



TIN's Coastcaring Continues

TIN will be able to continue its on-ground works in three significant coastal areas thanks to \$16,234 of funding received through the Federal Government's Caring for Our Country program.

TIN volunteers will be building on and enhancing the rehabilitation works that have been underway since 2007, maintaining the momentum of the coastcaring crew.

This time round some 'special rehabilitation treatment' will be given to some relatively intact areas of native vegetation by way of weed removal, weed control and planting. A foundation bush regeneration principal is to work from the good areas, building their resilience.

The big picture goal of this project is to enhance and create viable native vegetation links between the previously worked areas and adjacent new areas, creating as continuous a corridor as possible from Nobbies Head in the north to Glenrock in the south - connecting the coastal areas of Newcastle and Lake Macquarie.

The TIN process for creating this vegetation corridor is to mobilise the volunteer coastcaring crew over thirty 1/2 day site visits to Merewether Beach, Burwood Beach & King Edward Park and grow local community commitment.

The tried and tested TIN coastcaring process is

that the sites are firstly worked for weed removal and erosion control to allow for natural regeneration before any planting is carried out.

Weed control mainly includes a variety of hand control methods and spraying with glyphosate if necessary. Most of the weed biomass, except for the really invasive stuff, is reused on site to help in erosion control and assist in controlling people's access.

Whilst the weed control is underway native seed collection occurs from local coastal areas so that the plants that have adapted over time to these local conditions can be reinstated on the weed free sites.

The propagation process for the coastal plants can be as quick as two months when it's warm or as long as five months when it's cooler.



TIN VOLUNTEERS AT MEREWETHER BEACH

Over the 12 months of this project, the local community will be kept up to date with the progress through the local media, by attending Clean Up Australia Day or National Tree Day or popping along for a brief educational talk and

plantings every 3rd Sunday of the month at Merewether Beach, from 10am-noon, meeting near Swells. Don't forget to bring your hat, shoes and long sleeved shirt. TIN brings the plants, tools and a supervisor.

The 12 month plan for this project is to

- Plant 3000 locally indigenous tubestock
- Increase biodiversity and cover of native plant communities
- Enhance coastal ecosystem resilience
- Raise community awareness of the significance of remnant and re-established native vegetation
- Remove significant weeds, mainly Bitou Bush, from coastal ecosystems and areas of high conservation value
- Reduce the invasion by Bitou Bush and introduced pasture grasses in to native vegetation communities. A Key Threatening Processes under the TSC Act 1995 (NSW).
- Protect and enhance ecologically significant vegetation communities (including Themeda Grassland on coastal headlands; dunal areas; and pockets of Littoral Rainforest).
- Maintain areas with follow up weeding.

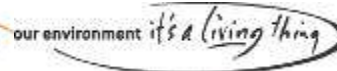
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ◆ Clean Up Australia Day Sunday 7th March 9am-noon. From Old Surf House Merewether to Burwood Beach
- ◆ SOFAR Expo. Sunday 14th March. Newcastle Jockey Club, 9am-4pm
- ◆ Hamilton Food & Wine Festival, Sunday 21st March, 9am-4:30pm
- ◆ Seniors Week 21-27 March -**Free plants for all Seniors on presentation of Seniors Card**
- ◆ Total Field Days- April 31st to May 2nd
- ◆ Cultural Stomp Festival, Saturday May 1st

VOLUNTEERING AT TIN TUESDAY-FRIDAY

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

Looking for Landcaring Youth



The Environmental Trust has generously provided funds to help grow youth Landcaring in Lake Macquarie.

There are funds available to tackle on-ground projects and there's support on offer to advise what will work and how to go about it.

L4Y Teacher Network meetings will be on once a term to share the Landcare journey from weeds to wonderland, to discuss resources and brainstorm ideas.

Meetings will be held at the Landcare Resource Office, Toronto Rd Teralba, between 3.45-5pm.

The meeting dates for the rest of the year are Tuesday 4th May, Tuesday 27th July, and Tuesday 26th October.

The February meeting was a great opportunity to find out what support was available. Apart from providing plants for on-ground projects, assistance will be provided to

- help develop School Environmental Management Plans,
- develop a funding application for a collaborative project on the Johnson-Scrubby Creek catchments with St Marys High-Gateshead and Hunter Sports High
- conduct a propagation workshop to 'teach the teachers'. This teacher training activity is designed to show how easy it is to get a plant propagation area set up to grow your own local plants. The

venue will be West Wallsend High School

- help plan for an Education Week bus trip to L4Y High Schools to show case student projects and learn about the environmental professions that are available to students with an interest in plants.

