

Date	Topics	Content Overview	Venue & Expectations
Wednesday 6 Feb 2019	Introduction to land caring in the Gympie Region.	Introduction to the course & preparation for coming activities. Introduction to the geology and soils of the Gympie region & how soils & landform influence land use decisions; Vegetation zones in the Gympie region.	Landcare facility
Wednesday 13 Feb 2019	Site visit: learn about some considerations for planning your own projects	Gain further insight into some local landforms, soils & associated ecosystems. Consider property management issues relevant to different land/vegetation types. See what one landholder has achieved including the establishment of a eucalypt forest, wildlife corridors, orchard, rare trees, refurbishment of rainforest & other vegetation along gullies & a pasture improvement project.	Field trip by bus Water bottle, walking shoes, hat, sunscreen required
Wednesday 20 Feb 2019	Soils (part 1): testing, assessment of soil health, improving soils	Examine a range of soils. Bring a sample of your own soil & conduct tests & use assessment tools to determine its health. Investigate ways to improve the health and structure of your soil for increased productivity. Join in a practical hands-on session on making compost.	Landcare facility
Wednesday 27 Feb 2019	Soils (part 2) Introduction to propagation	Learn more about the technical aspects of soils from an agronomist guest speaker, then be introduced to propagating native plants from seeds and cuttings.	Landcare facility
Wednesday 6 Mar 2019	Weeds, pests, and biosecurity responsibilities. Alternatives to the use of chemicals to manage pests	Recognise agricultural & environmental weeds & pests. Have your weed sample identified. Meet the Council Lands Protection Officers & Dept of Agriculture & Fisheries Biosecurity Inspector. Share ideas on 'natural' alternatives to weed & pest control; tour Landcare's Bio-Control facility.	Landcare facility
Wednesday 13 Mar 2019	Animals, insects and pollinators in the garden	The role of microbats & native bees in pollination; the habitat around you; meet representatives from ANAARA, the Field Nats, MRCCC, Valley Bees, BMRG & the Koala Action Group.	Landcare facility
Wednesday 20 Mar 2019	Pasture and riparian condition assessments	Walk through local paddocks identifying grasses, legumes & forbs, & share insights into pasture management including learning how to complete a forage budget. Conduct a riparian assessment and learn ways to maintain riparian areas.	Field trip by bus Water bottle, walking shoes, hat, sunscreen required
Wednesday 27 Mar 2019	Fire safety and land management Fire and ecology Traditional land management	Safety and fire management advice from the Rural Fire Brigade; preparing for fire; manipulation of fire for beneficial effects; perspective from a local Kabi Goreng elder.	Landcare facility
Wednesday 3 April 2019	Introduction to Permaculture and field trip to see permaculture principles in practice	Planning, preparation and implementation; how to incorporate animals and plants in your design; tour a property to examine permaculture in practice and learn about the landholder's revegetation project.	Field trip by bus Water bottle, walking shoes, hat, sunscreen required
Thursday 11 April 2019	Land caring initiatives on a local farm	Visit a family operated farm utilising natural and regenerative farming practices that focus on rehabilitation, regeneration and rehydration of the landscape and the production of free-range eggs and pork. Return to Landcare for the end of course lunch.	Field trip by bus Water bottle, walking shoes, hat, sunscreen required.