

Goolawah^{CO OP} Gazette

Journal of Goolawah Co-operative Limited

May 2021



© Jac Larsen

Even the stray cows struggled to find food

From the Editors



Welcome everyone to the long-awaited May edition. Last year Anna and I took the reins and joined up with Griff to bring you the good news of Goolawah. It's been a steep learning curve over the last six months, and finally, here it is – a snapshot of life on the Coop.

The floods arrived in March, right on the cusp of publication, so we made the decision to hold off and tell some tales of the 'The Big Wet'. It was a change of pace on our little 'island' paradise, giving us time to explore, share resources, and throw a party. Any excuse!

We have continued with our regular columns, such as James' 'Third Kingdom', along with new ones to give a glimpse of community life. There are articles about koalas, frogs, cricket matches and community governance, beautifully wrapped up in pictures.

This weekend the next instalment of Romeo and Juliet continues, with yours truly making a theatrical debut, so make sure you book a ticket! Keep an eye out for Alby's call to all artists to submit their entry for Goolawah's 21st Art Exhibition. This will frame our celebrations for Goolie Week come October.

And finally, a big thank you to all our members who sent in contributions, and in particular to Julica, for all her encouragement and knowledge. Here's hoping we can manage four a year!

Enjoy, Jac

Calendar

All events below depend on COVID-19-regulations. Please check our website and phone tree for updates.

May

22nd 'Romeo & Juliet' Act II. Please book with Trinh or Noemi

June

5 Riverside Markets Kempsey 9.00am – 2.00pm

5 General Meeting – 9am

July

3 Riverside Markets Kempsey - 9am – 2pm

10 General Meeting – 9am

Note: meetings changed to second weekend from now

31 Nominations to become Board Director due.

August

7 Riverside Markets Kempsey 9.00am – 2.00pm

14 General Meeting – 9am

September

2 – 9 Slim Dusty Festival - Kempsey

October

12– 25 Goolawah Coop's 21st Birthday Art Exhibition

October is Goolie month – stay tuned!



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Let's Get Creative

Goolawah gets on stage

Proudly introducing Goolawah's recently formed drama crew that performed Act I of Shakespeare's *'Romeo and Juliet'* as a highlight of a closing 2020.

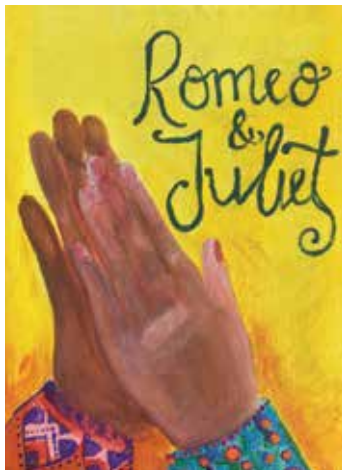
In front of a manifold audience, a motivated and spirited group of Goolawah first-time actors delivered a heart-felt, versatile and entertaining drama piece.

As a première act of a series of theatre performances, they will spread over the course of the next few years and involve a large number of members of our community, with Act 2 to be staged on May 22.

It has been a long-held vision to introduce more dramatic art into Goolawah's social life. As life is a big pot of feelings, we need space and grace to express ourselves through, for instance, the performing arts. This is the main aim of our theatre projects; encouraging self-expression while fostering a connecting group experience. We want people to practically experience the positive effect of creating something new together as well as offering

entertainment to the community and more creative events to gather and socialise.

Noemi Campisi



© Wayne Ellis



© Julica



© Jac Larsen

Goolawah Co-op's 21st Birthday Art Exhibition

We have booked the Macleay Valley Community Art Gallery at Gladstone for the 12th-25th October 2021. It's five months away however if you're going to create your masterpiece, it might just take that long! Drawings, paintings, photos, sculpture, poems and crafts are welcome. Sculpture can't be too big, under 2x1.5x1.5m and wall hangings need appropriate hooks.

The cost of the exhibition is \$306 for all of us (good value really), artists can chip in – the more the merrier. A few more dollars will be needed to have an opening nite with food and wine, and hopefully some Goolawah musos will come along to help celebrate.

Once again it's five months away, so relax and have fun creating. All good! Any further enquiries please text Alby on 0422362764

'Face with glasses' - Kevin Harper 29.3.2020



Men's Shed News



© Ralph v Huist

The building of the new disabled toilet continues to take shape as the Men's Shed crew get to work.

Plant Focus

Blueberry Ash

Eleocarpus reticularis

According to National Parks Wildlife Service of NSW, "The blueberry ash is a rainforest shrub that produces blue olive-shaped berries and spectacular bell-shaped flowers, which often appear on the plant together. It is a tall slender shrub or small tree found in rainforest, tall eucalypt forest and coastal bushland in eastern NSW, south-east Queensland and Victoria."



