

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world!
~Anne Frank~

Hello Landcarers & Friends...

Christmas Day is upon us and just a friendly reminder that the LRC will be closing at 12pm tomorrow Friday 23 December 2011 and will resume for regular business on Monday 30 January 2012. On behalf of the entire Landcare Resource Centre office and ground crew, we thank you for all the effort, support and contributions for 2011 and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and an exciting, healthy and happy New Year! Whatever it is you will be doing, do it safe and enjoy the break! We look forward to working with you again in 2012, which will have an extra day this year as a leap year! From the photograph below we can see that Santa has helpers in all forms and our Green Team member, Paul will be definitely on Santa's good list!



“Yes Santa, I’ve been watching for you and all the Lake Macquarie Landcarers have been working hard again this year!”

Thank you for a fabulous 2011!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us at the Lake Macquarie Landcare Resource Office

Landcare Events & News & Further Info visit www.lakemacquarielandcare.org for local happenings where the LRO Bulletin and the Summer edition of the Urban Landcarer can be downloaded. For National Landcare news & events visit www.landcareonline.com.au

Wicked Weeds of the Week - Will be back next year together with the Friday Fools Fact Sheets and more! Email or post through any contributions you would like to add to this weekly distribution email in 2012.

Funding opportunities for Landcare groups 2012 – Various grants and closing dates below

If your Landcare group is interested in gaining funding for a project on your Landcare site, please fill out a Resource Request form so we can discuss your options with you, and organise permission from the Landholder. See below for available grants available to apply for:

1. Biodiversity Fund – Applications close 5pm AEDT Tuesday 31 January 2012

The Australian Government Biodiversity Fund applications round is now open and closes 5pm AEDT Tuesday 31 January 2012. Application guidelines and the online application form are available at www.environment.gov.au/cleanenergyfuture

The Biodiversity Fund will invest in three main environmental themes:

- Biodiverse plantings - Funding will help land managers increase native vegetation on their property through planting mixed vegetation species appropriate to the region. This will help build landscape resilience and improve ecosystem connectivity.
- Protecting and enhancing existing native vegetation – Funding will support land managers to protect, manage and enhance existing native vegetation on their land for its carbon storage and biodiversity benefits.
- Managing threats to biodiversity – Funding will help land managers control the spread of invasive pests and weeds through a connected landscape.

2. Caring for our Country Business Plan Targets – Open Call - Applications close on 9 February 2012

Applications are invited through the open call investment process for projects over \$20,000 (GST exclusive).

Caring for our Country funding is available for successful projects that will contribute to the achievement of the following targets (as listed in the 2012–13 business plan).

- Community skills, knowledge and engagement
- Biodiversity and natural icons
- Coastal environments and critical aquatic habitats
- Sustainable farm practices

Further details and the online application form are available from the Caring for our Country website at:

www.nrm.gov.au

3. Environmental Trust - Community Bush Regeneration Large Project Stream Applications close 31 January 2012

The aim of this program is to facilitate projects run by local community groups to undertake large, long term bush regeneration projects. This funding stream will fund local community groups (such as Landcare and Bushcare) over a period of six years for well designed larger scale projects where the groups can demonstrate their capacity to maintain the project and continue the regeneration subsequent to the funding period. It also aims to improve the capacity of communities and organisations to protect, restore and enhance the environment by strengthening local community organisations whose primary purpose is to undertake works in their local area. Successful projects will commence from 1 July 2012 and run for a maximum of six years. For more information visit:

www.environment.nsw.gov.au

Sensational Saturday Sessions for 2012 - Each second Saturday of the month at the LRC

From Saturday 11 February 2012, and continuing each second Saturday of the month, the Landcare Resource Centre will be hosting informal and informative programs based on themes relating to Landcare. Guest speakers, presentations, site visits and general discussions will form the agenda for these get togethers. The first theme will be about the weather and more information is included in the Urban Landcarer newsletter, which can be downloaded from the website. These sessions are free to Landcarers and due to limited space, bookings are essential and allocation will be as a first come basis. Email or call the LRO to guarantee you a place.

Possum and Bird Boxes for Landcare sites - Available at the LRO

Handcrafted by our talented volunteers and awaiting collection from the LRO is some beautiful Possum and Bird Boxes to add to your Landcare site. Call in and pick one up while they last!

Next Landcare Team Leader Training (TLT) Saturday 18 February 2012 1pm-4pm at the LRC

These sessions are held on the 2nd last Saturday of each month to provide free training to develop your skills and knowledge as a successful Landcare group leader. As well as learning valuable environmental and safety information, you are awarded with a TLT certificate and educational resources to assist with your Landcare site. The first TLT session for 2012 will be February 18. Bookings essential to LRO

Hey Junior Landcarers! How's your watermelons coming along!

Remember to update your progress on the Yates Junior Landcare Challenge website to show everyone how your watermelon is growing. You can update your progress as many times as you like. Be sure to enter your final measurements before the challenge closes at 5pm (EST) on Friday 24th February 2012, to go into the running to win one of the awesome prizes!

