



Pioneer Catchment & Landcare News

October 2016

Tech-ture 2016:

Digital Media meets Studies of the Environment

Supported by a number of community groups including PCL, Mackay Turtle Watch Association, and The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, local artists Donna Robinson and Jodie Connolly have achieved great success in teaching Year 4 students from St. Francis Xavier how to create stop-motion animations.

In a series of workshops, students and teachers were able to develop visual art skills to create their own narratives on environmental issues such as land-based run off and environmental threats on turtles.

In July, students also documented the National Tree Day activities of Prep and Kindy students planting Pink Evodias and Eungella Bottlebrush at the school.

Using stop-motion media as a method of storytelling, students can generate awareness of environmental issues using their

own voice, creativity and passion for the environment.

This Green Arts Project was supported by the Regional Arts Development Fund.

CQSHS Host Another Successful Field Day

Members were invited to Simon Mattsson's farm in Marian on Sunday 25 September to hear from soil microbiologist Walter Jehne, as well as speakers Dr. Lucas Ihlein and Barry Trethowan about their current projects and activities relating to soil health. Attendees were welcomed with a BBQ, followed by presentations and a farm tour. Simon Mattsson has a number of sugar cane trials on his property, and is keen to promote the farmer-driven research trials and knowledge-sharing mantra that the CQSHS group advocates. Watch out, as this group is most definitely going places.

Reported by Project Officer Melissa Spalding

Social Media Update

In the spirit of information-sharing, PCL is looking to grow it's facebook following, connecting its members to the projects, events, volunteer activities and news relating to all things landcare. If you have not "liked" the PCL facebook page, you're missing out!

St. Helens Creek Project

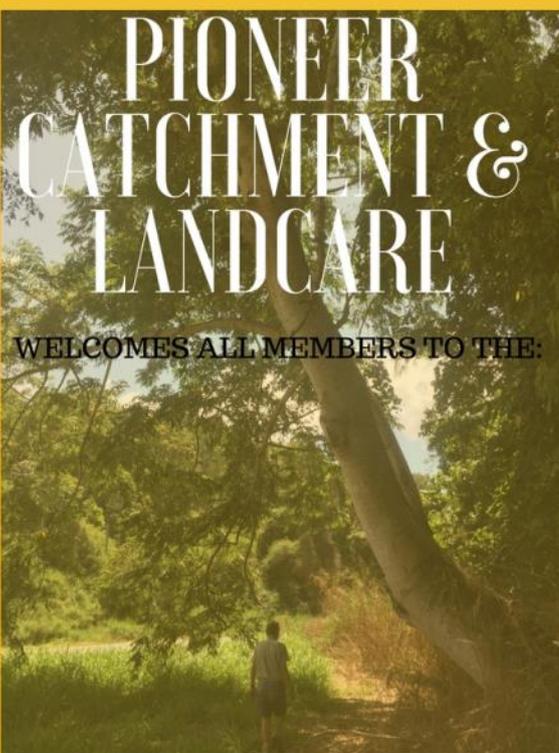
A recent visit revealed the leaps and bounds that this site has made since chemical spraying and planting 500 native plants. Weed maintenance continues and the planted natives grow taller by the day. Additional funding will be sourced for extending the site further along St Helens Creek. Thank you to Dave Hunter of PCL and to the landholder for their added time spent weeding and caring for this site.

Did you Know? *Microbeads*

The environmental threat that microbeads pose is dynamic, as beads clog waterways and are mistaken for food by many forms of marine life. They have also been found to absorb toxic chemicals, which is another reason plastic microbeads devastate the environment. Make sure your face wash, toothpaste and body wash products do not have microbeads in them.

In the Spirit of Volunteering

According to Volunteering Australia's most recently released report titled "State of Volunteering", 93% of volunteers surveyed reported positive changes as a result of volunteering efforts (improved well-being, appreciated by community)... which resonates with us here at PCL. Read the interesting study at: <http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/wp-content/uploads/State-of-Volunteering-in-Australia-full-report.pdf>



2016

Annual General Meeting

THURSDAY
OCTOBER 20TH
3 PM - 5 PM

MRC NATURAL
ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

- Management committee nominations
- Chairman's Annual Report
- Guest speakers

ALL MEMBERS ARE
ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND

PLEASE RSVP FOR
CATERING PURPOSES

Brown Laurel/Three Veined Cryptocarya

Family: Lauraceae

A small to medium sized rainforest tree with a dense canopy. A flowering specimen can be seen at the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens near the bottom of Finch Hatton Gorge section.

Leaves: Simple, alternate, spirally arranged, lanceolate, elliptic or ovate, 4.5-13.5 x 1.5-5cm long. Three-veined from above the base; upper surface is glossy green, glabrous, paler green below with scattered, straight, appressed, white hairs. New growth is covered with soft, light brown hairs and branchlets and veins on the underside of the leaf are also hairy.

