

North Coast Landcare Forum

March 2013 - Angourie Rainforest Resort

Program Thursday 7th March 2013

9.30am – 3.00pm

9.30am - 10.00am	Registration and Morning Tea	
10.00am - 10.50am	Opening - Auditorium	
10.00am - 10.10am	Welcome and acknowledgement of traditional owners – Master of Ceremonies – Colin Mathews – Deputy Chair NCRLN	
10.10am - 10.25am	Winners 2012 National Landcare Awards; South West Rocks Dune Care and Bush Futures share their experience with us.	
10.25am -10.35am	Landcare Call For Action and Australian Landcare Council – representative	
10.35am -10.45am	Landcare NSW - Tim Beshara	
Bangalow Room	Point Venue Room	
11.00am -12.30am	Concurrent Sessions	
Presentation of the Northern Rivers Landcare Award Nominees; Award Categories and nominees to be confirmed	Presentation of the Northern Rivers Landcare Award Nominees; Award Categories and nominees to be confirmed	
Moderator - John Turnbull, representing 2012 National Landcare Award Winner The Bush futures Project.	Moderator - Bob Jarman, 2012 National Landcare Awards Finalist.	
12.30am - 1.30pm	Lunch	
Bangalow Room	Point Venue Room	Banksia Room
1.30pm - 3.00pm	Concurrent Sessions	
Eco Farming Moderator – Alan Coates	Connecting Landscapes Moderator to be confirmed	Connecting Landcare Moderator - Tim Beshara Landcare NSW
Eco Farming for Livestock Productivity '13 Steps to Optimal Livestock Productivity' Jerry Brunetti	Pest Suppressive Landscapes Dr Nancy Schellhorn - CSIRO	Social Media Kim Honan – ABC Rural
	Clarence Valley Biodiversity Fund Projects Julie Mousley - NRM Project Officer	
"Redbank "Organic Dairy & Egg Farmer Chris Eggert	Weed Action Program Reece Luxton - North Coast Weed Advisory Committee	
Pasture Ecologist and Holistic Management Educator Dr Judi Earl	Weeds of National Significance in the North Coast Andrew Petroeschovsky - NSW DPI	Connecting with farmers Danica Leys - AgChatOZ
	NOROC Wild Dog Control Program Wendy Gibney	
Panel Discussion	Panel Discussion	Panel Discussion

Northern Rivers Landcare Awards Gala Dinner Thursday 7th March 2013

5.30pm – 10.00pm

5.30pm – 10.00pm	Awards presentation and dinner
Auditorium	
5.30pm – 5.35pm	Welcome and acknowledgement of Traditional Landowners Colin Matthews, Vice Chair NCRLN
5.35pm – 6.15pm	'Food as Medicine' Jerry Brunetti
6.30pm – 8.00pm	Dinner
8.00pm – 9.00pm	Awards Presentation Moderators - Colin Matthews and Bob Jarman Presenters – Kim Honan and Rod McKelvey
9.00pm – 9.10pm	Closed by National Landcare Council David Walker – Chair National Landcare Council
9.10pm – 10.00pm	Local acoustic band The Atoms

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Program Friday 8th March 2013

