



Pioneer Catchment & Landcare News

September 2012

September is Biodiversity Month!

Spring has sprung! With the warm sunny days now is the time to get out and appreciate the beauty of our natural environment. Join the Friends of the Gardens on a free guided walk through the Cape Hillsborough Hidden Valley led by John Atkinson. Saturday 15 September, 10am-2pm.
RSVP September 12, 4952 7300, botanic@mackay.qld.gov.au

Clean Up Australia Day Great Northern Clean Up

Help us to clean up Mackay, join Northern Queensland's Clean Up Australia Day in the Great Northern Clean Up! With March being a wet time of year in the tropics this year our clean up days have been shifted to a drier time.

The Mackay Regional Council has registered a number of clean-up sites throughout Mackay, most in popular recreational areas. PCL and Reef Catchments will each be getting on board by hosting sites.

PCL along with Saint Patricks College will be cleaning up along Riverside Drive on the morning of the 16th, with Reef Catchments Coastal Community Activities cleaning up Shoal Point on Saturday morning.

So join a site that is close to your heart, help clean it up and pass on the message that littering and illegal dumping is not on!

**When: Sunday 16 September,
Go to the Great Northern Clean Up website to join a site,
www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au/about/about-the-event/great-northern-clean-up**

Mackay Coastal Clean Up! *Libby Edge, Eco Barge Clean Seas*

Since June 2009 the Whitsunday Marine Debris Removal Program, an initiative of Eco Barge Clean Seas Inc. has removed 61,393 kg of marine debris from Whitsunday region islands and coastline. The focus of Eco Barge Clean Seas has always been the Whitsunday region, however, October 2012 will see Eco Barge Clean Seas extending their mission and message to the Mackay region with the launch of the Mackay Coastal Clean Up.

The Mackay Coastal Clean Up, an initiative of Eco Barge Clean Seas and the BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance (BMA) Hay Point Coal Terminal Expansion Stage 3 (HPX3) project, is all about bringing people together to improve the condition of the ocean and beaches of the Mackay region.

The Mackay Coastal Clean Up will be held in Mackay twice a year over a weekend for the next three years, with the first Clean Up on Saturday 13—Sunday 14 October 2012. This Clean Up will target 12 beaches between Mackay and Sarina, with marine debris being removed from more than 40 km of shoreline.

The Mackay Coastal Clean Up needs both volunteers and supporters to adopt a beach for the day of the Clean Up. You can register your interest, or find out more information about the Mackay Coastal Clean Up, on the Eco Barge Clean Seas website.

**When: Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 October
www.ecobargecleanseas.org.au**



Image: C Bartron

During a recent trip to Coastal sites around Mackay local volunteer Brook started an impromptu clean up at Blacks Beach on finding beer bottles discarded on the beach. A council worker on the trip followed her lead with a large bag of rubbish collected during the short walk around the beach and nearby reserve.

Australian Horse Keeping Conference

Within the Mackay region horses are a part of life, and with recent outbreaks in Hendra virus as well as the environmental impacts horses can cause every horse lover can benefit from the Australian Horse Keeping Conference. The conference is a great opportunity to learn all about horse keeping from experts in the field, from feed and disease to water quality and best management practices to minimise environmental impacts.

**When: Monday 12 - Tuesday 13 November, Melbourne
For details and registration go to:**

<http://horse.org.au/2012/06/australian-horse-keeping-conference/>



Image: A Thiel

Remove and Replace it: Animal Attractors

Many of our introduced plants are utilised as a food source by our native animals. By feeding on nectar, fruits and seeds they act as pollinators and dispersers of known and potentially weedy species. To help reduce the spread of exotic plants but still attract wildlife to your garden remove the exotics they feed on and replace them with natives. This way they will be feeding on their natural food source and spreading native plants.

Weed: Remove It

Ravenala madagascariensis Travellers Palm

Description: Not a true palm. Paddle-shaped leaves which are lined symmetrically on a plane giving it a fan-like shape, grows to 7m

Leaves: Large glossy leaves on long stems

Flowers and fruit: White flowers cluster in a boat shaped bract to 500mm. Fruit an oblong woody capsule to 80mm

Habitat: Creek banks, Melaleuca forest and open woodland

Origin: Madagascar

Murraya paniculata 'Exotica' Mock Orange

Description: Medium shrub (to 5m) with dense glossy foliage

Leaves: Glossy pale green obovate leaves (60mm) arranged oppositely

Flowers and fruit: Small citrus like, perfumed white flowers, orange or red berries (10mm)

Habitat: Creek banks, open forest and rainforest

Origin: South East Asia

Gloriosa superba Glory Lily

Description: Spreading, sometimes climbing, perennial with a robust rhizome and stems to about 3 m long.

