

Nest Cylinders Installed

You may recall the Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group were working with the Iona West Men's Shed to build long-lasting and durable nest cylinders to be installed in potential habitat areas for at-risk species. With funding from Mackay Regional Council and donations from local material suppliers, we built a range of cylinders targeting micro-bats, rosellas and squirrel gliders.

So far, our *Land for Wildlife* members have installed twelve Squirrel Glider cylinders across a range of suitable habitat areas, as well as six micro-bat cylinders.

Tina Ball installed one at the family property at Tara Ck, Sarina. She reports that there was a pair of gliders gliding past their house for two weeks in late April, so it was incentive to install the cylinder for other gliders that may be there.

Tina's photos show that open, regenerating eucalypt woodlands is ideal for installing cylinders as it increases the opportunities for hollow nesting mammals where no large hollow-bearing trees exist. We are keen to hear from other folk who have a cylinder whether the installations are being used, by the target or other species.



TOP 5 BIOSECURITY TIPS FOR SMALL LIVESTOCK FARMS

Did you know that over 60% of cattle producers in the Mackay region run 100 head of cattle or less? That means there are many small-scale producers, but the biosecurity risks on a small farm are just as critical as for a large scale producer.

Even if you only have 1 beast, you should be aware of the biosecurity risks in your area. Biosecurity on your farm involves all the activities and practices you undertake to minimise the impacts of animal diseases, pests and weeds. How you approach your on-farm biosecurity can make a difference to the overall profitability of your enterprise. Responding to diseases, pests and weeds ultimately costs money, so investing in keeping your farm free of these problems improves animal and environmental health, productivity and profitability.

Top 5 tips for your farm

1. Know the risks, rules and requirements

- * If you have one livestock animal on your farm (horse, sheep, cow, pig, deer, alpaca etc.) you **must** register your farm with your state Department of Agriculture or Primary Industries
- * Be familiar with animal disease, pest and weed risks in your area
- * Be aware of what you can and cannot feed to livestock

2. Have a plan!

- * A biosecurity plan can help you to prioritise, manage and mitigate risks on your farm and reduce costs in responding to a disease, pest or weed outbreak.
- * Coordinate with your neighbours on feral animal, pest and weed control plans
- * Pre-planning for emergency events such as natural disasters can speed recovery after the event

3. Keep records

- * Compulsory records such as those for livestock movements and records such as animal treatments, on-farm chemical usage and vendor declarations, are vital to producing safe and traceable food.

From the Livestock Biosecurity Network



Priority areas for on-farm biosecurity

1. Livestock sales, purchases and movements
2. People, vehicles and equipment
3. Feed and Water
4. Feral animals, pests and weeds
5. Animal health management
6. Carcass, effluent and waste management
7. Staff training
8. Planning, recording and monitoring



Plant of the month

Acacia leptocarpa

Northern Wattle

Family: Mimosaceae

This beautiful wattle is currently in flower in our district, and you may be able to catch its sweet earthy perfume on the breeze. It is a small to medium tree with a fairly dense, rounded crown. This wattle is an ideal revegetation species for beach scrub and woodlands, since it establishes quickly and provides habitat for insects and birds and is self-mulching. Bark on older trees is deeply furrowed. The hard, close-grained timber is decorative and useful for turnery and cabinet work.

Leaves: The 'leaves', around 12-20 x 1-2.5cm, have 3 prominent, yellowish, longitudinal veins with parallel secondary veins, spaced about 1mm apart.

