

Reef Range & Red Dust - Landcare Conference 2015.



Pioneer Catchment & Landcare (PCL) Project Officers and Management Committee Members David Hunt (Chairman) and Di Salau (Deputy Chair)

attended the 2015 Landcare Conference in Caloundra over a three day period from August 31—September 2. The conference was an opportunity for Officers and Management Committee Members to gain an insight and become aware of updates into many areas relevant to the work conducted by PCL. Topics covered at the conference were diverse with participants able to select from areas such as policy and funding through to specific Natural Resource Management (NRM) case studies to name a few. The conference allowed officers to meet and build working relationships with colleagues in the same field and strengthen existing relationships. PCL Officer Laura Whitbread has returned with a keen interest in the impacts of Climate Change on emerging pests; Carla Lambropoulos is enthusiastic to put in place some strategies to engage increased volunteer participation and Lara Mathewson is particularly interested in the biological control of Cats Claw Creeper and the community breeding of biological controls.

Did You Know?

As a general rule it takes approximately 100 years to form small tree hollows that are suitable for such species as the Feathertail Glider, Phascogale's, Sugar Gliders, Squirrel Gliders, Kingfishers & some of the smaller Parrots.



Great Northern Clean Up

29 Volunteers attended the Great Northern Clean up at Riverside drive on Sunday September 13.

Volunteers included community members, Mackay Regional Council workers and Councillors as well as school students and teachers from St Patricks College. The site is a well know litter hot spot in the region, an entire skip was filled in a short two hour period thanks to the enthusiasm and hard work of the volunteers.

Rubbish collected on the day was extremely varied, incorporating; fast food items, household items, tyres, medical waste, industrial waste and even a drum of sump oil.

Many thanks to the volunteers who came along and made the morning a success, especially Cr Laurence Bonaventura and Cr Ross Walker who kindly provided the invaluable resource of their vehicles on the day to transport full bags of rubbish and other large items back to the skip.



Combat the dry

With one click of the mouse you could have a garden that's the envy of your neighbours that doesn't cost you bucket loads of water to maintain Simply log onto council's website

www.mackay.qld.gov.au/plantastic to access your free Plantastic Water Saving Guide. The free guide allows you to select your plant style (native, tropical or architectural), soil type and watering requirements and will generate a specific plant list to your needs; which you can print and take to your local nursery or call PCL to arrange obtaining plants from the MNEC.

Mt Blackwood Holly

Family: Acanthaceae

Form: The Mt. Blackwood Holly is a pretty rainforest shrub to small tree growing up to 6 metres in height. Short, sharp, slender axillary spines may be present, particularly on young plants.

Leaves: Simple, opposite, 10-115 x 7-55mm, opposing leaves markedly unequal in size, dark glossy green, distinctly veined and with spiny margins.

Flowers: Tubular with 5 spreading lobes, 20-25mm long, deep pink or scarlet red, borne in axillary clusters from late winter through spring. It is currently flowering in the Mackay Natural Environment Centre and many home gardens.

Fruit / Seeds: Dark green, club-shaped capsules, 10-26mm long, explosively fling 1 to 4 seeds some distance at maturity.

Habitat: Mt Blackwood Holly is only known from isolated populations on rocky gullies in rainforests northwest of Mackay and a population only discovered at Miriam Vale south of Gladstone in 2001 so is classified as *vulnerable*. The *Type Specimen* was collected from Mt. Blackwood in the 1800's; Mackay Branch of Native Plants Queensland (SGAP) introduced it to the public in 1991 and adopted it as their logo in 1992. It is suitable for a sunny or shady, well drained, well mulched, moist garden. It benefits from fertilising from time to time and regular light pruning.

Source: SGAP Mackay Branch records. Notes on *Graptophyllum*.... A.R. Bean *Austrobaileya* Vol 3



Weed Spotting

Argemone ochroleuca subsp. *ochroleuca***Mexican Poppy**

Family: Papaveraceae

Form: Prickly, thistle-like erect annual herb to 1m, stems pithy and covered with yellow prickles, yellow milky sap.

Leaves: A basal rosette when young, becoming alternate, simple; margins wavy, deeply lobed and irregularly toothed with coarse spines at the tips; conspicuously bluish and blotched with white, 100-200mm long.

Flowers: Pale yellow 6-petaled, 30-70mm diameter, borne individually at ends of small branches.

Fruit / Seeds: Spiny capsules, narrowly ovoid 25x10-18mm, filled with numerous brown or black globular seeds, 1.5mm in diameter, shed at maturity through valves at the top of the capsules.

