# REHABILITATING SHOALHAVEN LANDSCAPES



Garry Daly

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Bengalee Creek Landcare group has requested a guide to rehabilitating degraded landscapes in the Shoalhaven Local Government Area for Landcare Groups. This guide is a work in progress as various projects are evaluated over time. The goal is to mimic/reconstruct the pre-European vegetation association of a particular area in terms of species diversity but with an emphasis on species, which provide food for fauna. When rehabilitating degraded landscapes restoration will, in many cases, take hundreds of years before a mature forest is re-established that supports select forest dependant species of flora and fauna. Hence, rehabilitation and revegetation are seen in the context of succession of that particular vegetation community over time. The majority of vegetation communities experience fire and this is an important force that shapes communities and the complexity in the shrub and ground layers. Given all these inputs some main actions for rehabilitation are:

- Assess the remnant vegetation of the site to be rehabilitated;
- Plan a strategic approach if weed control is necessary;
- Collect seeds from the adjacent area for the propagation of plants for revegetation;
- Evaluating the risk factors for revegetating an area herbivores, seasons for replating, soil moisture etc;
- If planting is required or desired then initially plant rapid growing colonising species to maximise canopy cover. Other shade loving species may be planted at a latter date;
- Keep accurate records such as photo-point images, lists of the date and number of each species of plant used in revegetation and dates of spraying. These records will be the basis for future reference by the Landcare group. Documenting the methods and success or failure of actions is important information that should be shared with other Landcare groups;
- Ongoing maintenance of the site in regard to fallen timber, erosion, fire, fencing, domestic and native animals, access and weed control;
- An environmental education component to ensure the future owners/managers are informed on the history of land management and
- A timetable for the completion of rehabilitation and ongoing maintenance, fencing, management actions and monitoring.

Summary of Actions,	responsibility and timing
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Task	Stage	Details	Time
Initial meeting	0	Landowners within a given area see the	Prior to any work
of landowners		need to rehabilitate a patch of bush or create	there has to be a
		a habitat/riparian corridor. Field-day for	consensus on
		people to discuss and see the problem and	actions. Landowners
		come to a consensus.	can work on their
			own land at their own
			pace.
Liaisons with	0	Landowners incorporate and register a	It is important to get
council and		Landcare group or link up with an existing	as much background
incorporation		Landcare group. Group liaises with the local	information as
		catchment management authority.	possible prior to work
			initiating.
Application for	1	Landowners apply for grants to fund on-	Prior to actions and
grants		ground work	ongoing.
Strategic Plan	2	Decide what area needs work, what can be	Prior to and other on-
		tackled and maintained by the group and the	ground action.
		timing of actions.	
Species	2	Identify species of plant endemic to	Prior to and other on-
Inventory		rehabilitation area.	ground actions.
Establish	2	Select photo points and mark with steel	Prior to and other on-
monitoring		pickets.	ground actions.
points			
Commence	3	If necessary use weed profiles	Herbicides work best
weed control		(http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/pests-	when weeds are in
		weeds/weeds/profiles) to prioritise and	active growth so for
		commence control activities. The Splatter	warm areas spraying
		gun is an effective tool for tackling lantana	can commence in
		on steep slopes. Hand or mechanical	August and continue
		weeding cut/scrape/frill and paint or spot	to May
		spraying for other situations.	
Evaluating	3	Weeds may take over a month to respond to	On going.
initial weed		herbicides and take several months to die.	
control		Once dead they can be left or crushed when	
		replanting.	
Follow-up	4	All sites need follow up work until the canopy	Several years.
work		is established and the ground cover consists	
		of native species.	

## **DEFINITION OF TERMS**

Within this report the following terms are defined.

- *Exotic* means species introduced from outside the area, that is from overseas.
- **Vegetation** means indigenous vegetation as per the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*. This includes indigenous trees, shrubs, groundcover plants and aquatic plants.
- *Weeds* means any plant not originally from this area. Some weeds are declared under the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* within the local government areas of Shoalhaven City Council.
- **Regeneration** means reproduction from self-sown seeds or by vegetative recovery (sprouting from stumps, lignotubers, rhizomes or roots), which occurs naturally after disturbance.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background and objectives

Bangalee Creek Landcare group has requested a broad rehabilitation plan (RP) for Landcare groups in the Shoalhaven. The following guide was prepared for G. Daly with the following objectives - requests:

- Landcare groups assess the floristic diversity of their sites;
- Landcare groups decide how much time/effort they can devote to the project;
- Landcare groups decide what they want to achieve over a one, two and five year period;
- If weed control is required then the group should have a strategy related to the target species and the area that can be maintained;
- Provide advice on species that may be used for revegetation with the intent of a) using species endemic to the area b) stabilise soil and c) maintain and or enhance biodiversity and
- Provide advice on how to manage native animals, especially Wombats and Swamp Wallabies when revegetating a site.

#### 1.2 Description of the Shoalhaven landscape

#### Location

The Shoalhaven local government area extends from Berry Road in the north to Murramarang National Park in the south and Morton National Park to the west.

#### Geology and Soils

The geology of an area is one factor that influences what plants grow in that area. Hence it is important to have a broad view of the geology of your area to understand the association between the vegetation and the soil type. The geology of the Shoalhaven is described by B. and A. Young in the book Understanding the Scenery of Morton National Park and the coast from Nowra to Batemans Bay (2007). The following is a very brief description of the main geologic units in the area based on Young and Young (2007). Soils are a result of either eroded parent bedrock or depositional landscapes beside rivers. In the Shoalhaven the highest landscapes in the north of the local government area (LGA) such as Barren Grounds, Devils Glen Nature Reserve and Red Rock are capped with Hawkesbury Sandstone. Blocks of this geology exist in the eroded gullies of the Kangaroo River – Berry area as a result of talus falling from the escarpment above.

