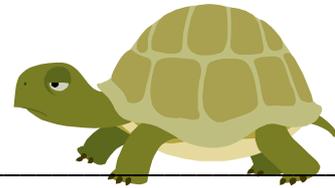


# EUROBODALLA CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER

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May 2010



### GUERILLA BAY LANDCARE MEMBER, Jill Whiter - 2010 SENIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR



Recently Mayor Fergus Thomson announced Jill Whiter of Guerilla Bay as the Eurobodalla's 2010 Senior Citizen of the Year.

"Jill is an active Landcare volunteer who contributes to Guerilla Bay Landcare in a number of ways, including

assisting with their commitment to environmental education, sustainable management and use of our resources. She also has a passion for natural history and is a founding member of the Eurobodalla Natural History Society formed in 1986 to foster and encourage interest in the natural history of the shire."

On receiving her award, which recognizes outstanding contribution to the community, Ms Whiter was congratulated by her predecessor, Margaret Perger, and by guest speaker and Aboriginal affairs advocate on housing, health and women's issues, Neita Scott, who visited the Eurobodalla Shire especially for the occasion.

Nominated for her strong commitment to the preservation of the environment and to community education, Ms Whiter was also recognized for being an active volunteer

and role model for people of all ages.

Lyndall Hatch, Coordinator of Guerilla Bay Landcare, asked to add the following to this article;-

*"Jill has contributed to environmental appreciation and education in the Shire originally through writing a regular column in the local papers and more recently through the publication of the very readable and amusing "Eurobodalla Naturalist's Diary".*

*Since the Natural History Society's inception Jill has compiled all its records and edits "Nature in Eurobodalla" which reports the sightings and numbers of all species recorded by Society Members. This annual is deposited in many libraries and offices around the State and provides real data for studies on say the effects of climate change or land use on native species."*

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Phone 02 4474 1329 Fax 02 4474 1234  
[www.esc.nsw.gov.au/landcare](http://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/landcare)

Email [peter.gow@eurocoast.nsw.gov.au](mailto:peter.gow@eurocoast.nsw.gov.au)

**HEALTHY SOILS  
HEALTHY FARMS FIELD  
DAY AT TILBA  
“Haxstead”,  
Sherringham Lane,  
Central Tilba  
9am, for 9.30 till 3pm  
Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May.**

The field day will cover innovative approaches to paddock sub division and location of watering points, analysis of soil test results taken from the site, the value of using biological fertilisers, grazing management strategies, plant identification, pasture assessment and tree planting for success.

“Many farmers are concerned about the cost of super phosphate and the potential for declines in production if super is not used. Biological fertilisers made on-farm may be a cost effective alternative to super phosphate”, said Derek Lewis, Chair of Far South Coast Landcare.

“Haxstead” is one of two demonstration sites, the other is “Brianderry” at Springvale, near Bega. Each site will have: a control plot, wide spaced trees, other plots will have worm leachate, commercial biological fertiliser, and compost tea applied each year.

Rod Logan, Healthy Soils Healthy Farm Project Officer

said,” Paddock design and grazing strategies are an important part of the project. The Project will look at cost effective ways of increasing the number of paddocks. Pasture recovery is an important part of good grazing management”.

Healthy Soils Healthy Farms is a project of the Far South Coast Landcare Association. The project will run for 4 years. Yearly soil and plant tissue tests will indicate any changes in soil health and carbon stored in the soil.

Arrive at 9am for tea or coffee before we start. Morning tea will be provided. For catering purposes bookings are essential. **Please BYO lunch.** For further information and bookings contact Rod Logan 6491 8224 or [rodneyn.logan@cma.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rodneyn.logan@cma.nsw.gov.au)

The Healthy Soils Healthy Farms Project has been funded by the Australian Government through the Caring for Our Country Initiative.

### SEA WEEK



‘Oceans of Life – ours to explore; ours to restore’ was

the theme for Seaweeek 2010, from 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> March. Seaweeek is the Marine Education Society of Australasia’s (MESA) major national public awareness campaign. It is held annually to focus community awareness, provide information and encourage an appreciation of the sea.

During Sea Week Eurobodalla Shire Council’s Environment Team and Batemans Marine Park got together to showcase our local marine life to students of Moruya and St Bernards Primary Schools.