© Jac Larsen

On Goolawah, the Blueberry Ash pops up on the edge of swamps and moist areas, particularly near North Gate, signalling the emergence of rainforest developing. The food of many birds, and considered a fair bush tucker plant, it's a hardy and adaptable plant that may well prove to be a suitable replacement to the weedy Camphor Laurel. Growing to about 8m high and 3m wide it makes an attractive screen plant with its beautiful fragrant flowers, shiny blue fruit and decaying red leaves that persist on the bush. Keep moist in hot weather by mulching and watering when young.

The BIG Wet

March 2021 brought the largest flood seen on *Goolawah* in its twenty-year history, according to some long-term residents. Cutting off all road access to the outside world for nearly 10 days, boats were the only escape off the 'island'.

Some members raced home before the threat of being stranded in Kempsey looked a reality, whilst others left it too late to make a dash out. Being on relatively high ground, off the grid and with a strong community spirit, most of us were largely unaffected, unlike some of our low-lying neighbours.

The rhythm of life changed, and time was spent diverting water, organising food, exploring the 'canals', and having get togethers to keep the spirits up. Of course, some had to keep working!



Contributed by Alicia

James, Alicia and Lilyana paddling



© Wayne Ellis



© Wayne Ellis



© Wayne Ellis



Legendary Tales

Whispers began emerging of what people were getting up to, on and off the island. Two 'slab' parties were hosted by Erika and Sam giving all the chance to shake a tail feather and catch up around the fire.

Lexie and Craig organised a food and medical relief crew, raiding homes of those that had escaped, and distributing to those running low. Then everyone was invited to a big community dinner, sharing pots of delicious food and more stories of the flood.

Then word got around that Woolies were taking online orders to be delivered by the RFS on their big blue tractor. This was welcome news as food and liquor supplies started to dwindle. Even though a few orders went missing, we all knew then that we would make it through.



RFS tractor used for food delivery



Back canal to Limeburners



© Wayne Ellis

All roads lead to...

The best way to get around of course was by something that floated. Whether paddle boarding down North Gate through the National Park to Big Hill for a surf, or jumping in the tinnie to meet up with a mate to get desperate supplies from Creso, tales were emerging of expeditions off the 'island'.

Early on a few kayaked out to check out the scale of the disaster, avoiding the snakes and creatures looking for higher ground. One member boated off daily to assist the RFS with much needed help for our neighbours.

Soon Nevertire Rd, Illa Langhi Rd, Forest Way and nearly the back of everyone's block, became launching sites for cruisy canoe trips to explore the now flooded swamps of Goolawah and beyond. Who knows when we will get to do it all over again?



This way...



Cheers!!!

The BIG Wet (contd)



© Wayne Ellis

Riding the flow



© Alicia Fox

Frog Hollow Junction



© Alan Blake

All the essentials



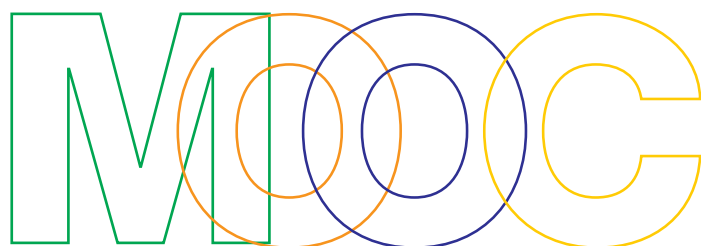
© Jac Larsen

Goolawah The University



Like many Goolies, I regularly consult *YouTube* for tips about building, and gardening, etc., but if you're keen on study with a bit more depth, MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) are free online courses that provide a flexible way to tap into university level content. You can either access just the content for free, or pay for a 'verified certificate of completion', which additionally lets you submit assessment tasks and get them marked, and get a grade that can contribute towards a degree.

There are thousands of such courses now available, provided by hundreds of universities around the world, covering the full range of tertiary subject areas (Humanities, Sciences, Arts, Design, Health, Environmental Studies and more). If you're curious, you can find general info at <https://www.mooc.org>, and start with a useful aggregation of courses at <https://www.edx.org>



massive open online courses

The beauty of MOOCs is that you can focus on one dedicated subject area, perhaps with a career change in mind, or you can touch lightly on a wide range of self-selected subjects, treating them as lifelong learning tools. The course materials, including videos, audio, lecture scripts, and readings, are usually downloadable, so you can work through them at your chosen pace.

