

## Valentines at the Mackay Natural Environment Centre



More than 26 people attended the "Sowing the Seeds of Love" Coastcare event held on Saturday, February 13th. Attendees were able to get their hands dirty

while learning about native coastal species and propagation.

Jess Berryman from Reef Catchments and Nursery Manager Sue McCormack set up coastal tree and groundcover propagation stations which included: Cocky Apple (*Planchonia careya*), Mackay Cedar (*Falcataria toona*), Beach Spinifex (*Spinifex sericeus*), Goat's Foot (*Ipomoea pes-caprae*), and Beach Vitex (*Vitex rotundifolia*).



Participants then took a tour of the nursery led by Sue, which ended with a continental brunch.

Thank you to all who participated. These plants will be used for upcoming revegetation projects.



## 3RD ANNUAL Marian Soil Health Field Day

Proudly brought to you by:



**WHEN: April 26 -27**

Day 1| Souths Leagues Club

7am: breakfast

Presentations– keynote speaker Dr Greg Bender

12pm: Visit Simon Mattsson's farm, Newman's

Road, Marian

View trial sites

Barbecue

Sponsor presentations

Day 2| Simon Mattsson's Farm

8am: half-day hands on in-field soil assessment workshop hosted by Ag Ecologist David Hardwick.

**RSVP Simon Mattsson**

**Mattsson@mcs.net.au or 0417 862 979**

*CQSHS is a sub group of Pioneer Catchment & Landcare. The group is focused on addressing major soil issues in the Mackay region. Membership of CQSHS is open to all sectors of agriculture, farming, grazing, and the wider community. To find out more about CQSHS contact Simon Mattsson.*

**[www.cqshs.farm](http://www.cqshs.farm)**

## Far Beach Site Visit

This project is funded under the National Landcare Programme (NLP) and will allow PCL to complete revegetation and maintenance. 500 plants will go in along the fore dune. A permanent photo point has been set up so that site regeneration can be tracked over time.

These photos were taken on February 16th 2016 by Melissa Spalding.



Far Beach site



*Spinifex sericeus*



*Ipomoea pes-caprae*



*Casuarina equisetifolia*

**Mackay Cedar**

**Family:** Mimosaceae

A medium to large spreading tree with grey-brown rough and somewhat scaly bark and dark green “ferny” canopy which may be deciduous in winter. This tree makes an ornamental shade tree for larger gardens. The Mackay Natural Environment Centre (MNEC) is currently growing this species, which only fruits roughly once per every seven years. A Mackay Cedar can be seen on site at the MNEC.

**Leaves:** Alternate, bipinnate with a large gland at the base of the primary axis, up to 20 pairs of secondary axes to which are attached numerous small paired leaflets about 4 x 1mm.

**Flower:** Creamy with showy stamens arranged in spikes which are borne in terminal clusters in spring. Heavy flowering does not occur every year.

**Fruit:** Flat pods, about 90-160 x 15-33mm, contain 1 to 9 green-brown flat seeds, about 9 x 7mm.

**Distribution:** From central to north eastern Queensland. It is a common species of lowland rainforests and also extends into open forests where its distinctive dark green canopy is easily recognised.

Source: The Mackay Branch of The Society for Growing Australian Plants, 1989, One Hundred and One Trees of Mackay. *Paraserianthes toona*. Australian Tropical Rainforest Plants Edition 6, CSIRO, 2016.

Image: Mackay Cedar at the MNEC by M. Spalding



**Weed Spotting**

*Syzygium cumini*

**Java Plum**

**Family:** Myrtaceae

A dense tree reaching 20m or more. This weed is spread primarily by water but also by flying foxes and birds. Java Plum is durable, as it can withstand long periods of drought and survive in standing water. Up to four plants germinate from each fruit; trees flower and produce numerous fruit while young.

**Leaves:** Opposite simple, elliptic to broadly oblong, 50 -100mm long, glossy green with prominent yellowish midvein and numerous fine parallel lateral veins, oil glands present.

**Flower:** Fluffy cream, about 10mm in diameter, borne in large branched sprays.

**Fruit:** Purple-black ovoid berries, 20mm long, abundant, each with one brown seed embedded in juicy purplish flesh that stains.

**Distribution:** Coastal districts of central and northern Queensland. Invades creek banks and Melaleuca forest.

Source: MRPMG, 2013. Weeds of the Mackay Whitsunday Region. *Syzygium cumini*. Retrieved from: [http://keyserver.lucidcentral.org/weeds/data/03030800-0b07-490a-8d04-0605030c0f01/media/Html/Syzygium\\_cumini.htm](http://keyserver.lucidcentral.org/weeds/data/03030800-0b07-490a-8d04-0605030c0f01/media/Html/Syzygium_cumini.htm) Weeds of Australia: Biosecurity Queensland Edition, 2016.

Image: Mackay Regional Pest Management Group; S. and A. Pearson



## Expressions of Interest

Did you know that many of Queensland's rare plants and animals occur on private land and their survival depends on landholders to protect important ecosystems? Whether you are revegetating degraded land or protecting remnant rainforest, Land for Wildlife can offer advice on regeneration techniques and conservation management.



