



Pioneer Catchment & Landcare News

October 2014

Great Northern Clean Up

Councillors Laurence Bonaventura and Dave Perkins lead by example, interacting and working alongside the thirty-four other volunteers toiling tirelessly to clean up Riverside Drive on 14 September. The volunteers consisted predominantly of school students from Pioneer High School and St Patricks College with teachers Robyn Hopkins and Edie Weiss.

Students were shocked at how much rubbish was at this site, with much of it obviously deliberately dumped. Cr Bonaventura provided his 2 tonne truck on the day to transfer rubbish to an onsite 15m skip provided by MRC, which was filled to the brim in just a couple of hours.

Rubbish retrieved included tyres, syringes, bedding – mattress & pillows, crab pots, camping chairs and a plethora of large plastic items including sheeting, irrigation pipes & containers.

The activity at this traditionally PCL site was managed by Mackay Regional Council staff, with PCL volunteer Lara Mathewson assisting as our representative on the day.

Clean Up Australia estimates that 85.8 tonnes was removed by 1,132 volunteers at 39 registered sites across North Qld during the weekend of the Great Northern Clean Up—Mackay Regional Council registered 14 sites in Mackay.

Congratulations to all participants—**Well Done!!**



New date for AGM

Thursday 6 November

4pm at Mackay Natural Environment Centre
Swayne St, North Mackay

Unavoidable commitments have meant that the date of the AGM has been changed from 16 October to 6 November.

Come to meet our officers and hear about PCL's projects and plans for the future.

Welcome to Lara Mathewson

Lara joins Wendy and Carla on the PCL team, working two days a weeks on some of our currently running projects including Land for Wildlife.

Lara comes with a with a Bachelor of Science majoring in Geology, and experience in the mining industry and project management.

Welcome to Nicola Cruceru

Nicola joins the team to deliver our Peri-urban project. She also has a Bachelor of Science degree, with a major in Applied Biology.

Lara and Nicola bring to our organisation a wealth of experience and much enthusiasm for landcare and community based natural resource management

2014 Eco-Barge Mackay Coastal Clean Up

Saturday & Sunday 18-19 October
8am-12pm, with a BBQ lunch provided.

Find a Beach near you to help in this massive community event, or join **PCL at Far Beach**.
To register go to www.ecobargecleanseas.org.au
or call 0417 642 815
or email info@ecobargecleanseas.org.au
TOGETHER WE CAN ALL MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!

Plant of the Month

Hymenosporum flavum

Native Frangipani

Family: Pittosporaceae

This medium to tall rainforest tree with slender upright habit and branches in widely paced whorls is flowering now. The beautiful perfume is reminiscent of the exotic Frangipani tree.

Leaves: Alternate, short stalked, soft thin textured; 8-16cm long, broadest above the middle and tapering to a fine point at the apex.

Flowers: Five-petalled tubular, about 250mm in diameter, borne in conspicuous terminal sprays in late spring. They are white or cream, darkening to yellow with age and are highly perfumed.

Fruits/Seeds: Fruits are somewhat pear-shaped two-valved brown capsules, 20-40 x 25-30mm, containing numerous glossy brown winged seeds stacked in laminated layers.

Distribution: Eastern coastal Australia from near Cooktown to the Sydney area; also in New Guinea. It occurs in wet sclerophyll forests and a variety of rainforest types, including riverine forest in this area. It can be seen flowering at Eungella in the Sky Window picnic area and in the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens .

Source: 101 Trees of Mackay and Cooper & Cooper (2004) Fruits of the Australian Tropical Rainforest.



Weed Spotting

Ipomoea cairica

Mile-a-Minute, Coastal Morning Glory

Family: Convolvulaceae

Form: Rampant perennial climber; also runs along the ground rooting at nodes; tuberous roots.

Leaves: Orbicular in outline, deeply palmately lobed with 5-7 lance-shaped lobes, up to 50 x 20mm, tapered at both ends, mid-green above, apple green below, stalks 20-60mm long.

Flowers: Purple or pinkish-lavender with a deeper-coloured throat, 30-80mm diameter, in one or few flowered groups on stems 5-70mm long.

Fruits/Seeds: Globular, brown papery capsules, 10-12mm across with 4 brown hairy seeds, about 4mm long, with tufts of longer white silky hairs on margins.

Notes: This vine, native of Tropical Africa and Asia, is now a serious environmental weed in this region; smothering native vegetation in coastal areas, often close to mangroves and creek banks.

Source: Weeds of the Mackay Whitsunday Region

Flowering plants can be seen over-topping trees and other vegetation on the western side of Slade Point Road and over vegetation along Sams Road from about Malcomson Street to Riverside Drive.