You can take the course quite seriously, working through all the content, as I recently did with:

- AVAXX101 Antivaccination and Vaccine Hesitancy (see * below). (<https://www.edx.org/course/antivaccination-and-vaccine-hesitancy>) at The University of Queensland.

Or you might promiscuously skim through a course to cherry-pick just those bits that seem useful, as I recently did for:

- Drawing Nature, Science and Culture: Natural History Illustration 101 (<https://www.edx.org/course/drawing-nature-science-and-culture-natural-history>) at Newcastle University.
- Cannabis Cultivation and Processing (<https://www.edx.org/course/cannabis-cultivation-and-processing>) at DoaneX.
- Introduction To Music Theory (<https://www.edx.org/course/introduction-to-music-theory-2>) at BerkleeX.
- Sustainable Building Design (<https://www.edx.org/course/environmental-technologies-in-buildings>) at MIT.

If you're after a jazz interpretation of a sketch of a sustainable pot processing shed – turns out I'm highly qualified!

University courses used to be hidden behind gates, inaccessible to those without the money or entry requirements. It's a major democratising development that fantastic courses from world-leading universities are now freely available. I'm happy to chat with any Goolies interested and wanting to know more.

* I can highly recommend this course (AVAXX101) to anyone wanting to know more about vaccination, especially as we're on the cusp of the first Australia-wide pandemic vaccination program. This course is clear about the benefits of vaccination and the importance of getting as many people as possible vaccinated, and it explores a number of myths around vaccination. However, I was impressed by the fact that this course also rejects simplistic anti-vaxx vs pro-vaxx polarisation, approaches the idea of 'vaccine hesitancy' as a worthy focus of non-emotive empirical study, and portrays vaccine-hesitant parents as interested, listening, and engaging with the issues - that's why they're vaccine hesitant. I learned a lot from this.

Nick Reid

Kevin's Goolawah sketchbook

'The day the creek turned back on itself' – Killick Creek entrance, Crescent Head NSW.



ALBY'S WEED NOTES

Tropical Soda Apple

Plant from Hell - "Have you seen this plant?"

Solanum vizrum is an aggressive prickly perennial plant 1-2m high. It can adapt to almost any habitat. Tropical soda apple was first identified in Kempsey in August 2010. However, it was probably in the area for a number of years. The current state of that infestation is about 50 hectares.

The plant is a host for many diseases and pests of cultivated crops and contains *Solasodine* which is poisonous to humans. It reproduces through seeds and regenerates from root material. At 2m in height, it has prickles 12mm long, leaves 10-20cm long and 66-15mm

wide covered with short hairs. Flowers are white with 5 petals, immature fruit look like watermelons only much smaller and when mature are yellow, golf ball size producing up to 45,000 seeds. Animals spread seeds. Control is done manually with care to remove root matter, then needs deep burial or burning.

If you find this plant call the Weeds Hotline on 1800 680 244.

<https://weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/Details/186>

PS It was a bit too wet for lantana day. We will get to it another time.

Alwyn Hunter



Images courtesy of DPI NSW

Out on the tracks with Jac (Episode 2)

It's hard to imagine given the drought and the constant threat of fires in spring last year that it's become almost impossible to ride Rhonda the Honda out on the tracks of late. With all the rain *La Nina* has brought this time around, a flat-bottomed kayak is the preferred method of travel down what are now the Canals



Rhonda the Honda

of *Goolawah*. The rain is pummeling down as I write and has overflowed the rain gauge for the second time in 36 hours. And Nina is clearly not ready to give up yet. This is my first time flooded in and Red Hill is now an island as Frog Hollow goes under. So, whilst the trees soak it up and hold onto the earth as the wind lashes, I'll transport us back to sunnier times when the orchids were flowering and trekking was easier.

What's out there?

The Orchids

Along with daisies, orchids are the largest group of flowering plants on the earth, adapting to every habitat except glaciers; so far. They take up residence in just about every ecological niche, from the forks of trees high up in the canopy, to the sandy paths of *Goolawah*. One species of note, the rare NSW *Rhizanthella slateri*, lives its entire life underground. When it flowers, it pokes its heads up only a few millimetres above the soil and is usually covered by leaf litter. Its endangered status saw authorities divert the freeway near Bulahdelah to preserve a small colony found there.

Orchids have around 28,000 species in the wild and a whopping 100,000 cultivars and hybrids since cultivation, enchanting plant fanciers with their flamboyant and colourful flowers, large and small. As pollination is often sporadic, usually requiring specialised pollinators, flowers can remain open for weeks. Even so many will self-pollinate as they shrivel up ensuring their numerous microscopic seeds form and eventually blow off with the wind.

