

# Caring for Water Places:

*a community collaboration in regeneration.*



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Belongil Creek and ICOLL

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### 6 Fridays in Oct/Nov 2020

- Day 1:** Introduction. Surveys and stories. The catchments we inhabit. A walking tour of Byron Bay's waterways incl. Urban stream restoration.
- Day 2:** The water cycle; the catchments we inhabit. Tour of Byron Bay's Sewerage Treatment Plant with Council staff - manufactured wetland and bird sanctuary. Biological indicators of water quality – looking at macro-invertebrates.
- Day 3:** Riparian repair – site visit with Council's regeneration staff. Blue carbon - coastal estuaries and Byron's ICOLLs. Looking at physical indicators of water. Learn to monitor water quality using digital meters.
- Day 4:** Indigenous knowledge and practices. Tallow Creek site visit with Delta Kay, Arakwal tour leader and educator.
- Day 5:** Water Sensitive Urban Design with Australian Wetlands Consulting. Site visit - private constructed wetland at Ewingsdale. Where to from here? Discuss a project for students to work on at home or in their area.
- Day 6:** Last day – Brunswick River Eco-Tour and re-cap lunch/discussion.

A circular inset image showing a lush forest scene. A large tree fern is prominent in the center, surrounded by tall trees and dense vegetation. A stream flows through the forest, reflecting the surrounding greenery.

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A black-necked stork at the Seapeace wetlands. Photo W. McLean.

## Collaboration and partnerships

- Byron Community College
- Arakwal community
- Byron Shire Council – Water and Sewerage, Bush Regeneration and Coastal teams
- Locals who are already caring for water places – Tony Maxwell's wetland restoration at 'Seapeace' and David Michie's urban stream restoration.

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## Day 1: What will we learn here?

The waters of Byron shire

Where the water goes - the catchment and everything else

Recognising the impacts on our waterways

Citizen scientists – monitoring the water

Listening to local knowledge

Taking action – what can we do?

How do we do it?



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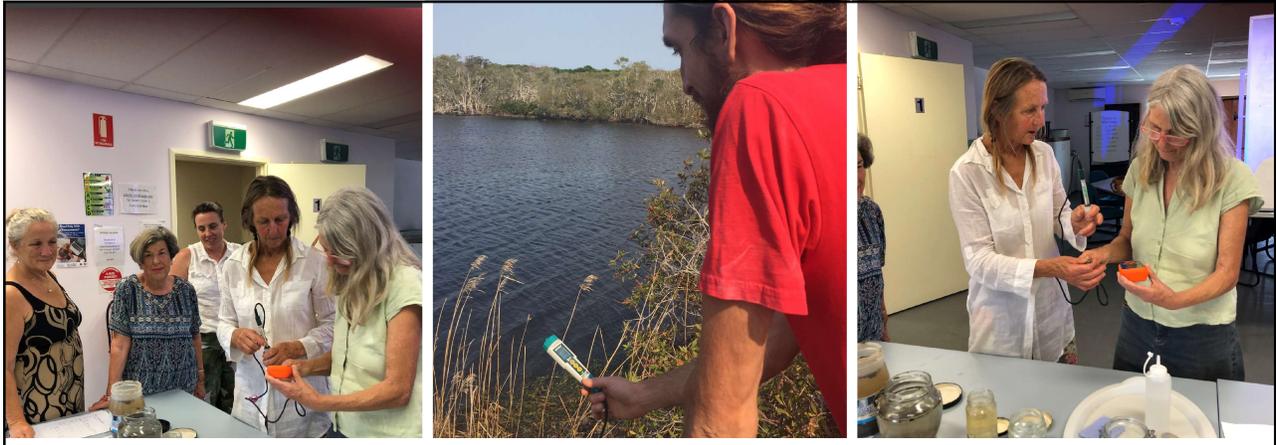
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Embedding learning and assessable skills – we used two Vocational Education and Training units from the National Foundation Skills Training Package.

- **Use digital technology for routine workplace tasks**  
– students learn, and are assessed on, how to use digital water meters.
- **Read and respond to simple informal workplace texts**  
– students learn, and are assessed on, terminology associated with riparian regeneration.

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Water quality monitoring with digital meters– in class and in the field.

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Using apps for water quality reporting.

