

## NEWSLETTER JUNE 2023



*Dorrigo Community Nursery Inc is a not-for-profit volunteer association for Dandarrga Landcare, Dorrigo Seed Savers and the Dorrigo Community Garden.*

*Together, we practise and promote regenerative land, water and vegetation management practises, using local provenance seed and plants.*

### ***What's New?***

The new website is LIVE! It's a great way to keep in touch with activities and events, join up for volunteer opportunities, and see our latest stocklists. Big thanks to Jo Parfett and Grace Doblo. Send it to your friends, and check for regular updates 😊

<https://www.dorrigocommunitynursery.org/>

***The Volunteer Handbook*** is a new way to introduce people to our activities and guidelines as Dorrigo Community Nursery Inc. It was suggested by Rebecca and developed by Lyn Livingstone, with help from Lynda Keft. It will be emailed to our Volunteers, old and new.

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### ***DORRIGO PLATEAU CORRIDOR DIGITAL MAPPING AND KOALA RESTORATION PROJECT***

Our *Koala Project* is underway, with a Koala Community grant from the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources. Initial mapping and community consultation commenced Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May. This project is also a collaboration with Bellingen Shire Council, to provide maps and habitat for local koala populations, with connected corridors, for years to come. Our gratitude to the landholders involved in the project.



### ***NURSERIES NETWORKING***



*The Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife Grant* is improving outcomes for two local native nurseries. Dandarrga Landcare Nursery will collaborate with Barry Hick's and the team at Bluerock Rainforest Nursery at Billy's Creek. Funds will be shared for seed collection, propagation, species tracking, and for office work and administration. The Bluerock team have bounced back from the 2019 fires, and are now operational as Billy's Creek Landcare. We are grateful to Sandy Eager, a previous Bellingher Landcare coordinator, who has instigated this application on our behalf.

**\*\*Change to Membership Conditions\*\***

At the AGM in September 2022, it was agreed by the committee that requirements of Membership revert to payment of a \$10.00 annual fee. If you were considered a 'free' member and would like to renew, please complete the Membership Application form (available on the website) and return it to the nursery with your payment of \$10.00. Membership renewals are due by 1<sup>st</sup> July.



**Community Garden**



The Community Garden is fenced and levelled, and we've submitted a grant application to Council to pay for eight raised garden beds and some good garden soil to fill them. A water tank will be purchased with a successful grant from Nutrien and the Foundation for Regional and Rural Renewal.

Thank you to Alan Jarrett for coming to turn the soil for us. We've planted a cover crop of oats for the winter.

***We are in need of spoilt silage for mulch, so please put the word out to friends and neighbours. Thanks!***

The crew from Bluerock Nursery helped Chris, Joanna and Annie dismantle these two polytunnels at Mt Hyland Retreat, kindly donated by Rosie Yates. They are stacked and await reassembly. We welcome volunteers every Wednesday and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of the month to help, from 9am to midday.



We'd also like to thank **Valley Tree Services**, who generously donated a truckload of woodchip to the community garden. Our sincere thanks to all the team!

***The latest working bee update from Stephen***



On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May, six of us met to work together in the Community Garden. It had been a while since Rebecca had been with us on a Saturday morning so we welcomed her energy and ideas. We pegged out the site of the shelter shed and the first of the garden tunnels we had been given by the Mount Hyland nursery.

We retrieved about 20 large old boards that had been seats from a demolished grandstand in the Showground and placed them on the ground in the garden where we will use them for garden beds. We measured proposed sites for a water tank we have received a Nutriens grant to pay for and made a decision about the position and the size of the tank. I will place an order for the tank and pump with Jarred at the Dorrigo Hardware this week.

It was decided to use the rocks that have been gleaned from the surface of the site to make a creek bed feature in the swale.

At the next Community Garden meeting we want to make garden beds out of those boards, spread the rocks in the swale and prepare a site for the tank..



### ***Dandarrga Landcare Native Nursery***

Current stock includes around 100 different local species, including:

White Mountain Banksia, Port Jackson Pine, Small-leaf and Native Tamarind, Rosewood, Mountain Tea Tree, Fingerlime, Forest Oak, Black She-Oak and Ribbon Gum. We also have a range of native shrubs, grasses and groundcovers.

Forest Oak and Black She-Oak are favourites of the threatened Glossy Black Cockatoo

The stock list is available to download from our website [dorrigocommunitynursery.org](http://dorrigocommunitynursery.org)

Donations of Native Seed are always welcome. Join the Native Seed Collectors and receive our bi-monthly Native Seed Calendar. Email [dandarrga@gmail.com](mailto:dandarrga@gmail.com)



Black She-Oak



## **Rainforest Barrow**

*Are there any handy makers out there who can make a new barrow for the Nursery?*

Our beloved Rainforest Barrow, which is managed wonderfully by volunteer Joanna Dadd, sells plants for us from the Rainforest

Centre and is a terrific income stream for the Nursery. Sadly, it is in a state of disrepair. If you would like to take on this project, please contact the nursery. We can supply materials.

