

Every Can Counts

Ryan is a young local man who has Autism, Cerebral Palsy and is legally blind. Despite this Ryan is making a significant contribution to recycling in the local area.

In the past financial year Ryan has kept 4 Tonne of scrap metal, aluminium cans and batteries out of land fill. The previous financial year 3.5 tonnes of aluminium cans alone were collected by Ryan and sent for recycling.

Currently there are over 70 can collection sites set up for Ryan in the local area, this month Pioneer Catchment & Landcare received a can collection bin from Ryan. We encourage anyone using the Mackay Natural Environment Centre (MNEC) to add their empty aluminium cans to the bin as every can counts. Any cans collected off premise can be dropped off to the PCL office on Tuesdays.

"Aluminium does not degrade in the recycling process which means it can be recycled over and over again. Recycling Aluminium reduces the need for raw materials and reduces the use of valuable energy resources. For every tonne of aluminium recycled, five tonnes of bauxite are conserved."

If you would like to find out more about the work Ryan does visit the face book page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Bolzys-Go4-Service/128671977227638?ref=nf>

To obtain more information about Aluminium recycling visit cans.planetark.org



Above: Ryan and his Mother Michelle delivering the Aluminium can collection bin to MNEC.

National Tree Day

More than 100 people participated in tree planting activities for National Tree day on Friday July 24. This marked the 20th anniversary of the event.

The planting occurred at Jane's Creek Glenella with 1,250 native plants supplied by the Mackay Natural Environment Centre.

Pioneer Catchment & Landcare volunteers played an integral part in the day, assisting the school and kindergarten children with process of planting tube stock. They also provided quality control checks of the plantings to ensure best possible results of the day's activity.

Project Officer Lara was on site during the event, her participation funded through Mackay Regional Council's Landcare Support funding.



Above: PCL Management Committee Member Di Williams demonstrating tube stock planting.

Did you know....

Although batteries are recyclable, 97% end up in landfill. That's about 8000 tonnes each year. In landfill, the chemicals inside batteries can leach from their casings and pollute land and water with heavy metals that are toxic to life. Keep batteries out of the waste stream by recycling them at - Battery World - 149 Victoria Street or A1 Battery Pro - 7 Cemetery Road, Mackay and 4/12 Carl Street, Rural View.

(Source: www.cleanup.org.au)

Damson, Sovereignwood

Family: Combretaceae

Leaves: Alternate ovate to obovate shaped, about 10cm long, borne on pseudo-whorls on the end of layered branches. Thin textured, shiny green on both surfaces and turn to purple-brown, then bright red before shedding during September and October.

Flower/Fruits: Short, axillary flower spikes of unpleasant smelling, small white flowers are followed by oblong, thin fleshed bluish fruits, about 1cm long, containing one seed.

Habitat: Endemic to northern Australia and southwards as far as coastal central Queensland. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 750 m. Usually grows in well developed rainforest but also found in drier rainforest, monsoon forest and gallery forest. In this region Damson is a conspicuous emergent riverine species. Produces large crops of small fruits which appear to be an important food resource for a number of fruit eating birds, particularly fruit pigeons.

Notes: This is a semi-deciduous, fast growing tree suitable for rainforest revegetation projects. PCL have propagated Damson at the Mackay Natural Environment Centre Nursery and it has been used in the local revegetation project at Reliance Creek.

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



Images: Steve & Alison Pearsons

Weed Spotting

Solanum torvum

Devil's Fig, Thornapple

Family: Solanaceae

Form: Spreading or scrambling shrub, 2-3m high, armed with scattered broad-based slightly hooked thorns, 3-8mm long; new growth with fawn star hairs.

Leaves: Alternate or paired, simple, broad-elliptic to ovate in outline, 55-220 x 45-180mm, margins with 2-4 triangular lobes on each side; dark green and rough textured above, paler beneath with thickly felted star hairs; scattered thorns on both surfaces.