The Hawkesbury series merges with the Nowra Sandstone series in Morton National Park (NP), north-west of Tallowa Dam. Even though these geologic units are both sandstone they were formed at different times and subsequently have different characteristics. The Nowra series of sandstone exists over the higher parts of Morton NP and forms the main visual backdrop to the Shoalhaven River from the town of Nowra upstream to the Hampton bridge in Kangaroo Valley. Nowra Sandstone also forms the walls of the upper Endrick and Clyde Rivers. Nowra sandstone forms the peaks of Pigeon House Mountain and the Castle. There is also another form of sandstone in the north of the area called the Budgong sandstones.

occur below the Hawkesbury sandstone of Red Rock and Devils Glenn and form the escarpment from Budgong to Berry.

On the highest elevation on the escarpment from Budgong to Berry there is Hawkesbury sandstone, below this is residual Budgong sandstones then below this siltstone from the Berry formation. Nowra sandstone occurs along the Shoalhaven River escarpment. In the Cambewarra area there are latites resulting from previous volcanic activity and volcanic soils occur in a portion of Emery's plateau.

Further south the lower coastal plain is Wandrawandian siltstones. Coastal areas such as the Shoalhaven River floodplain consists of geologically recent sediment brought down by the river. The very coastal strip consists of sand derived from marine sediments. However there is another sandstone on the coastal fringe, which forms a very prominent part of the region. This is the Snapper Point formation of the two peninsulas of Jervis Bay, namely Beecroft and Bherwerre. The Shoalhaven has four types of sandstone Hawkesbury, Budgong, Nowra and Snapper Point each of a different geologic age.

To the south of the Nowra sandstone, such as the Budawangs and much of the area in the southern portion of the LGA the rocks are metamorphosed by the action of folding. These are the very broad geologic units that occur in the region except for the areas which have enriched soils as a result of volcanic activity. The areas with volcanic soils are around Milton, Bawley Point and Emery's Plateau (known as monzonites), Cambewarra latites near Cambewarra Mountain, Granite Falls near Wandandian (granites).

Most of the Landcare activities are likely to occur or are occurring on soils with higher nutrients (siltstone, alluvial and volcanic) or the coastal strip. Many of the soils derived from sandstones have lower nutrient levels and hence have been impacted less by Europeans and subsequently have a lower incidence of weeds.

#### **Indigenous Vegetation**

The native vegetation in the area has been classified by several people over the years. For the purposes of this report I refer to the Office of Environment and Heritage's Definition of Vegetation Types for the Catchment Management Authority (CMA) areas as can be found on OEH's website. This is a state wide classification system and a summary in Excel of all the vegetation types for each CMA, based on, inter alia, SCIVI is available. See http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/projects/BiometricTool.htm#vegtype.

#### Native Fauna

The Shoalhaven has a species rich complement of fauna. Within New South Wales it is considered a 'hot spot' for biodiversity. In terms of species the Shoalhaven is more diverse than the surrounding LGA's of Kiama, Wingecarribee and Eurobodalla. This high biodiversity is a result of the size of the LGA, the coastal location and the wide range of geologies and subsequent vegetation communities. Not only is the region biodiverse but it also supports the largest remaining populations of Green and Golden Bell Frog *Litoria aurea*, Broad-headed Snake *Hoplocephalus* bungaroides and Eastern Bristlebird *Dasyornis brachypterus*. One of the last remaining populations of Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby *Petrogale penicillata* persists in the Shoalhaven. Revegetation and rehabilitating degraded landscapes provides habitat and promotes the conservation of native fauna. Species of indigenous plant that may be used for revegetation in the Shoalhaven and their use by fauna is given in **Tables 1-5** and **Appendix 1**.

However, in many areas there are problems in regard to native animals eating regenerating plants.

#### Managing the impacts of Wombats and Wallabies

The Shoalhaven has large populations of Wombat *Vombatus ursinus* and Swamp Wallaby *Wallabia bicolor* and there is evidence that over the last 25 years these species have attained higher densities and in the case of the Wombats extended distribution to the coastal plain around Jervis Bay. Wombats graze herbs and forbs but also chomp on seedlings of shrubs and trees. They can also cause erosion by digging burrows beside creeks and especially in the headwaters of creeks causing head slump during periods of high or prolonged rainfall. Swamp Wallabies are browsers and take the growing tip bits from shrubs and small trees. They can also break small trees to reach the growing tips. In combination these two species can destroy regeneration and revegetation in an area if plants are nor protected.

From my own experience in 1986 I planted hundreds of Bangalow Palms over broad areas of our land and Swamp Wallabies ate the majority of plants. Those that survived were protected by wire cages and/or fallen timber that formed a barrier to the animals. In another instance in 2003 I mechanically cleared an area of lantana and sowed seed of Native Peach, White Cedar, Matt rush, Native Hop and then planted a large number of indigenous species. The trees that I planted were given protection by way of wire cages. I estimated Native Peach seedlings at a density of about ten plants per square metre within a month. After about one month after clearing I spot-lit up to six Swamp Wallabies feeding on this site. The Native Peach that survived after six months were only those that had germinated within the confines of the tree guards.

The plant that did survive the impacts of the wallabies and Wombats was White Cedar as the leaves are generally toxic to animals. It was also interesting that Brown Kurrajong *Commersonia fraseri* regenerated in dense stands after root disturbance as did Hairy Clerodendrum *C. tomentosum.* 

#### **Tree Guards**

My initial tree guards were constructed from chicken wire. These were inadequate. Swamp Wallabies are dexterous and can slip their hands through the wire and can pull the growing tip towards the animal's head for them to eat. Chicken wire has a relatively small gauge in relation to the open weave area and can be bent by Wombats searching for the growing tips of seedlings.

The mesh that I now use for tree guards is 25 x 25 mm diameter 1.3 mm gauge x 1200 mm high wire. Tree guards are best staked with 25 x 50 x 1200 mm hardwood or steel pickets. Guards should be removed when plants have attained a height of 2.5 metres such that animals cannot eat the apical (growing) tips. I make the tree guards by placing a tape on the ground and marking with a spray can intervals of one metre. I then roll out the wire weighing it down at the start and finish with a heavy object. If a large number of guards are required then up to three rolls of wire can by rolled out one on top of the other. I use a small angle grinder to cut the wire, cutting near the edge of the squares so that one end has a large unsupported length that can be used to wrap around the corresponding edge of uncut square. I do not cut the last strand of wire as this holds the roll intact. I then cut the last strand on each guard as I stand on both cut ends to hold down the rest of the roll.