As with all flowering plants, orchids are classified based on their flowering parts, with 3 petals and 3 sepals, all sterile, with the labellum, a modified and enlarged petal, providing the perfect platform for any visiting pollinator. *Goolawah* has a variety of species and here are a few I have been able to find.

Buttercup Orchid

Cymbidium madidum

Australia has 3 species of *Cymbidium*, a favourite of home gardeners due to their cold tolerance. Ours however are at the lower end of their usual tropical range occurring only as far south as the Hastings River. Differing from *C. suave*, this species has pseudobulbs. I found this one in full flower with fruit growing on the side of a *Banksia*.



Hyacinth Orchid

Dipodium punctatum

Flying Duck Orchid

This fascinating terrestrial orchid was abundant this season on a sandy track north of Red Hill. Hundreds of 'flying ducks' bobbed around in swathes from August to December. The 'head' of the 'duck' snaps when a pollinator lands forcing it to escape past the anther increasing its chance of pollination.



Beard-orchid

Calochilus sp.

Slender Sun-orchid

This elusive terrestrial orchid flowers on sunny days, sometimes for only an hour at midday in dry warm weather. This slender herb can have numerous whitish to pink, blue or purple small flowers with a prominent yellow cleft on its hood. This one found in damp sandy soil in Tea-tree heath on a track near the 'Sand Pit'.



References: Fairley and Moore. 1995 *Native Plants of the Sydney District; An Identification Guide*.

The Big Bash at Goolawah

On Australia Day we held the first Big Bash cricket match between **Crazy Craig's Collective** vs. **Freaky Frank's Finest**. Craig won the toss and chose to bowl. There were plenty of wickets, runs, catches, wides, and fun to be had. The Freaks ended up with 69 runs off their 20 overs. The Crazy's came out to bat with 70 runs in mind. With more runs, wides, a hamstring, catches and close calls, it came down to 11 runs needed off 4 overs. The pressure was on both sides to perform with each wicket losing 3 runs. Somehow the Crazy's managed to get there winning by 1 run!

There were plenty of great players out the pitch putting in their all, but only one could be Player of the Match that being Sam the Eidgenosse Tosser.

I would like to thank everyone who played and attended the match and BBQ. I had so much fun playing with everyone and hope to do it again every year on Australia Day from now on.

Frank



© Jac Larsen



© Jac Larsen

Festival of Sam



© Griff

Player of the Match - Goolawah Big Bash 2021



Courtesy of Erika

Turning 40 with a ripping Red Hill party of paella, music and good friends



© Jac Larsen

Pouring the slab at first light. Let the building begin!!

The Third Kingdom of Goolawah Part III

These funky looking mushrooms, *Boletellus emodensis* or commonly called Shaggy Caps, can look like an almost psychedelic splash of colour on the otherwise dull brown green of the forest. Often the caps are a deep red shag pile spilling over bright yellow pours and when the flesh is broken or bruised, they quickly stain a deep blue colour.



All photos on this page © James Gallety

They are what is termed a bolete. Generally, what people identify as a mushroom is only one kind of mushroom, the agarics. These are the typical fleshy mushroom cap, with a stem and gills under the cap. Boletes differ from agarics by having fleshy pours instead of gills on the underside.

Around Goolawah, look out for Shaggy caps, on dead wood or growing out of the base of living trees, after the forest is soaked from heavy rains. I have spotted them, in the bush along the verge of Northgate road.



Slime Mould

I think this picture is of *Physarum polycephalum*. I've found this bright yellow slime popping up on Goolawah after weeks of heavy rain. It's a bright yellow blat! of slimy gelatinous stuff, that appears to creep over everything in a small confined patch, like someone was out spray painting the bush.

Slime moulds are fascinating organisms. They are single celled amoebas but can congregate and form a sprawling network of slime moulds that function as a single body, this is when it starts to get interesting. Scientists have found slime moulds are able to communicate between cells, respond to the environment, make intelligent decisions and perform complex problem-solving exercises. Fascinating when you consider they have no brain or central nervous system. In a famous slime mould experiment, *P.polycephalum* took just 24hrs to recreate the Tokyo subway system. In a maze model of Tokyo, scientists placed a grain of food at each node to represent the many cities and train stops within Tokyo. Initially the mould grew in all directions over the model, but once it found all the food sources it drew back and created a network of efficient pathways directly between the food sources. These pathways turned out to be very similar to the Tokyo subway system. A complex transportation network designed to efficiently ferry millions of people around the city and defiantly took the human engineers more than a day to design.

