

Dorrigo Community Nursery – Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Dandarrga Landcare Regen Report – 24th August 2025

Nadia Camatta

Dandarrga Landcare Regeners’ Native Seed Project

Dorrigo Community Nursery (DCN) was successful in their application to Bellingen Shire Council for a grant under the Environment Levy Community Fund, securing \$4,300 of the requested \$5,844.

Objective: The Regen teams are currently operating independently at their specific sites. This project aims to consolidate the teams’ weekly operations at the nursery by bringing the teams together.

Day at the Nursery: The nursery day will enhance communication opportunities and establish a central hub for seed collection, documentation, propagation and discussions on regenerated sites and management.

Training & Support: Easier access to training, support in seed collection, documentation, and propagation procedures for onsite plant outs will be provided.

Equipment Support: DCN has offered to provide \$5,000.00 towards equipment for the Regen team.

Nursery Schedule: Meetings at the nursery will be on Tuesdays from 10:30am onwards. The duration of the visit is flexible, and it may include visits to sites as needed.

Propagation Table Upgrade: A stainless-steel top for the propagation table is recommended to enhance hygiene, facilitate cleaning and disinfecting, and reduce the risk of myrtle rust and other pests and diseases.

First Workshop: The first workshop, held on 13th August 2025, focused on biosecurity in the nursery, regeneration sites and seed collection areas. It included information on emerging weeds, such as soda apple. This workshop was a great success with many attendees and seven guest speakers.

The Dorriggo Plateau Koala Project has been successfully completed.

In November 2024 the koala vegetation maps became available for everyone online and have been published on ‘SEED’, which is the ‘Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data’ resource in NSW.

During the 2024 Dorriggo Folk and Bluegrass Festival and the 2024 Dorriggo Show, a total of 500 koala food and habitat trees were given away to festival and show attendees.

All reporting and financials were completed for this two (2) year project by June 19th, 2025.

Regeneration Site Reports for the 2024/2025 AGM

Dandarrga Landcare has several active regeneration project sites in Dorriggo. Each site is managed by a project coordinator and may have just themselves or several regen volunteers assisting with regen work. The following is a brief summary of the projects and volunteers who work these sites.

Ash Street Bridge	Nadia Camatta
Dangar Falls Reserve	Peter Berkeley, Nadia Camatta, Di Kilbride, Sandra Irwin
Don’s Patch	Piers Hammick
Bielsdown River Western Bank	Peter Murphy
Dragon’s Bend	Lyn Livingstone, Rowan Holden
Fern Gully	Piers Hammick, Peter Murphy
Hilda’s Pool	Susan Allom, Lyn Skillings, Kate & Peter Cooper
Nina’s Springs	Piers Hammick, Nadia Camatta
Rocky Creek	Phil Johnson, Nadia Camatta, Peter Berkeley, Andrew Beasley

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PROJECT SITES:

Ash Street Bridge - Flood prone site

Located south side of Ash Street Bridge

A new site that completes the regen work sites for Bielsdown Park from Waterfall Way bridge to Ash St bridge. Work was undertaken here to remove privet and honeysuckle prior to the lomandra plantings to celebrate National Tree Day on 27th July 2025.

Dangar Falls Reserve

Located two (2) km's north of town

Labyrinth Corridor/Dangar Falls

A core group of volunteers, comprising two to three individuals, convene weekly at this site on Tuesdays for a couple of hours of bush regeneration.

Events in the Past Year:

17/9/2024: A small working bee was held to commemorate Leela O'Callaghan, who commenced volunteering with Dandarrga Landcare August 2021, and led the Dangar Falls regeneration site until her illness. A Dorrig Hakea was planted in the Labyrinth corridor in her honour.

4/3/2025: A working bee was conducted in conjunction with Bellingen Shire Council and the Bellingen Bush Regenerators, attracting 18 attendees. 60 plants were successfully planted.

10/6/2025: Another working bee was held in collaboration with Bellingen Council and the Bellingen Bush Regenerators, with 20 attendees. 96 plants were successfully planted.

9/7/2025: The role of Project Coordinator of the Dangar Falls project was transferred to Peter Berkeley who has great plans and enthusiasm for the project – Nadia Camatta

Don's Patch - Flood prone site

Located riverside of Dorrig High School along the Bielsdown River

Refer Piers Hammick's report emailed separately with Nina's Gate report.