Tree guards are generally successful to protect plants from Swamp Wallabies and Wombats but have not been particularly successful in protecting plants from Chital, Red and Rusa Deer. In some areas deer can exist at relatively high densities and are a major factor in the loss of plants in revegetation works. They browse plants when they grow above the tree guards and can push them over. In one instance (at Mount Keira) the loss of plants was so great that tree guards were abandoned and the entire revegetation area was fenced with electric wire. Deer also damage and kill larger plants by ringbarking small trees when they rub their antlers. This is occurring in the Tapitallee area from Chital Deer. Given the Shoalhaven now has four species of deer, namely Rusa, Red, Chital and Fallow (Samba and Hog Deer are spreading north from Victoria) then the native vegetation will be irrevocably changed by the presence of these exotic animals.

### 2 **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVEGETATION PER REGION**

#### 2.1 Berry-Cambewarra escarpment and Milton volcanic area

The escarpment areas are generally those above 50m in altitude (Australian Height Datum – AHD) and include subtropical rainforest, Warm-temperate rainforest, Turpentine–Blue Gum forest in the lower altitudes and Coastal White-topped Box and Brown Barrel at higher altitudes. Riparian corridors in Kangaroo Valley have a River Oak-Cabbage Gum- Angophora-River Peppermint fringing forest often with an understorey of rainforest species.

#### **Revegetation strategy**

For rainforest regeneration fast growing species such as Pencil Cedar *Polyscias murrayi*, Celerywood *Polyscias elegans*, Red Cedar *Toona ciliata*, Red Ash *Alphitonia excelsa*, Port Jackson Fig *Ficus rubiginosa*, Small-leaved Fig *F. obliqua* and Native Peach *Trema tomentosa var. viridis* can be planted initially, especially on north facing slopes. Native Peach is termed a nurse tree as within a few years they shade out weeds and foster the growth of other rainforest species. The focus in areas that have been subject to previous disturbance is to provide a canopy as quickly as possible to manage weeds such as lantana (**Appendix 2**) and cobblers pegs.

On the margins of the creeks the following species are recommended for planting: River Oak *Casuarina cunninghamiana*, Morton Bay Fig *Ficus macrophylla*, Superb Fig *Ficus superba*, Sandpaper Fig *Ficus coronata*, Brush Cherry *Syzygium australe*, Brown Beech *Pennantia cunninghamii*, Water Gum *Tristaniopsis laurina* as their roots will help stabilise the creek and eventually when they fruit provide a food resource for rainforest birds. On the better-drained slopes of the creek bank species such as Lilly Pilly *Syzygium smithii*, Small-leaved Fig *Ficus obliqua* and Port Jackson Fig *Ficus rubiginosa*, Common Acronychia *Acronychia oblongifolia*, Jackwood *Cryptocarya glaucescens* and Koda *Ehretia accuminata* may be planted. Shrubs such as Bleeding Heart and Grey Myrtle can be planted close to be boundaries of the vegetation corridor so that they receive additional sunlight, which will promote flowering and fruit set.

Some of these species will not do well on most riparian sites in areas subject to frost, such as Kangaroo Valley. In particular of the figs only the Sandpaper Fig *F. coronata* should be included in frost affected areas.

In general I do not recommend planting species of acacia such as Two-veined Hickory, Maidens wattle or Blackwood as these species grow into large trees and when they senesce and fall the result is often damage to the smaller rainforest species. However, in nature the general rule is for disturbed landscapes to be colonised by wattles, which are fast growing and fix nitrogen to the soil via nodules on their roots. Wattles also have the advantage of providing animals such as the Sugar Glider with a source of sap and seed for pigeons such as the Wonga.

Table 1	
Some rainforest species for escarpment revegetation and their use by faul	na

Common Name	Scientific Name	Fauna	Use
Maidens Acacia	Acacia maidenii	Sugar Glider and birds	Sap/insects
Blackwood	Acacia melanoxylon	Sugar Glider and birds	Sap/insects
Red Ash	Alphitonia excelsa	Lewins Honeyeater	Seed
Grey Myrtle	Backhousia myrtifolia	Various birds	Nesting
Jackwood	Cryptocarya glaucescens	Various pigeons, Satin	Fruit
		Bowerbird, Green Catbird	
Murrogun	Cryptocarya microneura	As above	Fruit
Duboisia	Duboisia myoporoides	Unknown	Fruit
Koda	Ehretia acuminata	Pigeons	Fruit
Pigeonberry Ash	Elaeocarpus kirtonii	Various birds	Fruit
Morton Bay Fig	Ficus macrophylla	Top-knot Pigeon	Fruit
Small-leaved Fig	Ficus obliqua	Top-knot Pigeon	Fruit
Port Jackson Fig	Ficus rubiginosa	Various birds	Fruit
Superb Fig	Ficus superba	Top-knot Pigeon	Fruit
Cheese Tree	Glochidion ferdinandi	Lewin's Honeyeater	Seed
Bleeding Heart	Homalanthus populifolius	Brown Cuckoo Dove	Fruit
Cabbage Tree Palm	Livistona australis	Top-knot Pigeon	Fruit
Brown Beech	Pennantia cunninghamii	Top-knot Pigeon	Fruit
Brush Cherry	Syzygium australe	Various pigeons	Fruit
Lillypilly	Syzygium smithii	Various pigeons, Satin	Fruit
		Bowerbird, Green Catbird	
Native Peach	Trema tomentosa var. aspera	Lewin's Honeyeater and Brown	Fruit
		Cuckoo Dove	

The most appropriate time for planting is during late summer and autumn, after periods of rain. Loss of plants through the browsing activity of the Swamp Wallaby can be reduced by the placement of tree guards around plants as described earlier. In areas with high densities of Swamp wallaby and Wombat revegetating without tree guards has been shown to be virtually useless as plants are eaten. In these areas the use of tree guards is strongly recommended.

