

# TINFORMATION

SUMMER 2010



## *A big end to 2010*

As the International Year of Biodiversity draws to an end don't despair if you feel you haven't managed to 'do your bit', there's still at least a month left and there's more than one way to make a difference.

TIN has been holding up the communal end on behalf of the membership and the land & coast Care community, propagating plants

like there's no tomorrow, removing Bitou and re-establishing the native vegetation, spreading the word and sharing the joy and love of local plants as only we can.

There's a lot that's been happening up front and behind the scenes at TIN and if by the end of this TINfo if you're not asking for more, we must have satiated the desire.

## *Chairperson's Report— Ian McKenzie*

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is just around the corner and TIN will have completed another year's work in improving the environment around Newcastle and surrounds.

2010 is noteworthy for two significant events.

After a lot of hard work TIN has attained Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status! This means that as a not-for-profit organisation we are able to offer members and supporters the opportunity to make tax-deductible donations.

The DGR Committee of six recently held its inaugural meeting, which was a resounding success with many creative ideas to capitalise on our new DGR status.

Special thanks must be extended to Mim Buckhorn for her early research work into obtaining DGR status and to Anne Ross for her ongoing efforts in eventually being granted DGR status.

The other significant event in 2010 was the departure from the helm of TIN by Gordon Patrick. Gordon has been TIN Manager for 4.5 years, and his departure signals the end of one era and the start of a new one. Gordon has been described as the glue that held TIN together, having

been on the Committee since 1993 and President for 10 years- an apt description for a person who earned the respect and friendship of staff, volunteers and the committee. Thanks Gordon!

In this final TINformation for 2010, I would like to acknowledge and extend thanks to TIN's nearly 300 members for your support, to the many volunteers that contribute so selflessly to the betterment of Newcastle, to the staff for all your hard work, and to the committee for its support and work to take TIN forward into the next decade as a stronger and more effective community environment organisation. Suzanne Pritchard deserves acknowledgment and thanks for stepping in to fill Gordon's shoes while we recruited a new General Manager.

Ahh, the new General Manager. I am pleased to announce that Louise Duff has been appointed as the General Manager of TIN. Louise will already be known to many of you through her roles at Newcastle City Council in the Community Assistance Program and Community Partnerships, and as Greening Broker. Louise spent two years as CEO of the Hunter Wetlands Centre and helped establish that organisation in a financially sound and strategic position. I welcome Louise to TIN and wish her the best in her new role.

## **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

<i>Nursery open on Saturdays again</i>	4TH DEC
<i>New Manager starts</i>	6TH DEC.
<i>AGM 6-7pm</i>	10TH DEC
<i>End of Year Party 7-10.30om</i>	10TH DEC
<i>Nursery Open Boxing Day holiday</i>	27TH DEC
<i>Nursery Open New Years Day Holiday</i>	3RD JAN



You can meet Louise at TIN's End of year party



## *TIN Opens on Saturday's again and some other holidays as well*

To support your green gift giving we'll be opening on Saturdays with the first day being 4<sup>th</sup> December 12.30-2.30pm and every Saturday till further notice.

We'll also be opening for the Boxing Day holiday, Monday 27/12/10 and the New Year Day holiday Monday 3/1/11.

## *Myrtle Rust— help protect our native plants*

Myrtle Rust has been recently found on a few properties on the Central Coast. It has the potential to devastate our native flora because it affects plants from the Myrtaceae family. This includes bottle-brushes, gums, lilly pilly, paperbarks and turpentine, you can begin to appreciate why it is such a worry.

Department of Primary Industries and NPWS are trying to contain and eradicate outbreaks and prevent the spread from the Central Coast in to our region. Strict protocols have been put in place to protect

our local parks and we encourage all patrons of the parks to abide by these guidelines.

The website <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/plant/myrtle-rust> details what precautions need to be taken to prevent the spread and control the Myrtle Rust outbreak.

The main point is not to remove plants or spread soil and keep your vehicle, shoes, tyres, bike, hats, shirts, pants, sox clean if travelling from infected Wyong / Gosford reserves.

## *An Interim Manager's Insights— Suzanne Pritchard*

Spring was a flurry of activity with the moving on of Gordon and maintaining the momentum of the TIN tanker. Like all big ships trying to keep on course is one thing, knowing where your going is another.

TIN has been blessed with a fantastic Committee this year, as you'll see in the Chair's report, there have been some great achievements. Many thanks to Ian for keeping to TIN's mission and ensuring the new Manager process secured the best person for the job.

