

MACKAY COASTAL CLEAN UP!

Don't forget to register your interest in the Mackay Coastal Clean Up happening from 8–11.30am on Saturday 13–Sunday 14 October. With 12 beaches being cleaned up over the two days there will be a beach near you! www.ecobargecleanseas.org.au for details and to register

FAREWELL DALLAS!

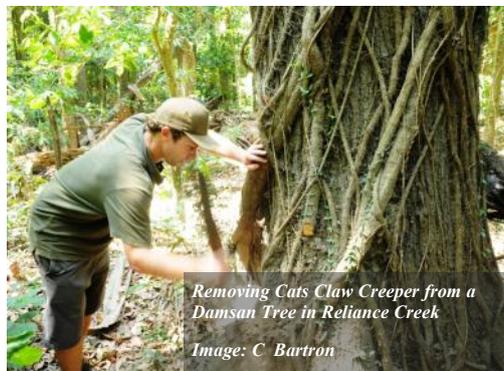
It is with great sadness that PCL says goodbye to our Project Officer Dallas as he moves onto the next stage in his career. Dallas has been a vital member of the PCL team over the past two years and he will be greatly missed. We wish him the best of luck in his up-coming endeavour.

A Message From Margaret Lane, Chair

Goodbye Dallas - thank you for your hard work over the last almost two years. On behalf of PCL members and friends, we are sorry to see you go but wish you well in your new position.

Dallas started work with us in November 2010 and in that time has been instrumental in delivering a number of new programs. With funding from Mackay Regional Council he has delivered Land for Wildlife, and varied community engagement under the Landcare Support program.

He has been a big support to the Mackay Regional Pest Management Group and he was instrumental in gaining funds for two key projects - upgrading our computer network and managing Cats Claw Creeper in the lower reaches of Reliance Creek. He has helped deliver the Peri-urban Program, has contributed to our newsletter, manned displays, organised events and in general been exactly the sort of officer we love to have in Landcare.



Words of Wisdom from the General

Dallas Milburn

My time as project officer with PCL has seemingly come and gone in a flash. The last 23 months have been an intensive investment in Landcare and catchment management in the Mackay region and I've loved every bit of it. From my arrival into the long wet season of 2010/11 to an impending dry fire season, there's always something to smile about in this job.

So many thanks to everyone with whom I've worked beside during this time, my new position in Ecology based in Mackay means our lines of business will eventually cross again.

I leave the group with an exciting few years in the pipeline and I know they'll be busy, I've guaranteed it. All the best to Claire, Wendy and the management committee who will again steer the group forward and with pride.

And finally good luck to all the landholders out there who continue to battle and prosper in a

challenging environment of politics and climate adversity, you are who make this position a pleasure to fill.

Land for Wildlife Plant Orders

A reminder for registered Land for Wildlife members that it is time again to order your annual free 20 native plants. please send your orders to; projectmanager@pioneercatchment.org.au with the subject heading 'Land for Wildlife Plants'

PCL Annual General Meeting

Our AGM is on Thursday 11 October and we look forward to seeing members there. Nominations have been called for the Management Committee and if anyone new is interested please feel free to contact our Program Chair, Margaret Lane (through the admin officer), to discuss what is involved. Attendees to the AGM will each receive two free native plants.

When: Thursday 11 October, 4–6pm, Natural Environment Centre, 6 Swayne St, North Mackay
RSVP by Monday 8 October, admin@pioneercatchment.org.au, 4944 1979

Be Natural Landcare Grants Program

The Be Natural Landcare Grants Program 2012 is open to all environmental groups including Landcare, Bushcare, Coastcare, 'Friends of' groups, Junior Landcare projects and community groups that work on environmental issues across Australia. The Be Natural Landcare Grants offer grants up to \$2,500 to undertake environmental community based projects. Applications close 26 October
www.landcareonline.com.au/be_natural_landcare_grant

Weed of the Month

Annona glabra - Pond Apple

Description: semi-deciduous tree to 12m (typically 3-6m), single-stemmed, but when seeds germinate in groups stems may fuse together, giving the appearance of a single plant.

Leaves: alternate, light-dark green leaves, 70-120mm long with a prominent midrib, have a distinctive small fold where the leaf blade joins the leaf stalk.

