



Dorrigo Community Nursery NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2022

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Opportunities

Picture a top heavy mushroom. Grant money has been readily available for the last two years, and we have added to the infrastructure, and taken on new projects. But the stalk of the mushroom is feeling fragile - that's the few of us coordinating all these new enterprises. We need help!

Volunteer Coordinators are needed to help spread the load and strengthen the stalk. We know there are some valuable skills and experience out there in our local community, and just a few hours a week will be much appreciated. The following Coordinator positions are available:-

- Workplace Health and Safety Coordinator
- Volunteers Coordinator
- Community Liaison, Education and Media Coordinator
- Nursery Site Maintenance Coordinator
- Bush Regeneration Site Coordinator

Please contact dandarrga@gmail.com for more

information about any of these roles. If you don't want to wear a "coordinator's hat", you can still be part of a team.

Our first Annual General Meeting is coming up in September, and positions are also available on the Committee, which meets every couple of months. Please come along to our Open Day and AGM to see how you can become involved.

Annual General Meeting & Open Day
Dorrigo Community Nursery Inc
Saturday 24th Sep 2022
11am @ the nursery

Membership Renewals are \$10pa. [Membership Forms can be downloaded here](#), or drop in to the nursery. Active volunteer members are free. Membership benefits include good company, shared abundance, and this spoiled silage at the gate, free to collect, and great for mulching gardens.



COMMUNITY GARDENS

Two plans for possible Community Gardens have been created. One is at the Dorrigo Plateau Aboriginal Land Council land on Ash Street and the other is adjacent to the Dorrigo Community Nursery.

Dorrigo Community Garden at the Nursery

At our last meeting we discussed how to utilise the retention basin below the nursery. Opinions ranged from eliminating the bowl shape to retaining it completely. We agreed as a group to compromise. The result was that the north-eastern end of the bowl would be



retained and the south-western end would be flattened to allow for access, utilities, structures such as storage sheds and tanks. We will lower the north-eastern embankment by a metre or so to use as fill for the south-western end. We discussed the possibility of incorporating a water feature/pond, a gazebo, permaculture style plantings, dwarf fruit trees and traditional plots. We have submitted a grant application to Nutrien Ag Solutions/Foundation for Regional & Rural Renewal to install a water tank. Meetings will occur on the second and fourth Saturday of the month at the nursery.

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Dorrigo Local Aboriginal Land Council - Dandargra Community Garden

Funds are available for a second Community Garden through the Dorrigo Local Aboriginal Land Council. We have decided to place the garden at the Ash Street end of the site (near the concrete plant).

It is proposed that there is a winding pathway, terraced gardens, covered structure with yarning circle and a storage shed. We are currently investigating flood levels and the Essential Energy restrictions on placement of structures beneath the power lines. There will be on-site

Contact Stephen Thiering if you'd like to get involved at sthiering2@gmail.com

Signage

New signage (designed by Grace Doblo) has been installed at the nursery, and shadehouse numbers created by Jack Buchannan are ready to be installed.

Colin Hutton is helping restore and install our original large wooden sign (created by Barry Hunt) at the front gate.



OUR PROJECTS

Koala Mapping and Tree Planting Project - A Grant has been submitted in July to the Department of Industry, Science and Resources to map vegetation, and plant trees in a potential koala corridor at Megan. We've held an initial meeting with landholders, and plan to meet and discuss the project objectives with Traditional owners, and collect seed of local koala food trees.

Platypus Project - Following the discovery of an illegal yabby trap that killed four baby platypus and a rakali, a grant from Bellingen Shire's Environmental Levy Community Fund has been approved, through Dorrigo Local Aboriginal Land Council, to find out more about our local Platypus in the Bielsdown River. The Department of Fisheries has provided signs for the river banks, and will follow up with educational talks in the local schools. We hope to spend the funds on cameras, a possible protective path along Bielsdown River Walk, an educational session at the Library, and an on-site event/talk with Joseph Crane or Dr Gilad Bino. Mating season has started, and there's been another sighting of a platypus swimming up and back several times at Dangar Falls in early August. Contact Piers Hammick (hammick.piers@gmail.com) if you spot a platypus.

