

Nespresso Coffee Pod Recycling at Porters

Nespresso coffee pod users will be pleased to know that the local Porters on Gordon Street is home to one of only two Nespresso recycling centres in the Mackay-Whitsunday region. Located at the Brisbane street entrance, recyclers can drop off their rinsed and dried pods in the Nespresso collection bin (pictured on left).

Pioneer Catchment & Landcare member Margaret Lane enjoys her coffee and has been recycling her coffee pods, as well as composting her coffee grounds. Margaret recommends using leftover coffee grounds as an input for the garden/compost in your backyard. *Tip: sealed bags for used coffee pods can be purchased for just \$0.90 cents on the Nespresso website and can store up to 200 coffee pods!*



Clockwise from the top:

PCL Volunteers prepare to weed; a snapshot of Reliance Creek; weeding out on site

Cat's Claw Creeper Identification & Treatment Demonstration



The demonstration will show you how to identify and effectively treat Cat's Claw in accordance with the Australian Government Weed Management Guide.

Date: Friday, June 17th
Time: 9am-11am (morning tea provided)
Location: Reliance Creek National Park
Meet at the end of Browns Road (off Yakapari-Habana Road)

In Focus | Our Volunteers

PICTURED ABOVE: PCL volunteers at Reliance Creek on Tuesday, May 10th

PICTURED BELOW: On the same day a BBQ was held at the MNEC as a thank you to our volunteers for all their hard work



Clockwise from the top:

Laura Whitbread preparing lunch; chocolate cake for dessert; volunteers eating lunch

How to Grow Your Garden Native Plants that Promote Biodiversity

A flyer will be distributed to all members but **SAVE THE DATE:**

Date: Friday, June 17th

Time: 10am

Please join us for a stroll through the Botanic Gardens followed by a visit to a home garden

Meet at Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens in front of the administration building



Image: MRBG; S and A Pearson



Native Lasiandra

Family: Melastomataceae

This native shrub grows to two metres high, flowering from Spring to Autumn. Some refer to this small tree as "Blue Tongue" - Indigenous people would eat the fruit and be left with their tongues stained blue.

Fruit is eaten by the double-eyed fig-parrot, Australian Brush-turkey and Lewin's Honeyeater.

Leaves: Opposite, each with a midrib and two major longitudinal veins plus two other longitudinal veins which could nearly be regarded as intramarginal veins. Leaf blades about 60-110 x 20-40mm and covered in stiff hairs, dark green above and usually paler below.

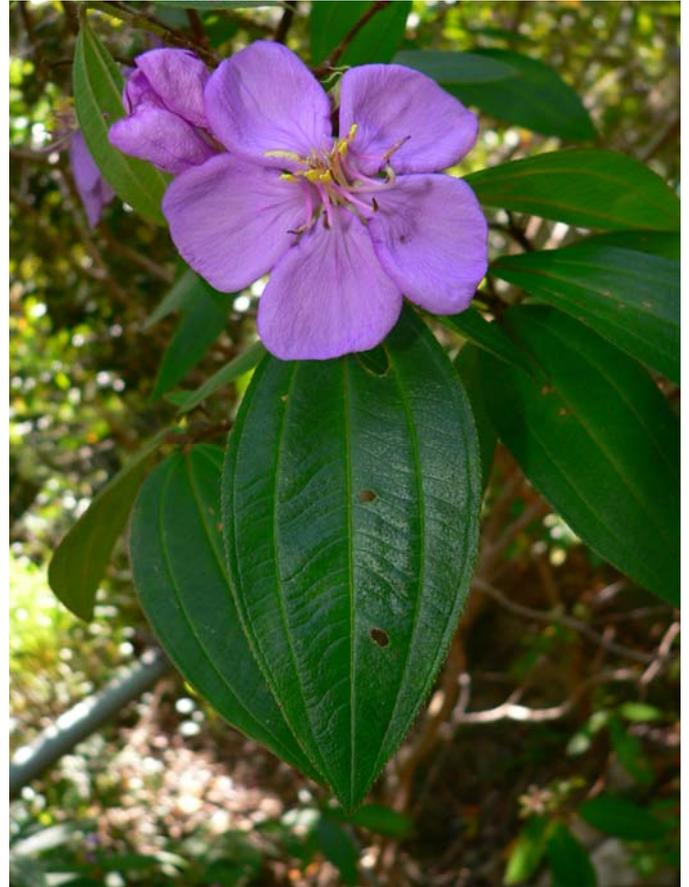
Flower: Open, five petalled, mauve with long yellow stamens, borne in few flowered terminal cymes or singly, April to January.

