



TIN is Coming of Age

21 today, 21 today, TIN has the key to the door, never been 21 before.

TIN turns 21 during Landcare week in Biodiversity month, and will be celebrating with a Birthday Sale and combined Open Day with the Newcastle Community Arts Centre, on Saturday September 11th, from noon till 4pm in the grounds and surrounds of TIN & NCAC.

The Open Day is an opportunity to mingle with like-minded mates, frolic with the family and purchase a plant or two. The day is a celebration of community stewardship and an opportunity to think about where we've been and where we are heading.

You're invited to celebrate TIN's Coming of Age, 21 years of community volunteering to protect, preserve and promote local native plants in the Hunter region.

Awabakal Wildflower Walk

If a stroll through the Spring wildflowers of the coastal heath sounds like a super Sunday, then September 5th from 10am-12.30 won't be here quick enough for you.

The National Parks Association of the Hunter will be guiding

There'll be things to do, projects to make and lots to create for all ages, it is a family friendly affair.

- Pick up a bargain plant from TIN's Nursery to boost your backyard biodiversity.
- Catch up or chill out in the Chai tent
- Relax or play with the TIN Jam muso's
- Hear about the wonderful uses of weeds
- Learn to pick the difference- Native or Weed?
- Assist to create a frog pond
- Help build a grey-water reedbed filter system

Lots of activities for the young at heart too

- Watch The Lorax Puppet show
- Create Bushcraft with Jenny Musicka
- Test your skills at Busho's Bocci
- Make origami animals

It's looking to be a fun

groups through Awabakal Nature Reserve for the 9th year to share the botanical beauty of the blooms against the backdrop of the Pacific Ocean.

Local experts will be on hand, which makes the saunter, stimulating and satisfying.

and relaxing afternoon with the Newcastle Community Arts Centre opening all their studios and Art Space as well BYO munchies for a picnic in the pocket park that was planted in 2001.

As for the present... It is always hard to know what to give, some thoughts are... some time to pop by and share the birthday joy, or perhaps a tax deductible donation which will go towards supporting TIN's volunteer and education projects or a site to call home.



VOLUNTEERING AT TIN TUESDAY-FRIDAY

<i>Coastcaring at King Edward Park, Burwood or Merewether beach</i>	TUE
<i>Nursery Know-How at the Uni nursery</i>	WED
<i>Inductions 1st & 3rd Wednesday @ 10am</i>	WED
<i>Coastcaring at King Edward Park, Burwood or Merewether beach</i>	THUR
<i>Seed Collecting & Bushland Awareness</i>	FRI
<i>Nursery Know How at Parry Street nursery</i>	TUE-FRI



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TIN in Transition

Trees In Newcastle stalwart, Gordon Patrick is moving on from being TIN's Manager, to TAFE to share his passion and knowledge of the nitty-gritty of ecology with the developing minds of the next generation of environmental managers.

Gordon will be sharing his genius in botany, field surveying and ecological monitoring, gifts which TIN has reaped the benefits of over the past five years.

Gordon also gave 13 years to TIN as President and has well and truly left his mark on the organisation and will be missed.



Along with the appointment of a new Manager in the near future, the TIN Committee will also be aiming to restructure the organisation to ensure that all of the strategic goals of TIN can be met. The goals are:

- To be an independent organisation with a refined & profitably working business structure
- To maintain a well structured volunteer program that maximises participation & satisfaction.
- To be high quality provider of local indigenous native plants, bush regeneration and ecological advisory services
- To be key providers of environmental education information resources & engage the community

- in its implementation
- To be recognised as a not for profit, ethical, community, organisation and key high quality providers of information and services.
- To have established an adaptive framework for TIN's internal operations and engagement in partnership opportunities that is in accordance with resources and prescribed ethical considerations.

In the meantime Suzanne Pritchard has been appointed as interim Manager, and TIN will continue to do what it does best, provide beautiful local native plants and volunteer opportunities a plenty, educate the community



and regenerate the regional bushland with passion and professionalism.

It would be great if you could pop by on Open Day and celebrate Gordon's contribution and wish him well in his new endeavours.