Flower: Dense clusters of tiny greenish beige flowers are borne above the leaves.

Fruit: Ovoid, fleshy, shiny black, about 1.2-1.5cm long. Summer to autumn.

Distribution: From the Daintree River to the Macleay River, New South Wales. Common on coastal areas and occurs in littoral and dry rainforest habitats. In the Mackay region, it occurs in riverine rainforest as well.

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

Catharanthus roseus

Pink Periwinkle

Family: Apocynaceae

This weed is another garden escapee. A shrubby perennial herb to 60cm tall with milky sap. It can be seen almost everywhere except rainforest and wetland areas and is spread by garden waste, water and wind over short distances. Can tolerate a wide range of growing conditions, and produces an abundance of seeds. All parts of the plant including milky sap are poisonous.

Leaves: Opposite, simple, oval, 2.5-9 x 1-3.5cm, leathery, glossy and dark green.

Flower: Dark pink or white slender tubes with five spreading petals. Darker colour in the centre of the flower.

Fruit: Paired cylindrical follicles 2-3cm long. Seeds are numerous, black, oblong, 2-2.5cm long.

Distribution: Common in coastal areas in this region.

Source: MRPMG, Are Your Garden Plants Going Bush?. MRPMG, 2013. Weeds of the Mackay Whitsunday Region.

Image: S and A Pearson



PCL Volunteers Head to Lagoon Creek Wetland



On Tuesday 13 September, PCL nursery volunteers, Mackay Regional Council and Mackay Region Botanic Gardens staff and volunteers planted 140 trees and 2,726 plant species both in and along the water's edge. This was a massive effort! MRC staff put on a delicious lunch after the event at the Amphitheatre. The PCL crew clocked in around twenty volunteer hours!

PCL volunteers planting along the water's edge on the Glenella



2016 National Landcare Conference

By Melissa Spalding

The trek to Melbourne for the National Landcare Conference was nothing short of exciting. We arrived the day prior and were able to explore South Bank, settle in and prepare for what would be three full days of listening to other Landcare groups and networks (their projects) and presenters, some whose passion for landcare was so infectious, it made you want to head straight home to start planning new projects.

The conference programme was broken into four themes: Climate Impacts and Responses, Community Engagement, Landscape Challenges and Responses, and Collaboration and Innovation. Four meeting rooms (one for each theme) allowed attendees to move from one room to the next depending on what speaker or topic they were interested in. The schedule limited each presenter to around 15-20 minutes which is hardly enough time, as is the case for most conferences— never enough time! Costa Georgiadis was the Master of Ceremonies and did a splendid job of entertaining the audience while at the same time, sharing his passion and insight, further bringing the audience together (mostly through chuckles and clapping).



For our group, I think the most beneficial take-home message would be to get community members involved by creating more opportunities to volunteer and learn about our region. Landcare is relevant to every single person, and I hope to grow PCL's engagement activities so everyone can have the opportunity to connect with the environment in a way that interests them.



Upcoming Events

October

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

Friday 21 - PCL Rubber Vine Information and Identification at Brightly from 9:30-11:30am
Further details provided when you RSVP to Deb at reception@reefcatchments.com or 07 4968 4200

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

Friday 28 - Friends of MacKillop Working Bee 3pm to 5pm ph. 0419756357

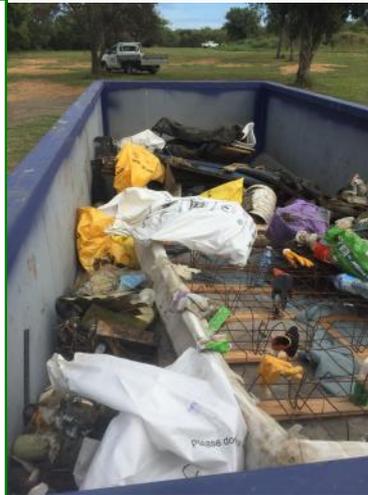
November

Thursday 3 - Native Plants QLD-SGAP Mackay general meeting at the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens Meeting Room from 7:30pm ph.4955 1745

Friday 11 - Friends of MacKillop Working Bee 3pm to 5pm; ph.0419756357

Monday 21 - **World Fisheries Day**

Friday 25 - Friends of MacKillop Working Bee 3pm to 5pm ph. 0419756357



The skip full of rubbish picked up on Riverside Drive



A volunteer carries rubbish found alongside the river

Photos from the 2016 Great Northern Clean Up on Saturday, 3 September. Dumped household items, industrial rubbish, food rubbish and tyres were some of the items seen on the day. Thank you to all 21 volunteers who attended the event!

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