Expressions of Interest are required for the Land for Wildlife Project. Land for Wildlife is a voluntary program that encourages and assists landholders to provide habitat for wildlife on their properties. The programme is free. When you apply for Land for Wildlife you will be visited by a PCL officer who can offer you advice on:

- Integrating wildlife conservation with other land management activities
- Local plants, animals, threatened species, ecosystems and their management
- Incentives available to private landholders to create, protect and improve wildlife habitat

Land for Wildlife also offers free workshops, field days, regular newsletters and opportunities to meet other like-minded landholders. Land for Wildlife status does not alter the legal status of a property, convey the right of public access, nor represent an official wildlife sanctuary. Land for Wildlife welcomes landholders who:

- Manage part or all of their property as habitat for native plants and animals
- Integrate nature conservation with other land uses, such as agriculture, grazing or tourism
- Have a property generally over 1 hectare in size (exceptions may apply for educational, community-owned or other properties)

Land for Wildlife recognises the skills and commitment of landholders and is responsive to individual needs. A "working towards" registration category is available for landholders who do not qualify for full registration at the first property visit. Advice will be given to help them work towards full registration in the future.

Neighbouring properties may join together and apply for group registration.

Project Officer Laura Whitbread will soon be contacting landholders who have expressed an interest in the Land for Wildlife programme. Please contact Pioneer Catchment & Landcare if you would like to get involved.

## THANK YOU

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

**Mike & Judy Jubow** - for their generosity in donating pots and trays to the nursery.

## Nest Boxes for Wildlife

Pioneer Catchment & Landcare is involved in a National Landcare Project to provide 29 nest cylinders to landholders within in the Pioneer Catchment. The nest cylinders will provide places for squirrel gliders, small bats, and medium-sized parrots, to nest.

Each design is different, depending on the nesting preferences of the cylinder's intended inhabitant. The gliders, for example, require stable temperatures, so their cylinders are insulated. They have small entrance holes so that larger mammals and birds are less likely to use them, and are fitted with a little ladder inside so that the gliders can crawl down and snuggle in the base of the tube.

Bats prefer tight spaces to roost, so inside their pipes, there are vertical baffles fitted, with scored lines to allow the bats to grip. The bottoms of the bat cylinders are open to prevent waste build up and to make invasions by other animals less likely.

The third design is a simple cylinder with a hole and a perch - this could be suitable for parrots such as rosellas, since the cylinder design mimics a hollow tree trunk.

Constructed at the Men's Shed, the boxes will be distributed to landholders whose properties are in suitable glider, bat or rosella habitat. The benefits of nest boxes include biodiversity enhancement and an invaluable education tool. Please contact Project Officer Laura Whitbread if you are interested in being a part of the Nest Box Programme.

## Pond Apple Survey Work in the Reliance Creek Catchment

The Pond Apple monitoring survey in the Reliance Creek Catchment area has kicked off for another year. PCL's Project Officer, Carla Lambropoulos and Mackay Regional Council's Pest Management Officer, Shelley Molloy were out walking the creek lines again on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February. The most important area to re-survey was the section of Leila Creek between Shadys Lane and Bobongies Road, as this was the location of the mature Pond Apple tree discovered last year. Carla and Shelley found and treated six Pond Apple saplings in this section of Leila Creek, which shows the importance of follow up survey and treatment work. Further survey work will be carried out in the area in the coming weeks and Carla and Shelley will be presenting information at the Habana Progress Association's Annual General Meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> March.

## Upcoming Events

### March

**Thursday 4** - Native Plants QLD general meeting at the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens from 7:30pm ph: 49527300

**Saturday 5** - Birdlife Mackay, Monthly Count Programme at Shellgrit Creek ph: 0488315757

**Saturday 5** - Friends of Morag McNichol Reserve working bee from 8am ph: 49550153

**Sunday 6** - Birdlife Mackay outing, meet at Tourist Info Centre at 0600 ph: 49593382

**Saturday 12** - 2016 Clean Up Australia Day at Carmila Beach, 8:30am—1:30pm ph: 49561388 SLCMA office

**Wednesday 23** - Friends of Morag McNichol Reserve monthly meeting from 4:30pm ph: 49550153

**Friday 25** - Birdlife Mackay monthly survey at the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens ph: 49420675

### April

**Saturday 2** - Friends of Morag McNichol Reserve working bee from 8am ph: 49550153

**Sunday 3** - Birdlife Mackay outing, meet at Blacks Beach Spit & Wetlands ph: 49593382

**Thursday 7** - Native Plants QLD general meeting at the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens from 7:30pm ph: 49527300

**Saturday 9** - Birdlife Mackay, Monthly Count Programme at Shellgrit Creek ph: 0488315757

**Tuesday/Wednesday 26-27** - 3rd Annual Marian Soil Health Field Day RSVP Simon Mattsson ph: 0417862979

**Friday 29** - Birdlife Mackay monthly survey at the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens ph: 49420675

## Posted Newsletter Changes

Due to the increase in Australia Post fees the Management Committee is forced to rationalise our newsletter distribution. This will not affect you if you receive a coloured newsletter via email.

Starting with the April (next) newsletter people who receive posted B&W copies will receive coloured emailed copies if we have your email address. If you have an email address please send a confirmation email to [admin@pioneercatchment.org.au](mailto:admin@pioneercatchment.org.au) to ensure we have your current email address.

If you do not have email we are requesting a donation to assist as with newsletter distribution. Please contact Wendy by phone at 4944 1979 on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The Management Committee apologises for having to make this decision as information sharing is part of our philosophy.

### Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group Inc.

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