Participants came face to face with some of the important animals and plants living in our oceans, estuaries and shorelines.

### FREE RESTORATION GUIDELINES WORKSHOP FOR COASTAL DUNES AND LITTORAL RAINFOREST.

**13 May 2010 Moruya Surf Club  
10am - 12pm including lunch**

**Associate Professor Kris French - University of Wollongong**

The workshop will present a set of draft guidelines outlining a method to ensure that restoration of coastal dunes and littoral rainforest sites will return

sites to the diversity they experienced pre-invasion. The technique is easy to use and will provide significant economic benefits to groups to focus replanting efforts while maximising the biodiversity benefits. Participants will be taken through the philosophy of the approach and some case studies to show how the process works. We are also interested in seeking feedback from participants about improvements to the guidelines.

For further information contact Lesley on (02) 4588 2113 or Kris on (02) 4221 3655.

## MARINE PARK EXCURSIONS

Eurobodalla Shire Council, the Batemans Marine Park Authority and the Nature Coast Marine Group have again combined their expertise to deliver Marine Park excursions to primary school students in the Eurobodalla.

The aim of the excursions is to introduce the students to the different marine and estuarine habitats found within the Batemans Marine Park including seagrass, mangroves, rocky shore and beach environments and the habitats these areas provide for many different animals.

A key message is the importance of conserving this biodiversity, after all sanctuary zones have been designed to do just that, and for the kids to consider everything from fish to tiny invertebrates like periwinkles, top shells and sea anemones and also the coralline algae and seaweeds that are found on most local rock platforms.

For more information contact Bernadette Davis on 02 4447 1037.

## POTATO POINT COASTCARE



Potato Point Coastcare group formed recently following a Bushcare Training session conducted by Peter Gow in February. Potato Point Coastcare Group meets on the **4th Tuesday of each month** with the aim to care for the bushland reserves along the Potato Point Headland, Jemisons Beach and Potato Beach targeting noxious and environmental weed infestations. Group contact – Rachel McInnes – 4473 5972

## MYSTERY BAY COASTCARE STALL ATTRACTS INTEREST AT THE TILBA FESTIVAL

Raising community awareness on the problems created by weeds was the focus of the Mystery Bay Coastcare display at the Tilba Festival this Easter,

“We had a great day and there was a lot of interest in the stall,” said Christina Potts who organised competition involving various weed categories –

“Best Weed Bouquet was won by Vicky Hoyer from Tilba, with over twenty weeds. Sarah Thompson won the longest Kikuyu runner removed from native bushland. Her runner was 3.9m long.”



Mystery Bay Coastcare display at the Tilba Festival using the new Landcare Gazebo

**NEW RESOURCES  
AVAILABLE FOR  
LANDCARE DISPLAYS**

- **Gazebo**
- **Banners**
- **Weed Labels**



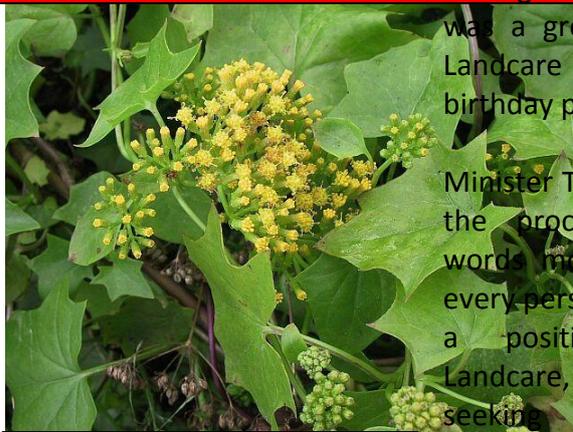
A gazebo has been purchased for landcare groups to use when conducting environmental stalls, weed swaps, and community information displays.

Courtney Fink and the Council’s Environment Team have been busy designing two attractive pull – up banners which will brighten up environmental education displays.

One banner features Eurobodalla Landcare initiatives and the other focuses on the range of Council Environmental programs. These should be available in May.

Heidi Thomson has been updating the Weed labels which we attach to weed samples on display at Landcare and Weed Swap stalls.

