

Working Bee at Edward Lloyd Park, Mirani

Six members of Marian Community Working Group met at the rehabilitation site near Melba House on Saturday 11 October. The project sign was erected, weeds removed from around the plants and the area was mulched. The team completed more than they hoped for as they had some assistance from a contractor who was working on the new playground.



Image:
A Jensen

Site Visit to RELIANCE CREEK

Browns Road, Habana
Thursday 20 November
8.30 – 11.30am

Inspect the revegetation; learn about treatment of Cats Claw Creeper and Ruellia; identify plant species; collect seeds; pull out weeds.

Morning Tea provided
Wear closed in shoes, hat,
sunscreen and insect repellent.
For information and directions contact PCL office.

PCL will be at the
Nature Refuge Field Day
Friday 28 November at Walkerston
Contact: mcdougallb@agforceqld.org.au
or 3236 3100
All interested people welcome!

ECO-BARGE MACKAY COASTAL CLEAN UP

Eco-Barge Mackay Coastal Cleanup was held on the weekend of 18-19 October. Pioneer Catchment & Landcare hosted the Far Beach site.

The thirty one community volunteers registered at the site included a number of family groups, who spent nearly two hours collecting rubbish in very windy conditions.

After the Clean Up activities were held for the young people and Mackay North Rotary Club provided a barbecue lunch.



Image: Eco-Barge

COASTAL CLEAN UP STATISTICS

Beach	Org. Supporter	Vol Nu.	Kilos
Shoal Point	Eimeo Road State Primary School & C.V.A.	30	630
Dolphin Heads	Engineers Australia Mackay Regional Group	17	203
Blacks Beach	Mackay Regional Council & Mackay Northern Beaches State High School	62	237
Lamberts Beach	Dig-it! Landscapes	39	305
North Harbour Beach	Aurecon	21	134
Dudgeon Point	North Queensland Bulk Ports	28	636
Harbour Beach	GHD	17	228
Town Beach	Reef Catchments	19	436
Far Beach	Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group	31	147
Cape Hills-borough	Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service	65	168
Totals over the MCC weekend		329	3,124

Blue-leaved Paperbark

Family: Myrtaceae

Medium sized tree (to 25m) with straight greyish trunk covered in layers of papery bark, is currently in flower in our region. However, at this time of year, it is its bluish pendulous foliage that makes it stand out rather than the flowers that are less conspicuous. In this region it occurs in open forests, swamps, gallery forests, seasonally wet areas, beach fronts and beach ridges - often growing with other *Melaleuca* species.

Leaves: Simple, alternative, narrowly elliptic with 5-7 prominent veins, oil dot visible with a hand lens. New leaves are densely covered on both sides with short curly woolly hairs that give them a bluish-grey to silvery-grey appearance. Older leaves become glabrous (hairless) and greenish.

Flowers: Pendulous bottlebrush-like spikes of loosely spaced flowers with a greenish hairy calyx, white or cream often deciduous petals (2.2-3.3mm long) and creamy-white stamens 5-7.5mm long. The buds are densely covered in woolly hairs. Nectar attracts many bird species. Some people consider the scent unpleasant.

Fruit:/Seed: Densely hairy capsules (2.5-3.6mm long) with numerous very small seeds. The capsules are deciduous and fall away early each season.

Distribution: Northern Australia and east-coast of Queensland from Cape York Peninsula to the Bundaberg district. Also in Papua New Guinea and Indonesia.

Derivation: '*dealbata*, from the Latin *dealbatus*, covered with a white powder; is an apparent reference to the colour of the leaves.....'

Sources: IGC's specimens and lists; *101 Trees of Mackay*; Brophy, Craven and Doran (2013) *Melaleucas their botany, essential oils and uses*.

**Weed Spotting***Emilia sonchifolia***Lilac Tasselflower**

Family: Asteraceae

Annual upright (0.6m) bluish-green herb.

Leaves: Simple, alternate, sometimes initially forming a basal rosette, very variable in shape, dissected thistle-like with irregularly toothed lobes often with large rounded end lobe, 50-130 x 8-60mm, margins toothed, stalks to 30mm long on lower leaves, upper leaves smaller, stalkless or stem-clasping.

Flowers: Small green cylinders terminating in fluffy pink-purple heads 10 x 5mm, borne on terminal stems.

Fruit/Seed: Pale brown dry cylindrical 'seeds', 5mm long with ring of long fluffy white hairs at top.

Spread: By wind

Invades: Disturbed areas, roadsides, lawns and gardens.

Notes: Widespread and common and in flower in the region now.

Source: Weeds of the Mackay Whitsunday Region.