There has also been a deep desire to keep TIN at the forefront of community involvement in the local environment, and to do this move TIN in to a new era of professionalism. TIN's 22 staff are a highly diverse and skilled mob, ensuring that their talents are being used in the best possible way to produce the best outcomes will be the purpose of TIN's immanent re-structure, the theme of which is Right Direction-Right Structure-Right Outcomes. Many thanks to Meredith Laing for being committed to this process and making it happen.

The Treasurer, Harvey Mitchell has also raised the bar, providing not only oversight, but budget insight, and as you'll read he sees the meaning behind the numbers and can relay that message, a rare gift which TIN is fortunate to be the recipient of.

The rest of the commendable Committee, Di Lenham, Anne Ross, Katrin Gustafson, Ellen Saxon and Jenny Robinson have all contributed in 2010 to ensure that TIN continues to be focussed and fun, relevant and rational.

The past 3.5 months in the sizzle-seat has provided a different appreciation for what a phenomenal job Gordon did, keeping all those juggling balls in the air. It has also allowed me to step out from behind the computer and talk to the people that make TIN happen.

The people of TIN are the heart and soul, the volunteers who are here because they choose to be and the staff who give their all because they want to. TIN is a unique blend of passion, people and plants and it has been a privilege and a fantastic opportunity to be able to gain this unique perspective of the organisation.



## *The Gift Giving Season*

Everything you purchase from TIN, goes towards protecting and preserving the local vegetation and supporting TIN's volunteer and education projects.

We have many great things for that special end of year gift this year and we'll be open for a few hours on Saturdays to allow you to get them.

The TIN Green Gift catalogue includes

- beautiful native bonsai trees, or a super standard tree shrub or groundcover
- gorgeous blank cards featuring many different and beautiful native flowers of the region on the front
- gift vouchers for plants or TIN membership, a garden assessment for the new year or a team of bush regenerators to get your bushland block weed free,
- or if quiet contemplation is more your style we have CDs of native plant and nursery topics to learn from.

## Thoughts from the Treasurer– Harvey Mitchell

Members might be interested in some information about the financial health of TIN.

For the 2009-2010 financial year, TIN had an operating profit of \$2,090.

Just \$2,090. But, phew, a profit after a loss of almost \$40,000 in 2008-2009. In the preceding year, TIN had made a profit of \$22,000 and in the year before that, a healthy \$90,000, so that the average operating profit over the four chosen years is \$18,000.

To put these figures in perspective, trading income for these periods was \$700,000 last year (2009-2010), and just under that, at \$680,000, in 2009, \$600,000 in 2008 and again \$600,000 in 2007.

The figures tell us that, for 2009-2010, the operating profit of \$2,000 is a meagre 0.3% of the \$700,000 income, while the average over the four years is a figure of only 3%.

I report these figures to inform members that TIN, as a non-profit organisation, does not look to put

away a lot of cash and the Committee and TIN managers have to always keep a close eye on the financial situation to simply try to keep things in the black.

By the way, the income from membership for the four annual periods was \$6,700 in 2009-2010, and \$6,800, \$6,500 and \$5,400 before that.

So your contribution in the form of membership fees made the difference between a going ahead and going backwards in 2009-2010!

## Notice of TIN's Annual General Meeting

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December  
2010, 6-7pm

Croatia-Wickham Sports Club  
Boardroom

Greetings members, it's that time of year when preparations for rounding off the year are in full swing, and here at TIN that means our Annual General Meeting and end of year shindig.

This year the AGM will be held in the Boardroom of the Croatia Wickham Sports Club, aka Figtree Community

Garden. It will happen on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December from 6-7pm and all financial members are welcome to come along, you can even renew your membership prior to the meeting.

What you will experience in this one hour of your life will be

- A snap shot of what happened at last year's AGM (confirmation of previous year's minutes)
- What happened this year at TIN through the eyes of the Chair and the Treasurer and the

words of the Annual Report

- The current Committee will be thanked for their contribution and then promptly stood down and a new Committee elected for 2011
- The Financial Statements will be formally received and considered
- There will be some dates set for next year's meetings and

Then the merrymaking will begin as the party kicks off.

## Notice of TIN's End of Year Party

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2010,  
7-10.30pm

Croatia-Wickham Sports Club

Just as important as the AGM is the End of Year Party, a chance to celebrate the successes, share the joys of community camaraderie and meet Louise Duff our new head honcho.

All volunteers, members and friends of TIN are welcome to come along for an evening of nattering over nibbles, tackling trivia, having a bash at bowls and revelling in recognition.