**CAPE IVY  
*Delairea odorata***



Climbs into the lower branches of trees, smothers smaller shrubs, and can carpet the ground thoroughly to prevent natives from regenerating. Can reproduce vegetatively, from stem segments dumped or transported by floods and also from wind-blown seed.

delegates present was very evident, palpable and contagious and the dinner was a great celebration of Landcare and a fitting 21<sup>st</sup> birthday party.

Minister Tony Burke opened the proceedings and his words motivated each and every person into thinking of a positive future for Landcare, charging us with seeking out the next

questions and ensuring that Landcare continues to be the answer, for example the role Landcare can play in moving the soil carbon debate forward could be momentous. The three great challenges facing us in the future are food security, climate change and the changing nature of volunteerism, and Landcare needs to position itself to deliver on these.

**NATIONAL LANDCARE  
FORUM REPORT  
23 – 25 MARCH 2010  
ADELAIDE**

The theme of the National Landcare Forum “*Celebrate, Communicate, Invigorate*” was certainly apt and if that was the aim of the organisers, then congratulations on definitely achieving their goal and providing the Landcare movement with this opportunity. The energy and enthusiasm of the 650

The newly appointed Chairman of the Australian Landcare Council – Kim Chance spoke of renewing Landcare with clarity, flexibility and continuity. His vision for Landcare is inspiring and provides us with the confidence that the new Australian Landcare Council will assist Landcare in clarity of purpose, flexibility in delivery and confidence in continuity and thus able to achieve the multiple outcomes that will be expected of Landcare. Peter Cozier from the Wentworth Group of

concerned scientists, classed Landcare as a cultural revolution, and charged the Landcare movement and other natural resource management bodies with establishing a set of environmental accounts at the regional level, that enabled the progress in improving land degradation and adoption of best management practice to be measured. The carbon economy could unleash a new revolution to ameliorate land degradation, and Landcare is the obvious vehicle to carry this forward.

Julian Cribb's data sets on where the world is heading regarding food security were very sobering. The notion of a potential 11.4 billion people on earth by 2060, who, given the current trends in the rate of consumption, will be eating enough for 14.5 billion is very scary.

Cities will consume more than ½ the world's water and by 2030 the mega cities of the world will occupy the same area as the whole of China, and the recreation areas required for those cities will occupy the same area as the USA. The pressure on arable land to continue to regenerate and provide for the population is indeed a massive challenge, as we have probably well passed peak land.

Julian Prior reinforced our longheld belief that Landcare answers many calls for building social capital, sustainable livelihoods and vibrant resilient communities. Group networks are the answer to galvanising action where there is a need to adapt rapidly, and facilitating community ownership of problems.

Southern Rivers CMA was very well represented from both CMA board and staff and community Landcarers, with one participant even commenting that we appeared to be everywhere. I felt very honoured to be a part of and representing this great region. Chairman, Pam Green, presented among other things, an impassioned plea to ensure we always consider the relationships at the forefront of all our work, as this is the glue that binds all our activities. Pam also gave a great overview of the National Regional NRM Reference Group, which explained another aspect of the "think tanks" available to feed the discussions on NRM and delivery of programs.

The origins of Landcare came with the visionary approach of combining the Australian Conservation Foundation and the National Farmers Federation in 1989.

These origins were confirmed as still being very relevant in today's Landcare and serve to reinforce and balance the production and conservation needs in our communities. The variety of the presentations that made up the balance of the program were a testament to the range of intelligent, diverse, resourceful and well developed projects and programs that are currently being undertaken.

The conference reinforced in me the dream of every Australian having an underlying philosophy of Landcare that is second nature in every action taken or decision made, with a choice to opt "out", rather than trying to convince Joe average to opt "in". This would transform the nature of Landcare from merely groups of people doing great environmental work, to an immediate response in people's psyche. This may be the visionary leap that is required to take Landcare into the future for the next 20 years.

*Mandi Stevenson  
NSW Landcare Inc .and  
SRCMA Board Member  
April 2010*

**FREE BUSHCARE BEACH  
PLANTS TOUR /  
BUSHCARE TRAINING  
TO BE HELD AT  
LILLI PILLI BEACH  
9.00 – 11am, Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>  
May 2010.**

Join the Lilli Pilli / Malua Bay Landcare group for a guided tour of the dune vegetation of Lilli Pilli Beach.