Flowers and fruit: pale yellow/cream flowers (20-30mm) with three leathery outer petals and three smaller inner petals, inner base of flower vibrant red. Large fruit (50-150mm), spherical, smooth skinned, green in colour ripening to a yellow/orange. Flowers from December, fruit forms in January.

Habitat: indigenously occurs in fresh and brackish swamplands, in QLD it invades fresh, brackish and saltwater wetlands

Origin: North, Central and South America, West Africa

The problem: Pond Apple grows rapidly in suitable environments, smothering out native vegetation

What you can do: Report all suspected Pond Apple trees to Biosecurity Queensland, 13 25 23. Please note; Pond Apple can be mistaken with a number of our native mangrove species, Pond Apple leaves emit a distinct smell (similar to green apples) when crushed

Local impact: small populations of Pond Apple have been found in the Mackay Region such as the Leila Creek around Habana and in Andergrove. Surveys and control activities have been undertaken within our region but landholders are still urged to keep an eye out for trees



Image: PCL



Image: J Bradford

Plant of the Month

Macaranga tanarius - Macaranga

Description: moderate height, to 6m, shrub or small tree. When mature is usually densely foliated with single or multiple stems

Leaves: simple, alternate, broadly ovate to rounded in shape. 80-250mm long, with pointed tips. Green above with prominent pale veins

Flowers and fruit: panicles of drooping, greenish to yellow flowers with fringed floral bracts. Dioecious they flower from spring to summer. Form into three-lobed yellow capsules (10mm) with large soft 'prickles'

Propagation: relatively easily grown in most soil types and is able to grow in both shaded and full sun positions. As a pioneer species it will grow rapidly and have a life span of approximately 15 years

Distribution: found in coastal regions from northern NSW throughout QLD and into the NT as well as SE Asia



Image: S & A Pearson

Habitat: coastal rainforest

Typically found: a pioneer species it is found throughout our region and can be seen flowering in many of our coastal dune areas and around the streets of Mackay. The foliage, flowers, buds and seeds are all eaten by a variety of birds.



Image: The Conservancy Association

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

Junior Landcare Challenge; How Does Your Backyard Grow?

Are the school holidays already resulting in cries of, 'I'm bored, there's nothing to do'? Well now is a great time to get your kids involved in Junior Landcare with the Yates Junior Landcare Backyard Challenge. This new challenge gives kids the opportunity to explore what is growing in their very own backyards!

To enter kids can submit a photo or short video about what is going on in their backyards; from pot plants on balconies, leafy suburban gardens or rural and remote properties, and everything in between!

Awesome prizes are up for grabs from Canon Australia, and a few exciting celebrity judges will pick the winning entries! Kids aged 8 - 16 can enter, and you can enter as individuals, families, schools, or with a youth group such as Scouts or Girl Guides. **For more details go to: www.juniorlandcarechallenge.com.au**

Finch Hatton Habitat Haven

Finch Hatton has long been known as a biodiversity hotspot, with a range of at concern species habituating the gorge.

Chris and Geeske Van Houweninge are two people who are working to make a difference, and have recently had their property registered as Land for Wildlife.

The 8.48ha block is thick with healthy vegetation from an 'of concern' ecosystem. Their block is also listed as Essential Habitat for the rare, endemic, Eungella Honeyeater.

Although having never seen the elusive bird, Chris and Geeske have owned the block since the late 70's and still hope to one day be lucky enough for a sighting.



Image: G. Chapman

Living with wildlife is one that the Van Houweninge's have embraced with a wry smile; with Geeske having been the victim of two separate snake bites, but happily shares the story as if it were yesterday.

Having Essential Habitat registered under the Land for

Eungella Honeyeater
Closely related to the Bridled Honeyeater they were given species status in 1983 and are only known to occur in the Eungella Plateau west of Mackay. During the October–December breeding season pairs can be seen inhabiting areas of dense rainforest

Wildlife programme is a significant step for Finch Hatton, as well as the Eungella Honeyeater. Finch Hatton is home to six Land for Wildlife properties all working to conserve the beauty of the natural environment that can be found there.

Seasonal Closures for Wildlife

A reminder for all those who visit Sandfly Creek Environmental Reserve; from October 1—April 30 the reserve is a 'No Access Area' for dogs. Please observe and respect this no dog area and all 'Dog on Leash' areas. These measures are put in place to protect our resident and visiting animal species from disturbance which may prevent them from successfully feeding and breeding in areas which are of significance for these species.

