



NEWSLETTER
JULY 2020

Tough times forge strong community bonds. The last financial year has tested our strength and courage, our adaptability, and our collective intentions in many ways. Thankfully, our volunteers are creative, warm-hearted and generous with their time and skills (7,461 volunteer hours in the sign on book!). We have been continually amazed by what gets done with the generous support of members, visitors, old and new friends, and our shared community spirit. Many newcomers to the area, and a few locals from further afield, have visited the nursery for trees and advice, or to volunteer, and become friends.



The Nursery

Two cattle truckloads of plants were rescued from fire-affected Billy's Creek, and re-housed at the nursery during the bushfires. It was a worrying and wearying time, full of smoke-filled air and bad news. Water restrictions threatened to derail our project, and we began planning and raising funds for rainwater collection, with the help of Bellingen Landcare. Improvements to the nursery facility now include two water tanks, new guttering and pipe, and an automatic irrigation system installed in four shade houses. Old sawdust floors have been removed and replaced with gravel. Tree stumps were removed. The Seed Savers shade house has two new potting benches and storage space. Timber was donated for a new front gate, built and installed by the Showground staff, and then sanded and oiled.



Learning our Country



About 150 species of native plants have been propagated, and since July 2019 about 3,500 trees have been distributed for planting. We've added many new labels to the stock, compiled information and improved our plant database and local native seed calendar. Our volunteers are learning to identify the local trees and other native plants, with the mentorship of members with more knowledge. We enjoy seed collecting and identifying species on site visits, and our free Rainforest ID Sessions on Fridays at 10am.

Lockdown

The nursery was closed, but maintained under skeleton staff roster during Covid restrictions, with all the required protocols in place. However, we have been busy all year, with continual sale of plants, seeds and mushroom compost to members, regen groups, and the public. We continue with the Covid-19 protocols (hand-sanitise, physical distance etc), and advice from Landcare NSW regarding lack of insurance cover for vulnerable members who attend. If you are in this vulnerable group, you may of course still visit, (we'd love to see you), or volunteer, but at your own risk.

Dorrigo Seed Savers

When growing your own food suddenly became popular, the Dorrigo Seed Savers network put in a massive effort, supplying seed packets throughout lockdown. Unusually high demand depleted our stock, and required lots of sorting, processing and packeting, done at the nursery and from individual homes. Seed beds have been added at the nursery, and the gardens and paths have been maintained. Citrus trees have been planted, and new compost bays created. Dozens of pumpkins



were given away. Free food Fridays continue, with regular local fresh food donated, grown on site and foraged. We have learned about Saffron Milk Cap Mushrooms, wild foraged, and dried some in the solar dehydrator for powder (tasty in winter soups and stews).

Bush Regeneration



Regen sites on local waterways remain active, with privet removed and trees planted. Our new tree planter is useful, and a new pump for watering at these sites was purchased with help from community donations. We are collaborating with Dorrigo Mountain Top Landcare and the Dorodong Bush Regen team at Rocky Creek to restore habitat. Spring planting is planned at sites on the Bielsdown River, Blicks River, Rocky Creek and Deep Creek.

Networks and Promotion

Our Rainforest Centre Barrow, selling trees, and the Dorrigo Seed Savers Shelf with local seed, have been a great success with both tourists and locals at the Dorrigo Rainforest Centre. The Seed Savers seeds are back in the library. The media team have written several articles about landcare, habitat and local species in the local paper, kept two facebook sites updated, and added to our website on the NSW Landcare Gateway. We conducted a successful workshop on composting with children and their parents at the Dorrigo Folk and Bluegrass Festival, where each child took home a tree. All the paper and food waste from the Festival was composted on site, and is now a productive garden bed. We are grateful for the support of Bellingen Landcare Inc and are also now collaborating on landcare with Jaliigirr Biodiversity Alliance, WWF, Envite, the Local Aboriginal Land Council and Dorodong IPA.



What's next?

We anticipate more community networking, and collaboration with the schools, on regenerating local habitat and improving the condition of our local rivers and creeks. We have a range of wildlife habitat nest boxes to be installed in effective locations for birds and animals affected by bushfires. We are keen to learn about indigenous mosaic burning, and we also want to support new bush regenerators, and link them with paid work on the Plateau.

Our morning tea area has been gradually enlarged and improved for meetings, workshops and presentations. The Bellingen Landcare AGM was held here last year, with a presentation by Ross Macleay on the effects of fire on forests.

We now have a tool library, wildlife nest box display and media cupboard. It's also a safe and comfortable space for cuppas and conversation mid-morning. We look forward to seeing you there.



A heart felt thank you to the forests that help us remain strong, give us clean air and water, and serenity to restore our spirits. And a big thank you to all our volunteers, renewing members and old friends!

Dandarrga Landcare and Dorrigo Seed Savers

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ONLINE BSB: 932 000 ACC: 756381 ACC NAME: Dandarrga Landcare
DANDARRGA NURSERY OPENING HOURS - Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat 9:00 am – 12:30

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