Fruit: Globose, semi-succulent becoming dry; edible; December to June. Capsules about 10mm diameter. Seeds immersed in a dark, almost black pulp.

Distribution: Rainforest margins, woodland, open forests often in damp areas along stream lines and in swamps. Occurs from Cape York to north-eastern NSW, also NT, WA and overseas.

Source: Melzer, R and Plumb, J., 2007, Plants of Capricornia. Australian Tropical Rainforest Plants Edition 6, CSIRO, 2016.

Image: S and A Pearson

**Weed Spotting***Senna obtusifolia***Sicklepod**

Family: Caesalpiniaceae

One of three closely related *Senna* weeds. It is a vigorous and competitive woody shrub which grows 1.5-2.5m tall and 1m wide. It is normally an annual, but plants which have been slashed or have survived chemical treatment often reshoot, flower and last for another year. Sicklepod prefers well drained, fertile soils and is well suited to open coastal forest country. If you have noticed a shorter form of Sicklepod that flowers and matures three to four weeks earlier than the main infestation of Sicklepod, it could be Stinking Cassia (*Senna tora*), also recorded in Mackay. A third species, Hairy Senna (*Senna hirsuta*) is hairy and has leaflets with pointed tips. A prominent conical gland is found at the base of each leaf stalk.

All three are declared Class 2 pest plants. Declaration requires landholders to control declared pests under their control. It is an offense to introduce, keep or supply Class 2 pests without a permit issued by Biosecurity Queensland.

Leaves: Alternate pinnate with opposite stalkless or shortly stalked leaflets, lacking a terminal leaflet; usually increasing in size from lower to upper pairs. Glands may be present on stalk or between lower leaflets. Stipules often deciduous.

Flower: Yellow somewhat orchid-like or cup-shaped with 5 sub-equal-sized petals; borne in upper axillary or terminal clusters, racemes or sprays.

Fruit: Dehiscent, sickle-shaped, cylindrical pods, 120-180 x about 3mm with 30-50 hard seeds.

Distribution: Sicklepod occurs predominantly along the tropical east coast of Queensland (from Sarina to the tip of Cape York) and the top end of the Northern Territory. Grazing, agriculture and the environment are all under threat.

Source: MRPMG, 2013. Weeds of the Mackay Whitsunday Region. *Sicklepod*. Retrieved from: <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/agriculture/species/declared-pests/weeds/sicklepod>

Image: S and A Pearson



Land for Wildlife



New members of the Land for Wildlife family are Teresa and Jason, who will be working towards Land for Wildlife accreditation as they revegetate their cleared block at Kuttabul. Their block is located in an area that has been predominately used for cane farming. It is surrounded by many valuable habitats, as their block is only 600m from Mount Martin National Park, 1km from Mt Roy and 4km from Mt Ossa National Park. Teresa and Jason have a cleared for revegetation with the hope that it will create a corridor for species between these habitats.



Teresa and Jason are very keen on the natural environment and are particularly interested in revegetating with species that were present pre-clearing. PCL will continue to work with them to reach their goals.

Teachers Making an Impact

Whitsunday Anglican School

On May 18th, PCL facilitated a Gooseponds Activity Day along with Gerard Ferguson from Mackay Regional Council. Seventy grade 7 students attended the field day. Tree planting, Plant ID and assessing water health via macroinvertebrate ID'ing made up the agenda for the day.



