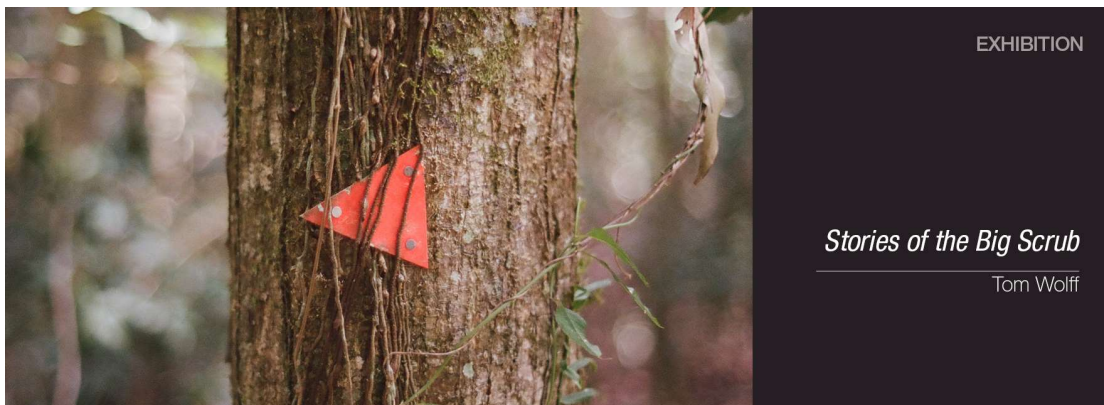


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Richmond Riverkeeper News

SHARING NEWS & EVENTS FROM AROUND THE CATCHMENT



STORIES OF THE BIG SCRUB'

A collection of 35mm photographs by Revive the Northern Rivers Founder Tom Wolff - Only 1% of the lowland subtropical rainforest known as the *Big Scrub* still remains on Bundjalung and Githabul Country. Wide-scale deforestation has reduced these majestic forests to isolated remnants scattered across the region. This exhibition of 35mm film photos, seeks out the stories embedded in these surviving pockets – a living lineage to Gondwana. [Northern Rivers Community Gallery](#) in Ballina until 16 October 2022

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You are invited to

Our Place Our Species

8th October 10am-1pm at the Lismore Quad

Our place our species is centred around how to better harness First Nations knowledge in managing our environment and the connections of native bush plant species. Hear stories from elders and environmentalists, enjoy music performances from young people, and connect with Plant Treaty, an installation by Andrew Rewald in the Quad.

Our place our species is a First Nations led platform to share the incredible work people do to look after the land. Together we can learn from those that have grown up on Country about what it means when beautiful plants blossom in certain seasons since they were jarjums (kids).

There will be a free BBQ hosted the Quad is wheelchair accessible.

This Lismore Quad project was made possible by the Australian Government Department of Industry, Science and Resources through Inspiring Australia and the NSW Government Office for Regional Youth.

'OUR PLACE OUR SPECIES'

Youth worker and creative producer Mitch King has been engaged by Lismore Quad to take the lead in the Northern Rivers Science Hub's *Our Place Our Species* pilot project. A Yaegl and Bundjalung man living in the Lismore region, Mitch has a long history of working with young people from diverse cultural backgrounds and sharing stories through dance, music and theatre.

"I'm hopeful that by inviting Elders to share their stories of connection to Country, we will create new opportunities for young people to get involved in the ecology of the region, share their perspectives and discover plants, animals and their habitat," he said. "We'll also bring in the knowledge of all kinds of land management people, with expertise in fire and floods and also ecologists." *Saturday 8th October from 10am-2pm at the Lismore Quad.*

Do you have an event you would like to share with the Richmond Riverkeeper network? [Tell us more!](#)



RESEARCH PUBLISHED ON OYSTERS IN THE ESTUARY

Did you know that global shellfish/oyster reefs have declined by over 85%, with many now defined functionally extinct? What about oysters in the Richmond River estuary?

A recently published study by researchers at Southern Cross University found significantly reduced Sydney Rock Oyster survival at sites across the Richmond estuary with "higher levels of metals and metal mixtures, suggesting that oyster health seems to be altered by chronic exposure to mixtures of elevated metals (and potentially other stressors)".

The study by scientists Endang Jamal, Amanda Reichelt-Brushett, and Kirsten Benkendorff, identifies Fishery Creek as a potential site for oyster habitat restoration whilst raising concerns that sites at Emigrant Creek and Empire Vale may no longer support reproductive oysters.

The researchers conclude that "a strategy for mitigating low-level metal contamination in the Richmond River estuary is required to improve the health of natural oyster populations and the potential for aquaculture".

Read all the science behind the story in the [Marine Pollution Bulletin](#) (open access until Nov 20).

Expressions of interest now open.

Local Land Services is calling for expressions of interest from landholders and land managers along targeted waterways in the Richmond River Catchment to undertake works to improve water quality. The works, which will be delivered through the Riparian Rehabilitation Project which is part of the bigger Marine Estate Management Strategy, will focus on improving water quality by reducing the amount of nutrients and sediments entering waterways through riparian rehabilitation works.

The eligible waterways for this round are: Skinners Creek, Wilsons River, Pearces Creek, Emerald Creek, Bennys Creek, Coopers Creek, Maquires Creek, Houghlahans Creek, Willowbank Creek, Duck Creek, Branch Creek, Emigrant Creek. The project objectives are: limit the amount of diffuse pollutants entering the riparian zone from surface run-off; create habitat for native biota, including threatened entities (species and ecosystems). Project works include: invasive weed management; vegetation rehabilitation and establishment including intercept plantings; stock management; maintenance and monitoring.

Expressions of interest will be assessed on suitability to meet the project objectives with priority given to macadamia orchards and grazing properties.

Click here to complete an [expression of interest](#).



GET INVOLVED!

Share your photos of the rivers and creeks of the Richmond catchment

- If you are out and about in the Richmond catchment, we invite you to take a photo of the rivers & creeks you connect with.
- Share on your socials and tag us @richmondriverkeeper #richmondriverkeeper
- or [email us](#) attach your photo and we will post on our socials with an image credit.

Volunteer with us! We welcome all manner of skills. At the moment we are really keen to develop our website and are looking for anyone who has some quality skills to share so we can share our stories and give the river a voice.

Follow us on [facebook](#) or **join our** [online slack community](#).

ABOUT US - The Richmond Riverkeeper Association respects and celebrates the unique relationship of Indigenous peoples to the land and waterways of the Richmond River catchment and joining with Riverkeepers across the globe we have

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River catchment so they are drinkable, swimmable and fishable again. For us this means committed partnerships that focus on habitat restoration, enhancing riverbank stability, reduce the loss of our precious soils and reduce pollutant loads. Improvements like these create the conditions to bring back species like the iconic Eastern Freshwater Cod.

GROWING THE RICHMOND RIVERKEEPER NETWORK

Are you a riverkeeper or know someone who is? Do you have project ideas funding leads, or some time to give? Reach out via [email](#), connect with us on [facebook](#) or share our [website](#) with likeminded riverfolk.

[Visit our website](#)

The Richmond Riverkeeper Association acknowledges that the lands and waterways of the Richmond Catchment and beyond, are the unceded territories of the peoples of the Bundjalung and Githabul Nations. We pay our respect to their Ancestors, who cared for Country since time began, and to all communities of the Bundjalung and Githabul Nations, to all Traditional Custodians, who continue to speak and care for their Country and Water.

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