

Kyogle Landcare

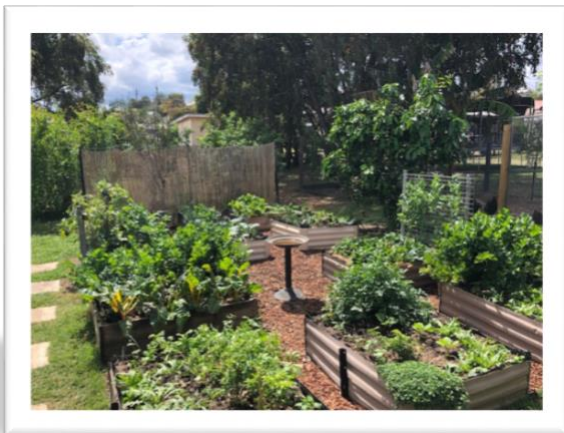
October/November Update



Back Yard Gardens

There is no comparison between the taste of a garden-fresh strawberry packed with flavour and one bought from the supermarket that's devoid of taste. Though growing your own vegetables can seem overwhelming, it's actually quite achievable. Local personality Bill Solomon, kindly invited Landcare to have a look at his amazing back yard garden to demonstrate how with little effort it is possible to grow most, if not all of the produce needed to feed a growing family.

Bill uses a pug soil with about 1 kg of gypsum and the same of sand per cubic meter which he mixes



into raised veggie gardens that are lined with plastic (don't forget holes for drainage). Inside, Bill has four bins: one for rubbish, one for recycling, one for chook food and one for compost. Outside there are two bins for composting. Once the compost is ready Bill mixes in some chook poo which provides the necessary fertiliser for the plants. Occasionally he uses sea weed for the younger plants.

Still not convinced? Well here's some more reasons to give it a go. Backyard gardens improve your family's health, they save you money on groceries, reduce your environmental impact, while at the same time exercising the body. The result... better tasting food.

WEED ALERT

Honey Locusts

Honey Locusts (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) originally from North America is regarded as a priority environmental weed. This highly invasive exotic tree is capable of out competing and replacing native vegetation limiting the habitat available to native fauna as well as reducing the diversity of native plants.

It reproduces by seed and also via root suckers, which gives it the capacity to form dense thickets. Plants also reshoot vigorously when cut or damaged. The fruit are mostly dispersed by wind and water, and seeds are commonly spread by animals that eat the pods.

The plant is mainly found in sub-tropical environments and can be found in pastures, along roadsides, grasslands, watercourses and riparian areas. Around Kyogle it can be easily spotted along Fawcett's Creek. Fortunately, BRRVLN have been successful in obtaining a \$20000 grant through Rous County Council to continue the management of this weed.



Close up leaves and seed pods



Honey Locust trees



Close up leaves and thorns

If you have this plant there are various methods of control including hand removal, cut & paint, foliar spray, basal bark and stem injection. The method chosen will depend on factors such as size of infestation, size of weeds and location of the plant.

For further information contact the local Landcare Office.

Bad Neighbour

Feral scan is a new and free community resource for landholders, community groups and pest controllers. Feral scan can be used to map sightings, report problems or damage caused by deer, wild dogs, cane toads, feral cats, camels, mynas, rabbits and others, which helps to both document and determine appropriate control actions. It can be used to inform your neighbours and local biosecurity authorities about current feral animal problems.

You can use Feral Scan to record new (and historical) observations of feral animals in your local area, as this will help to build a detailed picture of unwanted populations.

Currently BRRVLN are interested in any sightings of feral deer. If you have any information please contact Gavin at the Landcare Office.



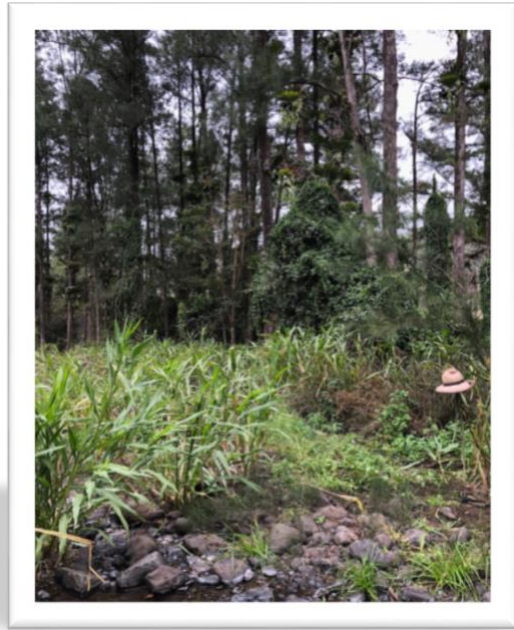
Click on the link [Feral Scan](#) to discover more.

Fawcett's Creek Update

Now that the path has been completed and the weeds on the western side of the creek are under control we have moved onto the Showground side of the bridge and begun to attack the Cat's Claw that is inundating the trees. It is quite amazing how quickly the vine dies after treatment. The plan is to continue to work to link up with a previous Landcare project.

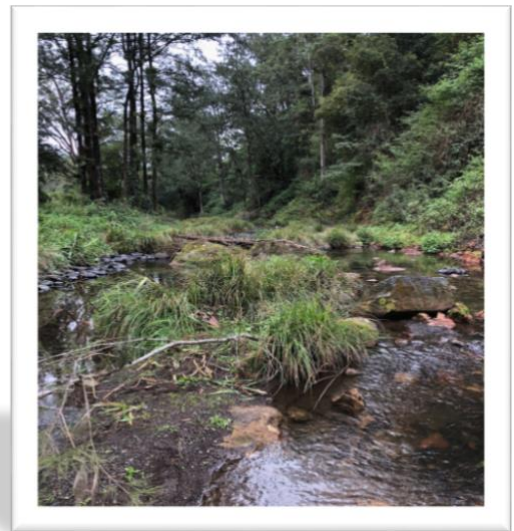
Also, the signs for the riparian zone and the bats have been completed, the tree labels and seats ordered. Keep an eye out for the date of the great unveiling. You never know we might be able to entice some of councilors to attend.





As you can see from the above photo the Job's Tears has created an almost impenetrable forest in places, swallowing the creek.

The photo below shows a section of the creek with the plant removed.



Thanks to Rous for their support.

Job's Tears Update

Work is continuing at Upper Horseshoe Creek removing the invasive plant Job's Tears from along 10 kilometers of creek. To date all of the seed heads have been removed and over 9 kilometers are now clear of the plant with less than 1 km to go. As well, Giant Devil's Fig has been removed.

Upon completion a three year follow up plan will be implemented to ensure that the Job's Tears remains out of the Creek and under control.

This project has taken approximately 762 hours. Of these hours 470 were paid and 292 were volunteer hours. Without the continual support of our volunteers we would not be able to achieve what we do. Thank you!

Upcoming Events...

- ◆ Nursery and regeneration team every Tuesday 9am until 12ish.
- ◆ Working Bee Horseshoe Creek 20th October, Sunday – 9 – 11
- ◆ Working Bee Fawcett's Creek 26th October, 9 - 11

Reminder Membership.

If you are yet to renew your membership, please do so. Annual membership is \$20 for a family, \$15 for an individual and \$10 concession. Please either pay by direct debit to:

BSB: 728.728 , Ac No: 22217437, Ac name: Kyogle Landcare Group, Bank: Summerland Credit Union

And send your details to the membership officer William Solomon
email: williamsolomonko@yahoo.com.au

Or pay at the Landcare Nursery on any Tuesday morning.