An RSVP to TIN would greatly assist in sorting out the catering. [enquiries@treesinnewcastle.org.au](mailto:enquiries@treesinnewcastle.org.au), or phone 4969 1500





*Great Spring rains & warm weather- Barb Nanshe*

What brilliant Summer planting weather we are having. Great for growing and frog making!

We have a huge variety of plants in the nursery now, more than at other times of the year, with the stock replenished after National Tree Day and the winter sowing having matured for Summer. Everything is looking fresh and healthy and with the consistent rain over the past month now is a great time for planting.

If you, or nature, are providing water over the summer period there is nothing better than to grow a new garden to add some extra bling to your surroundings and to help de-stress leading up to, during and after the Christmas craziness.

We have a fabulous assortment of plants for your cool 'n' wet Christmas planting or frog pond construction. There are emergent plants for in the ponds and boggy areas that create perching

places for frogs allowing them to gain easy access to the water and provide take-away meal venues. These biodiverse beauties include *Juncus*, *Baumea*, *Baloskion*, *Villarsia*, *Philydrum*, *Hydrocotyle* and *Nardoo*.

Plants for outside the pond, which are good for frog protection, include *Lomandra*, *Dianella*, *Gahnia*, *Alpinia*, and *Cordyline*. Have I mentioned they are all looking great!

We also have a large array of riparian and rainforest plants waiting patiently for that perfect spot you have been considering as a shady meditative retreat. There are also plenty of the favourite *Poa labillardieri*, a weeping grass, for that feature garden you have been longing to make all year but just haven't had the time. Plenty of my favourite, *Dianella caerulea var producta*, the fruit of which feeds my favourite lizard, the Blue Tongue, and often ends up on my break-

fast cereal.

There is always a friendly face around the nursery to offer help and expertise should it be required. We have some new staff faces to become acquainted with if you haven't been in recently.

A big welcome to Linda Carlton, our newly recruited Senior Nursery Supervisor. Linda is our contact for plant orders and able to help with your vegetation enquiries. Welcome also to Melissa Bull our Nursery Friday-Femme, recently graduated in Horticulture.

Although it seems like a long time ago thanks to everyone who attended our open Day in September, I am sure you took home some great bargains and lots of healthy plants.

I am hoping to see all the green thumbs and animal and plant lovers in the nursery soon to take advantage of our great summer rain and warm weather and Saturday opening.



Baloskion



Nardoo



Dianella caerulea



Poa labillardieri



Philydrum

*Pests & Predators*

<http://www.raptor.org.au/downloads.html>

Do you have rats or mice? Do you ever use poison to get rid of them? Did you know that some poisons get accumulated up the food chain and could be killing birds of prey and domestic animals?

There are two kinds of rat poisons on the market, both costing about the same but having very different impacts.

One type takes about 3-10 days to kill your rascally rodent through internal bleeding and accumulates up the food chain, killing anything

that eats the poisoned rodents. The other type does not accumulate and so birds of prey or domestic animals do not end up getting poisoned as well.

Baits containing anti-coagulants like Warfarin, Bromadiolone or Brodifacoum are the ones that will accumulate up the food chain and kill birds of prey such as owls, eagles and hawks as well as cats.

Coumatetralyl does not accumulate and so is

far safer for the environment.

The raptor.org website has more detailed information and also covers ways of controlling cockroaches, silver fish, fleas, mosquitoes and flies.





## Volunteer & Coastal Project report— Ngairé Southwell

I would like to start by thanking all the amazing volunteers who contributed to the Trees In Newcastle vision in 2010.

In 2010 the TIN Volunteers contributed 14 070 hours (to date) in the nursery, on coastal projects and at events throughout the year.

TIN was successful in securing two grants this year; a federal Caring For Our Country (CFOC) grant to work at Burwood Beach, King Edward Park, & Merewether Beach; and a Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority (HCRCMA) grant for Glenrock State Conservation Area in the dunes, coastal heath and littoral rainforest.

Hunter Water's community grant for Shepherds Hill has enabled us to continue working on the endangered ecological community *Themeda Grasslands on Seacliffs and Headlands*.

At Burwood Beach the volunteers have pushed north to the access track, clearing large areas of Bitou, as well as Lantana, Blackberry, Couch and a small patch of Moth Vine with the CFOC grant. The larger areas cleared of Bitou were re-planted with local native species, while the smaller areas between established native vegetation (mainly *Acacia sophorae*) were left for natural regeneration.

At the southern end of Burwood Beach under the HCRCMA grant the volunteers have been clearing Bitou from the dunes and coastal heath and working in the littoral rainforest along Little Flaggy Creek with the bush regeneration team who are providing training to the volunteers.