Flowers: White star-shaped with central cone of yellow stamens, 20-25mm diameter; borne on many-flowered axillary racemes or sprays.

Fruit/Seeds: Globular berries, 12-17mm in diameter, dull yellow or brownish when ripe with many egg-shaped cream or brown seeds about 2mm long. Calyx without prickles.

Spread by: Birds.

Invades: Rainforest, coastal communities, creek banks, disturbed areas and gardens.

Origin: West Indies

Notes: Widespread throughout the region. Our nursery volunteers have been removing Devils Fig from the revegetation site at Reliance creek.

Source: 2011, Weeds of Mackay Whitsunday Region, Mackay Regional Pest Management Group



Images: Steve & Alison Pearsons

A Blank Canvas—Working Towards Land for Wildlife



Above: Tony and Sandy's Property

The Land for Wildlife program recognises that not all people who express interest in the program have large areas or native vegetation. To this purpose the program allows for participation through a "Working Towards" category.



New members of the Land for Wildlife family are Tony and Sandy Shaw, who will be working towards Land for Wildlife accreditation as they revegetate their recently purchased cleared block at Walkerston. Their block is located in an area that has been predominantly cleared for lifestyle blocks. Essentially they have a blank canvas. Sandy is very keen on the natural environment and is particularly interested in revegetating their land with species that were present pre-clearing. She is particularly interested in growing plant species that are classified as "threatened".

If you have a keen interest in re-establishing native vegetation and native wildlife to your property please contact Project Officer Lara on (07) 4944 1979.

Recent Landcare Volunteer Activities ...

Tim Marsden, Principal Consultant at Australian Fish Passage Services volunteered his time to participate in school group educational talks providing information on the fish passage ways at the Gooseponds Creek. Tim also lent PCL water quality testing equipment to demonstrate to the children how to test for water quality.



Mackay Regional Council's display at the Mackay Show. Sue and her team set up a beautiful display promoting the benefits of Landcare. PCL volunteer Melissa created the signs which provide summarised information about the plants on display.



Membership Renewals are Over Due!

PCL membership renewal reminders have been circulated to members throughout the last months but we have not had a good response. If you haven't received your renewal please contact the office immediately to have it resent, or go to our website www.pioneercatchment.org.au/pioneer/membership.html.

If you are not yet a member of PCL but would like to be, membership information and applications are available at the same web address or contact the office for more information.

Upcoming Events

August

Saturday 1—Morag McNichol Reserve Working Bee

Saturday 1—Friends of the MacKillop Wetlands Working Bee (8am)

Sunday 2—Birdlife Mackay Outing—Goorganga Plains, Proserpine

Saturday 15—Friends of the MacKillop Wetlands Working Bee (8am)

Saturday 29—Friends of the MacKillop Wetlands Working Bee (8am)

September

Saturday 5—Morag McNichol Reserve Working Bee

Saturday 5—Friends of the MacKillop Wetlands Working Bee (8am)

Sunday 6—Birdlife Mackay Outing—Tedlands, Koumala

Saturday 12—Great Northern Clean-Up

Sunday 13—Bush care's Major Day Out

Saturday 19— Friends of the MacKillop Wetlands Working Bee (8am)

Phillip Toyne

16 November 1947 - 13 June 2015

Phillip Toyne, the Australian environmentalist, lawyer and co-founder of the National Landcare Program, has died aged 67. PCL would like to recognise his remarkable contribution to Landcare

Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group Inc. Management Committee

Chair: Dave Hunter

Vice-Chair: Di Salau

Treasurer: Margaret Lane

Committee Members:

Irene Champion Cr Theresa Morgan

Caitlin Davies Dianne Williams

Grant Howard

THANK YOU

The Management Committee and officers acknowledge the valuable assistance Di Salau received from Vi from Excel Forum, in setting up a new Purchasing Order System.

We would also like to thank David and Sue Bowen for donating heavy duty ratchet straps for the ute.

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August 2015

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