Leaves: Glossy ovate leaves (60-200mm) grow directly from stems without a leaf stalk. Leaf tips often extend into a tendril

Flowers and fruit: Single showy flowers with recurved yellow and red petals. Form fleshy green capsules (30-100mm) containing numerous seeds

Habitat: Rainforests, creek banks and disturbed areas

Origin: Africa, Asia



Giant Palm Lily
Image: M Harrison



Native Mock Orange
Image: G Leiper



Native Jasmine
Image: M Jugg

Native: Plant it!

Cordyline manners-suttoniae Giant Palm Lily

Description: Attractive Palm Lily with a slender trunk to nearly 5 m

Leaves: Dark green, stalked, to 650mm long and 120mm wide

Flowers and fruit: In spring or summer it produces an attractive panicle of white flowers, followed by bright red berries

Habitat: Rainforests, riparian zones

Origin: Coastal QLD, Cooktown to Rockhampton

Currently in flower at the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens!

Murraya ovatifoliolata Native Mock Orange

Description: Small shrub (1-1.5m). Naturally occurring in the drier rainforests of northern Queensland, it has attractive 'quilted' foliage

Leaves: Dark green oval leaves (60mm)

Flowers and fruit: Small citrus like, perfumed white flowers, orange or red berries (10mm)

Habitat: Dry rainforest

Origin: Northern QLD

Jasminum didymium Native Jasmine

Description: Fast growing woody twiner, 3-4m

Leaves: Dark green, tri-foliate with ovate, broadly elliptic-oblong leaflets (20-50mm)

Flowers and fruit: Sprays of perfumed white flowers in winter and spring which form small bird attracting black berries

Habitat: Common along coastal communities

Origin: Across Northern Australia

Sources: MRPMG, Weeds Australia website, Weeds of National Significance website, Plants of Capricornia, PCL website

Volunteering is it's own reward; but an iPad is nice too!

Conservation Volunteers Australia, through the kind donation by the Darymple Bay Coal Terminal, will raffle off an iPad to those who volunteer during the month of September; just another reason to get involved during Biodiversity Month!

Volunteers will receive one entry into the draw for each day they volunteer, and double from 24-28 September. For those who want to get involved in PCL's Reliance Creek National Park Cat's-claw Creeper project this is the time to do so as activities are scheduled for that week.

Want to get involved? Contact Danielle Crespan at CVA, 4951 0933

Rubbish and Wildlife Don't Mix

Many of us will be familiar with the sad image of a Sea Turtle trying to consume a plastic bag under the mistaken belief that it is an edible jellyfish, as well as marine animals snared in discarded plastic rings, old fishing line and fishing nets. Recently an image has even been circulating of an endangered Green Turtle which had died after becoming caught in a plastic garden chair.



This lucky Australian Magpie was taken to a wildlife carer after it was found with the ring from a milk bottle caught around its head, preventing it from feeding.

While we may see rubbish in our streets and parks as unsightly, the impact on our native wildlife is far greater than that. The effects on our marine animals tend to be more commonly known than the effects on our land animals, but they are also affected. Snakes and lizards are known to try to enter discarded cans seeing the mouth hole as an

entry to a dark safe place, only to get their heads stuck and subsequently starve. Broken glass is also a hazard for animals travelling through their environment, same as it is for us, only they cannot go to the doctors and get stitched up.

Animals which feed on discarded food wastes can also be impacted through contracting disease from decaying food or simply become ill from feeding on food not suited for them.

Sounds depressing? It need not be. We only need to spare a thought for the other creatures we share this environment with, by cleaning up after ourselves, or after others who

are less responsible.



Littering; why do we do it and what can we do?

Litter in our environment comes from a variety of sources, be it blown from open bins or off the back of trailers and trucks, but sadly the vast majority of litter we see is as a result of intentional littering.

There are many thoughts regarding why people litter, such as lack of bins in public areas, but one thing research has shown is that it is tough to label an individual as a 'litterer'. Littering is not a consistent behaviour; some people may litter in certain situations, but not in others.

