make your Bush fire survival plan online in as little as five minutes at www.myfireplan.com.au.



Native of the moment: *Pimelea linifolia*

Common name: Slender Rice Flower

Description: Shrub to 1.5 m high. Leaves mostly narrow 5–30 mm long, 2–7 mm wide.

Flowers in bracteate heads, terminal; 7–60 per head, white or occasionally pink, mostly 10–20 mm long. Fruit 3–5 mm long, green to brown.

Distribution: It is widespread in all states except Western Australia and the Northern Territory and grows on a wide range of soils in full sun or part shade. Grows from the coast out to the western plains in NSW.

Often found on sandy soils, in heathland, shrubland as well as dry sclerophyll woodlands and heathlands.



Pictured above are two beautiful specimens of *Pimelea linifolia* spotted last month by Nursery Apprentice Steph - one flowering and one seeding. Steph says “They’re widespread but always hiding amongst the brush- only given away by a flash of white. While the flowers are quite showy, the seed is so easy to miss and difficult to germinate. If you see one on a bushwalk, note to take photos not samples! Let the flowers develop into seeds and regenerate for the next generation of plants.”

Weed of the moment: Spanish Moss

By Lois Simpson, LMLVN committee member

La Nina has been wonderful for our lawns and gardens over the last year or so. Sadly it has also boosted weed growth in both gardens and bushland. In particular, there has been an enormous growth of *Tillandsia usneoides*, commonly known as Spanish Moss or Old Man’s Beard.

This air plant has been introduced here from the Americas. It has been decoratively draped over fences, trees and shrubs in many local properties. Unfortunately, it has increased to the point where the host plant is so smothered that it is difficult to identify. Then comes the threat to our beautiful native bushland.

Spanish Moss is carried by the wind and by birds and has been observed in our reserves. It has the potential to form dense blankets smothering native vegetation, altering habitats and threatening whole eco-systems. Once established in the bush, it is almost impossible to get rid of it as it can be so high in the tree-tops.

It is hoped that it is not too late to protect our bushland, by removing, containing and controlling the growth of this exotic plant in our neighbourhood. Garden escapes can be disposed of in our green bins.

Let’s work together to keep our local, unique eco-systems healthy, safe and strong.



Photo by John Sharples

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: The nest of White-bellied Sea Eagles, high above the bushland near Keith Barry Oval. Photo by Wendy Davidson of Keith Barry Oval Landcare



Above: A nesting Purple Swamphen and ducks with ducklings at Biddabah Creek Landcare, Photos by Vina Chubb



Goodenia sp.

Casuarina glauca

Myoporum acuminatum

The beautiful macro-photography shown above was sent in by John Sharples of Arbre Close Landcare. These photos were taken on the Landcare Week bus tour of Landcare sites and feature close-ups of the delicate flowers and foliage of the following plants (left to right): *Goodenia sp.*, *Casuarina glauca* and *Myoporum acuminatum*

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 2023-24 is \$4.65 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 (November/December Urban Landcarer) is 12 October 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

Sincere thanks to funders of current and recent grants:

- 2NURFM Radio
- Australian Government
- Delta Electricity
- Hunter Region Landcare Network
- Hunter Local Land Services
- Lake Macquarie City Council
- Greater Bank
- NSW Government
- Origin Energy

LANDCARE SUPPORT STAFF

Landcare Coordinator : Jason Harvey, **Finance & Admin. Officer:** Sue Edgar, **Landcare Network & Admin. Support Officer:** Debra Punton (M-W), **Landcare Program Delivery Officer:** Simon Lubinski **Landcare Support Officers:** Wendy Gleen (M-W), Amy Trello (T-F), **Landcare Publications & Grants Officer:** Kate Meares (T-F), **Landcare Communications Officer :** Stephanie Cassel (T-Th) **Site Maintenance and Nursery Officer:** Alex Wilson, **Apprentice Landcare Nursery Officer:** Stephanie Taylor-Peters

LAKE MACQUARIE LANDCARE VOLUNTEER NETWORK COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Marion Lugg, **Deputy Chairperson:** Lois Simpson, **Secretary:** Wendy Davidson **Treasurer:** Bob Montgomery **Other members:** Ruth Hinds, Pam Montgomery, Winsome Lambkin, Don Roach, and Nancy Lott, **Public Officer:** Garry Stewart.

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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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