8.30am – 1.30pm

Bangalow Room	Point Venue Room	Bus Tour
8.30am – 10.30am Concurrent Sessions		
Eco Farming Moderator – Dave Forrest	Carbon Farming Futures Carbon Farming Initiative / Biodiversity Fund / Action on the Ground	Local Coastal Project Bus Tour Departing from front of office at 8.30am Moderator – Julie Mousley – NRM Project Officer
Eco Farming for Soil Health 'Soil as a Super Organism' Jerry Brunetti	CFI Update Jodie Gager– Regional Landcare Facilitator, North Coast Regional Landcare Network A commercial experience developing a CFI methodology Stuart Larsson - Mara Seeds	Saving Spooky Beach Access and the Blue Pools Project Angourie Coastcare Group & Clarence Valley Council
Organic/ holistically managed beef grazing Glenn Morris	The Carbon and Nitrous Oxide story Lukas Van Zwieten NSW DPI	
Analysing soil for organic and biological farming systems Graham Lancaster, Soil Chemist, Director Environmental Analysis Lab, Southern Cross Uni Biological farming for pecan production Geoff Bugden	Action on Ground project Northern Rivers Overview of North Coast wide project Simon Proust NRCMA Overview of project in Casino/Kyogle area Bob Jarman, Northern Landcare Support Services On farm experience- Michael Sneath, Dairy farmer Kyogle	Yamba beaches: Whiting, Turners & Pippie Yamba Landcare Group and Clarence Valley Council
Panel Discussion	Panel Discussion	Returning to venue for morning tea at 10.30am
10.30am -11.00am Morning Tea		
11.00am -12.30pm Closing - Bangalow Room		
11.00am -11.40am 'Understanding how nature works' – Jerry Brunetti		
11.40am -12.00pm 20 minutes Q&A		
12.00pm -12.30pm Video case study introductions and closing words - Colin Matthews and John Williams, Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority - Board Chairman		
12.30pm -1.30pm Lunch		

North Coast Landcare Forum

March 2013 - Key note speakers

Eco Farming



Jerry Brunetti is an internationally recognised speaker on topics that include soil fertility, animal nutrition, livestock health and human health. Jerry often speaks to audiences about the relationship of “Food as Medicine” and “Farm as Pharmacy.” The links between healthy soil, truly nutritious food and profitable, sustainable farming are clearly evident in Jerry’s personal and professional experiences. His skill for communicating this to people has won him extensive praise from farmers, sustainable farming organizations and holistic health professionals.

Prior to launching Agri-Dynamics, Jerry studied Animal Science at North Carolina State University and then moved to western Virginia to run a cow/calf operation. He served as Regional Dairy Director of the National Farmers Organization in the Northeast for five years. Amongst many other positions Jerry is currently on the board of Pennsylvania Association of Sustainable Agriculture.

Information on Jerry and his presentations is borrowed from ACRES USA.

Soil as a Superorganism - by Jerry Brunetti

Biological systems are responsible for making the wealth that we call the soil. Eco-farmers tend to fixate on the quantifiable subjects of mineral balance, levels of biological activity, etc. But there are large numbers of species of micro life with unknown roles in the soil. When isolated for study, they lose their functionality. Likewise, we can quantify the mineral levels in soil, plants and animals, but do not understand how they function in combination with the biology of the soil. Ecosystems are much larger than we can conceive, and they spawn the alchemical magic that we can only witness. Drawing from the wisdom of Kervran and others, Brunetti will explore and pay homage to the superorganism that we call soil.

Food as Medicine - by Jerry Brunetti

Hear how to market the real attribute of your farm production: its superior healthfulness. The health and vitality contained in the fresh, nutrient-dense production of your farm offers benefits no supermarket can touch -- and consumers are willing not only to pay, but to travel to your farm to buy from you. Jerry Brunetti, a livestock nutraceutical specialist, weaves traditional and cutting-edge knowledge to make the case that farmers are the doctors of the future. Growing isn't enough -- learn how to sell the benefits of what you grow. Don't talk about eggs, talk about omega fats, fat-soluble vitamins, lecithin, enzymes, vitamin A levels, and more. Understand the nutrient-dense components in the food you produce, and the history behind them.

13 Steps to Optimal Livestock Productivity - by Jerry Brunetti

Whether dairy or beef, a healthy herd begins in such keystone concepts as biodiversity on the farm, acid/alkali balance in feedstuffs, forage quality, and more. Eco-consultant and livestock feed specialist Jerry Brunetti details 13 keynotes essential for a successful livestock operation. A popular speaker at eco-farming events across North America, Jerry Brunetti explains the laws of nature in terms farmers can embrace, and doles out specific steps you can utilize on your farm right away.