If you're interested in getting some L4Y support let us know and we'll keep you in the L4Y loop.

It was fantastic to hear what the various schools were up to and how to address the challenges of trying to keep one step ahead of student enthusiasm for the environment. There definitely seems to be a shift in attitude happening.

Another promising sign of a transition in environmental awareness came from Sue Saxby of the Awabakal Environmental Education Centre.

"Awabakal is flat chat, which is wonderful - virtually booked out till end of term 2 - just a few spaces from mid June - or others if schools willing to pay for a casual (10 years ago I would never have dreamed this!!)"

Bush Regen Business

The Bush Regen team is booming with lots of contracts having been secured through National Parks & Wildlife Services and local Councils, especially Port Stephens. The team is to be congratulated on their work capacity and ethic...Well Done!

Welcome Back Ben (Latta) for his 3rd tour-of-TIN after adventuring on the high seas and tropical islands up north.

Young Tom (Walters) the new whizz-bang bush regenerator-in-training is loving his career change from air-conditioning to open air offices, he's enjoying it all, learning heaps including how painful a bull-ant bite can be.

THE OFFICE FURNITURE HARDENBERGIA VIOLACEA



THE OFFICE EQUIPMENT SPLATTER GUN AT WORK

THE WATER COOLER AKA WEEDING MAMBO SWAMP PORT STEPHENS



THE FORMOSA LILY FIELD AT MUNIBUNG HILL. THE WHITE FLOWERS IN BLOOM. A CURRENT REGEN PROJECT



FROLICKING IN THE FORMOSA FIELD AT MUNIBUNG HILL, LAKE MACQUARIE - ALL IN A DAYS WORK



ONE OF THE REGIONAL OFFICES - MINT HILL-KARARA- PORT STEPHENS

Mini-Shed mentoring

TIN has recently been advised that it will receive \$64,775 to improve its volunteer facilities and nursery production capacity.

One of TIN's long-term challenges has always been having enough space to do what we need to do, grow plants and provide meaningful activities for TIN volunteers.

This project will make better use the existing space on the Parry Street site and provide an opportunity to consolidate

the nursery operations so that efficiencies can be gained throughout the propagation process.

This project will employ a long term unemployed TIN volunteer to supervise and undertake various tasks including installation of fencing around the perimeter of the nursery site, erecting a covered outdoor propagation facility, constructing storage and undercover work spaces, building and installing nursery infrastructure such as metal

tables, irrigation systems and water tanks and putting together a covered outdoor work space for nest box building.

The outcome of this project will be a dedicated area for ongoing nest box building and maintenance projects, improved facilities for regular volunteers and capacity for increased nursery production.

Sincerest thanks to State MP Jody Mackay for helping to make this project possible.



John Fitz-Gerald's Legacy- Wise Lives Now

In late January John Fitz-Gerald, the Hunter Region Landcare Network's Environmental Ambassador passed away.

John spent much of the past few years developing and documenting The Wise Lives Now program.

In his introduction John states the program "will teach about Climate Change, Sustainability, Natural Resource Management, concern for future generations, Landcare values and coping with a less carbon

dependent world but ultimately it is about helping our children to develop a more meaningful relationship and real love for their natural world".

The Stage 2 and Stage 3 guides are for all teachers, parents and children to make wiser choices for a sustainable future and support the Environmental Curriculum.



More details about these resources can be found at <http://www.wiselives.com.au/index.php>

A new Committee with a few new faces

There was no takeover bid by disgruntled members, no contentious issues that demanded closed room discussions, no requests for \$million golden handshakes and no motions to sack the committee.

There was lots of laughter and satisfying food, music to set the mood, a commitment to return to the strategic management of TIN and an enlightening presentation by TIN's auditor Lindsay Karathanassis ...all in all a fun AGM.

The 2010 Committee is

comprised of the returning Chair- Ian McKenzie, returning Vice Chair-Meredith Laing, a new Treasurer with a head for numbers- Harvey Mitchell, an enthusiastic Secretary Di Lenham, seasoned committee members Anne Ross, Jenny Robinson and new talent Katrin Gustafson and Ellen Saxon.

Sincerest thanks to the retiring 2009 Committee members, Andrew Griffiths, Jane Watt, Trish Baker and Adam Cavallaro who have contributed to TIN's development over the past few years.