Merremia quinquefolia, also with a common name of **Mile-a-Minute**, is a similar-looking weed that has been recorded in this region. It is a native of tropical America. Rather than deeply lobed leaves, it has compound leaves with 5 distinct leaflets, smaller white or pale yellow flowers and its 4-valved papery capsules have persistent papery sepals. It is also known as Snakevine or Rock Rosemary.

Reference: http://www-public.jcu.edu.au/discovernature/plants/weeds/JCUDEV_011664

It has been collected from the MRBG Regional Forest (Specimen number MRBG 00301) and can be seen in flower off Sams Road in vegetation just south of Malcomson Street.



Australian Landcare Awards

Mackay & District Turtlewatch Highly Commended

Mackay & District Turtlewatch won the Queensland Landcare Awards for Coastcare in 2013 and was a finalist in the 2014 Australian Landcare Awards. At the Awards Ceremony in Melbourne on 18 September the group was "highly commended".

Congratulations to all the wonderful coastcarers who are monitoring and looking after turtles along our beaches.

Tangaroa Blue Foundation, WA, was the winner of the Coastcare Award.

The Australian Marine Debris Initiative was created by Tangaroa Blue Foundation in 2004. Since then, there have been over 26,000 public volunteer opportunities and over 2.4 million items of marine debris have been removed from the Australian coastline, including 907,000 items from sites in the WA.



2014 Australian Landcare Conference *Celebrating our history, growing our future*

Dave Hunter and Margaret Lane attended the conference in Melbourne. Dave's attendance was supported by the Australian Government's Regional Landcare Facilitator Program, delivered through Reef Catchments. Margaret's attendance was supported by PCL and Queensland Water & Landcarers. Keynote speakers were inspiring and entertaining. Chef Matt Moran talked of his journey from farm to kitchen to travelling Australia championing local, fresh produce. CSIRO Principal Scientist Dr Stefan Hajkowitz gave a fascinating presentation looking at global trends and their impact on sustainable agriculture in the next 25 years. This fast paced talk deserves more consideration. An interesting snippet from this speaker was: *one tonne of computer circuits yields 250g of gold; one tonne of earth from the ground yields an average 1.59g of gold.* These were just two of the excellent presentations, which can be read on the Landcare Australia Limited website <http://www.landcareonline.com.au/nationalconference>

As always at conferences the Field Trips were a highlight giving opportunities to see projects and network with other delegates. Among the many interesting projects and people on the Mornington Peninsular trip was hearing about the formation of an Equine Landcare group, a model that would be very suitable for our region. Dave was interested in the trial of sowing seed in mulch.

Conferences are great for networking, meeting colleagues, learning about other projects and getting ideas for activities for our groups. Our three local landcare groups were represented and we took the opportunity to get together to talk about potential joint projects and developing our Central Queensland Coast Landcare Network.



Good News for Land for Wildlife

Project Officer Lara Mathewson will soon be contacting landholders who have expressed an interest in Land for Wildlife.

Landholders interested in local species to attract wildlife to their properties should visit the Mackay Regional

Botanic Gardens. More than 80% of the species in the gardens are local and many of them are flowering now, including *Psychotria polioSTEMMA* providing food for this Blue Tiger Butterfly. MRBG Guided tours: 10am every Friday in October.

Join Society for Growing Australian Plants Mackay Branch to learn more about local native species. Ph 4955 1745



Upcoming Events

October

Saturday 18, Sunday 19—Eco-Barge Mackay Coastal Clean Up 8am-12noon. PCL site—Far Beach. See Page 1 for details

Saturday 25 —Welcome Back Waders at Illawong Park 9.30am -12.30pm
Contact 0429 155 841,
claire.bartron@reefcatchments.com

November

Sunday 2—Birdlife Mackay outing to Lake Clive
Contact 4959 3382

Saturday 8 - Morag McNicholl Reserve, Andergrove. Working Bee, 8-10am
Contact 4342 8802

Thursday 6 - SGAP General Meeting 7.30pm MRBG Meeting Room. *A Visit to the Antarctic* by Dave Pratchett. Contact 4955 1745

Saturday 15—Coastcare at Ball Bay 2-4pm Help remove invasive weeds from the coastal dunes. Meet at the end of Buoro Street.
Contact 0429 155 841,
claire.bartron@reefcatchments.com

Mackay-Whitsunday Healthy Rivers to Reef Partnership

Launched in Mackay on Wednesday 1
October by Andrew Powell MP

"Improving the health of the catchments and waterways through an annual regional report card"

This partnership will develop and implement a partnership approach to report on the health of freshwater rivers, wetlands, estuaries, near shore coastal and marine environments, as well as management efforts and outcomes.

Report card June next year!

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