

Mackay Coastal Clean Up, Volunteers Needed Saturday May 23

Volunteers are invited to participate in the Mackay Coastal Clean Up. The Clean Up is an initiative of Eco Barge Clean Seas Inc. and BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance (BMA). It is about bringing people together to improve the condition of the ocean and beaches of the Mackay region. It is a family friendly event designed to encourage businesses, families and individuals to demonstrate their community pride and environmental commitment by donating their time to remove marine debris from selected locations along the shoreline in the Mackay and Sarina regions. Pioneer Catchment & Landcare (PCL) are sponsoring Far Beach. If you can assist with the clean up on commencing at 9am please contact the PCL office. Volunteers will meet at Illawong Park on Petrie Street opposite the volley ball courts. The clean up concludes at 11:30am. There will be a thankyou BBQ held at 12 noon.

Did You Know?

Reef Catchments Mackay, along with Mackay Regional Council and North Queensland Bulk Ports are looking to gain an insight into feral cat behaviour and how it impacts native wildlife populations at Slade Point. To gain a clearer understanding of this problem in Slade Point, they need your help. You can assist by completing the online survey. <http://connectingmackay.com.au/feral-cat-monitoring-at-slade-point>

Community Engagement Event, June 5

A community engagement event funded by Reef Catchments and delivered by PCL, is being held at Eungella on Friday June 5. The event is focussing on weeds in the region and the relevant treatment methods. The Pest Education Trailer and a Mackay Regional Council Pest Management Officer will be present to answer pest enquiries. Additionally several birds that are registered as Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) will be discussed as well as the Eungella Honey Eater study being conducted. A bus will be leaving PCL office at 8am, morning Tea will be provided on the day. Please contact PCL office to register your attendance.

Pond Apple Survey Work and Information Session

PCL's Project Officer, Carla Lambropoulos and Mackay Regional Council's Pest Management Officer, Shelley Molloy have been busy again surveying for Pond Apple out at Habana at the end of March. This is continual follow up work from previous years of survey work being carried out in the area where Pond Apple outbreaks have been located. The section of creek line surveyed was between Shady Lane and Bobongies Road and a number of Pond Apple saplings, re-shooting previously treated cut stumps and a mature tree with fruit were located and treated.

Having found a mature tree with fruit, it was a great opportunity to show neighbouring landholders what a mature Pond Apple tree and fruit look like. An on-farm information session was held on Tuesday 31 March and landholders were shown what to look for when identifying Pond Apple outbreaks along their creek lines and provided with a demonstration on how to cut down and treat Pond Apple saplings and trees. The final Pond Apple survey for this financial year will be conducted in May along a section of Leila Creek. If you would like any further information on Pond Apple or have found a suspected outbreak on your property, please contact our Project Officer, Carla or the PCL office.



Landholders Darryl Mobbs and David Muir participated in our Pond Apple information and demonstration session.

Orange or Smooth Mistletoe

Family: Loranthaceae

Orange Mistletoe is one of about 14 species of mistletoe, in 9 genera, that occur here. They are aerial stem-parasitic plants that are sometimes blamed for the death of their hosts. However, it is not in their interest to kill their hosts. Indeed it is thought they can co-exist for some hundreds of years. Orange Mistletoe is a spreading or pendulous shrub with runners usually present.

Leaves: Simple, opposite or alternate, elliptic to narrowly obovate, 30-200 x 10-50mm, thick bluish and hairless.

Flowers: In axillary racemes; showy, orange, tubular; any month. They have five petals that are joined to form a tube to the middle or higher.

Fruit / Seed: Oblong to egg-shaped, orange to purplish, 1-seeded berry, up to 15mm long, winter to summer. Seed embedded in sticky mucus.

Habitat: Found on a wide range of hosts.

Ecological: Nectar and fruit eaten by birds. Birds play a significant role in dispersal of the sticky seed. It is a larval food plant for numerous species of butterflies.

Source: 2011, Plants of Capricornia, Rhonda Melzer and Joel Plumb, 2007. 1984 Flora of Australia Vol 22. (Loranthaceae, Barlow B.A). 2013 Census of QLD Flora spreadsheet.



African Tulip Tree

Family: Bignoniaceae

Introduced as a garden ornamental. Naturalised populations are known throughout the region. Categorized as a Class 3 pest.

Form: Tree to 24m

Leaves: Opposite pinnate, 150-350mm long with 3-13 unequal sided ovate, hairy leaflets, 40-110 x 25-80mm, strongly veined, bronze when young, deep glossy green when mature.

Flowers: Large orange-red bell shaped with 5 fused petals with yellow frilly edges, 90-120mm long, borne in terminal clusters.

Fruit / Seed: Upright reddish-brown capsules, 15-250 x 35-50mm, contain numerous thin seeds, 10-20mm long, completely encircled by a clear wing.

Spread by: Wind, garden waste and suckers.

Invades: Creek banks, rainforest and open forest.

Native of Tropical Africa.