Images: S&A Pearson



Project Officer Lara Mathewson has begun assessing properties for the Land for Wildlife program. If this is something you are interested in please to let us know.

To Land for Wildlifers - your next allocation of plants will be in April so start thinking about what plants you would like for your property. We will advise you of the process in February. Now is a good time to begin site preparation.

The Regional Forestry Working Group Project

Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group (PCL) is excited to be a part of the Regional Forestry Working Group Project. This is a Reef Catchments led project that aims to develop an ABCD Sustainability Framework for native forestry and agro-forestry within our region. The Framework will act as a sustainable forestry management. Two forestry trial sites and three demonstration sites investigating the sustainable use of *Acacia rhodoxylon* (Rosewood) and mixed local native species will also be developed and monitored as part of this project.

The Regional Forestry Working Group was established earlier this year and has developed a draft ABCD Sustainability Framework for both Native Forestry and Agro-Forestry which is now available for review and comment. The group has also helped to select and inform trial and demonstration activities. PCL has been engaged by Reef Catchments to support the Regional Forestry Working Group and to work on the development of the trials and demonstration sites.

Members of the group recently visited Bloomsbury canefarmer Max McFarlane's where a mixed native planting is planned. Max's property is a cane farm located on the O'Connell River and he aims to use a portion of former sugarcane land for hardwood forestry. The trial will be used to demonstrate the use of land that has limited agricultural use for native forestry. The group will assist Max to monitor the trial to see which species perform best in that area. Will Higham has also joined the project and planted 400 *Acacia rhodoxylon* on his property. The planting is on a section of his sugarcane farm located at Finch Hatton and the trial will investigate whether it's possible to grow *Acacia rhodoxylon* in cooler, wetter areas where it is not traditionally found.

By the end of 2014, the group aims to have finalised the ABCD framework and identified and established all trial and demonstration sites. A field day, visiting all sites will also be coordinated.

If you are interested in attending the field day or would like to get involved in the project, please contact PCL's Project Officer, Carla Lambropoulos, for more information.



Trial site on Max McFarlane's property

Composting Workshop

Saturday 8 November 2014

Celebrate National Recycling Week (November 10-16) by participating in a free composting and worm farming workshop at Mackay Community Gardens.

Where: Streeter Avenue, West Mackay

When: Saturday 8 November 2014
9am to 11:30am

Bookings are essential Contact:
Fiona Paterson Ph: 4961 9051

Welcome to Waders

People gathered at Far Beach recently to learn about the migratory wader birds that visit our shores each summer. Travelling from the Northern Hemisphere, they can fly as far as 9,000km and lose up to 30% of their body weight on their journey south. When they arrive they spend time feeding and resting in coastal areas, building up their energy reserves to make the long journey back to the northern summer to breed.

The event drew attention to the importance to the survival of these birds of protecting the habitat and providing as little disruption as possible while they are feeding and resting on our beaches.



Upcoming Events

November

Friday 7— Friends of MacKillop Wetlands Working Bee, 3—4:30pm, Contact: 4955 0346

Saturday 8— Morag McNichol Reserve Working Bee, 8—10am. Contact: 4942 8802

Saturday 8—Composting Workshop, Contact Fiona 4961 9051

Tuesday 11, Wednesday 12— Cattle Supplement Workshop 9am—5pm, Contact *RegenAG®* (Bowen): Kym 4086 8019

Thursday 13—Reliance Creek Visit See P.1

Saturday 15— CoastCare at Ball Bay 2-4pm. Remove invasive weeds . Contact:

claire.bartron@reefcatchments.com

Friday 28— Nature Refuge Field Day. See P.1

Friday 28— Friends of MacKillop Wetlands Working Bee, 3—4:30pm, Contact: 4955 0346

Sunday 30— Morag McNichol Reserve AGM and Break-Up. Contact: 4942 8802

December

Thursday 4 - Reef Catchments Soil Symposium See notice this page.

Thursday 4 - SGAP Mackay Branch General Meeting 7.30p.m. MRBG Meeting Room.

Topic: Visual sojourn through Central Qld
Contact 4955 1745

Friday 12— Friends of MacKillop Wetlands Working Bee, 3—4:30pm, Contact: 4955 0346

Reef Catchments Inaugural Soil Health Symposium

Thursday 4 December
at Mackay Entertainment Centre

If you're interested in learning more about improving the health of your soils come along.

Topics covered will include:

- * Increasing soil carbon
- * Soil biology and chemistry
- * Use of mill mud, compost and ameliorants
- * Grazing pasture management

and much more!

RSVP to Reef Catchments:

reception@reefcatchments.com or 4968 4200

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