The Bielsdown River Care Project has three stages, encompassing 900m in total, from the Rec Ground to the Ash St bridge. This ongoing project was initiated by Dandarra Landcare in 2019, to create a sense of community responsibility and collaboration in caring for our local river. It has been partly funded by three separate grants from Bellinger Shire Council's Environmental Levy Community Fund. Local residents along the river were engaged to become members of Dandarra Landcare to help regenerate the riparian habitat on sites adjacent to their homes, and have done many hours of weeding and planting. Funding has been used to contract weed control, and to conduct workshops for these volunteers. Floods and frost have done some damage to the plantings. Stage 3 is called Kingfisher Way, and extends the project from the Waterfall Way bridge to the Rec Ground.

The Bielsdown River Walk, from the Ash St bridge to near the weir, is now signposted, and has become a popular walk with locals. We have a Crown Lands License to manage this site in 2022, and weed control, fencing and planting is ongoing on Thursday mornings. Contact Rohan Chiswell rohanchiswell@hotmail.com

The Dangar Falls/Labyrinth site plantings are doing well, and ongoing weed control and planting happens on Tuesday mornings, in collaboration with Council. A small team planted 24 more trees from the nursery on National Plant a Tree Day on the 29th July. Contact Leela lisaoc7@hotmail.com

Rocky Creek Regen happens on Monday mornings, and has helped to make this beautiful site, begun by Dorrigo Mountain Top Landcare Group in the 1980's, both vibrant and more accessible. Contact Phil Johnson philip.johnson7@bigpond.com

Deep Creek, below the Council Depot, has been weeded and planted since 2018, in collaboration with Council. Contact Peter Murphy petermurphy741@yahoo.com.au

Nest Box Project - Habitat nesting boxes for local wildlife have been installed along the western banks of the Bielsdown, thanks to Peter Murphy and the team.

Dorrigo Seed Savers

The Seed Savers' gardens produce locally adapted, heritage and non-hybrid seed of food, herbs and flowers. On the **last Wednesday of every month** we hold a **Pack and Chat** meeting to harvest, process and package seed.. The **next Pack and Chat is on Wednesday 31st August.**

- Ian Thomas from the Gourmet Garden School gave a talk on Gardening with Wet Weather on 29th June.
- A Dahlia Workshop presented by Rebecca Doblo on 30th July was well attended.
- Michael Eppler will present an **'Introduction to Bee Keeping'** on **Sunday 18th September – 9.30am to 11.30am.**
- A Permaculture presentation with Ma and Pa Permaculture from Herons Creek is planned in November.



The gardens are looking lovely, productive, and healthy thanks to Chris, Jeanette and other volunteers. They have been working on a list of seeds needed for planting in Spring. We only have bulk corn and bean seeds in the library and need more varieties.

Contact seedsforlife2453@gmail.com to join Dorrigo Seed Savers for news and events.

Community of Gardeners

Fresh local food for our community is on our agenda this year.

Do you have a vegetable garden?

Would you like to be part of a community of gardeners sharing the labour, knowledge and produce in our local community?



Come in to the nursery and have a chat with us! We have mushroom compost for sale at \$2 a bucket.

Chris has been managing our gardens, making compost, and is a passionate gardener.

Many of our volunteers are home gardeners happy to share their skills, and learn more.

New to town? See previous [newsletters 2017 - 2022 on our website](#)

Dandarrga Landcare Native Propagation



The new Propagation Shelter, funded by a Resilience and Recovery grant through Bellingen Council, and built by Bruce Booker, has been greatly appreciated this year.

The wet and overcast conditions in 2021-22, and the sudden cold snap in winter, have tested our volunteers, and taken a toll on our native plants. Seed propagation rates are down - not enough light and warmth this last growing season! Fresh seed is needed.