Understanding How Nature Works - by Jerry Brunetti

There is a connectedness of all of nature. From the cellular level up, all parts of nature talk to each other resulting in — literally — organs of the body of a farm. This master teacher, consultant, and input formulator will explain nature’s archetype. Learn how to recognize and strive for a level of symbiosis on your farm — a symbiosis that can’t even be quantified, that is true healing at every level. By understanding the interplaying dynamics of the various materials and natural processes, farmers can make better decisions about which products will work for their particular situation — both functionally and economically. Only when you understand the inter-connected dynamics at play on your farm will you be able to truly work with the full range of nature’s wonders.

Chris Eggert - Redbank Farm, Organic Dairy Farmer and Organic, Free Range Egg Producer

Chris and Ann Eggert are fourth generation farmers at Wauchope. The Eggerts, along with Chris' parents, run a 170 mixed-breed milking herd producing one million litres on a pasture-based diet. They also produce their own compost which is added to by their 2000 laying hens, which they also manage?

The decision to go organic was triggered by high input costs, high stress, stock health problems and high vet bills.

'Biological farmers are trying to look after the biology, in the soil, in the air... I am trying to look after the biology in the animal's stomach just like I am trying to look after the biology in the earth's stomach, which is the soil.'

Chris Eggert

Chris and Ann are Regional Landcare Award winners.

Dr Judi Earl - Agricultural and Information Monitoring Services (AIMS); Holistic Management Educator; Board of Directors, Holistic Management International; NRM Consultant

Judi gained a PhD in pasture ecology, when she conducted the first studies describing the benefits to pasture composition from planned grazing. She has extensive experience in how grasslands and pastures respond to grazing and fertility management and is a widely respected speaker on these matters.

Judi's main area of interest is working with land managers to enhance the condition and productivity of their land through a better understanding of ecosystem function and more effective utilisation of available resources.

Glenn Morris – General Manager, FigTrees Organic Farms

Glenn uses Holistic Management principles in managing the award winning, organically certified, grazing properties, Wilton Park at Grafton and Billabong at Inverell.

The cattle are grazed exclusively on pastures to ensure the nutritional quality and flavour is of the highest possible standard but also that the cattle are raised ethically in a natural environment.

'Environmental stability, production efficiency, biodiversity enhancement and social justice are all achievable outcomes under a new revolution, where the enhancement of soil humus is the first priority of a sustainable society.' Glenn Morris

Graham Lancaster – Managing Director, Environmental Analysis Laboratory

Graham started in Environmental Science moving into Analytical Chemistry in the early 1990's, setting up the Environmental Analysis Laboratory (EAL) in Southern Cross University, Lismore, NSW.

EAL supports research at the University but is subsidised from the commercial laboratory operations. In the mid 90's EAL moved into specialised agricultural analysis primarily related to organic and biological farming. The soil, leaf and compost analysis is designed to enhance soil management and encourage reduced or targeted application of inorganic fertilisers. Good quality composts are always encouraged for the ability to increase soil carbon, nutrient holding capacity and biological activity.

Geoff Bugden – Wilson River Pecans, Lismore

Geoff and Debbie Bugden produce pecans on their farm at Boatharbour (near Lismore) employing biological farming principles. A sign in a window introduced Geoff to the idea of biological farming and a couple of courses later he was converted. *'I learnt to work with nature and not against it. Our goal is to obtain optimum soil pH, biology and healthy mineralised soils. We wish to do this without the use of chemical fertilizers.'* Geoff Bugden

Geoff plants green manure crops consisting of Soya Beans, Sorghum, Red Clover, White Clover and Haifa Clover along with three different types of brassica (turnips) in the inter-row areas (Geoff refers to this area as the 'sacred root-friendly zone') of the orchard. He uses this mix for a complete result of nitrogen fixation, deep rooted plants and high cellulose producing plants for fungal food.