James Gallety

Shady Development Plans

Red Hill Oval is a place of huge potential for development... of the green kind.

Picture this; a noisy game of softball where a gaggle of enthused Goolies is taking place on Red Hill Oval. The perimeter is edged by an enchanting border of natives, flowering shrubs, fruit trees and shady benches for the spectators to enjoy the revelry in cool comfort.

There is a denser area of greenery to the south west of the Oval stretching from the mailbox to Waterview Lane. This is a wildlife corridor planted in 2021 that helps to protect and serve fauna of the local area. You can barely hear the game over the cacophony of koala calls.

This corridor lends itself as a wind break to those living behind it from the savage southerlies and comprises of shade giving, low flame natives and some fruit trees. Benches, sitting stones and logs are dotted throughout. It's all very pretty, lush and wonderful.

"Sounds great, but how can we make this a reality?" I hear you cry.

Like this :

- gather a group of development enthusiasts
- put together an awesome proposal and get approval
- plan the plantings carefully in stages together
- execute stages through various working bees

Too easy!

If you're keen to be part of this planting project or have ideas for other ways to improve Red Hill Oval please get in touch with me at ishbelkeenan@gmail.com/ phone 0437137351 or drop in at number 11.

Ishbel Keenan



© Jac Larsen

Meet the New Members

Sam Wong and Andrew Barson

Hello! It's raining, and what's better than reading a new member intro on a rainy day? Turning it into a quiz. So, here are some things about Sam, four of them are true and one is false. Guess away, me hearties.

- A) I like walking
- B) I hate smartwatches
- C) The last book I read was about octopuses and cuttlefish. Some squid made an appearance.
- D) I was born on an island
- E) I'm a fan of colonial boardgames

Sam

Hi Goolies,

Andrew here, a recent escapee from Sydney, and now a new resident at #7 - formerly Stu's place and now home to Sam and myself. I have had a bit of a dream to live off grid since my time living, working and travelling in Africa, and so I'm very glad to be here in *Goolawah* and the first week or so of settling in has been great. Thanks to all that have already made us feel so welcome. When not working and when it's not pouring with rain and flooding, I'd rather be mountain biking, in the surf, playing soccer or SUPball (a fantastic game invented in Manly, Sydney).

Cheers Andrew

Moving on

Since our last edition, two of our brightest sparks, long-term residents of Red Hill, Anne Wilson and Stu Pougher, have flown the *Coop* in search of drier and colder pastures, south of the border, Victoria way. Having made significant contributions to the culture and infrastructure of *Goolawah* over many years, the time has come to explore opportunities off the 'island'. We wish them both all the best in the years to come.

Who's calling out there?

We don't need the internet or an app to identify this friendly frog (picture) - the Green tree frog (*Litoria caerulea*), who is all around in the moment. But in this La Niña summer I often heard such a diverse concert out there, with many species I couldn't identify. Thankfully, the FrogID stopped me guessing about many of those knocking, barking and squeaking sounds in the night. It's a citizen's science project of the Australian Museum and I find it fun, interesting and educational.



© Julica

(<https://www.frogid.net.au>)

According to the museum, Australia has over 240 known frog species, almost all of which are found nowhere else in the world. Some species are flourishing, like the Striped Marsh Frog - this one we hear a lot this year, especially around smartly named Frog Hollow. But others have declined dramatically since the 1980s, and four have become extinct.



So FrogID is a national project that is helping scientists learn more about what is happening to Australia's frogs. All around the country, people are recording frog calls with nothing more than a smartphone. The results they feed back to the scientists supports their work, and they in return give feedback about the species you've heard.

This is how it works and why I love it:

You download the FrogID app and register your email and profile that includes location coordinates (not compulsory but useful for the biologists). When the frogs start calling you go as close as possible without disturbing them and record them for a minute or so via the app and submit the calls (whilst trying to avoid getting eaten by mozzies). Some days later, sometimes it takes a week or more, I get an email from the Frog-ID-team at the museum listing my calls with identifications.

So far in recent weeks they've identified, amongst others, recordings of these guys:

Tyler's tree frog, *Litoria tyleri*,
Striped rocket frog, *Litoria nasuta*,
Eastern Dwarf Tree frog, *Litoria fallax*,
Dusky toadlet, *Uperoleia fusca*
Peroni's tree frog, *Litoria peronii*
Graceful Tree Frog, *Litoria gracilentia*
Bleating Tree Frog, *Litoria dentata*
Common Eastern Froglet, *Crinia signifera*

Sometimes the team comes back with comments like "pretty nice concert you had out there" or they give advice like "try to go closer next time, there was a possibly rare species further away we couldn't identify clearly".