Spread by: Seeds spread by gravity, water or contaminated soil on vehicles and stock, plants break off at base and are blown long distances helping to spread seed.

Invades: Seasonal watercourses, disturbed areas.

Notes: Mexican Poppy can cause injury due to its spiny nature; all parts reported to be toxic; can contaminate hay and pasture seed.

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



Land-for-Wildlife Update



Maxine Goodley has been a land for wildlife participant since 2011. Her property located at Habana has forest that is classified as RE 8.12.27– *Eucalyptus tereticornis*, *Corymbia tessellaris* and *Livingstonia decora* open forest. This is an endangered Regional Ecosystem. Since becoming a Land For Wildlife participant Maxine has been busy protecting the forest and enhancing areas under restoration using natives received through the program. The image shows plants received through the program thriving on Maxine's property.



Local Scouts Working Towards Landcare Badge.



PCL was approached by the Marian Scouts troupe to assist the Scouts obtain their Landcare Badge. Through funding provided by Mackay Regional Council under the Landcare Support project officers were able to assist the group. To date the group has spent time in the Mackay Natural Environment Centre (MNEC) nursery potting local natives. As well as time at the Marian Revegetation site behind Melba house performing rubbish collection, weeding and watering to protect the reveg planting at sites 3 and 4. These sites were previously part of the Riparian Everyone's Environment Grant project. The Scouts group has been working together with the Marian Community Working Group to conduct regular working bees at the Melba house reveg sites. This has been a mutually beneficial arrangement that allows the scouts to achieve their Landcare Badge

and allows the Marian Community Working Group to have a youthful presence in their group. Planting of the natives grown in the nursery will occur later in the year by the scouts group at the reveg sites. The Marian Scouts troupe is for children aged between 11 to 15 years. There is also a Marian cubs troupe for children aged between 8 to 11 years. If you would like to find out more information you can contact the group leader Sue Jensen mob: 0428 153 657.



Equine Landcare

Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group (PCL) is calling for expressions of interest from property owners in the Pioneer Catchment who are interested in sustainable property management to become involved in a new, specialist equine group offering support and information to promote Equine Landcare.

PCL aims to engage with experts in the land management industry and connect them to our members to increase knowledge and understanding of sustainable land management and to promote practices to help with the challenges posed by keeping horses.

Some of these challenges include;

- Pasture Management
- Soil Health
- Loss of biodiversity
- Weed control
- Property / stable design

We are wanting to engage people from all sections of the equine community alike, so whether you are a owner, trainer, breeder or coach - all are welcome.

Contact Laura Whitbread if you would like further information.

Thankyou

PCL would like to thank the following individuals for their valuable contributions:

Ernie and Nerida Ferrington - for the donation of an office desk.

Printer Cartridge Recycling

PCL now has a printer cartridge collection point for recycling. You can drop your used printer cartridges off to the PCL office.



Upcoming Events

October

- Sunday 4** - Birdlife Mackay Outing—Snake Rd Eungella
- Monday 5** - Labour Day Holiday
- Saturday 10** - Friends of MacKillop Wetlands Working Bee
ph: 4956 0346
- Saturday 10** - Morag McNichol Reserve Working Bee
ph: 4955 0153
- Saturday 24** - Friends of MacKillop Wetlands Working Bee
ph: 4956 0346
- Wednesday 14** - Ride to Work Day <http://www.ridetowork.org>
- Thursday 22** - PCL Annual General Meeting

November

- Sunday 1** - Birdlife Mackay Outing - Lake Clive, Belmunda
- Thursday 5** - SGAP General Meeting, Vertical Gardens
- Saturday 7** - Morag Mc Nichol Reserve Working Bee
ph: 4955 0153
- Monday 9 - 15** National Recycling Week <http://recyclingweek.planetark.org>

Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group Inc. Management Committee

- Chair:** Dave Hunter
- Vice-Chair:** Di Salau
- Treasurer:** Margaret Lane
- Committee Members:**
- Irene Champion Cr Theresa Morgan Grant Howard
- Caitlin Davies Dianne Williams

Annual General Meeting

The PCL Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday October 22 at 4pm. Individuals interested in becoming a member of the Management Committee are requested to attend, 6 Swayne St Nth Mackay MNEC.

For Sale

PCL plant sales are open to the public on Tuesday mornings or by appointment, native tubestocks are available at \$3.30 (including GST), Contact Carla Lambropoulos for enquiries. Plant kits which include, stakes, tree guards and mats are also available for purchase.

Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group Inc.

Office contacts:

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