

### Come and celebrate 25 years of Landcare with us.



Gordon White Library on Phillip St, Mt Pleasant will host a display celebrating 25 years of Landcare during Landcare Week, 1–7 September. Pioneer Catchment & Landcare started in 1992 as Pioneer Integrated Catchment Management Association, and has been involved in Landcare since that time.

In the early days many studies were done to assess the condition of a range of natural resources including stream banks and native vegetation. Since that time revegetation has focused on stabilising stream banks and, more recently, a number of coastal and wetland projects. Our many partners included Mackay Regional Council, Conservation Volunteers Australia and our regional Natural Resource Management group, Reef Catchments.

In the late 1990s PICMA, as PCL was then known, secured funding for significant revegetation in the Mackay Whitsunday Region. The group was given approval to use the former Pioneer Shire Council nursery and grew thousands of plants for those projects. The nursery has continued to grow local native species and recently Mackay Regional Council has invested Natural Environment Levy funds to upgrade the facilities there. Our volunteers have produced 6000 plants last year and will double that for the next planting season. This is one of the stories that will be told to celebrate 25 years of Landcare.

Land managers of properties 2-50 acre can apply for a free property visit by Landcare staff, developing a property plan outlining recommendations for weed management, revegetation, habitat, erosion and other relevant issues, along with a free tray of 40 local native plants.

Expressions of Interest can be made by contacting our office with your details, including Name, Address, Phone, your Lot Plan, and a summary of your land management issues. Phone: 4944 1979 or email [projectmanager@pioneercatchment.org.au](mailto:projectmanager@pioneercatchment.org.au)



### How much can a Koala bear?

A recent surprise visitor to a wet sclerophyll area adjacent to Eungella National Park was a large and apparently very healthy koala. Although Koalas have been reported in the Crediton and Eungella Dam area, this is the first recent sighting in such a high rainfall area. The Koala was found in an eighteen month old Flooded Gum (*Eucalyptus grandis*), which he had succeeded in reducing in both height and width. It was evident this was a secondary food source tree as the ground was littered with rejected leaves. The sighting was recorded on the 'Save the Koala' website.

You can encourage Koalas to your property by planting Koala feed trees. Land for Wildlife property owners will be able to order *Eucalyptus tereticornis* with their annual plant giveaway in the next planting season.

#### FAST FACTS

<b>Type:</b>	Mammal
<b>Diet:</b>	Herbivore
<b>Average life span in the wild:</b>	20 years
<b>Size:</b>	60–85 cm\
<b>Weight:</b>	9kg
<b>Protection Status:</b>	Threatened
<b>Baby Koala:</b>	Joey
<b>Fingerprints:</b>	Similar to man
<b>Closest Relative:</b>	Wombat
<b>Dated fossils:</b>	20 million years



Photo: D Williams

#### Local Native Koala Feed Trees

##### Main tree species (favourite)

Queensland Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*)

##### Browse (occasionally eaten)

Grey Ironbark (*Eucalyptus crebra*)

Queensland Grey Ironbark (*Eucalyptus drepanophylla*)

Flooded gum (*Eucalyptus grandis*)

Red Mahogany (*Eucalyptus resinifera*)

Yellow Messmate (*Eucalyptus exserta*)

Poplar box (*Eucalyptus populnea*)

Morton Bay Ash (*Corymbia tessellaris*)

Pink Bloodwood (*Corymbia intermedia*)

If you see a Koala make sure to record the sighting with the Australian Koala Foundation online at [www.savethekoala.com](http://www.savethekoala.com), where you can also adopt a Koala, plant a Koala friendly tree or visit the gift shop, as well as find loads of information on the Koala.



## Plant of the month

## *Chionanthus ramiflora*

### NATIVE OLIVE

**Family:** Oleaceae

This large bushy shrub to medium sized tree is currently in flower in the region, and is an ideal plant for revegetation. The dark grey and somewhat mottled trunk protects close grained timber, which is easily worked but hard and tough. This is a fast growing tree that flowers when young. The fruit are eaten and seeds spread by Koels, Figbirds, Pied Imperial Pigeons and Cassowaries (should we be so lucky).