We wish
you well
Gordon,
thankyou
for giving
so much!

Moving On and Moving In

The Bush Regen Team has recently said farewell to the knowledgeable and highly efficient Sharyn Ryan-Hancock, a bush regenerator of many years and more recently TIN's Nursery Supervisor.



Sharyn's amazing energy levels, enthusiasm and attention to detail will be missed. We wish her all the best in her new job continuing to restore local bushland.

Ben Latta is TIN's newly appointed Bush Regeneration Supervisor who'll be keeping the team's tools and equipment fabulous and functional, as well as an eye on the regeneration projects.



BIODIVERSITY MONTH BIRTHDAY SALE.

2010 is The International Year of Biodiversity, September is Biodiversity Month, 6-12th September is Landcare Week and September 11th is TIN's birthday celebration...all of this means it's a great time to pick up a bargain for boosting your backyard biodiversity.

If you need somewhere for the birds to live we've been busy building nesting boxes, if you want to provide some food and shelter there are lots of \$1 lovelies of *Callistemon citrinus*, the Red Bottlebrush or *Babbingtonia plurifolia*, the Twiggy Heath Myrtle a showy, 2-4m shade tolerant shrub that the birds can eat.

And where we would be without bugs? Not that we've got bugs but there will be pots of four mixed groundcovers for only \$5 a haven for bug habitat, and where there are bugs there will be birds.

There will be lots of other pots of plants for sale as well, as well as cards, books and CDs.





A new species? Pterostylis holdeneii ssp toraneae



thrive, highlighting the opportunism of plants, their resilience and the need to consider the role of debris as habitat.

The dented rooftop created a micro-

TIN's seed scientists have been out saving and securing the local biodiversity in Blue Gum Hills Regional Park of late, collecting seed to revegetate the degraded sections of the site, once an open-cut mine.

The eagle eyes of the seed collection team spotted a not-so-rare Holden Torana providing the right conditions for the Greenhood Orchids to

environment for leaf litter collection and moisture concentration for the local Greenhoods, some of the most drought tolerant orchids in Australia.

Greenhoods grow in colonies, spreading by growing moisture holding tubers at the end of horizontal roots, one of the reasons that the colonisation of the Torana was possible.

The graceful Greenhoods have an ingenious pollination strategy which involves a generous nectar gland attracting a gnat, which gets temporarily trapped inside the hood. The only way the gnat can escape is to crawl up through the Greenhood, gathering a bit of orchid goo and some pollen on the way which then gets transferred to the next orchid that is visited for its nectar treat.

If you want to know more about the fascinating lives of Greenhoods there is a great article online. Greenhoods get the nod, Hunter Valley Backyard Nature <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks/parkHome.aspx?id=N1121>



hvbackyard.blogspot.com/2007/08/26-greenhoods-get-nod.html

Blue Gum Hills is a relatively new conservation area which aims to highlight the heritage of the early open-cut mining operations of the area, it also holds remnant vegetation and as the urban sprawl continues around it, removing the remaining quality bushland in the area, this park is destined to become a biodiversity haven. <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks/parkHome.aspx?id=N1121>

What does a Bush Regenerator Do

The bust has been and the boom has begun with Bush Regen team getting busy and bushy across the region.

The team of passionate professionals will be starting some work for Hunter Water in Glenrock State Conservation area and frequently returning to glorious Port Stephens to continue their work of the previous years at Sandy Point Reserve, Bagnalls Beach Hill, the Bridal Walk, Fly Point and Nelsons Head, Bagnalls, Fingal, Taylors Beaches and the wonders of Mambo Wetlands.

The main game in bush regeneration is Retain-Regenerate-Replant. Keeping what's left in good condition is the first priority in regeneration, one of the reasons for always working

from the best bits. If the bushland is degraded then a helpful hand to reduce the impact of weeds and other pressures leads to regeneration.

The Australian bush is amazingly resilient with seed stored in the soil remaining viable for several years in many cases. Often removing the weed issue or stopping a grazing pressure is all that is needed to enable the native plants to return to the site.

Patience is a virtue for the bush regenerator, apart from not clearing too much too quickly and opening up the soil to erosion and weed invasion, waiting to see what native plants return over a season or two is a good practice.