The CFOC grant has TIN Volunteers working at Merewether Beach where the weed control and revegetation work has continued on the lower slope near the Merewether Surf Club. The area was 100 % weeds and is now 80 % natives, 20 % mulched ground. Erosion control measures on this site included recycled Bitou biomass from Merewether and King Edward Park rolled into hessian logs and staked to the slope.

"Respect the Work" signage was also installed in the dunes and upper slope at Merewether Beach to minimise foot traffic through the areas under revegetation. This has met with limited success, with one sign having already been removed and continued use of the area for access to the beach.

King Edward Park played host to National and Schools Tree Days again this year. Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August saw our biggest turn out with 185 community members participating in NTD and helping to plant 2250 natives in the area below the flower gardens.



Removing Bitou at Burwood

School's Tree Day saw 120 students' plant 800 trees, shrubs and grasses in the area above the children's playground. A further 1700 plants were established by TIN volunteers. These plantings were made possible by funding from Newcastle City Council and Caring for our Country grant.

The Shepherds Hill site has the TIN volunteers and supervisor working to protect and promote the endangered ecological community *Themeda Grassland on Seacliffs and Headlands* by controlling the key threatening processes of Bitou and perennial weed grasses. Previous plantings on this site are thriving with favourable weather conditions over the previous 12 months.

Finally, the Newcastle City Council revegetation grant at Claremont Reserve was completed in February 2010 with the volunteers clearing the gully of Lantana, Morning Glory and Madeira Vine. The TIN Volunteer's heroic efforts barely made a dint in the sea of weeds at Claremont, and it will require concerted efforts in the future and more funding.

***I would like to thank the  
TIN Volunteers for ALL  
their hard work and  
dedication.***

**Thank You!**



Coastcarers at Merewether

Site	Project Days	In-kind Days	Vol. No.	Vol. Hrs	No. Plants
Burwood Beach	19	5	2025	185	685
Claremont Reserve	1	0	8	32	0
King Edward Park	10	16	780	1715	4561
Merewether Beach	9	5	97	332	3781
Shepherds Hill	4	8	59	191	877
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>2969</b>	<b>2454</b>	<b>9904</b>



## L4Y Project Update— Suzanne Pritchard

Each term the 'L4Y Forum', a newsletter with information about current youth-school based projects is distributed by email. The newsletter aims to inform the landcaring crew about current project that groups are undertaking, events that are being organised, grants available and resources that seem to work. If you would like to be included in this distribution please let us know at [education@treesinnewcastle.org.au](mailto:education@treesinnewcastle.org.au). The past newsletters are on TIN's website. The target for this group is Early Childhood to Uni and the people that support them.

The year of Learning for Sustainability has certainly raised the profile of green initiatives across the education sector and provided a mountain of high quality resources to support the landcare ethic of community stewardship.

The L4Y project has been bubbling along with high energy networking sessions, lots of support for schools being offered up by TIN's on-ground guru, Jenny Robinson and the development of a social media plan to support and sustain the networking after the funding finishes in the making.

There has been lots of liaising with the Catholic Schools Office to develop a program to support targeted High School students to attain a recognised TAFE qualification in Conservation & Land Management whilst undertaking Landcare projects at school and within their community. The learning outcomes for the students are being mapped against the assessment criteria for TAFE and in the not too distant future a recognised qualification will be available.

### The next L4Y Video conference Wednesday 8/12/12 Empowering Primary Landcarers to transition to Secondary School

The next video conference is booked in for Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December between 10-11am with Gateshead West Public School hosting.

The topic for discussion is how do you empower primary students to keep landcaring at High School, what sort of projects are being done and what kind of groups are doing the projects.

There will be a presentation by Gateshead West's e-team of their landcaring year, some words and certificates of recognition presented and lots of opportunity for questions and answers.

If you would like your school to participate in the video conference either by presenting their projects, listening or asking questions then please send an email to [education@treesinnewcastle.org.au](mailto:education@treesinnewcastle.org.au) and the details of how to participate will be forwarded.

### Coastal mysteries revealed Thursday 9/12/10

A Coastcare themed inservice is on offer to support learning about coastal processes and bush regeneration along Newcastle's coastal strip. A series of hands-on activities will be presented along with a coastal walk to highlight the wonderful resource that our coastal strip provides and the impact of urbanisation on the coast and the wild life present within the pools.