There are many additional species of rainforest plant that may be used for revegetation but they are often slow growing or are more specific in their requirements. Recent work (2010-2012) using a spatter gun to control Lantana on steep slopes in the Cambewarra area has shown that common regrowth species include Stinging Tree, Native Peach, Bleeding Heart and Pencil Cedar.

Eucalypts may also be used for revegetation as they are fast growing and long lived. In terms of value for wildlife, eucalypts are very important when they become mature and form hollows that may be used by wildlife for denning and nesting (Goldingay 2009). The unfortunate fact is that it may take 120-180years for a eucalypt to form hollows. Besides providing nectar and

hollows, Eucalypts are also extremely significant for invertebrate-eating birds such as Pardalotes, Shrike tit, Tree Creepers, Thornbills, Sitellas, Robins, Shrike Thrush, etc which probably wouldn't exist without them. Hence the planting of eucalypts is an activity that will be a legacy. It is noteworthy that for many years I did spotlight surveys in areas that supported Illawarra Blue Gum forest and had poor results. It was not until I surveyed old growth forest that had hollows that Greater Gliders were detected. Much of the Illawarra escarpment was cleared for coal mining (pit props) or the dairy industry in the early part of last century. Hence much of the existing Blue Gum forest is regrowth from about the 1940's. It will take a long time for these forests to mature for forest dependent species such as the Greater Glider to recolonise the parts of its historic range. In the northern Illawarra (north of Wollongong) recent surveys indicate that Greater Gliders have declined and may be absent from forests below the escarpment (Mahoney 2007). If a landowner was particularly interested in providing nesting and denning spaces for bats and arboreal mammals they can install nest boxes.

Eucalypts also provide nectar, sap and leaves that are used by native animals as part of their diet. For example Koala have a preference for the leaves of eucalypts that grow on high nutrient soils and favour species such as Forest Red Gum, Swamp Mahogany and Grey Gum. For nectar feeding animal such as honeyeaters and sugar gliders the planting of species that flower at various times of the year will provide a resource for these animals. For example Forest Red Gum, River Peppermint and Swamp Mahogany flower in winter, during a period when food resources are relatively scarce. Forest Red Gum typically occurs on higher nutrient soils and some of the largest remaining sands are on the Milton monzonites, beside subtropical rainforest. In other areas they occur as scattered individual trees. Although Forest Red Gum is present in Kangaroo Valley most of the smooth barked eucalyptus in that area are a similar looking species the cabbage Gum *E. amplifolia.* 

Although Grey Gum is highly recommended for revegetation programs this species does not occur over the entire local government area. It is highly associated with sandy soils derived from Nowra Sandstone and naturally occurs in the Tapitallee, Budgong, Jervis Bay, and Yalwal areas. Spotted Gum also have a restricted but wide distribution being highly associated with the Wandandarian siltstones in the Nowra area north to about Meroo and west to Budgong and south through much of the coastal plain to Batemans Bay.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Fauna	Use
Spotted Gum	Corymbia maculata	Sugar Glider and birds	Nectar
River Peppermint	Eucalyptus elata	Birds	Nectar
			Invertebrates
Brown Barrel	Eucalyptus fastigata	Greater Glider	Leaves.
Forest Red Gum	Eucalyptus tereticornis	Koala, Sugar Glider and birds	Leaves & Nectar.
			Invertebrates
Grey Gum	Eucalytpus punctata	Koala, Sugar Glider, Yellow-	Leaves, Sap and
		bellied Glider, Yellow-tufted	Nectar.
		Honeyeater	Invertebrates
Blue Gum Eucalytpus saligna X botryoides Many birds		Many birds	Invertebrates

 Table 2

 Priority Eucalypt species for escarpment revegetation and their use by fauna

#### 2.2 Shoalhaven Coastal Plain

The coastal plain supports a wide range of vegetation communities but the common species include Blackbutt, Scribbly Gum, Red Bloodwood, Grey Gum and Spotted Gum. There are small occurrences of Grey Ironbark, Woollybutt, and Swamp Mahogany. The midcanopy often contains Black Oak, Saw-toothed Banksia and the shrublayer often is species rich with many species that provide nectar such as banksias and Grass Trees. In the Shoalhaven there are some large stands of Spotted Gum and Red Bloodwood on the coastal plain. These species often have mass flowering and during those time the majority of the Grey-headed Flying Fox population within New South Wales may take up residence to forage on the blossom. These bats are threatened with extinction and are one of the major pollinators of the eucalypt forests. There are also some trees that are hybrids between Spotted Gum and Red Bloodwood. These appear to be preferential to the Yellow-bellied Glider for sap feeding.

In some areas of the coastal plain, where better drained sandy soils are present there may be stands of Coastal Banksia. This species is highly recommended as it flowers in winter, a period when food resources are not as abundant. In other areas stands of Black She-oak may be present. This species regenerates after disturbances such as fire, hence stands can form. This species is highly favoured by the threatened Glossy Black Cockatoo, especially in the North Nowra and St Georges Basin areas.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Fauna	Use
Black She-oak	Allocasuarina littoralis	Glossy Black Cockatoo	Seed
Heath Banksia	Banksia ericifolia	Honeyeaters, Antechinus,	Nectar and
		Eastern Pygmy Possum	nesting sites
Coastal Banksia	Banksia integrifolia	Lorikeets, Honeyeaters,	Nectar
		Wattlebirds, Sugar Glider	
Saw-toothed Banksia	Banksia serrata	Lorikeets, Honeyeaters,	Nectar
		Wattlebirds, Sugar Glider	
Red Bloodwood	Corymbia gummifera	Honeyeater, Parrots, Yellow-	Nectar and sap
		bellied Glider and Sugar Glider	
Spotted Gum	Corymbia maculata	Sugar Glider and birds	Nectar
Blackbutt	Eucalyptus pilularis	Sugar Glider, Greater Glider	Leaves.
			Invertebrates
Swamp Mahogany	Eucalyptus robusta	Honeyeater, Parrots, Yellow-	Nectar and sap
		bellied Glider and Sugar Glider	
Scribbly Gum	Eucalyptus sclerophylla	Honeyeaters and Parrots	Used by Little
			Lorikeet and
			Rainbow
			Lorikeet
Grey Gum	Eucalytpus punctata	Koala, Sugar Glider, Yellow-	Leaves, Sap
		bellied Glider, Yellow-tufted	and Nectar.
		Honeyeater	Invertebrates