**Leaves:** Opposite, dark green on top and paler underneath with a prominent raised, lemon-coloured mid-vein. (5–22 X 2–9cm). Shape is elliptical to broadly oblong. Numerous oil dots are visible with a lens.

**Flower/Fruit:** The white or cream flowers are fragrant with four petals, on a green calyx. Flowers are borne in axillary sprays about 8cm long. The fruit is a purple drupe containing one hard seed and resembling an olive in shape and size.

**Distribution:** Rainforest, monsoon forest, littoral rainforest and woodland from the Torres Strait Islands to the Brisbane area at altitude of 0–800m in tropical Queensland. Also native to the Solomon Islands, New Guinea, Malaysia and Asia.

*Sources: Cooper W., 2004, Fruit of the Australian Tropical Rainforest.*

*One hundred and One Trees of Mackay*



## Weed spotting this month

## *Sporobolus pyramidalis*

**Giant Rat's Tail Grass** and other weedy sporobolus grasses are aggressive grasses that reduce pasture productivity and cause significant degradation of natural areas. Giant rat's tail grass was originally introduced around the early 1960s from Africa in contaminated pasture seed. It is a Class 2 declared pest plant under Queensland legislation. ([www.daff.qld.gov.au](http://www.daff.qld.gov.au))

**Leaves:** Blade folded or rolled, linear, 30–120 x 6–8mm, usually hairless though may sometimes have a few rigid hairs on margins of lower leaves.

**Flowers:** Spikes 250–400mm long, grey-green. Seeds orange–brown, tapered–cylindrical, 1mm.

**Notes:** Similar in appearance to *S. natalensis* and even the experts have difficulty differentiating the two. They are collectively referred to as Giant Rats Tail grass. Particularly aggressive in wet and swampy soils

*Source: DAFF, MRPMG, 2013. Weeds of the Mackay Whitsunday Region.*



Photo: Biosecurity QLD

### New Multi-Function Print Station will delight officers.

With delivery due in early August, officers' will be smiling at how much easier printing & copying will be. The funding to replace the old faithful-but-hopelessly-inadequate printer is from a grant approved by the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation's **Gambling Community Benefit Fund**.

### Another Landcare Week Celebration

#### SLCMA Community Nursery Open Day

**When:** Saturday 6 September, 9am to 12pm

**Where:** SLCMA Community Nursery & Sarina Community Native Gardens, Cnr Beach & Cemetery Rds, Sarina

-Winners announced for 2014 Sarina Native Garden Comp  
-SLCMA Community Nursery & Community Native gardens tours.  
-Informative displays/stalls  
- For more information **Ph. 49561388 Email: [slcma@mcs.net.au](mailto:slcma@mcs.net.au)**

## VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED EUNGELLA HONEYEATER SURVEY

**REQUIREMENTS:** a reasonable level of fitness and some enthusiasm. A knowledge of birds and flora an advantage.

**WHERE:** Cockies Creek Road in Crediton State Forest.

**WHEN:** either a Saturday or Sunday of every weekend until September.

**HOW:** a dual cab 4WD vehicle can transport you to and from the sites.

**DURATION:** Mackay return approximately 12 hours.

**WEAR:** sturdy footwear and long pants plus sun protection.

**BRING:** sufficient food and drink, a fold up chair and binoculars.



Photo: R Hansch

For further information including pick-up site call Daryl Barnes on 49593382 or 0438134738.

## BECOME INVOLVED

This August **WildMob** is launching a new expedition to St Bees Island. St Bees represents an excellent opportunity for island restoration, and **WildMob** alongside the **Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing** is prepared to take it on.

St Bees is located in the Cumberland Group around 35km north-east of Mackay. Like many islands in the area it has a pastoral history and many of the associated challenges. While grazing ceased in 1968, lantana is persistent throughout the island, including habitats that support a unique, secure and scientifically relevant population of Koalas and critically endangered beach scrub rainforests. With a little persistence, collaboration and hard work we can ensure St Bees Island is a healthy and diverse island for future visitors.