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December from 9am till noon has been set aside to share and coastcare. Contact Jenny to lodge your interest or get further information. Jenny 4969 1500 [education@treesinnewcastle.org.au](mailto:education@treesinnewcastle.org.au)



Charlestown East students get their tool licence



Marks Point students display recycled art



Cardiff High Schools, Enviro-Inspiro Award winning Aboriginal Garden



Spinnifex seed collectors from Holy Family



## *Care to be on the Committee?*

If you want the TIN feeling to linger after party and you want to continue to contribute to the preservation and protection of our regional biodiversity then perhaps now is the time to consider committing to a place on The Committee. The Nomination Form is on the website.

The Committee is the strategic backbone of Trees In Newcastle, overseeing the direction the organisation is travelling, controlling the financial stability and providing guidance to the Manager who tends to the daily running of TIN.

A great Committee has a diversity of skills and provides a great opportunity to share your expertise and gain new skills. If fun-raising is your thing, there's fundraising you can do, if you've got a head for numbers, your analytical brain will always be helpful for interpreting financials, if you care about how a 21 year strong organisation can keep relevant and well governed, your governance insights would be most welcome. A stint on the TIN Committee is an empowering time for all.

Now, more than ever, in our climate changing world TIN's mission of 'protecting, promoting and enhancing local native vegetation and supporting people with a passion for plants' is vital to ensure that the environment we cherish is maintained for the future, for all species.

There are 11 monthly meetings, held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month 6.00-7.30pm at 252 Parry Street, with a supper provided to sustain the mental activity.

If you'd like to chat about what the Committee gets up to give TIN a ring on 4969 1500, Tues-Fri.

## *Committee Nomination Form*

**The Annual General Meeting is set for 10/12/10, 6-7pm at the Croatia-Wickham Sports Club Boardroom. TIN Committee positions are up for election. Any members who wish to be on the committee should fill out the form below and return it to TIN by 03/12/10 so the voting paper can be prepared for the AGM**

Note: The Nominee, Nominator and Secunder must be financial members of TIN at time of nomination.

To be returned by 3/12/09 to Returning Officer, Trees in Newcastle, 252 Parry St, Newcastle West NSW 2302 or fax 02 4927 6821, or email [enquiries@treesinnewcastle.org.au](mailto:enquiries@treesinnewcastle.org.au)

I \_\_\_\_\_ would like to nominate \_\_\_\_\_

(Your name, **the nominator**)

(the person who'll be on the Committee. **the nominee**)

for membership of the 2011 TIN Committee in the position of - Chair /Vice Chair /Treasurer /Secretary /Committee

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I accept the nomination. \_\_\_\_\_ (Signature of Nominee) Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Secunder: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Secunder: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

You're most welcome to provide an optional statement of no more than 150 words in support of the nomination

**TREES IN  
NEWCASTLE**

Opening Hours  
8.30am-5pm  
Tuesday- Friday  
Saturday 12.30-2.30pm  
252 Parry St  
Newcastle West 2302

Phone:  
02 4969 1500  
Fax: 4927 6821  
E-mail:  
enquiries@  
treesinnewcastle.org.au



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

We have a bit of a break  
24/12/10 till 3/1/11 but  
the nursery will be open  
for sales on some days.  
Check the website for  
details



**VOLUNTEERING AT TIN  
TUESDAY-FRIDAY**

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

**TIN closes for volunteer activities 23/12/10 to 18/01/11**

*Bush-O's Blurb- Trisha Barker*

The Busho's are as busy as ever and have been reaping rewards in many ways. We've been seeing the results of long term projects, spending time in beautiful natural surrounds and island hopping. This last month the Busho's have been working on Prickly Pear and Bitou on Broughton and Boondelbah islands off Nelson Bay and helicopter was the transport mode de jour.

We are currently working with Port Stephens Council on several reserves with Pambalong Nature Reserve removing Water Hyacinth being a highlight. Creekline rehabilitation work with Newcastle Council continues and three contracts within Glenrock State Recreation Area are keeping us close and committed to home.



B. Miller 2010

In the near future the team will be involved in a Great Lakes regional corridor link rehabilitating and revegetating native habitat areas to reconnect remnant vegetation near the lower Myall River and Port Stephens area.

This corridor ranges over a length of 52 kilometres and is planned to mitigate against the effects of climate change by connecting the coastal Myall Lakes system to the Barrington Tops World Heritage Area.

We have also been alerted to the Myrtle rust outbreak (a serious fungal pathogen) on the Central Coast, and are following the hygiene protocols to reduce the potential for infection in the Hunter Region.

We welcome two new members to the Bush Regen team Ben Willings and John Moen.

