



## South West Rocks Dune Care

**The challenge:** 900km of the NSW coast is infested with Bitou Bush. South West Rocks dune Care (SWRDC) works to eliminate invasive weeds along a 15km section of coastline, mainly within Hat Head NP.

**Conservation Objective:** Bitou Bush is a particular threat, invading areas of high bio-diversity including two Endangered Ecological Communities (EEC's) and populations of several rare and threatened plant species.

**Who we are:** SWRDC is an enthusiastic group made up of local and visiting volunteers, supported by the NPWS and local Shire Council. We are also supported by funding through Northern Rivers CMA, Caring for our Country and Envirofund grants which allows us to employ contractors to maximise the effectiveness of our efforts. In 2011 our group was awarded the regional and state Coastcare awards.

**What we do:** Skill levels within the group range from beginners to qualified bush regenerators. Weeds are removed by hand or cut and paint method, often following up primary control done by contractors. Much of our work is done along beach dunes, headlands or areas of littoral rainforest. We now have over 20 years experience and our control measures have proved to be effective. As well as the satisfaction of helping restore this wonderful coastline to a high level of resilience, we have some fun along the way. There is always time for a swim in the afternoon, reading, bird watching, walking and a BBQ or get-together in the evening!

**Difficulty:** We have a wide range of sites ranging from challenging climbs to gentle coastal dunes. Some of our sites require a km or two walking, but this is usually through spectacular coastal scenery. We can usually find a site to suit most fitness levels.



Volunteer accommodation at Arakoon House built in 1886

**Visiting Volunteers Week.** Once a month during the cooler months - April to October inclusive, we offer free accommodation, for up to a week, at historic Arakoon House. Arakoon House can accommodate up to 16 people in four self-contained apartments. Visitors usually settle in at Arakoon House on the Saturday, then join in the regular 3rd Sunday Meet, before continuing activities from Monday onwards.

**The visiting volunteer dates** for 2012 are April 21-28, **May 19-26**, June 16-23, July 14-21, Aug 18-25, Sept 15-22 and Oct 20-27. However if you have a group interested in coming outside these dates please contact us and we will see if we can fit you in.

For more information see our website [www.swrdc.com.au](http://www.swrdc.com.au) (which is currently being renovated)

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