## **Bush Regen News**

### ***Bielsdown River Walk***

Last year's discovery, near the Ash Street bridge, of a yabby trap filled to the brim with dead wildlife, inspired the team to relocate pathways and develop a monitoring and awareness program to protect both Platypus and Rakali, the Native Bush Rat. An entertaining slideshow presentation at Hickory House by consulting ecologist and local, Joseph Crane, was well-attended in April. A small grant from Council's Environmental Levy Community Fund has helped kick start the Plateau Platypus Project and initiated a collaboration with the Dorrigo Aboriginal Land Council.



Kate Smith has created the *Bielsdown River Walk Journal*, with photos of the team at work on habitat regeneration along the river, including platypus burrows along the bank, available on the website <https://www.dorrigocommunitynursery.org/bush-regeneration>

Contact: Piers [p.hammick@me.com](mailto:p.hammick@me.com) or Nadia [ncamatta@hotmail.com](mailto:ncamatta@hotmail.com)

### ***Dangar Falls Reserve and the Labyrinth***



Our third annual *Dangar Falls Labyrinth Working Bee* took place on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, with a morning tea to celebrate the success of this regeneration project. It is an ongoing collaboration with Council at the Dangar Falls Reserve which includes weed control and planting, with a shelter belt near the famous local Labyrinth Walk. Our thanks to all those who volunteered their time.

Thanks for coming 😊

### **Other big news for Dangar Falls:**

Bellingen Shire Council has won a grant from the Crown Reserves Improvement Fund for weed management and bush regeneration at Dangar falls reserve. The project will include \$19000 of cash from Crown Lands to complement cash and in-kind contributions from Council and Dandarra Landcare volunteers for this \$52K project.

The project aims to

- To control weeds in the four native vegetation units and along the riparian zone at Dangar Falls Reserve. In particular target weeds, Small Leaf Privet, Blackberry, Japanese Honeysuckle and Ivy.
- To restore native vegetation communities by replenishment planting where required.
- To collect seed & propagate local native species.
- Engage and educate local landcare volunteers through two workshops.

The project started with the preparation of a vegetation management plan to guide priority sites for works. This plan is now complete and a bush regeneration crew will be engaged to complete 288 hours of regeneration work in the first twelve months.

### ***Dorrigo Seed Savers***

As winter approaches and our seed saving tasks are reducing for the season, we will be adopting our winter timetable for Seed Saving at Dorrigo Community Nursery. Commencing in May we will be gathering on the last Wednesday on each month for our popular 'Pack and Chat' Wednesdays - 9:30am to 11:30am.

Lots of planting has been occurring with winter vegetables going into the Seed Savers Gardens such as brassicas, onions and beetroot. A bumper crop of pumpkins that had self-

sown in our compost pile has been harvested. The plantings are thriving at the moment so drop in and have a walk around, enjoy the beauty of a lush edible garden and pick up some growing tips.

We are planning renovations to our greenhouse with half to be rebuilt with alsynite roofing to become a glasshouse. This will give us the opportunity to start Spring seedlings early and propagate throughout winter. If you are a community minded builder or know someone who is interested in assisting with this project please get in touch. We'd love to meet you and talk through the details so you can provide a quote.

If you have harvested any excess vegetable or flower seeds over the last couple of months please drop them in for inclusion in our seed library. Stock is low in some varieties (e.g. beans) and we rely on experienced vegetable growers in the community for your seed contributions.



Bumper crop of pumpkins



Greenhouse ripe for renovation

## Volunteering with DCN

The key to the nursery's success is the many members and volunteers who contribute their energy and time. We work together to create a welcoming atmosphere and a productive, safe and efficient workplace.

Opportunities currently exist for a wide range of tasks and activities that might interest you and even lead onto further learning, experience and employment. We're happy to provide supervision and training.

Many tasks involve regular activities at the Nursery and Gardens, but others can involve online computer work from home, helping at local markets, or short distance travel to help on landcare regen sites or local properties.

### ***Committee Vacancies***

There are two vacancies on the Dorrigo Community Nursery Management Committee so we are seeking interested people to inquire about becoming part of the volunteer management team.

Volunteer positions are on the [SEEK Volunteer website](#) for: Nursery Coordinator, Secretary and WHS Officer.