The FrogID Website has a few fun extras as well, like a map where you can zoom into locations in Australia and see which frogs have been heard there. And of course loads of information about the species, behaviour and their status (endangered or not).

Julica Jungehuelising

Considering the needs of your local frogs

With a list in hand and some information (and your own observations) about the habitat preferences of local frogs you can start planning what you need to do to create frog habitat on your property. Treefrogs prefer dense, smooth-textured foliage and moist microclimates (common green treefrogs often live in downpipes and dainty green treefrogs will hide (and call) from the thick foliage on the lower branches of trees and tall shrubs). For frogs that live on the ground, the type of soil is important. A child's sandpit full of moist river gravel is an ideal place for ornate burrowing frogs to dig in and striped marshfrogs will take up residence in an open compost heap.



© Jac Larsen

Generally, 'frog-scaping your garden' will involve providing ground covers and low shrubs with dense foliage on the ground. Low trees or tall shrubs will provide shade and help buffer frog habitat from temperature extremes and moisture loss. The ground layer should be covered with leaf litter and have rocks and logs for frogs to hide under.



© Julica

Frog habitat also needs to provide food and shelter for the insects and other

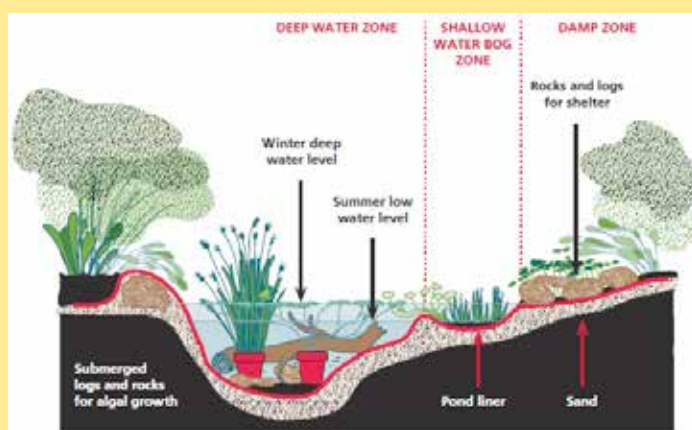
invertebrates that frogs will feed on. It is important to remember that if you want to attract frogs you will also need to attract the insects they live on.

<https://environment.des.qld.gov.au/wildlife/animals/living-with/frogs>

<https://www.sgaonline.org.au/frog-ponds/>

Try this Junior Landcare activity to design a frog friendly habitat...

https://juniorlandcare.org.au/learning_activity/creating-a-frog-friendly-habitat-design/



Protecting Koalas in the Hastings-Macleay area of NSW

North Coast Local Land Services (LLS) and the Hastings-Macleay Koala Recovery Partnership (HMKRP) have called for expressions of interest (EOIs) from landholders to enter into on-going conservation agreements (through the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust, BCT) that will protect key koala habitat in our region.

Grants of up to \$15,000 per annum for 3 years, with ongoing support thereafter will be awarded for activities such as;

- Weed control
- Fencing
- Pest animal control
- Re-vegetation
- Fire Management
- Other activities which maintain or enhance koala habitat restoration.

An EOI was completed by *Goolawah* and an Information Session for Landholders was scheduled for 18th February at Crescent Head Community Hall (6-8pm)

A meeting was hosted by Olivia Kemp of LLS (Coffs Office) and Rebecca Montague-Drake HMKRP (Koala Ecologist and local Creso resident) to address how to protect koalas in the Hastings-Macleay area. Also presenting were NSW - BCT employees, Simone Garwood and Matt Carr, along with the local Macleay Landcare rep, Andy, who manages the Land For Wildlife Project.

The meeting was well attended by 30 – 40 residents of the local area, including Peter, Julica and Craig from *Goolawah*.

* Note, it was made very clear that this grants program is completely funded by the Commonwealth Environment Restoration Fund (ERF) and the BCT's Voluntary Conservation Partners Program and does not involve ANY "offset funding".

Olivia Kemp - LLS

Why was the Crescent Head area picked?

After many ecologists and scientists did the required data collection and number crunching over an extended period of time, the "Crescent Head area" (east of Kempsey out to Belmore River and down the coast – east of Pacific Hwy to North Shore PMQ) ranked number 1 in the entire survey of NSW as an area of regional koala significance.

The successful applicants of the grants must have at least 10Ha of private land and have no native forestry agreements or commitment to an ongoing BCT agreement.