The image displays two screenshots of an iPhone application used for water quality reporting. The left screenshot shows a 'Preview' screen where a user can review their report. It features a photo of a caddisfly larva, identified as 'Caddisfly Larva' (Order: Trichoptera (halk, wing)), and a list of other macroinvertebrates such as Stonefly Nymph, Mayfly Nymph, Caddisfly Larva, Dobsonfly Larva, Riffle Beetle, Water Penny, Right-handed Snail, Damselfly Nymph, Dragonfly Nymph, Sowbug, and Scud. The right screenshot shows the 'Report Location' screen, which includes a map, a 'Report Location' button, and fields for 'Site Profile', 'Tallow creek', '7 November 2019', 'Lat -28.664091 Long 153.611023', 'Waterway', 'Location On Waterway', 'Air Temperature -0.07 °C', 'Water Level' (Low, Norm, High, Flood), and 'Weather (Past 48 Hours)'. A 'Summary' section is also visible with the prompt 'Type a summary here.' and a 'Measurements' section at the bottom.

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# Partnerships - making it work for your community

Essential to include local indigenous community at the start.

Can you collaborate with local Community College/school?

Involve Council – they have budget for community outreach and a lot of knowledge among staff

Local media – print and radio. Social media. Seek interested and like-minded people.

Get in touch with us!  
Byron Coast and ICOLL Centre



At Tallow wetlands with Delta Kay – Byron at Byron Resort.

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# Outcomes – what the students did after ..

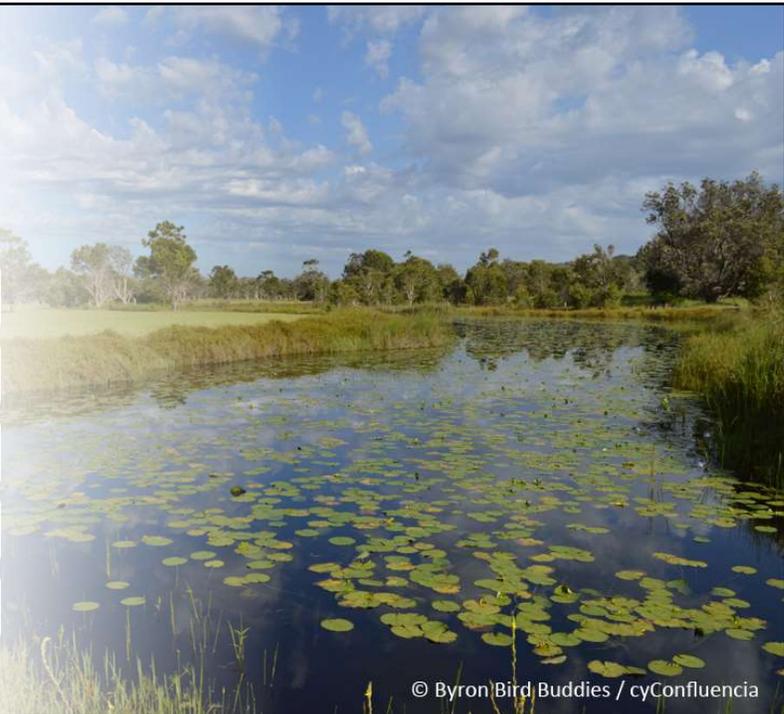
Formation of Byron Coast and ICOLL Centre with Zero Emissions Byron founder (and class member) Vicki Brooke – we are about to begin a project to run several workshops to create a cohort of citizen scientists and ongoing ICOLL protection and regeneration

Two students (who are also neighbours) began a Mullumbimby Creek riparian restoration project

Friends of Tallow Creek – one of the class formed this local group on Facebook– guardians of the area and info sharing

Creek regeneration project at Nimbin community property which had been a farm

Permaculture student – pursuing an idea for mushroom (mycelium) as water filters – water entering storm drains will filter through them.



© Byron Bird Buddies / cyConfluencia

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- Byron Coast and ICOLL Centre is an evolving concept but overall we aim to create an organisation that is a living science project – a place that can work towards restoring and protecting Byron Bay's ICOLLs and also be a repository for collecting and sharing data and other knowledge with other ICOLL communities.
- Byron Coast and ICOLL Centre (BCIC) has been awarded a \$56,000 grant from the NSW Environmental Trust. is for a series of community workshops to engage citizen scientists in protecting and enhancing the Tallow Creek and Belongil Creek ICOLLs in Byron Bay.

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- Come and find us here:
- Cate Coorey
- Vicki Brooke
- Dylan Laicher

- [www.byronicollcentre.org](http://www.byronicollcentre.org)

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