Vegetated dunes are our initial protection against the effects of storms and ocean swells. The native coastal vegetation is prone to degradation by infestations of weeds such as Bitou Bush, Bridal Creeper, and Cape Ivy.

Learn about native beach plants, beach weeds, and Bushcare weed control techniques.

“Members of the Lilli Pilli / Malua Bay Landcare group have been doing a great job caring for the coastal bushland of the Lilli Pilli Beach reserve and will be present on the day so come along and meet like minded people keen to care for the local environment” said Peter Gow, Eurobodalla Landcare Community Support Officer.

“Beach plants have to be hardy to survive in the harsh conditions of strong winds, sand drift, and salt spray present on our beaches. The dune sands are also low in nutrients and available moisture.

We will be looking at the succession of vegetation from the Beach Spinifex found nearest the ocean, to the Coastal Banksia and Eucalypts located in the hind dune area.”

The Lilli Pilli Beach Plants Tour will be held 9.00 – 11am, Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2010.

Contact Council’s Landcare Community Support Officer, Peter Gow, for further details and to register on 4474 1329 by Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May



Photo Caption: Lilli Pilli / Malua Bay Landcare group members take a break on a recent working bee.

**BUSHCARE BEACH  
PLANTS TOURS  
/BUSHCARE TRAINING  
WILL ALSO BE  
CONDUCTED AT:-**

**MYSTERY BAY  
9.30 – 11.30am  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May**

**BINGIE  
1.30 – 3.30  
Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**

Contact Peter Gow for details and to register on 4474 1329

**MAPPING SHARP RUSH  
(*Juncus acutus*)  
LOCATIONS**

The last two newsletters have had articles on the spread of Sharp Rush. Originally thought to be found mainly on watercourses this weed is more widespread in Eurobodalla than first thought and can infest paddocks over 1km from the nearest permanent water. A database of Sharp Rush locations is to be set up at Council. Please contact Peter Gow to report infestations on 4474 1329



Sharp Rush recently controlled at Long Beach

**SEA SPURGE PROJECT  
UPDATE**

Since March, the Wagonga Rangers have been surveying the beaches from Moruya south to Tilba. So far, we have made it to Fullers Beach (just south of Narooma) with some very pleasing results.

There have been some significant reductions in numbers – for example in November last year, 645 sea spurge plants were removed from Yabbara Beach and four months later in March 256 plants were removed.

Also at Kianga in Nov, 277 plants compared to March only 86 plants. So, we are very pleased with these positive results but it does show that it is going to take repeated effort to remove the bank of Sea Spurge seed found on our beaches.

We are continuing south our journey south and surveying National Park beaches as well as Council beaches. Along the way we are encountering a few Beach Daisy and removing them too. On a good day we might be lucky to see a few dolphins too.

### **PLANT SWAPS PROVING POULAR**

Over 100 people took part in a plant swap held by the Environment Team at the Narooma Markets in March. Residents and visiting holiday home owners surrendered a range of weeds they had removed from their gardens to receive their free native plants.

It's great to see so many people coming on board to join the battle against environmental weeds. They not only get free native plants but they learn about different weed species and get advice on gardening with native plants.

The next plant swap will be held at the **Corrigans Beach Markets** in Batehaven on **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June**. Anyone

can bring along environmental weeds and they'll receive free native plants (up to 5 per property). For more information contact Heidi Thomson on 4474 1083.

### **THE ENTHUSIASM OF YOUTH IS INFECTIOUS – MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK WITH REVEGETATION PROJECTS**

It has been great to see such energy and keenness to assist with revegetation works throughout the Shire.

The students have certainly provided the environment team with a 'buzz' of youth and a refreshing sight of the younger members of the Shire so willing and happy to work outdoors in the environment. The assistance from students and their teachers on the estuary projects was very much appreciated and provided a 'positive energy' for all who had been working on these projects over the past 3 years.

Over 90 students from Narooma Primary School assisted with planting over 1500 plants in a reserve on Wagonga Inlet, Narooma. This revegetation project complimented an extensive weed control program in various reserves around the inlet. The Environment Team has also been working

with private landholders to undertake conservation works on private property to eliminate livestock from accessing the inlet and undertaking weed control and revegetation works.