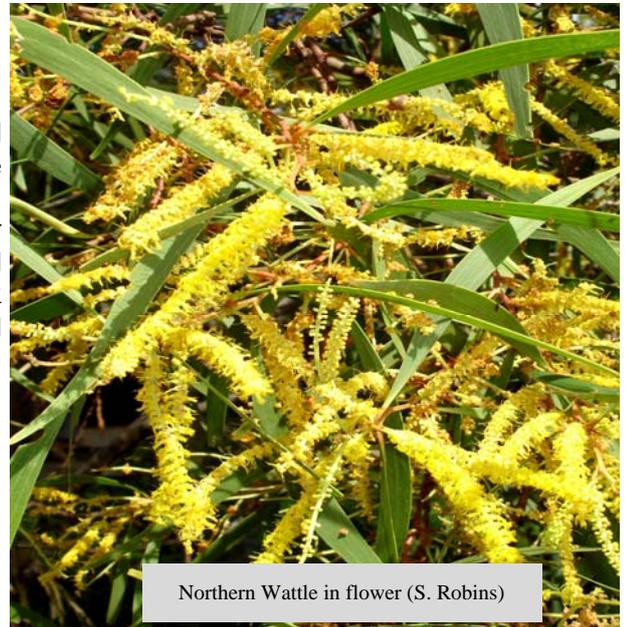
Flower/Fruit: In winter, the bright yellow flowers are borne in moderately dense, paired spikes, 5-7cm long. The narrow pods, about 12cm x 3mm, are somewhat coiled and flat but raised over the seeds. The seeds are longitudinal in the pod and have a yellow-orange funicle (fleshy appendage) which is folded many times forming an aril almost as long as the seed. Fruits from September to October.

Propagation: Remove seeds from pods and treat with hot water before sowing.

Local habitat: Beach scrub /open forest woodland. A heavy flowering tree. Grows in well drained, sandy soils.

Distribution: Coastal belt from central Queensland to Cape York; Northern Territory and Western Australia.

References: Alcock & Champion, 1989 One Hundred and One Trees of Mackay.



Northern Wattle in flower (S. Robins)

Weed spotting this month

Annona glabra

Pond Apple—What was once a rootstock is now a weed

Family: Annonaceae

Origin: Central & South America

This is a semi-deciduous tree usually 3-6m, but up to 15m. Soft-wooded stems have a thin grey bark bearing conspicuous lens shaped spots on the stem. It invades fresh, brackish and saltwater areas, drainage lines, as well as coastal dunes and islands. It has the potential to form dense stands in swamp areas, capable of replacing Melaleuca wetlands, mangroves and creek bank communities.

Leaves: Alternate, simple, light to dark green, 70-120mm long, prominent mid vein, distinct smell like green apples when crushed.

Flowers: Pale yellow to cream, red inner base; 3 leathery outer petals, 3 smaller inner petals, 20-30mm in diameter.

Fruits/Seeds: Round fleshy 'berries', 50-150mm in diameter, green ripening orange-yellow then black after falling; containing 100-200 brown seeds, similar in size and shape to pumpkin seeds.

Spread by: Fruits and seeds dispersed by water, including sea currents; also animals, including pigs and birds.

Pond Apple was introduced to Australia as grafting stock for commercially grown custard apples. It has been found in creek bank and mangrove communities in the Reliance Creek catchment and Melaleuca wetlands at Andergrove. Landholders should consider expanding the riparian vegetation along creek banks to help exclude the pest. It is a Class 2 declared plant in QLD, and a Weed Of National Significance.

References: MRPMG, 2013. Weeds of the Mackay Whitsunday Region.



Pond Apple is under surveillance in our region. (Image S Von Farland)

- * Ask for an animal health certificate when you purchase in new livestock

4. Control and patrol

- * Aim for one signed entry point onto your farm to control visitor entry
- * Keep a visitor register
- * Quarantine new livestock to your farm
- * Undertake frequent monitoring of your livestock and their environment

5. Spotted something unusual? Report it immediately

- * If you notice unusual clinical signs of disease in your livestock such as lameness, sudden deaths, diarrhoea, salivation or nasal discharge contact a veterinarian or animal health authority for advice immediately

The Livestock Biosecurity Network is an initiative of Cattle Council of Australia, WoolProducers Australia and the Sheepmeat Council of Australia. They support livestock industries through engagement and extension in sound on-farm practices for livestock health, welfare and biosecurity.

visit www.lbn.org.au



A newly planted revegetation plot. Revegetation can improve weed and erosion control, water quality, shelter and biodiversity.

