

# Projects Update

## Keeping our community up to date

In November 2013 we adopted an Environmental Action Plan which was developed in close consultation with the community to identify local environmental issues of concern. To help fund the projects in the plan, an environmental levy in the form of a special rate variation was also introduced in July 2014 for a period of 5 years.

The levy will raise just over \$1.3 million dollars each year for projects that address a range of issues grouped under the following themes: Estuary and Water Quality; Biodiversity; Sustainability and Environmental Performance; Dredging and Foreshore Improvements.

Let us know how we are doing... send an email to [tareecouncil@gtcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tareecouncil@gtcc.nsw.gov.au)

*This update contains a snapshot of the achievements and projects undertaken between 1 July and 31 December 2015.*

Visit our website for more info  
[gtcc.nsw.gov.au](http://gtcc.nsw.gov.au)

## What we've been up to....



### Estuary and Water Quality

- We stabilised over 1km of severely eroding riverbanks on the Manning River at Pelican Bay, Harrington and Taree through a combination of rock filleting and revetment.
- We engaged the UNSW Water Research Laboratory to undertake an assessment of the Manning River floodplain to identify priority areas requiring the remediation of acid sulfate soils.
- We completed the winter sampling for the Sand Tracing Study at Old Bar Beach.



### Biodiversity

- We completed an intensive 6 month environmental restoration project at Cattai Wetlands with the assistance of a 10-person Green Army Team funded through the Federal government.
- We completed stage 1 of the Schoolhouse Gully project at Wingham in partnership with Manning Landcare to regenerate a weed infested tributary of Cedar Party Creek.
- We erected over 600m of stock exclusion fencing on private land fronting Browns Creek to improve water quality and to protect endangered plant communities.
- We partnered with Hallidays Point Landcare to help control the spread of Asparagus weeds within the littoral rainforest.



### Dredging and Foreshore Improvements

- We commenced the survey and design for the upgrade of the Bohnock Boat Ramp.
- We partnered with Tidy up Taree to upgrade the public amenities at the Endeavour Place Boat Ramp.
- We constructed new public amenities at Harry Bennett Park to enhance the community's use of the Manning River foreshore.



### Sustainability and Environmental Performance

- We engaged the NSW Office of Environment & Heritage to conduct the annual water quality monitoring program within the Manning River estuary.
- We engaged NSW Public Works to undertake an investigation to determine whether the processes affecting the dynamics of the two Manning River entrances are having an effect on beach erosion occurring at Old Bar and Manning Point.

**We won!**

We won a Green Globe Award, in partnership with the UNSW Water Research Laboratory (WRL), in the Natural Environment Sustainability category for the Big Swamp project.

*The Green Globe Awards are the NSW Government's leading environmental recognition program, celebrating excellence, leadership and innovation in sustainability.*



# Projects Update

## Funding Success

One of the benefits of the environmental levy is that it enables us to attract additional funding from the State and Federal governments, as most grant programs require the applicant to provide matching funding. As of 31 December 2015 we have been successful in receiving an additional **\$2 million** in external funding to assist in implementing environmental projects funded through the levy. Those granted during the last 6 months (just over **\$355,000**) which will be matched dollar for dollar through the environmental levy include:

- \$200,000** through the **NSW Estuary Management Program** for Stage 3 of the Big Swamp Acid Sulfate Soil Remediation Project.
- \$70,000** through the **NSW Estuary Management Program** to undertake further restoration of actively eroding riverbanks within the Manning River estuary.
- \$76,565** through the **NSW Fish Habitat Action Grant Program** for two riverbank stabilisation projects on the Manning River at Oxley and Dumaresq Islands.
- \$5,000** through the **NSW Recreational Fishing Trust** to install a new fish cleaning table at the Bohnock boat ramp.
- 4 x 10** Four 10-person teams via the **Federal Green Army Program** to undertake weed removal and tree planting, boardwalk construction, water quality monitoring and fauna surveys within Council's bushland reserves.

## Future Projects




Applications for matching funding of **\$176,575** (over three years) have also been submitted to the **NSW Environmental Trust Restoration and Rehabilitation Program** to protect and enhance degraded lowland and littoral rainforest remnants across the region.



Photos L to R: Farquhar Inlet; Green Army on the boardwalk; Renovated amenities at Endeavour Place, Taree; Pelican Bay riverbank restoration and rock fillets

## Partnering with our community

Another benefit of the environmental levy is that it has allowed us to better engage, support and partner with community and industry groups, and other government agencies to address local environmental issues. In particular, we acknowledge the significant contribution the community makes towards the protection and enhancement of our natural environment, and encourage the development of projects which build the capacity of the community to get more actively involved. Some of the partnerships Council has been involved in to deliver projects funded through the levy include:

<b>Taree Indigenous Development &amp; Employment (TIDE):</b> bush regeneration and design of Aboriginal cultural heritage interpretive signage for Cattai Wetlands 	<b>Hunter Bird Observers Group:</b> conducting regular bird surveys at Cattai Wetlands 	<b>Friends of Browns Creek:</b> water quality improvement projects at Browns Creek	<b>Manning River Oyster Farmers Association:</b> Pelican Bay Riverbank Restoration Project
<b>Manning Landcare:</b> environmental restoration of Schoolhouse Gully at Wingham	<b>Manning Wetlands Steering Committee:</b> input into the Cattai Wetlands and Big Swamp projects	<b>Water Research Laboratory (UNSW):</b> remediation of acid sulfate soils at Big Swamp	<b>Mid North Coast Dairy Advancement Group (DAGS) &amp; Dairy Australia:</b> dairy effluent management
<b>Farquhar Inlet Management Group (FIMG):</b> maintenance dredging within the Manning River estuary	<b>Conservation Volunteers Australia:</b> Green Army team at Cattai Wetlands	<b>Taree Landcare:</b> tree planting at William Wynter Park and Kolodong Reserve 	<b>Hallidays Point Landcare:</b> weed control within littoral rainforest areas
<b>Tidy up Taree:</b> renovation of the amenities block at Endeavour Place, Taree	<b>Harrington Lions Club:</b> assisting the running of World Wetland Day celebrations at Cattai Wetlands	<b>Mid North Coast Weeds Coordinating Committee:</b> coordination of regional weed management activities	<b>Harrington Chambers of Commerce &amp; Men's Shed:</b> enhancement of the Harrington Lagoon foreshore
<b>Hunter Local Land Services:</b> contribution to regional environmental management projects	<b>Community volunteers:</b> assistance in running Council's community plant nursery	<b>Koalas in Care:</b> planning of projects which protect the local koala population 