Apply now for Riverprize 2012 (Won by Lake Macquarie local Jeff Jansson in 2008)

Applications are now being sought for The Thiess International and Australian Riverprizes, which are awarded for excellence in river management. If your group or a group you know is involved in river, wetland, lake or estuary restoration or protection, you can enter. In 2012, Thiess International and Australian Riverprize winners and finalists will each receive a trophy and a cash prize. A winning grant will be made available to the winner of each category, to facilitate their knowledge and expertise to be shared. The application process is in two stages. Stage one is the initial application whereby the forms are downloaded from the IRF website and submitted electronically by 16 March 2012. A short list will then be selected and applicants will be notified in early April as to whether they have reached stage two of the application process. The short-listed applicants will then be sent the Stage two Riverprize application to complete and submit by 15 June 2012. Two publications, River Heroes (case studies of our Riverprize Alumni) and River Journeys (celebrating the personal stories of each Riverprize winner) are available for information on the achievements of past Riverprize winners. Finalists will be announced in mid July 2012 and the winners will be announced at the 15th International Riversymposium, which takes place in Melbourne from 8-11 October 2012. For more information and an application form visit: www.riverfoundation.org.au/riverprize_entering.php

LMCC Events & News & Further Info visit www.lakemac.com.au

Summer Coastal Activities 2012

Includes guided walks and activities in some of Lake Macquarie's diverse and unique coastal and aquatic environments. Beginning Monday 9 January through to Saturday 28 January 2012 and its free. For bookings, phone Council on 02 4921 0333 and for more information visit www.lakemac.com.au

Be Ready - Be Safe - A great weather warning tool for Landcarers and others

Through a new campaign, Be Ready Be Safe, Council is raising awareness in the community of the importance of preparing for natural disasters and emergencies. The first step is to sign up to the Australian Early Warning Network (EWN), which sends free emergency alerts for events such as severe storms, hail, flash floods, and damaging winds, as well as heatwaves, total fire bans, and bushfire threats.

You can receive warning alerts via email or text message to give you time to prepare for the weather, even if it is just moving your car into the garage to avoid hail damage. Thanks to a new partnership between Council and EWN, this service is now free to local residents. Sign up at www.lakemac.com.au

Lake Macquarie Draft Cycling Strategy 2011-2021

Council is seeking feedback on the Lake Macquarie Draft Cycling Strategy 2011-2021. For more information, go to: www.lakemac.com.au/page.aspx?pid=1302&vid=13 where you can download copies of the Draft Cycling Strategy, find out how to make a submission, and find details of information stalls coming up in January.

Community Groups and Schools to Benefit from Environmental Grants

Nine Lake Macquarie community groups and schools have been recommended by Council to receive more than \$25,000 in funding through LMCC Environmental Sustainability Grants program. Each of the groups to receive funding showed evidence of matching dollar-for-dollar funds, including in-kind support such as time and labour. The second round of environmental sustainability grants for 2011/2012 will open in January 2012 and close on Monday 5 March 2012. For a list of the schools and their projects visit: <http://www.lakemac.com.au/page.aspx?pid=62&vid=1&nid=1398&npt=details>

Treating Infestations of Aquatic Weeds Until January 31 2012

A number of areas throughout Lake Macquarie will be treated for aquatic weed infestations. For a list of these sites visit: www.lakemac.com.au/page.aspx?pid=101&vid=10&npt=detail&aid=1086

Get Your Two Free Native Plants when joining Backyard Habitat for Wildlife – with almost 500 members

Have you joined Backyard Habitat for Wildlife but not yet received your two free native plants?

Members are invited to pick up two native tubestock from the Landcare Resource Centre on the dates below.

Council staff will be there to assist you with your plant selection. Pick up times are the first Monday of the month (except January), from 8:30am – 12pm Monday 6 February 2012; Monday 5 March 2012; Monday 2 April 2012

Please spread the word about this fantastic program, and let everyone know they can join up by:

- downloading a membership form at www.lakemac.com.au/backyard-habitat-for-wildlife
- completing a membership form at Council's Customer Service, 126-138 Main Road, Speers Point

- completing a membership form from the Lake Macquarie Landcare Resource Centre, Teralba

Extra Environmental Events & News & Further Info...

National Parks and Wildlife Discovery tours – School holiday program for January

Thought about what you can do with the children for January that won't cost the earth! Try an educational and enjoyable outing with a NPWS Discovery Ranger. They won't even realise they are learning! Visit: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/nationalparks/tours.aspx and click on a location.

Call for Nominations for - Threatened Species, Ecological Communities or Key Threatening Process List

Nominations are invited for the assessment period starting 1 October 2012, for any species, ecological communities or key threatening processes to be considered for listing under national environment law. Threatened species and ecological communities listed under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 are protected as matters of national environmental significance. The conservation theme for this assessment period is - Corridors and connecting habitats (including freshwater habitats). Nominations consistent with this conservation theme are encouraged, but nominations outside the theme will also be considered. Nominations close 5pm on Thursday, 22 March 2012, and should be submitted in the required format either electronically (preferred), or in hard copy with an accompanying electronic submission on CD. Further information, including the nomination form and details of the nomination process and guidelines is available online: www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/nominations

Email: epbc.nominations@environment.gov.au

Mail: The Director, Species Listing Section, Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, GPO Box 787 CANBERRA ACT 2601

For further information, contact the Director, Species Listing Section - phone: 02 6274 2238

~Happy Landcaring! Have a wonderful week!~

'One person can truly make a difference'



With regards

Maree Edwards
Communication & Promotion Officer

Landcare Resource Centre
Cnr Five Islands Road & Toronto Road, Teralba NSW 2284
Phone: **4921 0392**

Email: lro@lakemac.nsw.gov.au

Web: www.lakemacquarielandcare.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Lake-Macquarie-Landcare/191788957548355