D. Peplinkhouse

Landcare Help for Rural-Residential Landholders

local native plants for their property.

All plants provided are local species, grown from seed collected by Landcare volunteers and staff, and propagated at the Landcare Community Nursery, a partnership between Landcare and the Regional Council.

Pioneer Catchment Landcare Group is offering property management assistance to small-scale landholders over the next 2 years.

Landholders with properties between 2-50acre of rural-residential land can apply for a free property visit by Landcare staff, assistance in developing a property plan outlining approaches to weed management, revegetation, habitat, erosion and other relevant issues and a free tray of at least 40

Expressions of Interest can be made by calling the Landcare office, or emailing your details including, Name, Address, Phone, your Lot Plan, and a summary of your land management issues.

Phone: 4944 1979
projectmanager@pioneercatchment.org.au

NOTE: Your Expression of Interest is obligation free.



Landcare project activities in June 2014...

Below — The Pioneer Valley Show was again a great success for the Landcare Group, despite the muddy conditions. With the hugely appreciated help of Di Williams, Shelley Molloy and Amanda Bland we handed out 450 free plants and spoke with around 200 people about revegetation, Land for Wildlife, weeds, pests and various land management issues.



Above — Shelley Molloy (Mackay Regional Council Pest Officer) and Lalith Gunasekera (Biosecurity Qld) participate in the twice yearly surveys of Leila Ck, near Habana for a locally restricted waterway weed—Pond Apple. We found at least 12 new seedlings along the creek survey and continue to monitor new incursions of this pest. Revegetation with thick riparian vegetation is the best way to keep this weed out of our creeks, something many of our waterways are in desperate need.

Upcoming Events

July

Saturday 5— Morag McNichol Reserve Working Bee, Wattle St. Contact 49550153

Sunday 6 — Birdlife Mackay outing to Berri Werri, Gargett. Contact 4959 3382

Saturday 12— Coastcare Activity 2pm. Meet at the boat ramp at the end of Bucasia Esplanade. For more information, email claire.bartron@reefcatchments.com or call 0429 155 841

August

Saturday 2—Working Bee at Morag McNichol reserve, 8am-10am. Contact 4955 0153

Sunday 3—Birdlife Mackay outing to Tedlands, Koumala. Contact 4959 3382

Thursday 7—SGAP general meeting and talk on Flora of the Norfolk Group of Islands. Contact 4955 1745.

Tuesday 19— Slade Point Reserve 9am-12.30pm. National Science Week! Come and learn how to identify some of our native and weedy coastal plant species, and how to monitor coastal dunes
Morning tea included.

RSVP to 0429 155 841 or

claire.bartron@reefcatchments.com

Sunday 23— Harbour Beach 3 - 4 pm
Learn free self defence and help Butterfly Warriors remove litter from this popular beach.

E-mail freestylersdojo@live.com.au

INTRODUCING CARLA LAMBROPOULOS, PROJECT OFFICER WITH PIONEER LANDCARE



Carla is starting part-time work with the Landcare group in July and comes to us with a great deal of experience. Carla is an environmental officer with over four years' experience in the mining sector both on-site and as a consultant. She has the ability to research, organise and manage projects backed up by knowledge of environmental legislation, policies and procedures. Carla brings a thorough attention to detail and works towards a superior level of service. She has experience

in building strong working relationships with stakeholders and government agencies. She is an energetic and enthusiastic team player who is driven by a passion to contribute to achieving an organisations environmental obligations and goals. She also has two young children, so she knows what working hard means! Welcome to PCL Carla.

Stay tuned for next month's newsletter for a summary of new projects Carla will be managing.

Keep up to date with what's going on in our region—Like us on [Facebook!](#)

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Pioneer Catchment Office contacts:

Ph: 4944 1979

www.pioneercatchment.org.au

Project Manager: Kate Steel, 0447 749 769
projectmanager@pioneercatchment.org.au

Office Manager: Wendy Eiteneuer, 0427 543 509
admin@pioneercatchment.org.au

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