



Field Trip Information

As part of the 2009 Landcare Management Forum in Port Macquarie, locally based field trips shall be conducted on the afternoon of Wednesday 9th September, 1.30pm-4.30pm. Each field trip incorporates bus transfers and afternoon tea. Please find to follow further details of each of these four field trips:

1. **Port Macquarie Hastings Council Water** - Dam, Water Treatment Plant, Riparian Projects

The Cowarra off-creek storage dam and picnic area include public art displays and information signage to highlight the importance of the storage dam's role, in providing drought security and protection of environmental flows in the Hastings River. The Wauchope Water Treatment Plant includes educational facilities providing a focal point for Council's ongoing "WaterWise Enviro" Education Programme.

A sophisticated real-time water quality and river flow monitoring facility has been established at Koree Island since 1995, and has recently been upgraded to closely monitor river health and protect environmental flows. An aboriginal public art display located onsite, highlights the cultural and environmental importance of this location.

The Koree Island Pump Station overlooks the Hastings River where PMHC, Bunyah Local Aboriginal Land Council, and 6 landholders have partnered to undertake riparian regeneration works within a 2.4km stretch of the Hastings River. Works commenced in 2002 and have been funded by the NRCMA, Community Water Grants, the Environmental Trust and Council's River Rehabilitation Fund.

2. **Sea Acres Bush Tucker Tour**

Sea Acres Rainforest Centre is set in the area's own coastal subtropical rainforest at Sea Acres Nature Reserve, Shelly Beach. The Centre features a 1.3 kilometre boardwalk through the tranquil rainforest, the Rainforest Café, a gallery featuring changing environmental art exhibitions, and a gift & souvenirs shop.

"The Yun Yi Barragay" or "Walk With Me" tours are a unique experience and great way to find out more about local Aboriginal culture. The tours are conducted by local Aboriginal guides including Elder Uncle Bill O'Brien and include information about Aboriginal uses of rainforest plants and insights into local culture & history. The tour will also feature a didgeridoo and native dance demonstration, as well as a sampling of bush tucker afternoon tea.

3. **Port Macquarie Landcare Group** - Lilypond Wetland, Lighthouse Beach, Blair Reserve and the Community Nursery

The lilypond had fallen to the ravages of nature's weeds and nasties. Fortunately, the Port Macquarie Landcare Group saw the potential of regeneration and restoration, and the Lilypond Reserve now has the towering native trees reaching for the sky.

The Lighthouse Beach and Blair Reserve restoration sites incorporate the results of intense voluntary labour and know how. Previously sites of mass weed infestation and land erosion, the dune restoration work at Lighthouse Beach has ensured the future of the shoreline providing a natural barrier and beauty in this location, while Blair Reserve is now an invigorated natural koala corridor and home to many birds and other creatures.

The Community Nursery is an outstanding initiative run by local Landcare volunteers. The nursery produces 20,000 plants per year, which go into the re-vegetation of both public and private land.

4. **Redbank Organic Farm** - Sustainable/biological/organic farming

On this field trip, the Eggert family will outline some of the methods developed over the last nine years in converting from conventional, to organic farming. Their farming business is based around compost production using cow manure collected from the dairy yard and laneways, which maximises nutrient recycling, minimises water use, and increases soil carbon. The Eggerts run 180 milking cows without the use of artificial fertilisers, chemicals or pesticides. They focus on grass-based production on diverse pastures, and use the compost and other biological products to maximise the health and nutrient availability of their soils.