Connecting Landscapes



Dr. Nancy Schellhorn– CSIRO Pest Suppressive Landscapes

Nancy Schellhorn is Leader for the Spatial Ecology team in CSIRO's Entomology Division. Capturing the ecosystem services of pest control from native vegetation is a topic that Nancy and her colleagues at the CSIRO have been researching. *'The majority of our work focuses on meeting the challenge of maintaining and growing agricultural productivity while minimizing our impact on natural resources. To meet this challenge we have developed and advanced the concept of Pest Suppressive Landscapes (PSL), which provides a way of measuring, designing and managing agricultural landscape mosaics for productivity and biodiversity. Understanding how pests and natural enemies are using crops and native vegetation will help us design our future cropping systems for multiple benefits including better pest and pollination services, enhanced biodiversity, and profitability.'*

Julie Mousley - NRM Project Officer Clarence Valley Biodiversity Fund Projects

Julie is a Natural Resource Management Project Officer and will be presenting on two current Biodiversity Fund projects; The Clarence Valley Biodiversity Resource Support Project (Clarence Landcare) and The Living Clarence – Floodplain Corridors Project (Clarence Valley Council).

Using local native plants for revegetation projects contributes significantly to improving biodiversity. By understanding the natural habitat of native plants we can improve our chances of reinstating native vegetation. Species selection for each site is determined by assessing the many factors that influence tree growth, the purpose of the planting and a whole range of other considerations.

Reece Luxton - North Coast Weed Advisory Committee, Weed Action Program

North Coast Weed Advisory Committee and Senior Environmental Officer (weed management) with Clarence Valley Council, Reece will be delivering a project presentation on the Weed Action Program.

"The Weeds Action Plan replaces a range of noxious-weed grant programs provided by the NSW Government to local authorities, and are targeted to ensure that key stakeholders meet targets outlined in the NSW Invasive Species Plan. This presentation will identify some of the targets including identifying and manage high-risk weed species and entry pathways within the NCWAC region; develop and implement early weed detection capabilities; assist in the timely detection of new weed incursions in the NCWAC region; increase community acceptance of, and involvement in, effective weed management; prioritise weed management programs to where benefits are greatest."

Andrew Petroeschovsky – DPI, Weeds of National Significance in the North Coast

Andrew is the National Aquatic Weeds Coordinator, NSW Department of Primary Industries. Andrew's presentation is about Weeds of National Significance (WONS) on the North Coast. Since 2001 the Weeds of National Significance program has delivered a national approach to managing 32 of Australia's worst weeds. As National Aquatic Weeds Coordinator for the last nine years Andrew has overseen implementation of the national strategic plans for the aquatic weeds of national significance, which includes water hyacinth, alligator weed, cabomba, salvinia, and more recently sagittaria and water hyacinth. Andrew has worked with stakeholders across Australia to implement on-ground, planning, education and research initiatives to help better manage these aquatic weeds. Andrew's talk will be on the Weeds of National Significance initiatives on the NSW North Coast.

Wendy Gibney - NOROC Wild Dog Control Program

Wendy is the Wild Dog Education Project Officer for NOROC. This project is a partnership between seven Northern Rivers Councils, the Livestock health and Pest Authority and National Parks. Wendy will give a short presentation on how wild dogs and roaming domestic dogs are impacting on livestock and wildlife.

Connecting Landcare



Kim Honan - Local North Coast Rural Reporter with ABC Radio.

Take a good look because chances are this is the last time you'll see Kim Honan in a dress. She's slipped on the jeans, pulled on the boots and is ready to hit the road to bring you the Rural Report.

Kim has enjoyed the Mid North Coast laidback lifestyle since early 2005. Before joining Rural Reporter she produced the regional North Coast Afternoons program.

Her career with the ABC started in 2002 at 1233 ABC Newcastle covering the station's inaugural music awards. An internship field reporting followed, and then she took up a position as weekend producer. She has also filed reports for The World Today, Triple J's

Hack and Radio National's The Sports Factor.

In 2006 Kim was awarded Radio Journalist of the Year and Radio Current Affairs Reporting, Feature or Special at the Northern NSW Journalism Awards for her series Welcome Valley documenting the history of refugees in the Hunter from 1949 - 2005.