People can be influenced by a number of factors, such as a belief that an item is not litter (e.g. a cigarette butt or banana peel), laziness, perceived lack of consequences for their actions, and high on the list is seeing litter already in a given area. When a site is already littered, it is much more likely that people will

drop rubbish than at a site which is litter free. Extreme examples of this is illegal dumping, where areas are intentionally used for the disposal of waste. Because rubbish is already present people may see this as permission to litter themselves or it may simply act to absolve them on responsibility, but we should all be responsible for keeping Australia beautiful.

To help in the mission, please pick up litter in public places, take part in the Great Northern Clean Up and spread the word that littering and illegal dumping is just that, illegal. Information about littering and illegal dumping can be found at;

<https://report-littering-dumping.ehp.qld.gov.au/>

You can also report illegal dumping to the Mackay Regional Council or tell PCL about a known illegal dump site, all personal information will remain confidential.

Recycle Right

Recycling is an easy way for individuals, households and businesses to reduce the waste going to landfill and the depletion of our natural resources. It is simply a matter of putting the right thing in the right bin! Recycling contamination occurs when the wrong things are placed in the recycling bins (that's the yellow-lidded one at home). It doesn't necessarily mean the item isn't recyclable, or reusable, it just means that it can't be recycled through council's recycling process.

Items such as clothing, plastic bags, dirty nappies, garden waste and food scraps can upset the sorting process and may cause loads of recyclables to be rejected because they are dirty or its unsafe for the load to be sorted. Rejected recyclables end up as landfill. The sticker on the lid of yellow-lidded recycling bin lets residents know what can be placed in the bin therefore its important to only put these items in your bin.

Why is contamination a problem? Not only can contamination ruin a load of recyclables, it can also cause harm to people who handle them. Council's Material Recovery Facility relies on people to manually sort some recyclables. Contaminants such as syringes, food scraps, dirty nappies, electrical and metal items can cause harm. Rotting food waste and other household waste on the sorting line can pose a serious health risk to workers. Contamination may also lead to machinery failure, as plastics bags, fishing line and electrical cords get caught in the equipment, causing it to shutdown for long periods.

So do the right thing, think before you bin and recycle right.

Source: Mackay Regional Council, www.mackay.qld.gov.au

Who's who in Pioneer Catchment & Landcare

Management Committee

Chair Margaret Lane (SGAP—Mackay Branch)
Deputy Chair Dave Hunter
Treasurer Currently Vacant
Secretary (Non voting) Wendy Eiteneuer

Committee Members

Irene Champion
Di Salau
Dianne Williams
Cr Theresa Morgan
John Atkinson

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Supported by:



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER

Thursday 6 September, from 7.30pm—SGAP General Meeting, *Spring Show and Tell*, Mackay Gem and Craft Society Hall, Leisure Court. Visitors Welcome

Saturday 15 September, 8.30am– 2pm— Coastal Community Activity, Sandfly Creek Environmental Reserve Conservation Volunteers Australia, 4951 0933

Saturday 15 September— Coastal Community Activities
9-11am—Great Northern Clean Up! Shoal Point, Shoal Point Park, O'Brien Esplanade
2-4pm— Bucasia, meet at walking track at 172 Waverly St
noni.zahmel@reefcatchments.com.au, 4968 4215

Saturday 15 September, 10am– 2pm— Cape Hillsborough Hidden Valley, Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens, Friends Guided Walk, RSVP by September 12, 4952 7300, botanic@mackay.qld.gov.au

Sunday 16 September, 8am –10pm— Great Northern Clean Up! PCL clean-up along Riverside Drive,

Contact Dallas Milburn, d.milburn@pioneercatchment.org.au

OCTOBER

Saturday 6 October— Coastal Community Activities
9-11am—Ball Bay Meet at Vehicle access nearest to Mason Street
1-4pm— Welcome Back Waders! Sandfly Creek Environmental Reserve, meet at River St Boat Ramp, free BBQ
noni.zahmel@reefcatchments.com.au, 4968 4215

Monday 8-Thursday 11 October— Australasian Weeds Conference, Sebel and Citigate Albert Park, Melbourne, Australia
<http://www.wsvic.org.au/node/89>

Thursday 11 October—Save the date, PCL Annual General Meeting, details in October newsletter

Saturday 13-Sunday 14 October— 8-11.30am — Mackay Coastal Clean Up, various locations. Free BBQ at each site 12noon, Contact Libby Edge, P| 4946 5198, M| 0417 642 815
mcc@ecobargecleanseas.org.au, www.ecobargecleanseas.org.au

Check our website for more events and updates!
www.pioneercatchment.org.au



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