 Table 3

 Species recommended for Coastal Plain revegetation and their use by fauna

#### 2.3 Coastal Dunes

Vegetation communities on dune systems can be highly variable, varying in composition height and density. Geologically speaking, sand dunes in the Shoalhaven are typically young sand deposits. Recently formed dunes are relatively more fertile than old dunes, so able to support species such as Bangalay, Blackbutt, Scribbly Gum and Coastal Banksia and Saw-toothed Banksia.

Coastal vegetation communities that grow on sandy soil may include a range of communities that range from heath to rainforest. The largest stand of rainforest that grows on coastal sands (littoral) south of Sydney occurs in the Shoalhaven on Comerong Island. Other stands of littoral rainforest occur on Beecroft Peninsula and Bannister Head. Over the last decade the northern portion of Seven Mile Beach National Park had been progressively become more mesic with rainforest species such as Celerywood *Polyscias elegans*, Cabbage Tree Palm *Livistona australis*, Plum Pine *Podocarpus elatus* and Flame Tree *Brachychiton acerifolius* become common in the understorey.

Due to exposure to often extreme weather events dunes are usually semi-stable. Sand abrasion and salt laden winds can determine the species able to colonise this environment. When aiming to stabilise foredunes, plants that bind or capture shifting sands and are relatively fast growing have greatest impact.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Fauna		Use	
Coastal wattle	Acacia longifolia var. sophorae	Parrots		Seed	
Heath Banksia	Banksia ericifolia	Honeyeaters,	Antechinus,	Nectar	and
		Eastern Pygmy Poss	um	nesting sit	es
Coastal Banksia	Banksia integrifolia	Lorikeets, H	Honeyeaters,	Nectar	
		Wattlebirds, Sugar G	ilider		
Saw-toothed Banksia	Banksia serrata	Lorikeets, H	Honeyeaters,	Nectar	
		Wattlebirds, Sugar G	lider		
Dianella	Dianella congesta	Butterflies - skippers	and Darts	Leaves	
Blackbutt	Eucalyptus pilularis	Sugar Glider, Greater Glider and		Leaves,	
		various birds		invertebra	tes
Scribbly Gum	Eucalyptus sclerophylla	Honeyeaters and Parrots		Used by	Little
				Lorikeet	and
				Rainbow	
				Lorikeet	
Teatree	Leptospermum laevigatum	Common Ringtail Pos	ssums	Drays	
Matt Rush	Lomandra longifolia	Butterflies		Leaves	
Seaberry saltbush	Rhagodia candolleana	Chequered Blue butte	erfly?	Leaves	
Fan Flower	Scaevola calendulacea	Meadow Argus butter	rfly?	Leaves	

# Table 4 Species recommended for Coastal dunes revegetation and their use by fauna

 Table 5

 Species recommended for Coastal sites with moist sandy soils and their use by fauna

		[]		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Fauna	Use	
Red Ash	Alphitonia excelsa	Lewins Honeyeater	Seed	
Red-fruited Olive Plum	Cassine australe	Satin Bowerbird	Fruit	
Blueberry Ash	Elaeocarpus reticulatus	Satin Bowerbird	Fruit	
Corkwood	Endiandra sieberi	Top-knot Pigeon	Fruit	
Swamp Mahogany	Eucalyptus robusta	Honeyeater, Parrots, Yellow-	Nectar and sap	
		bellied Glider and Sugar Glider		
Small-leaved Fig	Ficus obliqua	Top-knot Pigeon, Satin	Fruit	
		Bowerbird		
Cabbage Tree Palm	Livistona australis	Top-knot Pigeon	Fruit	
Bastard Rosewood	Synoum glandulosum	Satin Bowerbird	Fruit	
Brush Cherry Syzygium paniculatum		Satin Bowerbird	Fruit	
Lillypilly Syzygium smithii		Satin Bowerbird, Common	Fruit & den site	
		Ringtail Possum		

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# Appendix 1 Species of indigenous plant that may be used for revegetation in the Shoalhaven and their use by fauna