### Dates:

15th–20th August 2014  
9th–14th October 2014  
23rd–28th October 2014

**Contribution Fee - \$395**

For more information about the project and to book, contact:

**Phone:** +61 (0)7 3369 9665

**Email:** [info@wildmob.org](mailto:info@wildmob.org)

**Website:** [www.wildmob.org](http://www.wildmob.org)



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**VOTE NOW!**

**Turtle lovers are encouraged to step forward and make their vote count for the Mackay and District Turtle Watch Association (MDTWA)**

The MDTWA is one of just nine groups selected to represent Queensland at the National Landcare Awards in Melbourne this September. They are already state winners in the Coastcare category of the prestigious awards.

People's Choice Voting is open and Mackay residents are being strongly encouraged to support the MDTWA by voting online at:

<http://www.landcareonline.com.au/2014nationalawards>

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**2014 National Landcare Conference**

CELEBRATING OUR HISTORY, GROWING OUR FUTURE

September 17th to 19th - Melbourne

Registrations are now open for what promises to be an engaging and diverse National Landcare Conference and Awards as we celebrate 25 years of Landcare as a national movement.

Early bird registrations close on July 31st.  
[www.nationallandcareconference.floktu.com](http://www.nationallandcareconference.floktu.com)

Landcare 25 YEARS

Australian Government | Victoria | Department of Environment and Primary Industries | Landcare Australia

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE

Membership renewals for 2014/15 are due now. Notices have been sent to members, so if you haven't received yours by the end of July, please contact the office: Ph. 4944 1979 or email to

[admin@pioneercatchment.org.au](mailto:admin@pioneercatchment.org.au) .

**NOTE: Renewals due by end August.**

## Upcoming Events

### August

**Saturday 2** — Morag McNichol Reserve Working Bee, 8am–10 am. 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.

**Saturday 23** — National Science Week at Slade Point Reserve 9am-12.30pm. Come and learn how to identify 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](mailto:claire.bartron@reefcatchments.com)

**Saturday 23** — Harbour Beach 3–4 pm  
Learn free self defence and help Butterfly Warriors remove litter from this popular beach and

**Saturday 30** — Town Beach 3 - 4 pm  
E-mail [freestylersdojo@live.com.au](mailto:freestylersdojo@live.com.au) with "I want to be a Butterfly Warrior" in subject heading for updates and cancellations.

### September BIODIVERSITY MONTH !!

**1-7** — Landcare Week, celebrating 25 years of Landcare

**1-7** — Weedbusters Week

**Saturday 6** — Illawong Beach 3-4 p.m. Learn free self defence and help Butterfly Warriors remove litter from this popular beach.

Also **Saturday 13** — Lamberts Beach, 3-4 pm

**Saturday 20** — North Wall Beach, 3-4 pm

**Saturday 27** — Blacks Beach, 3-4 pm

E-mail [freestylersdojo@live.com.au](mailto:freestylersdojo@live.com.au) with "I want to be a Butterfly Warrior" in subject heading for updates and cancellations.

### September (cont'd)

**Saturday 6** Morag McNichol Reserve Working Bee, 8am-10 am. Contact 4955 0153

**17-19** — National Landcare Conference in Melbourne, Vic. Register at <http://nationallandcareconference.floktu.com/>

### Beautifying Bucasia Beach

#### Volunteers needed

Over the past 12 months, Coastcare volunteers have been working to rehabilitate a section of fore-dune at the southern end of Bucasia Beach.

Statistics include:

- 49 volunteers
- 180 hours
- 4 weed removal sessions
- Almost 1 tonne of weeds removed
- 400 native species trees planted
- 4 planting sessions

Help is needed to maintain the growing plants and remove weeds from the site.

Help us to continue to care for the coast at Bucasia Beach (and others!), call 0429 155 841 or email [claire.bartron@reefcatchments.com](mailto:claire.bartron@reefcatchments.com).

#### Pioneer Catchment Office contacts:

Ph: 4944 1979, [www.pioneercatchment.org.au](http://www.pioneercatchment.org.au)

**Office Manager:** Wendy Eiteneuer, 0427 543 509  
[admin@pioneercatchment.org.au](mailto:admin@pioneercatchment.org.au)

**Project Manager:** Kate Steel, 0447 749 769  
[projectmanager@pioneercatchment.org.au](mailto:projectmanager@pioneercatchment.org.au)

**Project Officer:** Carla Lambropoulos, 0497 441 979  
[projectofficer@pioneercatchment.org.au](mailto:projectofficer@pioneercatchment.org.au)

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