

PCL General Meeting... that's a wrap!



Sue McCormack of Mackay Regional Council touring the nursery with meeting attendees, including PCL Chairman Dave Hunter

PCL held a general meeting at the MRC Natural Environment Centre on August 19. We had two

invited guest speakers Deb McLucas, Chair of the Greater Whitsunday Food Network and Sue McCormack, Nursery Manager of MRC Natural Environment Centre.

Deb discussed the initiative called 'Paddock to Plate' in which local produce forms the basis of reputable community food culture and positively impacts on the local economy. One example of this is the Farmers' Market held every Wednesday in Wood St, Mackay. You can contact the Greater Whitsunday Food Network on their Facebook page [greaterwhitsundayfarmersmarket](https://www.facebook.com/greaterwhitsundayfarmersmarket) or email markethq@greaterwhitsundayfood.org.au. Sue took us on a tour of the MRC Natural Environment Centre nursery and talked about the new developments such as the growing of wetland plants. The nursery has a core group of volunteers, including a PCL group, who assist in all nursery areas. In the last two years, the nursery has grown 143,000 native plants!

Funding Update

This year PCL propose to use their Landcare Support funding to include "Gardens for Wildlife". This programme will engage people with residential blocks who do not currently qualify for the Land for Wildlife programme due to the size of their lots. Individuals wanting to establish wildlife friendly gardens will benefit from this program. Watch this space for upcoming events and information...

Council funding for Land for Wildlife has been approved for the next financial year. Each month we highlight a Land for Wildlife event, property status update or wildlife article in our newsletter. This is an important aspect of this project, together with enlisting new properties and revisiting registered properties.

As we have in the past, PCL will continue to support local community groups and schools. School education days, field trips, tree plantings and plant recommendations are a few event types that PCL has recently facilitated. For those who are interested in a programme or to find out more information, contact the office or email Melissa at melissa.spalding@pioneercatchment.org.au.

Do you have feedback on our newsletter? We would love to hear from you. We welcome any ideas or topics that members would like to see in our newsletters.

SAVE THE DATE

2016 Great Northern Clean Up

When: September 3rd
Time: 8am—10am

Join Pioneer Catchment & Landcare to help clean up Riverside Drive at Sams Road end

Volunteers will help remove rubbish littering our beautiful region. Last year over 200 volunteers removed 4 tonne of rubbish from 13 registered sites across the region.

Volunteers can register on the day and must wear closed-in shoes and be sun-safe.

Farewell to Laura

It is with regret that we must inform members that Laura will no longer be our Coordinator however she will continue her involvement with PCL. We have shared great experiences and will miss her sense of humour around the office. We wish her the best in all future endeavours. We miss you already, Laura!

Image: Laura at St. Helens Creek



Native Olive**Family: Oleaceae**

This large bushy shrub to medium sized tree has a dense spreading crown, a dark grey rough-barked trunk and branchlets with numerous lenticels. It is fast growing and flowers when young. The fruit is eaten by Koels, Figbirds, Pied Imperial Pigeons and Cassowaries.

Leaves: Opposite, dark green on top and paler underneath with a prominent raised, lemon-coloured mid-vein; 50–220 x 20–90mm. Shape is elliptical to broadly oblong. Numerous oil dots are visible with a lens.

Flower: The white or cream flowers are fragrant with four petals, on a green calyx. They are borne in axillary sprays about 80mm long.

Fruit: A purple drupe containing one hard seed and resembling an olive in shape and size.

Distribution: North eastern Queensland. Rainforest, monsoon forest, littoral rainforest and woodland from the Torres Strait Islands to the Brisbane area at altitudes of 0–800m in tropical Queensland. Also native to the Solomon Islands, New Guinea, Malaysia and Asia.

Source: Melzer, R and Plumb, J., 2007, Plants of Capricornia. The Mackay Branch of The Society for Growing Australian Plants, 1989. One hundred and One Trees of Mackay. Cooper, W. 2004, Fruit of the Australian Tropical Rainforest.

Image: S and A Pearson

**Weed Spotting****Senegalia pennata subspecies insuavis Syn. Acacia pennata****Cha-om/Pennata wattle****Family: Fabaceae**

Shrub up to 5m that sometimes has a tendency to climb and scramble like a vine. This weed has been cultivated for use in cooking. It can form dense, thorny thickets and can be confused with other similar looking species including Leucaena (*Leucaena leucocephala*) - a key difference being Leucaena does not have a pungent smell nor thorns.

This weed is also similar to the native *Senegalia pennata* subspecies *kerrill* (native to Cape York Peninsula), which also does not have a strong odour. Specimens need to be submitted to the Queensland Herbarium to accurately distinguish between these two subspecies. This weed is a Declared Category 1 pest, and residents are encouraged to notify Biosecurity Queensland to prevent the spread of this pest.

Leaves: Bipinnate; scattered prickles along branchlets, stems. Leaves and stems have a strong odour.

Flower: Yellow-cream flowers and flattened pods. Flowers have a strong odour.