Species	Common Name	Use
Acacia binervata	Two-veined Hickory	Sap-sugar glider, seeds Wonga Pigeon
Acacia decurrens	Black Wattle	Leaves – Fiery Jewel Butterfly
Acacia elata	Cedar Wattle	Sap-sugar glider.
Acacia longifolia var. sophorae	Coastal Wattle	Seed-parrots
Acacia maidenii	Maidens Wattle	Sap-sugar glider, seeds Wonga Pigeon.
		Leaves – Tailed Emperor
Acacia mearnsii	Late Black Wattle	Sap-sugar glider. Leaves – Common Imperial Blue Butterfly, Fiery Jewel Butterfly
Acronychia oblongifolia	Common Acronychia	Fruit – Satin Bowerbird and Pied Currawong.
Alectron subcinereus	Native Quince	Fruit- various birds, Leaves – Eastern Flat butterfly.
Allocasuarina littoralis	Black She-oak	Seed - Glossy Black Cockatoo
Alphitonia excelsa	Red Ash	Fruit - Lewin's Honeyeater, Leaves - Fiery Jewel Butterfly
Archontophoenix cunninghamiana	Bangalow Palm	Leaves - Orange Palm Dart butterfly
Backhousia myrtifolia	Grey Myrtle	Nesting site for birds
Banksia ericifolia	Heath Banksia	Nectar-birds, Antechinus nesting site-birds
Banksia integrifolia	Coastal Banksia	Nectar-birds and gliders
Banksia serrata	Serrated Banksia	Nectar-birds, seed-Yellow-tailed Black
		Cockatoo
Banksia spinulosa	Hair-pin Banksia	Nectar-birds, leaves – Double-headed Hawk Moth
Brachychiton acerifolius	Flame Tree	Seed eaten by Pied Currawong, leaves eaten
		Common Pencilled-blue butterflies
Brachychiton populneus	Kurrajong	Seed eaten by Pied Currawong, Leaves -
		Tailed Emperor Butterfly, Eastern Flat butterfly
Breynia oblongifolia	Coffee Bush	Fruit-Lewin's Honeyeater and Brown Cuckoo
		Dove. Leaves eaten by Large Grass Yellow
Bursaria spinosa var spinosa	Black Thorn	Dutterily Nest site-Brown Gerugone
Callicoma serratifolia	Black Wattle	Leaves – Eastern Flat Butterfly
		Sood opton by birds
	Christman Ruch	Elevera Canaimilia Plue Putterfly
		Flowers- Constituins blue butterfly
	Churpwood	Leaves – Dide Mangle Duiterny
	Drittlewood	Fruit- Various bilds
Claoxyion australe		Fruit - Brown Cuckoo Dove
	Hairy Clerodendrum	Fruit- various birds
	Prickly Coprosma	Leaves – Coprosma Hawk Moth
Corymbia gummitera	Red Bloodwood	Sap-Sugar Glider, Nectar-birds and gliders
Corymbia maculata	Spotted Gum	Nectar-Sugar Glider, Little Lorikeet
Cryptocarya glaucescens		Fruit- various birds, Leaves - Orchard Butterfly
Cryptocarya microneura	Murrogun	Fruit-various birds
Dendrochiae exceisa	Giant Stinging Tree	Fruit-Lewins Honeyeater, Catbird. Leaves eaten by Jezebel Nymph butterfly
Dianella caerulea + spp.	Blue Flax Lily	Leaves - various butterfly larvae
Diospyros australis	Black Plum	Fruit-Lewins Honeyeater
Diospyros pentamera	Myrtle Ebony	Fruit- various birds
Diploglottis australis	Native Tamarind	Fruit- various birds
Dodonaea triquetra	Common Hop Bush	Leaves - Fiery Jewel Butterfly
Doryphora sassafras	Sassafras	Leaves – Macleay's Swallowtail

Species	Common Name	Use
Ehretia acuminata	Koda	Fruit-Lewins Honeyeater, Leaves – Hairy
<u>Flaggerenne kintenii</u>	Discouberry Ach	Lineblue Butterfly
Elaeocarpus kinonii	Pigeonberry Ash	Fruit- various birds
Elaeocarpus reliculatus	Blue-berry Ash	Fruit-various birds
Endeoderidion australe	Corlevood	Fruit-Vallous birds
Endiandra Sieben	CUIKWUUU	butterfly
Eucalyptus "botrysaligna" ms	Illawarra Blue Gum	Den sites - Greater Glider
Eucalyptus elata	River Peppermint	Nectar-Sugar Glider and birds
Eucalyptus fastigata	Brown Barrel	Leaves/den-Greater Glider
Eucalyptus pilularis	Black Butt	Leaves-Greater Glider, nectar-birds including Little Lorikeet.
Eucalyptus punctata	Grey Gum	Leaves-Koala, sap- Yellow-bellied Glider, Sugar Glider, Feathertail Glider and birds
Eucalyptus robusta	Swamp Mahogany	Leaves-Koala, Nectar-honeyeaters parrots and gliders
Eucalyptus sclerophylla	Scribbly Gum	Nectar-honeyeaters and parrots
Eucalyptus tereticornis	Forest Red Gum	Leaves – Koala, nectar-Sugar Glider and Feathertail Glider
Eucalyptus paniculata	Grey Ironbark	Flowers-nectar for birds, Sugar Glider
Eucalyptus quadrangulata	Coastal White-topped Box	Flowers-nectar for birds, Sugar Glider
Eupomatia laurina	Bolwarra	King Parrots
Exocarpos cupressiformis	Cherry Ballart	Leaves – Wood White Butterfly, Fiery Jewel Butterfly
Ficus coronata	Sandpaper Fig	Fruit – various birds
Ficus macrophylla	Morton Bay Fig	Fruit-Grey-headed Flying Fox, Top-knot
Ficus obligua	Small-leaved Fig	Fruit- hirds Leaves - Australian Crow Butterfly
Ficus superba	Deciduous Fig	Fruit-Grey-beaded Elving Fox birds
Gabnia clarkei	Sawsedge	
Gahnia sieberana	Sawsedge	Leaves – Sword-grass Brown Butterfly, Flame Skipper
Glochidion ferdinandi var ferdinandi	Cheese Tree	Fruit-Lewins Honeyeater
Hibbertia scandens	Golden Guinea Flower	Leaves – Impatiens Hawk Moth
Imperata cylindrica var major	Blady Grass	Leaves - various butterfly larvae - Greenish
	Coostal Tastras	Darter
	Lomon sconted Top trop	Branches Ringtall Possum dravs
Leptospermum polyganonum	Lace Beard-beath	Nector-Eastern Spinebill
lanceolatus		
Litsea reticulata	Bolly Gum	Leaves - Blue Triangle Butterfly
Livistona australis	Cabbage Tree Palm	Fruit - Top-knot Pigeon, Pied Currawong. Wombats eat young plants starchy pith.
Lomandra longifolia	Mat Rush	Leaves - various butterfly larvae
Macrozamia communis	Burrawang	Seed - Bush Rat
Melia azedarach	White Cedar	Fruit-King Parrots
Melicope micrococca	White Euodia	Leaves - Orchard Butterfly
Notelaea longifolia	Large Mock-olive	Leaves – Eastern Flat butterfly
Notelaea venosa	Veined Mock Olive	Fruit – various birds
Omalanthus nutans	Bleeding Heart	Seed-Brown Cuckoo Dove
Pennantia cunninghamii	Brown Beech	
riuosporum revolutum	Rougn-iruited Pittosporum	Fruit - Lewins Honeyeater