For further information, please contact Annie 0435 200 351 or email [dandarra@gmail.com](mailto:dandarra@gmail.com)



### ***Support roles and activities***

- **Media and Education:** Assist the media team to promote the Nursery and share information, news and events with our supporters, volunteers and the local community. Website admin; social networks, newsletters, multimedia promotion.
- **Markets and Sales:** Help find homes for our plants in the local community, the shire and further afield. Help with customer sales on site.
- **Nursery Site Maintenance:** Help look after the Nursery grounds, tools and equipment
- **The Library garden** at the entrance to the Library is a small maintenance role for a gardener.
- **Bush Regeneration Co-ordination:** Help keep track of our Regeneration Projects, share information about the sites and make sure the volunteers have what they need.
- **Community Liaison:** Connect with different community groups, schools and local organisations to sponsor, help and to promote DCN
- **Grant applications:** Assist Sally with grant opportunities and applications to get more financial support for the Nursery as we grow our role in creating a more resilient community.
- **Native Plant Nursery Support Team:** Work with the coordinator to make sure our seeds and plants are looked after and have what they need; Manage nursery supplies, maintain a propagation record, and do regular stocktake; Collaborate with Bluerock Rainforest Nursery on seed, stock, marketing, sales and orders.



Organise volunteers and help them with propagating and looking after plants.  
Help customers with their orders; manage email orders. Help stock and manage the Rainforest Barrow, weekly, at the Dorrigo Rainforest Centre. Gather information about the species and create Plant Information Labels; update and send out native seed calendar to volunteer seed-collectors bi-monthly.

- **Dorrigo Seed Savers Support Team:** Work with the coordinator growing and harvesting seed from the Seed Savers Gardens, processing and storing seed with a group of volunteers; recording and storing seed stock, labelling, printing and packaging seed packets, propagating plants from seed, quality testing, networking with customers. Growing seed at home to bring in, coming to workshops and events, visiting gardens.
- **Community Garden Support Team:** Work with the coordinator and volunteers to establish the community garden, manage soil and compost bays, build raised garden beds, and garden sheds, plant a permaculture food forest.

#### Opening Hours

Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat 9.00 – 12.30pm

#### Calendar of Events

8th July: Made in Dorrigo Markets on Hickory St.

Community Garden Working Bees: 2nd and 4th Saturdays of every month.

#### Seed Savers Pack & Chat:

Wednesday 28th June

Wednesday 26th July

Wednesday 31st August

#### Bush regen activities:

Mondays: Regen at Rocky Creek

Tuesdays: Regen at Dangar Falls

Wednesdays: Seed Savers Pack and Chat

Thursdays: Regen at Bielsdown River Walk





### ***Who's who at DCN***

**The DCN Committee includes:**

Annie Stanton – Secretary  
Ellie Fruitrich - Treasurer  
Stephen Thiering – Chairperson  
Rebecca Doblo - Ordinary Committee member

Lyn Livingstone – Ordinary Committee member  
Vacant Position – Workplace Health & Safety Officer  
Vacant Position – Ordinary Committee member

The Seed Saver Coordinator: Rebecca Doblo [seedsforlife2453@gmail.com](mailto:seedsforlife2453@gmail.com)  
The Community Garden Coordinator: Stephen Thiering [sthiering2@gmail.com](mailto:sthiering2@gmail.com)  
Native Plant orders and enquiries Annie and Nadia [dandarrga@gmail.com](mailto:dandarrga@gmail.com)  
The Garden Coordinators: Chris [christosvalentino@yahoo.com.au](mailto:christosvalentino@yahoo.com.au) and  
Jeanette [jeanetteajones@hotmail.com](mailto:jeanetteajones@hotmail.com)

The Volunteers Coordinator: Lynda  
The Grants Officer: Sally Hunter [dandarrga@gmail.com](mailto:dandarrga@gmail.com)  
The Bielsdown River Walk team Piers [p.hammick@me.com](mailto:p.hammick@me.com) or  
Nadia [ncamatta@hotmail.com](mailto:ncamatta@hotmail.com)

**Regen site Coordinators**

Rocky Creek: Contact Phil Johnson - [Philip.johnson7@bigpond.com](mailto:Philip.johnson7@bigpond.com)  
Dangar Falls: Contact [dandarrga@gmail.com](mailto:dandarrga@gmail.com)  
Bielsdown River Walk: [dandarrga@gmail.com](mailto:dandarrga@gmail.com)

Sally Hunter, Nadia Camatta and Lynda Keft have resigned from their positions on the committee. We'd like to thank Sally, Nadia and Lynda for their time and contributions in management. Nadia is still busy in the nursery and on regen projects, however, and Lynda is in regularly for new volunteers, so pop in and say hi. Sally is active on the Koala project and as Grants Officer.