Coastal Carers Launch Into Spring Noni Zahmel, Reef Catchments

Spring is an exciting season on our coast, with the return of nesting marine turtles and migratory shorebirds to our beaches and foreshores.

Every year up to 23,000 migratory shorebirds (waders) visit the shores of the Mackay Whitsunday region between October and April. While they are here they are resting in order to build up their strength to make the long journey back to the northern hemisphere to breed. These birds feed on the mudflats at low tide and gather to roost during high tide, where they are most vulnerable to disturbance by dogs and other recreational activities.



Image: C. Barron

Come along and join free guided walks and bird watching activities to celebrate the arrival of the shorebirds and learn what you can do to help, at;

Welcome Back Waders
Saturday 6 October, 1-4pm
River St Boat Ramp, Sandfly Creek
Environmental Reserve
includes FREE BBQ!

To get involved in the Coasts and Communities program contact
Noni Zahmel:
noni.zahmel@reefcatchments.com.au

This event is being held in partnership with Conservation Volunteers Australia and Mackay Regional Council

Wildlife Services

We are heading into a season where people will see an increased interaction with our native species. Sea Turtles will start arriving on beaches to nest, a number of birds are breeding and as the weather warms snakes are becoming more active. It is important that we respect these and other animals and give them the space they need to survive. But interactions are always going to occur and there are a number of individuals and groups you can call for assistance with injured and abandoned wildlife, marine stranding's and snake removal. Please remember that many of our wildlife carers are dedicated volunteers and often work full-time in addition to their wildlife work. Whilst every effort will be made to respond immediately to calls this may not always be possible.

RSPCA Qld hotline: 1300 264 625—all wildlife emergencies, including marine stranding's and snake removal

Australian Wildlife Rescue Service: 0447 543 268—terrestrial animal emergencies, possible snake removal

Mackay & District Turtle Watch Association: 1300 264 685—marine stranding's

Brett Modra: 0438 511 969— snake removal (call out fee applies)

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

Pioneer Catchment Office

4944 1979

www.pioneercatchment.org.au

Pioneer Catchment Landcare Facilitator

Claire Bartron

0419 778 402

claire.bartron@reefcatchments.com.au

Project Officer Currently Vacant

Office Manager Wendy Eiteneuer

0427 543 509

admin@pioneercatchment.org.au

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FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



Upcoming Events

Thursday 4 October, from 7.30pm—SGAP General Meeting, 'Vegetation Management Issues in Victoria - a personal experience' by Delma Clifton from CQUni. Mackay, Mackay Gem and Craft Society Hall, Leisure Court. Visitors Welcome

Friday 5 October— 9.30-11am— 'Bloomin' Beauty' free guided walk, Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens, 4952 7300, botanic@mackay.qld.gov.au

Saturday 6 October— from 8am - Morag McNichol Reserve working bee. Contact Jim McNichol, 4942 8802

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

Sunday 7 October, meet at 5.45am—BirdLife Mackay Outing, Mt Ossa- McLeans Property, 4952 2964 for details

Sunday 7 October—9-11am - SLCMA Aquaponic Information Session, Sarina Rural Skills Centre, RSVP 5 October, 4956 1388

Thursday 11 October—4-6pm- PCL Annual General Meeting, Natural Environment Centre, 6 Swayne St. RSVP 8 October, 4944 1979, admin@pioneercatchment.org.au

Saturday 13-Sunday 14 October— 8-11.30am — Mackay Coastal Clean Up, various locations. Free BBQ's (see website) 12noon, Contact Libby Edge, 4946 5198, 0417 642 815 mcc@ecobargecleanseas.org.au, www.ecobargecleanseas.org.au

Saturday 20 October— 10am-3pm— 'Seed and Feed Forum' Friend's of the Botanic Gardens, Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens, RSVP essential: 4952 7300, botanic@mackay.qld.gov.au

Saturday 27 October— Coastal Community Activities

9-11am—Bucasia, meet at track next to 172 Waverley St

2-4pm— Eimeo, meet at end of Graham Crescent

noni.zahmel@reefcatchments.com.au, 4968 4215

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



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