TIN Committee meetings will be held on the 4th Tuesday of each month and any member of TIN is welcome to come along and contribute to the discussions, of which there are many.

TIN has a strategic plan and the role of the Committee is to ensure that the organisation meets those plans.

A scrumptious supper is always provided to maintain blood sugar levels and keep things bubbling along.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR 2010

- MARCH 23RD
- APRIL 27TH
- MAY 25TH
- JUNE 22ND
- JULY 27TH
- AUGUST 24TH
- SEPTEMBER 28TH
- OCTOBER 26TH
- NOVEMBER 23RD
- DECEMBER— AGM-FRIDAY 10TH



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



CALLISTEMON CITRINUS



SYZYGIUM SMITHII

Pop on by and say Hi.

TIN's Parry Street nursery is still closed on Saturdays but to allay the disappointment TIN is endeavouring to get out to community events and provide the opportunity to offer advice, pass on some plants, renew memberships or pick up a gift voucher.

Sunday March 7th -9am-noon Merewether Beach, near old Surf House for Clean Up Australia Day. We'll be cruising from Merewether to Burwood in search of the rubbish that the waves wash ashore. TIN will have a marquee in place and provide all the bags you could possibly want for your collecting pleasure.

Sunday March 14th- Society of Frogs and Reptiles Expo at the Newcastle Jockey Club- TIN will be selling frog friendly plants and resources to help build your frog pond or regenerate your bushland so the wildlife returns. If things that slide and slither are your fancy this is an opportunity to get up close, but not too personal with your favourite amphibian.

Sunday March 21st - Hamilton Food & Wine Festival, Beaumont Street: TIN will be out and about informing the locals that we're a local and providing an opportunity to share our passion for plants.

April 31st-May 2nd - Tocal Field Days - This three day extravaganza provides a chance to showcase the many branches of the TIN tree. The volunteers will be heading off on the Friday for a day out and TIN will be creating an eye catching display.

Sunday May 1st Cultural Stomp Festival- TIN turns 21 this year and as part of our commitment to the cultural fabric of Newcastle we'll be radiating the light and stomping along with the rest of the city.

Nice things in the Nursery

At TIN the talk has been how fabulous the *Ficus superba* (Deciduous Fig) are looking at the moment.

These tall fast growing strangler figs, apart from making good bonsai are also great in the garden. They are a favourite of flying foxes if feeding the local wildlife is your thing, they are great at closing down the canopy if you're trying to reduce your weeds.

Got rocky-loamy soil? They love it.

They are good for growing on rocky hillsides, are fire retardant and are a great coastal rainforest tree...what more could you ask for in a fig?

The particular *Ficus superba* we have all ready to go at the moment were collected as seed from the Martinsville area.

Some other really luscious looking plants on the grow

and looking wonderful at the moment include *Petrophile pulchella* (Conesticks), *Banksia oblongifolia* (Fern-leaved Banksia), *Dianella* (Blue Flax Lilly), *Hardenbergia violacea* (Purple Coral Pea) and everyone's favourite Flannel Flower, *Actinotus*.

Whilst they look wonderful here at TIN they'd look even better in your garden or your revegetation area.

Some plants are looking so magnificent that we'd like to encourage their relocation by offering some discounts.

30% off

The renamed *Sannantha pluriflora* (previously Babingtonia pluriflora or *Baeckea virgata*), \$1.96 One of the Myrtaceae family, a small shrub with lots of charm grows well on the coast in deep sandy soil.

Callistemon citrinus (Crimson Bottlebrush)- \$1.96 Great for swampy areas and attracting birds.

Hakea salicifolia (Willow-leaved Hakea)- \$1.96. This is a tall shrub-small tree which grows well on the rainforest margins.

50% Off

Syzygium smithii (aka *Acmena smithii* or Lillipilly)- \$2.66 a bushtucker berry, a favourite of the wildlife and great for recreating a rainforest and it grows well along watercourses.

Casuarina glauca Swamp Oak , \$1.40 - If you like the sound of the wind whistling through the leaves this is definitely a favourite. This tree, 8-20m tall, has drooping branchlets, can substitute for a Christmas Tree and is great at foreshore stabilisation, especially in brackish waters and along coastal streams. On exposed headland sites it also does well but tends to grow as a stunted, 2m, tree.



SANNANTHA PLURIFLORA

HAKEA SALICIFOLIA

BANKSIA OBLONGIFOLIA

ACTINOTUS HELIANTHII