Our **Native Seed Calendar** is a work in progress. We email a bi-monthly seed calendar summary to interested members. If you would like to **help document seeding and flowering times**, and **collect or donate seed**, please email dandarrga@gmail.com



We have a range of **Fire-Resistant Native Plants** for sale - what to plant around your home, or along forest edges, for some protection from embers. **CLICK HERE** or **visit our website**

We sell Rainforest and pioneer tree, shrub, groundcover and grass species in hicos, tubes and pots.

[Natives Stock list](#)

Trees are also for sale from the **Dandarrga Rainforest Barrow at Dorrigo Rainforest Centre**. Thanks to Joanna Dadd for taking on this job from Eleanor Sharman who has relocated to Queensland.

We work with **Bellingen Landcare**, who have an **Expression of Interest form** on their website for those in Bellingen Shire, in order to **apply for grants**.

We also work with Barry Hicks from Blue Rock Nursery at Billy's Creek. Barry has 30 years of experience in growing rainforest species, and Blue Rock Nursery is back on track after the devastating fires of 2019.

[Blue Rock Nursery on Facebook](#)



Dandarrga is the Gumbaynggirr name for the Dorrigo Plateau, and means stringy bark tree. We acknowledge the Gumbaynggirr people, the traditional land carers of this country.



Dorrigo Community Nursery Inc is a not-for-profit association with insurance for our volunteers, and a Constitution outlining our mission, which is:-

to instigate, promote, and provide for regenerative land, water and vegetation management practices, through communal activity, using local provenance seed and plants.

NURSERY OPENING HOURS Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat 9:00 am – 12:30

[DANDARRGA LANDCARE on NSW Gateway](#) | [DANDARRGA LANDCARE on FACEBOOK](#)

OUR [YOUTUBE](#) CHANNEL | [DORRIGO SEED SAVERS PAGE on FACEBOOK](#) | [Dorrigo Seed Savers Group on FACEBOOK](#)

PH: 02 6657 1189 | M: 0435 200 351 (Annie) | M: 0457 332 057 (Nadia)

EMAIL: dandarrga@gmail.com

Special thanks to:

Sally Hunter, our intrepid grants officer, for all her hard work in 2022! Rebecca Doblo for donating her time to create our site plans, signage and Seed Saver events. Barry Muche for Treasurer, Stephen Thiering for coordinating our market stalls, community liaison and as Community Garden coordinator. Nadia Camatta for her tireless backup work. Chris Valentine for the gardens and Seed Saver propagation, Jeanette Jones for managing the Seed Savers seed. Lynda Keft for doing a great job as WHS coordinator. Leela O'Callaghan for managing our native gardens at the nursery, and project leader at Dangar Falls, Ellie Fruitrich for memberships and bookkeeping. Annie for coordination. Lyn Livingstone for overseeing our organisational structure. Lyn Livingstone and Rowan Holden, Sharon Field, Stuart, Piers Hammick, Nadia, Rohan and Don Pitkin for their work on the Bielsdown River. Rohan Chiswell, Piers Hammick, Les Bravery and Nadia for regen on the Bielsdown River Walk. Phil Johnson, Greg Manski and Andrew Beesley for Rocky Creek regen, Evlin and Peter for regen on the Oak Trees site. Thanks to Colin Hutton for also representing us in Council's [Community Climate Action Plan](#).

All our regular volunteers for showing up.... John Newstead, Andrew Beesley, Marilyn Wall, Leela O'Callaghan, Rebecca Doblo, Bridget Rees, Peter Murphy, Evlin Bell, Annie Stanton, Ellie Fruitrich, Elaine Morssink, Phil Johnson, Graham Prior, Carolyn and Kye Nelson, Paul Burns, Barry Muche, Bruce Booker, Helen Hunt, Carol Smith, Colin Hutton, Lynda Keft, Greg Manski, Genevieve Marende, Mina Glisovic, Michael and Julie Hyland