Species	Common Name	Use
Pittosporum undulatum	Sweet Pittosporum	Fruit - Lewins Honeyeater
Planchonella australis	Black Apple	Fruit - Grey-headed Flying Fox
Poa sp.	Native Grass	Leaves – various butterflies including Dispar Skipper, Klug's Xenica and Eastern-ringed Xenica, White Grasschat, Banks Brown
Podocarpus elatus	Celery Wood	Leaves – Eastern Flat butterfly
Polyscias murrayi	Pencil Cedar	Fruit - Lewins Honeyeater, Satin Bowerbird
Polyscias elegans	Celery Wood	Fruit - Lewins Honeyeater, Satin Bowerbird, Flowers – Consimilis Blue Butterfly
Rhagodia candolleana	Seaberry saltbush	Leaves – Chequered Blue butterfly?
Scaevola calendulacea	Fan Flower	Leaves – Meadow Argus butterfly?
Solanum aviculare	Kangaroo Apple	Fruit - Lewins Honeyeater, Satin Bowerbird
Syncarpia glomulifera	Turpentine	Grey Goshawk nest in mistletoes
Syzygium australe	Brush Cherry	Fruit – various birds
Syzygium smithii	Lilly Pilly	Fruit – various birds, nest site for Pigeons
Tasmannia insipida	Native Pepper	Leaves – possibly Macleay's Swallowtail
Themeda australis	Kangaroo Grass	Leaves – Wombat and Swamp Wallaby, Eastern Ringed Xenica, Klug's Xenica Butterfly
Toona ciliata	Red Cedar	Growing tips – Red Cedar Tip Moth
Trema tomentosa var viridis	Native Peach	Fruit - Lewins Honeyeater, Brown Cuckoo Dove.
Zieria smithii	Sandfly Zieria	Leaves - Orchard Butterfly

# Appendix 2 Priority weed species and control mechanisms

#### Cape Ivy (Delairea odorata)



#### Problem

Able to smother understorey shrubs and groundcover with its dense growth. Likely to be toxic to both people and animals (Blood 2001). Invades wet sclerophyll forest-rainforest, riparian vegetation and around forest margins.

#### **Specifications for control**

Hand-pull or dig young plants, or cut through stems and leave upper parts to die off in place. Spray regrowth, adding a surfactant to improve penetration of the waxy leaves. Use 360g/L Glyphosate Bioactive at the rate of 200ml per 15 litres of water.

When removing any species of vines, be careful about pulling them down, as this can damage the supporting plant. Generally they are better left to die off and break up in place, unless this would involve leaving the seed in the canopy.

### Timing

Prior to the formation of seed (mainly spring).



#### Lantana (Lantana camara)

#### Problem

Lantana is a Weed of National Significance.

Lantana casts a dense shade, which suppresses other plants. It can colonise disturbed wetter eucalypt forest and rainforest, and climb to a height of 10 metres or so in the remaining native trees. Lantana is poisonous to stock and humans. When killed by the application of Glyphosate then other weeds such a Cobblers Peg can colonise the site and hence follow up action is required. Cobblers Peg will die out once a canopy is established.

#### Specifications for control

Seedlings and smaller plants, particularly the straggly specimens, which grow in deep shade within forest, can be hand-pulled or dug out. Pulled plants are to be stockpiled. In summer plants can regrow from a small section of stem that lies on the ground. Large infestations, especially on steeper slopes can be sprayed using a splatter gun. Follow-up action of either direct planting of further spot spraying may be required.

Infestations within creeks are to be controlled using the cut and paint technique (Glyphosate Bioactive) to avoid possible contact of chemicals with frogs. Away from the creek line, spray dense infestations using a splatter gun. For all control works, suckers are likely to arise from the roots and may need follow-up treatment. Seek advice from the Shoalhaven Noxious Weed Officer.

#### Timing

Timing is dependent on herbicide used (see above) Hand removal all year. The use of herbicide is more effective in the warmer months.



#### Moth Plant (Araujia sericifera)

**Legal status:** Not declared in the shoalhaven.

**Distribution:** Plants in disturbed areas with high nutrient soils, especially tall open forest and disturbed rainforest.

riority: Medium - key threatening rocess.

easibility of control: Eradication is achievable.

**Control strategy:** Hand-remove small plants, cut and paint larger vines, remove fruit. Use splatter gun for large infestations.

#### Problem

Moth Vine is poisonous to dogs, poultry and possibly cattle and the sap can cause skin and eye irritations (Blood 2001). Moth Vine invades damp sclerophyll forest, coastal and riparian vegetation and forest margins. It can tolerate full sun, deep shade, drought and salt.

Moth Vine climbs over shrubs and small trees, smothering and breaking them down. It also spreads over the ground, smothering native groundcover plants. Moth Vine can spread great distances from the parent plants as the seeds are carried by the wind.

#### **Specifications for control**

Young plants are easily hand-pulled if growing in loose soil, or can be dug out. Large plants can be treated by the scrape-and-paint method with Glyphosate 360g/L. Wear gloves when handling this plant and avoid getting the sap in mouth and eyes.

When removing the species, be careful about pulling them down, as this can damage the supporting plant. Generally they are better left to die off and break up in place, unless this would involve leaving a lot of seed or fruit in the canopy. Try to control vines before seed has formed to avoid this problem, but if fruits are present (even if they are still green), they should be collected and destroyed by burning or deep burial.

#### Timing

Spraying operations should occur prior to fruit set. Hand removal all year but easy to locate in autumn when plants are in fruit.

#### Large-leaved Privet (Ligustrum lucidum)



Legal status: W4 in the Shoalhaven Distribution: Heavy infestation in the hinterland of Berry and Kangaroo Valley. Priority: high

> **sibility of control:** Contain station to current area. Control will are repeated effort over several

> **col strategy:** isolated plants are to eated. Follow up control will be ed.