Fruit:

Distribution: Occurs sparingly naturalised in north Queensland. Prefers disturbed habitats, generally near rainforests.

Source: Biosecurity Queensland 2016, Pest Alert: Chao-om or Pennata Wattle.

Image: Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Biosecurity Queensland



Composting and Worm Farming Workshop by Melissa Spalding



Healthy worms by the handful are seen in one of Luke's worm farms at the Mackay Community Gardens

Located at the Mackay Community Gardens and hosted by Mackay Regional Council, the composting and worm farm workshop on August 27 was attended by ten community members. Luke at the Mackay Community Gardens did a fantastic job of explaining the basics of composting and what inputs are required for rich compost.

A useful tip was to keep separate bins for dried leaves and manure pellets used for composting; also what to look for in a healthy worm farming system. This workshop was 2.5 hours long, with a delicious morning tea in between. This workshop is highly recommend as it was very informative and will inspire you to continue composting/ start your own worm farm.

Check out their website on: <http://permaculturemackay.org/workshops.php>

The next workshop will be on Saturday, 12 November. Registration is through the [Mackay Regional Council website](#).

Thanks again to Fiona Patterson of Mackay Regional Council, and Luke and friends at the Mackay Community Gardens for hosting this workshop.

Greater Whitsunday Food Network Annual General Meeting

Friday, 16th September from 10am to 12:30pm



Located in the Reception Room of the Council Administration Building, 73 Gordon Street, Mackay

Opportunity for networking and discussions/sessions on the following: Eungelladale's Crowd Funding Campaign - can consumers save the local dairy industry?

GWFN Priorities Discussion – feedback requested

Our Food Future Forum – panel discussion highlighting opportunities and plans for the development of local food systems and agritourism in the Mackay Isaac and Whitsunday region.

Please RSVP to admin@greaterwhitsundayfood.org.au or Deb McLucas on 0428 380 191

Native Bee Workshop

Cancellation Notice



The one-day workshop scheduled on Sunday, 18th September in Sarina has been cancelled. We apologise for the inconvenience.

Fodder Management

Extracted from Weed Spotters Network Bulletin August 2016

"Have you noticed new species of weeds emerging where drought fodder was fed to livestock? The prolonged and extensive drought and many sources of fodder, some without processes to check for weed contamination, has resulted in elevated weed risks in many regions. Information on best practice and identification of weeds associated with fodder use in Queensland's droughted areas will be improved through a small grant recently received from the National Landcare Programme for Sustainable Agriculture. The grant will allow AgForce and the Weed Spotters Network Queensland (Queensland Herbarium and Biosecurity Queensland), along with existing local government, industry extension, NRM, biosecurity and drought communication networks to fine tune and promote best practice for managing weeds in fodder. Proposed activities include a fodder best practice guideline and a series of workshops, field days and website links for drought declared regions to hone paddock identification skills for the top 20 'high risk' fodder weeds.

Problematic weeds such as giant rat's tail grasses, African lovegrass, thatch grass, Parthenium, Praxelis, fleabane and turnip weeds may have recently extended their range due to drought fodder movements.

For more information or to become involved in this upcoming 12 month project, contact AgForce Policy Officer Marie Vitelli, ph 0429 062 852 or email vitellim@agforceqld.org.au or Melinda Laidlaw, Weed Spotters Network coordinator, ph (07) 3896 9323 or email Melinda.Laidlaw@dsiti.qld.gov.au."

Upcoming Events

September

Saturday 3 - Friends of Morag McNichol Reserve working bee from 8am

Saturday 3 - The 2016 Great Northern Clean Up 8am to 10am

Sunday 4 - **Happy Fathers Day**

Saturday 10 - Friends of MacKillop Wetlands working bee 8am to 10am

Wednesday 14 - MRBG and Native Plants QLD-SGAP Regional Forest Working Bee from 7:30am; planting at Reliance Creek and Koumala Range

Friday 16 - GWFN Annual General Meeting

October

Sunday 2 - BirdLife Mackay outing for more info contact ph. 4959 3382

Monday 3 - **World Habitat Day**

Saturday 8 - Friends of Morag McNichol Reserve working bee from 8am

October 17-23 - **National Bird Week**

<http://birdlife.org.au/get-involved/whats-on/bird-week>

Thursday 20 - PCL Annual General Meeting 4pm to 6:30pm at MRBG

Thursday 27 - MRBG and native Plants QLD-SGAP Propagation group at Queens Park from 7:30am

Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group Inc. Management Committee

Chair: Dave Hunter

Vice-Chair: Di Salau

Treasurer: Mark Radke

Committee Members:

Irene Champion

Dianne Williams

Jock Hansen

Grant Howard

Di Salau and Melissa Spalding of PCL will be attending the 2016 National Landcare Conference in Melbourne on September 21-23, subsidized in part by funding through Reef Catchments. Di and Melissa will report back on the conference at the PCL Annual General Meeting on October 20th.

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