Source: Weeds of the Mackay Whitsunday Region, MRPMG, 2013



Land For Wildlife—A passion for the unusual, beautiful and threatened



John and Carolyn Atkinson have been Land for Wildlife participants since 2011. Since joining the program they have been busy removing weeds from their property, predominately Lantana and Coral Berry. Other works undertaken on the property have been the introduction of a butterfly garden and planting of unusual and threatened native species. Since removing weeds, there has been an observed increase in natural regeneration of native species. If you would like to become a Land For Wildlife participant please contact the PCL office for more information.



Soil Health Field Day

Tuesday, May 26th
7:00am - 4:00pm | Free Event

SOIL CARBON | CALCIUM | COMPACTION

Hear from leading growers and soil health experts locally and around Australia on the critical issues of soil health. Learn more about how you can address and improve soil health on your property for the long-term future.

7:00am - 12:00pm
- Breakfast Wests Leagues Club
- Soil Health Presentations



SPEAKERS

8:00am - 9:00am

Simon Mattson | Soil Health Rotational Intercropping Trial in cane
Simon will also present learnings from his recent Nuffield travels, after spending six weeks exploring soil health in New Zealand, Chile, Peru and Brazil.

9:00am - 10:00am

Gerry Gillespie | Composting | City to Soil Project
With composting arguably the best way to increase carbon levels in your soil, Gerry's method for making compost is easily done on-farm without the need for expensive compost turners.

10:00am - 11:00am

Colin Seis | Pasture Cropping pioneer | 2014 Bob Hawke Landcare Award winner (Winona Merino Stud)
Learn how Colin has successfully and significantly raised his soil carbon levels through plant diversity and no till methods.

11:00am - 12:00pm

Guest speaker panel | Q&A

12:30pm
Barbecue lunch
Simon Mattsson's property | 171 Newmans Rd, Marian

Sponsor presentations |
Presentations will be provided from Wilmar and Superior Fertilisers, showcasing products that help promote soil biology.

This event will be followed by a **COMPOSTING WORKSHOP**

Wednesday, May 27th

7:30am - 12:00pm
171 Newmans Rd, Marian
Cost: \$30 p/person

Learn more about the composting process first-hand with Gerry Gillespie (City to Soil) and David Hardwick.



Welcome Laura Whitbread

Pioneer Catchment & Landcare are pleased to welcome Project Officer Laura Whitbread to the team. Laura will be working on delivery of the Peri-Urban project and the new Equine Landcare project.

Nature Refuge Field Day

More than 25 people attended the Nature Refuge Field day at Padaminka on April 17. The day commenced with a walk around the property to view the revegetation works that have taken place. PCL was given the opportunity to give a presentation on the Land For Wildlife project. This was a rare opportunity to engage with nature refuge 'participants'. PCL was happy to welcome new participants into the Land For Wildlife project.



RSVP for both events, contact Reef Catchments
07 4968 4200 | info@reefcatchments.com
Please RSVP by Monday 18th May for catering purposes



Upcoming Events

Pioneer Catchment Management Committee:

- Chair – Dave Hunter
- Deputy Chairperson – Di Salau
- Treasurer – Margaret Lane
- Secretary (non voting) – Wendy Eiteneuer
- Committee Members:
 - Irene Champion (SGAP)
 - Caitlin Davies (CVA)
 - Grant Howard
 - Cr Theresa Morgan (MRC)
 - Dianne Williams

May

Sunday 17 Farleigh Palm & Cycad Fair

Native Plant Sale

Society for Growing Australian Plants—Mackay will be at the Fair selling native plants.

Saturday 23 Mackay Coastal Clean Up—Eco Barge

Tuesday 26 Soil Health Field Day

June

Wednesday 3 Reef Catchments Grazing Forum

Friday 5 Community Engagement Event

Sunday 7 Birdlife Mackay outing, Cameron’s Pocket

Saturday 13 Morag Mc Nichol Reserve Working Bee

Sunday 21, Pioneer Valley Show

FORUM: WEDNESDAY 3RD JUNE
SUSTAINABLE GRAZING
 ON THE QUEENSLAND COAST

MACKAY ENTERTAINMENT CONVENTION CENTRE (MECC)
 COST: Free for landholders, lunch provided

- SOIL HEALTH
- NEW PASTURE VARIETIES FOR THE REGION
- BIOSECURITY UPDATE INC. RESULTS FROM GIANT RATS TAIL CONTROL TRIALS
- LOCAL GRAZING TRIALS
- GENETICS AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY
- CHALLENGES FOR THE LOCAL BEEF INDUSTRY
- MANAGING PASTURE NUTRITION BY GROWTH PHASE
- PLANNING AND DESIGN OF EROSION REMEDIATION
- VEGETATION AND TENURE LEGISLATION: NOW AND INTO THE FUTURE
- MANAGING CLIMATE VARIABILITY

RSVP BY 20th MAY TO (07) 4968 4200
 OR ONLINE: WWW.REEFCATCHMENTS.COM info@reefcatchments.com

THIS FORUM IS OPEN TO GRAZERS AND MIXED OPERATORS (CANE & GRAZING) IN THE MACKAY WHITSUNDAY ISAAC REGION.

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