Tim Beshara is the Executive Officer of Landcare NSW.

Tim works with the members and Executive of Landcare NSW to give a voice to all the landcarers that are improving the health of both our environment and productive landscapes across the state.

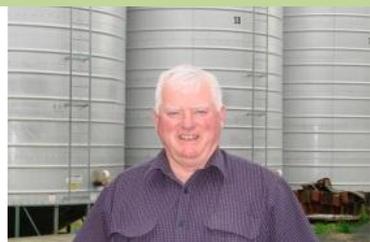
Danica Leys – AgChatOZ, Connecting with farmers

Danica has a raft of professional experience across a number of business sectors, although her background and future are firmly footed in the agricultural industry. She is currently an industrial relations solicitor working for farm lobby group, NSW Farmers.

Danica holds a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (Honours) from the University of Sydney as well as a Bachelor of Laws from the University of New England. She was previously an agronomist and territory sales manager based in, and covering areas of, Central West and North West of NSW. She is a Board Member for Australian Women in Agriculture and a member of Sydney University Agriculture Alumni Committee.

Danica has recently been awarded the prestigious RIRDC NSW/ACT Rural Women's Award for her work establishing "AgChatOZ", which has been a great launching pad for the association to be able to increase participation levels across the country.

Carbon Farming Futures



Stuart Larsson is Managing Director of Mara Seeds

Stuart is well known around the region for his organic beef and soybean operation at Mallanganee. The past 20 years has seen his business grow from a family-run operation to one which employs 17 people. Now they run 600 breeding cows, have 500 hectares of soybeans, 200 hectares of pasture seeds and produce over 6,000 tonnes of windrow aerobic compost each year.

Jodie Gager - North Coast Regional Landcare Network, CFI Update

Jodie is the Regional Landcare Facilitator for the Northern Coast Regional Landcare Network and has been delivering the communication program for the Carbon Farming Initiative in the Northern Rivers.

Dr Lukas Van Zwieten – NSW DPI, The Carbon and Nitrous Oxide story

After obtaining his PhD from the University of Sydney in 1995, Lukas joined NSW Department of Primary Industries, where he now holds the position of Principal Research Scientist in Climate and Soils. He is an adjunct Professor in Rural Climate Solutions at the University of New England and supervises numerous PhD students. He is a Churchill Fellow and Scientific Panel Member of the International Biochar Initiative. His work on biochar has been shown on ABC's Catalyst, Landline, the Discovery Channel and the Robyn Williams science show. He has published over 50 scientific papers and leads research on biochar and its potential for reducing emissions of soil greenhouse gases and its role in developing food security.

Simon Proust – NRCMA. **Action on Ground** project Northern Rivers, Overview of North Coast wide project

Simon Proust has worked for the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority or its predecessors for the past 28 years across the North Coast, Southern Tablelands, North and Central West regions of NSW. In that time he has worked as a Soil Conservationist, Property Management Planner, Facilitator and part time TAFE teacher and currently works as a Catchment Coordinator with the NRCMA based at Coffs Harbour.

Bob Jarman - Northern Landcare Support Services. **Action on Ground** project Northern Rivers, Overview of project in Casino/Kyogle area

Bob has been the Landcare Coordinator/ Community Support Officer in the Richmond/Kyogle area for 14 years. A dairy farmer for 20 years, he is now running a small beef cattle herd and cropping based on biological farming principles.

Michael Sneath – Dairy farmer. **Action on Ground** project Northern Rivers, on farm experience

Michael is a young dairy farmer and partner in the family farm located at Fawcetts Plain, Kyogle. Michael is one of the participants in the Action on Ground project using organic inputs and testing Nitrous Oxide emissions against traditional inputs.

For further information please contact your local Landcare Network or organisation.



Regional Landcare Facilitator

Hosted by North Coast Regional Landcare Network Incorporated
for the Northern Rivers region

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