Pic drawn by Ric Larsen at primary school

Rebecca Montague-Drake - HMKRP

Rebecca spoke about koalas, their habitats and the threats they are currently facing – land clearing, dogs, disease and bushfires, to name a few! She also described how important koala scat is in determining if koalas are present and active on your land.

Next was an overview of koala food trees and how important it is to have at least 30% covering of Scribbly gums, Tallowwood, Swamp Mahogany and Forest Red gums. As well as important shelter/companion trees such as Cheese trees, Brushbox and Forest Oaks.

Soil fertility and moisture content was discussed and how research has found that the current National Parks area does not contain enough koala habitat – especially during times of stress (drought and bushfires etc).

It was a most informative presentation and I highly recommend the HMKRP website for more information and the "I spy koala app" where you can log sightings of koalas on our property or anywhere that you see them.

<https://apps.apple.com/au/app/i-spy-koala/id1474755197>

Matt & Simone - NSW BCT

The role of Voluntary Conservation Agreements (VCA), in a nutshell, is to "fill in the gaps" on private land where National Parks do not exist and to create those all-important wildlife corridors that link one NP to another. (The BCT does have an offset funded program which is quite small, and I got the impression from Matt and Simone that they were not so keen on this model of funding as well.)

Why have a VCA? It legally protects habitat for threatened

species and prohibits broadscale clearing. It is registered on the land title, meaning that it runs with the land, not its owners (is not revoked if the land is sold).

What are the benefits of a VCA?

- Access to grants such as this one and others in the future.
- There can be a reduction in Council rates and Land Tax.
- You become part of a network of other VCA's and have ongoing support.

What else do we need to provide? The program will assess applications based on the size of land and quality of habitat. We need to know, if going ahead with VCA, the exact area and where on our land it could be. The program is very flexible and allows for "staged planning" eg. Start with 50 or 100 Ha and increase, or not, in the future. It also does not matter if the land is already SEPP 14 wetland or even SEPP 44 koala habitat, these are irrelevant to the VCA. In other words, the wetland to the East of Red Hill or East of the "Beach Track" which we cannot use for developing anyway (SEPP 14) could be used for the VCA and grant money.

Andy - Macleay Landcare.

In Andy's words, "Land takes management – it doesn't do it by itself". He also described his program, Land for Wildlife, as "much more easy going". As such, grants of up to \$2000 are available, there are workshops on seed collection and "make a tree change for koalas". We can apply for this program as well as the VCA, they are not linked in anyway yet aim to achieve similar outcomes on a more local level.

What's the next step?

- As stated above, we, as a Community must decide if we are interested in the program and grants (based on the proposed works). *Note, we can pay ourselves to do work such as weed clearing and tree planting or pay outside contractors to do the work.
- Agree on area (size) and where (location on our property).
- An ecologist (probably Rebecca) then visits the site to assess the quality of habitat. If successful, the next stage of entering into VCA and applying for the grants begins.

Craig Singleman

Slow Down!

When life's going a rapid race, remember others get by at a much slower pace.

Beware the bandicoots who get out at dusk and remember our road



Koalas, koalas everywhere,
More than you could think.
Koalas, koalas everywhere,
even the kitchen sink.

They roam amongst the Tallowwood's.
Hiding from our sight,
As if they know we understood,
Their perilous plight.

As cute as they may seem,
They often surprise,
They growl and seem mean,
All before sunrise.

But with the rising of the sun,
They slow down their day
To rest from the night of fun,
Bum on a branch they stay.

As the day's heat unfolds,
Nature begins to rise,
To sounds of cicadas untold,
That reaches to its highs.

Kookaburras fly to branches high,
To swoop on unwary prey,
Fast enough to make you cry,
Then laughing about it all day.

But the Koala doesn't give a dam,
His drearily looks and stares,
He lifts his claws and hand,
As if to say who cares.

Yes, the Koala is a funny beast,
With fur and eyes so cute,
But just when you think the least,
He'll become quite a brute.

I've heard the story
From many a folk,
That makes you start to worry,
Be in reality it is just a joke.

That they jump from on highs,
On many a bloke,
To scratch out your eyes
But it is all a hoax.

Koalas koalas everywhere,
More than you could think,
So many you just can't compare,
It drives you to the brink.



Koala pix courtesy of Lexie

Wayne Skinner

REPORT on Governance Training

- 24th April 2021

Sam Byrne from the Co-op Federation <https://fed.coop/> presented to a group of 25 members. The Co-op Federation, are themselves a co-operative, supporting, representing and promoting co-operatives. Goolawah became a Co-op Federation member last year. For me the training really highlighted the importance of members needing to be informed, educated and involved to make the right decisions for the co-op and the community.