Students preparing to mulch the ground after tree planting



Matt Moore discussing native fish

Beaconsfield State School

Anna Berrigan is the science specialist teacher who is interested in revamping the frog pond, veggie garden and composting facilities already located at the school. The beautiful Future Forest is a display of forest habitat where students can learn about its unique



A nest box in one of the fig trees

characteristics, observe butterflies and sit in an outdoor classroom.

Mackay State High School



Fruit trees growing on site

The school has an impressive agricultural program that spans from compost and veggie gardening, to worm farms, chickens, native bee hives, cattle and fruit trees. Science Officer Jenny Wooding and Agriculture Science Subject Area Coordinator Nicole Fitzpatrick hosted a walk through for project officer Melissa Spalding to learn about the school's programs. The knowledge and hands-on practical experience that students can gain whilst participating in harvesting a crop or in growing natives from seed in the greenhouse is invaluable.

Mirani State School

Bank stabilisation and the continued revegetation work of the school's pathway leading down to the Pioneer River are two priorities for Val Clark and Julie Osborne who teach at Mirani State School. Melissa Spalding and Margaret Lane of PCL visited the school back in April to have a look at what natives and weed species were on site. In this ongoing project, teachers and students will plant lomandra and subdue weeds to create a beautiful pathway leading all the way to the river.



M Lane on the pathway surrounded by lomandra

Upcoming Events

June

Sunday 5 - World Environment Day

Friday 17 - PCL Cat's Claw Creeper Treatment Demonstration at Reliance Creek from 9am, RSVP to Laura Whitbread laura.whitbread@pioneercatchment.org.au

Friday 17 - PCL Garden Event from 10am, meet at Botanic Gardens. See page 1 of this newsletter for details. RSVP to Melissa Spalding melissa.spalding@pioneercatchment.org.au

Saturday 18 - Birdlife Mackay outing to DeMoylens Lagoon meet at Tourist Info Centre at 0600 ph: 49593382

Saturday 18 - Reef Check event at CQU: Take a crash course in reef ecology, catchment management and coral with Reef Check Australia. RSVP to Jess Berryman at Reef Catchments: jessica.berryman@reefcatchments.com

Sunday 19 - Pioneer Valley Show

July

Saturday 2 - Friends of Morag McNichol Reserve working bee ph: 4942 8802

Saturday 2 - Birdlife Mackay, Monthly Count Programme at Shellgrit Creek at 9am ph: 0488315757

Thursday 7 - Native Plants QLD-SGAP Mackay general meeting at the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens from 7:30pm ph: 49551745

Wednesday 8 - MRBG and Native Plants QLD-SGAP Regional Forest Working Bee from 7:30am; meet at S.S. Islander's car park

Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group Inc.

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Birds In Backyards



Readers will find a heap of interesting information when they visit the *Birds in Backyards* website

(www.birdsinbackyards.net). See below for some quick tips on creating a bird-friendly space in your backyard, regardless of your garden's size.

Choose native plants: local plants are adapted to local conditions (soil, rainfall, temperature). Take into consideration the size of your garden space and your garden design. Use pots or even hanging baskets to provide habitat in small gardens. Account for all appetites – do you have plants that provide nectar, fruit or seeds, as well as those that bring insects in? Choose a variety of plants so as to create a vertical structure from the ground up. (<http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/Choosing-Native-Plants>)

Create places for birds: Plant for shelter. Several shrubs close together (five or more) can form dense, protective thickets, great habitat for small birds. Grow rambling, light climbers in amongst medium to tall shrubs and trees to give extra shelter and possible nesting sites. Nest boxes are a good option too.

Develop good gardening habits: By not using chemicals for pest and weed control, and mulching all leaf fall and garden cuttings on-site, you can easily increase available food for birds.

Can your garden really make a difference? The answer is an overwhelming "YES". Get to know the local wildlife by spending time in your backyard. *Birds in Backyards* also run a 20-minute survey to encourage people to take notice of what is going on around them. Visit <http://birdsinbackyards.net/surveys/About-our-Surveys> for more information.

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