Students from both Bodalla and Moruya Primary Schools have assisted with planting over 1000 plants on Coila Lake Foreshore, Tuross. This complimented an extensive weed control and revegetation program which has been undertaken over the past 3 years by both Landcarers and Council's Environment Team.

The revegetated areas will provide important wildlife corridors and extended buffers around both Wagonga Inlet and Coila Lake.

If you would like more information on the Estuary Program, please contact Courtney Fink on 4474 7442.

### **SUMMARY OF SHOREBIRD RECOVERY PROGRAM SEASON**

The Parks and Wildlife Group (PWG) of the NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) established the South Coast Shorebird Recovery Program in 1999 in an effort to assist the recovery of threatened shorebirds breeding along beaches and within estuaries of the NSW south

coast. Four species of threatened shorebirds are the focus of the program, these being the Little Tern (endangered), Hooded Plover (endangered), Pied Oystercatcher (previously vulnerable now as of 2010 classified as endangered NSW TSC Act 1995) and the Sooty Oystercatcher (vulnerable). On the south coast both the Little Tern and Pied Oystercatcher breed predominately on sandspits and sand islands within or adjacent to estuaries, creeks and coastal lakes/lagoons. Whilst the Hooded Plover prefers broad, flat open sandy beaches and the Sooty Oystercatcher is found breeding on rocky offshore islands. The South Coast Shorebird Recovery Program was divided into two operational areas during the 2009/10 breeding season; the South Coast Region (SCR - Wollongong to Bateman's Bay) and the Far South Coast Region (FSCR - Bateman's Bay to the NSW/Victorian border).

Two Shorebird Recovery Coordinators were employed by the DECC (one based in SCR – Ulladulla and another in FSCR – Narooma) to implement recovery actions. These included surveys to establish baseline data on the breeding activities and numbers of each species, and monitoring to determine the

location of nesting sites and the level and types of threats posed at each site. Habitat protection and management actions, such as physical protection of nest sites, signage, fox control, inundation management and chick protection, were then implemented to alleviate these threats. This program also aimed to raise public awareness of the conservation status, recovery efforts, habitat importance and the biology of threatened shorebirds through publicity, media and active community involvement.

#### HOODED PLOVERS

Overall the season was a phenomenal success for the Hooded Plover, they fledged close to 3 times the annual average number of fledglings. This high level of reproductive success was found across the Far South Coast region including pairs nesting within Eurobodalla and Bega Valley Shires. The Eurobodalla shire is home to only one pair of Hooded Plover at Wallaga Lake. Previously many pairs inhabited the Eurobodalla nesting at numerous sights from Broulee to Bermagui. This remaining productive pair at Wallaga nested early fledged one set of chicks and then nested again and successfully fledged a second set of chicks! This was a phenomenal effort

and in total four chicks were fledged from this pair. All up for the region, Eurobodalla and Bega shires, 14 fledglings were produced which is a fantastic season for this endangered shorebird.

#### LITTLE TERNS

In previous seasons Tuross Lake has been home to over one hundred nesting Little Terns. This season huge waves washed over the closed lake entrance just as nesting was commencing, only one nest was lost but the entire colony dispersed soon after. As a result, numerous smaller colonies established along the FSC at Coila Lake, Brou Lake, and Wallaga Lake within the Eurobodalla Shire and also at Mogareka and Wallagoot Lake within the Bega Valley Shire.

The single nest at Coila Lake was lost soon after laying. However, Brou and Wallaga Lakes experienced considerable success despite the small colony sizes attracting up to 20 and 50 adult birds respectively. At Brou Lake nine nests were progressively laid over December. The adjacent campsite remained relatively quiet until late December and amongst the Christmas campers were members of the regular 'Friends of Brou Lake' group who kept a watchful eye over the birds. In January, 5

fledglings were successful in taking flight.

The Wallaga Lake colony was shorebird heaven this season with 3 threatened species breeding along its protected shoreline. The Little Terns were joined by a number of Fairy Terns (very close cousins), and both species nested on a sand island behind the closed lake entrance. This was surrounded by water and prevented any fox predation of the colony. Up to 17 Little Tern nests and 6 Fairy Tern nests were laid from the 21<sup>st</sup> of November onwards. Many runners survived to fledging (up to 26 fledglings sighted).