Sam started with the big picture giving an overview of the values and principles of co-ops <https://www.ica.coop/en>

My Key Takeaways (perhaps others would like to add)

#1 Choosing Directors “we need women on the Board” - Diversity is important so include people of different ages, skills, genders and personal values. Our Co-op needs women's voices and opinions on the Board, and we should make a conscious decision to make this happen. Calling for nominations prior to the AGM is simply good practice, and we could consider renumeration our directors e.g. allowing Work Claims

#2 The Board “all members should support and respect our Directors” - Our rules and the Co-operative National Law (CNL) determine the directors' powers and duties.

They have a legal duty to serve to the best of their ability, represent the interests of members impartially and put members' interests first, be accountable for financial management, and ensure members are informed while not disclosing confidential information. Portfolios are a great idea but all directors still have a collective responsibility.

#3 Meetings “our meeting structure needs review”

- After the presentation some of us spoke to Sam about our meeting structure of 10 GMs, the AGM and Board meetings. This practice is not ideal. There is no need to have this many formal meetings. Three GMs, an AGM, and Special General and Board meetings as required is sufficient. Board meetings may be open to the membership and provide an excellent opportunity for learning to be a director and could be a meeting for prospective members to attend as a requirement of the process. Adequate minutes are important for all meetings. Our practice of circulating minutes among the Board prior to distributing to members is viewed as good practice.

#4 Objectives, Rules, Policies “they are friends needing regular review” - Sam is able to provide advice on our Rules and policies. He has great depth of

knowledge regarding the CNL and the Regulations, and can provide examples of policies working well in other land sharing co-operatives. Surely, it's time we acted on policy reviews we started some time ago! Proxy voting can be limited to only closed proxies with known resolutions prior to GMs. Sam commented he would never give an open proxy.

Objectives is Rule 5 Objects in our Rules. We can tick off a. and b. which only leaves c. To preserve and protect flora and fauna on land acquired. This Rule definitely needs review!



© Jac Larsen

#5 Conflict Resolution “good culture takes time to build but can be lost rapidly” - We were almost out of time when this session was introduced. A Code of Conduct is very important, and it is equally important to have consequences for members who breach the Code. Under the Law consequences may include a maximum fine of \$1,000, suspension of members, and in very serious cases expulsion.

I've started getting the Justice Connect newsletter - sounds boring I know (I also get the Sustainable Gardening newsletter). They are offering a free webinar 'Avoiding & Managing Disputes in Not-for-profit Organisations' Tuesday 8 June 12.45pm. It could help us with our policy and procedure. <https://www.nfplaw.org.au/avoiding-managing-disputes-not-profit-organisations>

#6 Power and internet “group education, webinars, movies, video conferencing, communication” - While Sam was presenting the power kept switching off and stopping the data projector (a bit embarrassing really). I'd certainly support a proposal for a better community power system, and Camp Kitchen internet would open up so many opportunities for members.

By Denise Cobourne

The Two of Us - Tips on a Perfect Marriage

Last year Belinda and Roger celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. To mark the occasion, Anna asked a few questions to discover their secret to a successful golden jubilee.

How did you first meet? And what was it that made this meeting memorable?

Belinda – We met at the Horsham town-hall at a dance. It was the first time I was allowed to go with my brother as my minder.

Roger – Yes it was the town hall dance. I nearly didn't go, as a truck tyre I was pumping up on the farm, blew up and nearly killed me. I was badly bruised! We both remember the first kiss. It was in front of the Church of Christ on the long walk home.

How many years have you been together?

Since January 1970, 52 years.

What do you think is the secret to your happiness?

Shared aims and goals, to be able to compromise and never go to bed angry with each other.

What are the qualities that you value in each other?

Opposites attract. Roger is more spontaneous and reckless, whilst Belinda is the calming influence.



Why I Love Living on Goolawah

Since I was 18, I'd lived a somewhat nomadic existence, never staying more than 2 years in one place wherever I was around the world.

Finding *Goolawah* and moving here in 2014, was truly a dream come true. Finally, a place to live out mine and James' eco, permaculture, natural building dreams in the kind of community we had been seeking. We have the freedom to be creative and experimental. We are surrounded by likeminded people to share ideas with, and bring them to life. There are so many different talents, skills and motivations, working to grow and evolve our community.

From the beginning people showed community spirit, offering their shower, a cup of tea and chat, tools, and many helping hands on our straw bale build. I love the opportunity to share resources and knowledge.

Alicia Fox



The Sunday Morning Yoga Crew having chai



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Giant's Corner

Newsletter Team

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