Bielsdown River Western Bank – Flood prone site

Located opposite Bielsdown Park along the western side of the Bielsdown River

Since the floods it has become apparent that Forest oak and Tick bush are species not suitable for riparian planting as they do not recover well, if at all from being flooded.

All plots have lost some trees from floods, a number of stakes also lost. Need for top up planting in Spring 2025. Leptospermum, Callistemon and Casuarina are most desirable species. Black Wattle is self-seeding successfully in some plots and its further planting in others would also be of benefit.

The western riparian zone along the Polocross field was weeded, sprayed and planted in Nov 2024 with Creek lillypilly and Dorrig pepper which are doing well on this site in semi sheltered locations.

Donated Tree Ferns collected around town for Bielsdown park and planting by Piers and Peter and other bush regenerators are going quite well in shaded locations. Ongoing project.

There have been two (2) habitat boxes that have come down from their trees, one was vandalized. Do we have any people who want to take this project on with Peter actively assisting.

– Peter Murphy -

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Dragon's Bend – Flood prone site

Located – from Waterfall Way main bridge running adjacent to Bielsdown River through Bielsdown Park to Fern Gully

The riparian plantings over the past three years are growing well with Lomandra thriving and successfully diverting storm water from Bielsdown Street which had caused significant erosion of a section of the riverbank. Since the last reporting period, several broad and narrow leaf privets have been removed. Two large gum trees were removed because of danger to the public after they split and dropped large branches.

Dragon's Bend issues that continue to be a problem are: floods – causing substantial slumping of the riverbanks in many places; uncontrolled storm water drainage discharging directly into Bielsdown park creating erosion across large areas of the park; and erosion of the topsoil exposing the tree roots and making it difficult for the council mowers to maintain.

Rowan Holden continues to maintain the riparian zone with regular whipper snipping as well as his constant vigilance of patiently removing the many weeds that emerge, not only along the riverbank but through Dragon's Bend section of Bielsdown Park.

Fern Gully - Flood prone site

Located at the end of Dragon's Bend along the east/west watercourse into the Bielsdown River

Piers and Peter have transplanted many tree ferns along this gully which receives storm water from Hickory Street and is beautifying this once neglected area.

Hilda's Pool - Flood prone site

Located next to Nina's Spring in Bielsdown Park

Susan Allom has taken on the role of Regen Coordinator for this site. On Monday July 14 2025, the team of four volunteers commenced work to remove weeds, primarily privet and honeysuckle, and clear the ground for spring planting. They plan to work every second Monday morning for one and a half hours, continuing to weed and maintain the site. Also refer Susan's article emailed separately.

Nina's Springs - Flood prone site

Located between Fern Gully and Hilda's Pool in Bielsdown Park - Refer separate report from Piers

Rocky Creek - Flood prone site

Located 2.5 kms east of Dorrig along Waterfall Way

The Rocky Creek volunteers have continued the strategy they have pursued in past years. The infill planting of tea-tree, Hakea casuarina and banksias has been carried out to replenish the original understory planted in the early 2000s. This has yielded varied results with plants thriving initially but with about 30% not surviving through the first year. We will replace these going forward as this may just be natural attrition. The site has experienced two large floodings during this reporting period.

Privet removal continues with the northern bank of the creek pretty well cleared of any large infestations and regular hand pulling of bird seeded regrowth proving successful. Large quantities of 'trad' have been removed from the site and burnt. These removals have been followed up by planting lomandra along the riverbank which is starting to thrive and create a more natural aspect along the creek.

The team is now focusing efforts on the area bounded by the southern bank of the creek and Waterfall Way. Large growths of privet along the south bank are being removed. Removal of privet from beneath surviving native trees has opened up areas for planting a native understory. Peter Berkeley reported and removed a growth of Solanum viarum (soda apple) from this area. These infestations seem to occur from passing traffic along waterfall way and will be closely monitored. Returning to the north bank. The area downstream from the old bridge and where Telstra under bored the creek to pass a new fibre optic cable has resulted in the creation of a new wetland which has attracted wading birds and a healthy frog population yet to be identified.

- Phil Johnson -