If the bushland area is severely degraded and there is little sign of species survival then replanting is an option.

At TIN locally sourced seed is grown for specific projects to ensure the best possible match for the planting projects.

Port Stephens Council is to be commended for its ongoing and patient commitment to restoring its quality bushland areas and also to Hunter Water for their continued support for local restoration projects. TIN is very proud to be partners in these processes.

A useful introductory guide to Retain-Regenerate-Replant is at <http://www.aabr.org.au/images/stories/resources/planting/PlantingBrochure.pdf>

do you even need to plant?

what about natural regeneration

it's the key to restoring our bush

the three Rs of bushcare

- 1 Retain First**
Protect what is left. Retain and protect what is left of the bushland. This is the most important step in bush regeneration. It involves removing weeds and other pressures that are preventing the bush from recovering naturally.
- 2 then Regenerate**
Remove the weed issue or stop the grazing pressure. This is all that is needed to enable the native plants to return to the site.
- 3 Replant last**
Plant native species only when the bush is not recovering naturally. Replanting is a last resort and should only be used when necessary.

ABRA logo and DEH logo



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TIN COMMITTEE

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TIN'S MISSION
PROTECTING, PROMOTING AND ENHANCING LOCAL NATIVE VEGETATION AND SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH A PASSION FOR PLANTS.



LAY Project Update

Twenty Lake Macquarie schools planted 4500 plants as part of National Tree Day celebrations, an inaugural video conference has helped get schools sharing ideas and teacher face to face networking events have all been highlights over the winter months.

The LAY project aims to help build a youth Landcare Network in Lake Macquarie. This means that there is lots of advice on offer to develop projects & plan for plantings to grow the network and develop resources for schools.

Over Spring if you'd like a visit to your youth group, anyone from preschool to Uni age, we're happy to provide ideas advice and plants as part of the networking and planning.

In Summer another Video Conference or two is being planned for schools to continue their Landcaring sharing. During Coastcare Week on Thursday 9th December an inservice day is planned presenting activities and resources to support learning about coastal processes and bush regeneration along Newcastle's coastal strip

If you're at all interested let us know and we'll put you on the contact list for updates.

Email: education@treesinnewcastle.org.au, or call Jenny 4969 1500- Tuesday & Wednesday

Volunteering with vigour

National Tree Day saw 185 people plant 2200 plants at King Edward Park this year.

The newly planted areas have huge potential, they're sheltered from the harshest winds, have a southern exposure and it gets a lot of runoff from the hill...this is a great combination for coastal planting because we can put in a much greater variety of plants than we've been able to do in previous years.

The slopes were revegetated with a coastal rainforest mix, much like what's around the corner in Glenrock. This year we planted lots of colonisers and maybe in another generation we'll see the fruits of this biodiverse mix with a low growing littoral rainforest and some larger local animals returning.

In preparing for the planting 20 years of Bitou Bush was

removed and in the process uncovered the gun emplacement from the Park's days of defence and one of the original rock walls in the Park, a massive construction that had been overrun by the Bitou.

Over the past three years volunteers have coastcared the 'creek line' site at King Edward Park on 67 days, for over 2700 hours and planted almost 16,100 plants.

All this work has been assisted with grants from the federal Envirofund and Caring For Our Country programs, the regional Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority and Newcastle City Council.

A new volunteer coastal project that will be started for Spring, thanks to funding from the Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority, will be the restoration of a

littoral rainforest and the little lagoon at Burwood Beach.

This rare coastal remnant has been over run with Bitou Bush and will be the prime target for attack, but the method will be a little different. In addition to the primary weeding a new biological control, the Tortrix leaf-curling Moth will also be used to keep the Bitou Bush under control.

TIN will be growing the Tortrix moths and releasing them as part of the Weed Warriors program being run by Dept. Primary Industry. Any community or school group interested in learning about the use of biological control can attend a workshop on September 14th 9.30am-3.30pm, lunch included at the Lake Macquarie Landcare Centre, Toronto Road Teralba. To register contact Lesley Postle 4588 2113 or 0457 891 754.

