# Caring for Catchments

## How do nature-based solutions play a role in flood resilience?

**You're invited to join us at Riverfest!**

The North Coast Regional Landcare Network is hosting a panel dialogue on the role of **nature-based solutions in the Northern Rivers.**

Our speakers—bringing perspectives from traditional knowledge, international expertise, government, community, business, and academia—will explore how we can work together on **flood mitigation, community resilience and building hopeful futures.**

Morning tea and a light lunch will be provided.

Spaces are limited, so be sure to **register to secure your spot!**

Monday 20th October 2025

8:30am - 2:00pm

Ramada Ballina, 2 Martin Street, Ballina

Registration from 8:30am, event commences 9am sharp

**Mel Bampton, Facilitator.** Mel is a world-class interviewer, speaker, and creative force, best known for shaping some of Australia's most iconic media projects. Recently, Mel presented the We are the Riverkeepers podcast, funded under the North Coast Landcare Network's Caring for Catchments project, which amplifies the voices of those working to restore, heal, and protect our river systems.

We recognise the work, support and solidarity of the Richmond Riverkeeper

This project is funded by the Australian Government through the Northern Rivers Recovery and Resilience Program 2022-23 administered by the NSW Reconstruction Authority.
Delivered by North Coast Regional Landcare Network.

# Panelists

**Oliver Costello is a Bundjalung man from the northern rivers of NSW.** Oliver set up the Firesticks initiative in 2009 and was a founding Director of the Firesticks Alliance Indigenous Corporation in 2018. He currently serves as the Executive Director of the Jagun Alliance Aboriginal Corporation and is the Vice President of the Northern Rivers Fire and Biodiversity Consortium. He also serves on various community, state and national boards and committees, including as a Board Member at the Clean Energy Regulator and of Natural Hazards Research Australia, Co-Chair of the National Indigenous Australians Agency Indigenous Rangers Independent Reference Group, National Koala Recovery Board, Co-Chair of the Koala Recovery Team First Nations Reference Group and member of the NSW Independent Koala Expert Panel. Jagun Alliance are delivering the Heal the Rivers project, a sister project to Caring for Catchments, an Indigenous-led initiative focusing on the restoration of cultural landscapes and implementing nature-based solutions for flood mitigation and adaptation across the Northern Rivers.

**Chris Prescott, Watershed Ecologist, City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (Oregon, USA)** Chris is a watershed ecologist involved in study design, data collection, data management, data analysis and reporting for Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and watershed restoration efforts, as well as providing technical support for policy development for the City of Portland. Chris has worked on the Johnson Creek Restoration Project a nature-based solutions project with a goal to rehabilitate 63 acres of floodplain and stream habitat along 40km of Johnson Creek. The project recently applied the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions as one of 21 global case studies.

**Dan Etheridge, Engagement Director, Living Lab Northern Rivers, Southern Cross University** Dan brings over 20 years of experience in the public interest design field to his role as Engagement Director of Living Lab Northern Rivers. After graduating from Southern Cross University's Applied Science in Coastal Management program, Dan worked for 20 years in New Orleans, Louisiana on diverse projects including large scale coastal wetland restoration and supporting low-income communities in recovery and reconstruction post Hurricane Katrina. Borne from the chaos of the 2022 floods, Living Lab brings locals and experts together to develop solutions and knowledge in response to climate disasters.

**Louissa Rogers, Project Manager, Nature Based Solutions Project, Richmond Landcare Inc.** For over two decades Louissa has built a strong career as an environmental scientist with a focus on natural resource management. Her experience working closely with communities and Traditional Owners has informed her understanding of place and enabled the integration of local values, knowledge, and experience into her projects. She brings this collaborative approach to her role as Project Manager for Richmond Landcare Inc.'s "Nature-based Solutions: Building Flood Resilience in the Lismore Catchment" project, a pilot that will test the role of NBS in reducing flood and erosion risk; through protecting, rehabilitating and emulating the natural functions of catchments, floodplains and rivers.

**Genevieve Murphy, Natural Asset Protection, North Coast Local Land Services** Genevieve works in natural asset protection where she focuses on practical, place-based solutions for healthier landscapes. In her role, she helps landholders look after and restore their natural areas and has created resources to support them in keeping their bush regeneration projects going after funding ends. She also led the Riverbank Vegetation Improvements Project under the Marine Estate Management Strategy, working with landholders on the Alstonville Plateau to strengthen riparian zones.

**Katrina Curran, Senior Scientist, Australian Wetlands Consulting** Katrina is an Environmental Scientist with more than 15 years' experience in the design and development of green infrastructure for water quality and quantity improvement. Katrina has led the design of a number of wetlands and several community engagement programs communicating the benefits of water sensitive design. Australian Wetlands Consulting is an environmental design consultancy who completed wetlands assessments for four wetland sites in the upper Richmond catchment with Border Ranges Richmond Valley Landcare as part of Caring for Catchments.