#### PIED OYSTERCATCHERS

The conservation status of the Pied Oystercatcher in NSW has recently been upgraded from threatened to endangered – ‘The scientific committee established by the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (TSCA) has recently determined that the Pied Oystercatcher *Haematopus longirostris* is now listed as an endangered species under schedule 1, part 1 of the Act’. Whilst we did see large gatherings of Pied’s (mainly non-breeding individuals) along the FSC (Wallaga and Brou Lakes in particular) this season they

did suffer low breeding success.

Despite pairs breeding at Tuross Lake, Brou Lake, Wagonga Inlet, Tilba Lake, Little Lake and Wallaga Lake only 3 chicks were confirmed as fledging within the Eurobodalla. Mainly eggs were lost during incubation this season, falling prey to a number of terrestrial and avian predators (both native and introduced), including ravens, goannas and foxes.

Please view <http://www.southcoastshor.ebirds.com.au/species.php> to locate photos and fact sheets on these birds.

If you would like further information on the program, please contact Courtney Fink on 4474 7442 who can provide you with the details of the Threatened Shorebird Recovery Coordinator.

#### FROG, FISH AND AQUATIC PLANTS WORKSHOP

Frogs, fish and aquatic plants proved popular on Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> of April, with over 60 people attending a workshop at the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens.

The workshop, hosted by the Eurobodalla Shire Council’s Environment Team, aimed to instruct

people on how to create a water feature using native plant and fish species which would also create a habitat for frogs, reptiles & small birds & mammals. A series of small aquariums displaying native & introduced fish, frogs & native aquatic plants were on show give people a close up view of some animals & plants that often go unseen.

A key point of the workshop was to highlight the environmental dangers that can occur through using invasive species to create a water feature. Melissa Freeman, the Aquatic Weeds Project Officer from Industry and Investment in Grafton showed examples of what happens when aquatic weeds enter waterways.

‘Some waterways in other parts of the state are thick with aquatic weeds and pose a huge cost to land managers,’ she said. ‘The Eurobodalla is lucky to have only small amounts of aquatic weeds but it is important that people can recognize these weeds and report them as soon as they are noticed.’

Aquatic weeds spread at extremely fast rates and infestations of some species can double in size in a matter of days.

Mike Crowley, a local frog enthusiast, also presented at the workshop. He taught

participants how to recognize local frogs from their calls and their physical features.

Learning how to construct a pond to provide habitat for local frogs and fish was a highlight of a presentation from David Crass, Eurobodalla Shire Council Environment Project Officer. 'Native fish are an interesting alternative to goldfish or other exotic fish that can severely upset the ecological balance in an aquatic system,' he said.

Courtney Fink, Eurobodalla Shire Council Environment Coordinator, spoke about the importance of choosing native plants when planting around a water feature. 'Native plants are the natural source of food and habitat for native frogs and fish. Planting these species will encourage more native birds, frogs and fish to your garden,' she said.

Due to the great interest and success of the workshop, further workshops are planned to take place in the future.

Infestations of aquatic weeds can be reported to Mick Johnson at Council on 4474 1370.

## REFERENCE LIST OF BOOKS FOR FROGS, FISH & AQUATIC PLANTS

### Frogs

A Field Guide to Frogs of Australia  
Martyn Robinson  
1 87633 419 3

Tadpoles of South Eastern Australia  
Marion Anstis  
1 876334 63 0

### Fishes

Freshwater Fishes of South Eastern Australia  
Robert McDowall  
0 7301 0462 1

Freshwater Fishes of Australia  
G.Allan, S Midgeley & M Allan  
0 7307 5486 3

### Aquatic Plants

Waterplants of NSW  
Water Resources  
0 7240 3730 6

### Groups & Associations

Frog & Tadpole study Group  
[www.fats.org.au](http://www.fats.org.au)

Australian & New Guinea  
Fishes Association  
[www.angfa-nsw.org](http://www.angfa-nsw.org)

## EUROBODALLA LANDCARE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May  
12.00 Lunch  
1.00 Meeting

This year we will be conducting our Annual Get together / AGM during the day instead of having an evening meeting.

Participants at previous meetings have suggested that this may be a better format as many people don't like being out too late in the evening but would like to have sufficient time to get to know each other.

The meeting will be held in the Council Committee Room at Moruya. Please RSVP to Peter Gow on 4474 1329 for catering purposes by Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May