#### Problem

Large-leaved Privet is declared noxious in the Shoalhaven Local Government area, in category W4. Annual seed production is large and birds (Lewins Honeyeater and Satin Bowerbird), foxes and bats disperse the seed.

Large-leaved Privet is an aggressive invader of disturbed land, particularly disturbed remnant bushland. Areas receiving more water or nutrients than before European settlement, particularly if some or all of the original vegetation has been removed, are particularly vulnerable to invasion by privet. Once established, Large-leaved Privet can replace native shrub and tree species and even in areas of native canopy it can form dense regrowth in the shrub layer. This is one of the hardest weeds to control as the seed is spread by birds.

#### **Specifications for control**

Removal of large specimens of Large-leaved Privet has to be done with care as the more disturbance that occurs during the removal of privet, the more likely that seedlings will grow in the area that receives more sunlight.

Small seedlings (i.e. less than 3 cm stem diameter) can be pulled out by hand. However, the root system can be tenacious and must be carefully followed through the soil and removed. Root segments of privet buried to a depth of more than five times their own diameter can reestablish above-ground shoots and regrow. Uprooted plants should therefore be placed upside down with their roots in the air to dry out. Larger plants need to have every stem cut and painted with Glyphosate Bioactive 360 g/L. With all treatments there will be a need to return to site at three-monthly intervals to remove new seedlings.

#### Timing

Anytime but preferably prior to fruit formation (winter or early spring).

#### Small-leaved Privet (Ligustrum sinense)

**Legal status:** W4 in the Shoalhaven Distribution: Heavy infestation in the in the hinterland of Berry and Kangaroo Valley. **Priority:** high

**Feasibility of control**: Control will require repeated effort over several years.

**Control strategy:** Isolated plants are to be treated. Follow up control will be required.

#### Problem

Small-leaved Privet is declared noxious in the Shoalhaven Local Government area, in category W4. Annual seed production is enormous and birds, foxes and bats can carry the seed well into the bush. Small-leaved Privet is an aggressive invader of disturbed land, particularly disturbed remnant bushland. Areas receiving more water or nutrients than before European settlement, particularly if some or all of the original vegetation has been removed, are particularly vulnerable to invasion by privet. Once established, it can replace native shrub and tree species and form monocultures.

#### **Specifications for control**

Removal of large specimens of Small-leaved Privet has to be done with care as the more disturbance that occurs during the removal of privet, the more likely that seedlings will grow in the area that receives more sunlight.

Small seedlings (i.e. less than 3 cm stem diameter) can be pulled out by hand. However, the root system can be tenacious and must be carefully followed through the soil and removed. Root segments of privet buried to a depth of more than five times their own diameter can reestablish above-ground shoots and regrow. Uprooted plants should therefore be placed upside down with their roots in the air to dry out. Larger plants need to have every stem cut and painted with Glyphosate Bioactive 360 g/L. With all treatments there will be a need to return to site at three-monthly intervals to remove new seedlings.

#### Timing

Anytime but preferably prior to fruit formation (winter or early spring).

#### Blackberry (Rubus fruticosus aggregate)



#### Problem

Blackberry is one of the most significant weeds in temperate Australia because of its invasiveness in both natural and agricultural ecosystems. Blackberry thickets also provide harbour for pest animals such as rabbits and foxes, which further impact on the native flora and fauna. Dead plants and large infestations may become a fire hazard, which may impact the area through fire regime changes.

#### **Specifications for control**

Use of foliar herbicides (splatter gun) is recommended as results are usually superior than mechanical removal. However, if use of herbicides is not favoured, small plants may be hand-pulled; grubbed out with a mattock (or similar); or canes can be cut and painted with Glyphosate 360g/L Apply when bushes are actively growing. It is essential to monitor and treat regrowth.

#### Timing

Apply herbicide when bushes are actively growing, preferably at the commencement of flowering (October to January). Spray operations should be completed prior to the formation of fruit. For further information on control techniques contact Shoalhaven City Council's Noxious Weed Officer.

#### Mistflower (Ageratina riparia) and Crofton Weed (Ageratina adenophora)



Legal status: W4 in the Shoalhaven.

**Distribution:** Colonises riparian areas and moist soils.

Priority: Medium

**Feasibility of control:** Prevent further spread and over time reduce level of infestation.

**Control strategy:** Hand-removal and herbicide (splatter gun) use where no waterway will be contaminated.

#### Problem

Mistflower and Crofton weed are declared noxious in category W4 (must be continuously suppressed and destroyed) in the Shoalhaven. Plants can form dense stands in moist sites, choking out native vegetation along creek lines. Mistflower and Crofton weed have been shown to be toxic to some stock in laboratory trials—Crofton weed has been responsible for the deaths of horses in the Shoalhaven (Galbraith pers.comm.).

The tiny black or brown seeds have a parachute of fine hairs and are spread great distances by water and wind. Therefore, control of the plant requires a cooperative approach from all land managers upstream of infestations. This is hard to achieve as mistflower is not seen as a priority by some land owners.

#### **Specifications for control**

Prior to 2011 the general control method was to hand pull or dig out plants or spot-spray using a non-selective or selective woody weed herbicide such as Glyphosate Biactive, 360g/L at 1:100 (no surfactant to be used). Or 480g/l for Spatter Gun. Spray actively-growing bushes with full foliage. However, in 2011 CSIRO released the Mistflower fungus *Entyloma argentinae* (http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/\_\_data/assets/pdf\_file/0013/20551/Mist\_Flower\_Fungus.p df ) in upper Kangaroo Valley as a biological control. The results have been spectacular and large areas have been killed and native plants have recolonised the areas (L. Mitchell pers. comm.). The fungus has spread to the Cambewarra area with similar results. It is hoped that another species specific fungus can be used to control Crofton weed.

#### Timing

Introduce Mistflower fungus during summer. Spraying operations should occur prior to late winter and spring.