

## Peri-urban: Discovering our Region

The Peri Urban project, with which you are probably familiar by now, is a government funded project which enables PCL Project Officer to visit properties, identify pests (plant or animal) and develop a pest management strategy. The resulting Pest Management Plan is a personalised priority action plan for the property and also provides access to forty plants to assist in revegetation activities.

Project Officer Melissa Spalding has recently visited properties in Gargett, Finch Hatton and Mt Martin and she has been impressed with the passion and motivation of the landholders she has visited. Regardless of whether they are cane farmers, graziers or hobby farmers they are interested in establishing native grasses and trees to revegetate degraded landscapes.

Although each story is different what has become apparent to Melissa that landholders see themselves as 'stewards of the land' with the responsibility to manage their properties sustainably.

Melissa, who is new to our region, feels privileged to have the opportunity to visit scenic properties in Mackay and the Pioneer Valley and to meet and work with local land managers and support them in their endeavours to protect and enhance their property's natural values.

After a day on the land Melissa find her small block of land in the city difficult to come home to.

## Brightly Hosts Rubber Vine Event

On 21 October PCL Coordinator Carla Lambropoulos, in partnership with Mackay Regional Council and Reef Catchments hosted a Rubber Vine information session and demonstration out at Brightly. MRC Pest Management Officer Shelly Molloy provided advice on how to identify Rubber Vine and demonstrated best practice treatment methods. Rubber Vine has been located in the Brightly, Kinchant Dam and Mia Mia areas. PCL and MRC are working to control this pest and need your help. If you think you may

have seen Rubber Vine, please contact either Shelley Molloy (07 4961 9202) or Carla Lambropoulos (0497 441 979).



*Shelley Molloy demonstrates cut and spray method*

## Annual General Meeting

Thank you to all everyone who attended PCL's Annual General Meeting on Thursday, October 20th. It was a great opportunity to share information on the 2016 National Landcare Conference, as well as hear form Charlie Morgan of the Healthy Rivers to Reef Partnership and their work on the latest 2015 Report Card. Nominations were carried out for Management Committee (MC) members, with Laura Whitbread accepting the nomination as a new MC member. Thank you to Radio Rentals for loaning a TV screen for presentations.



*PCL Chairman Dave Hunter opening the meeting*

**Weeping Bottlebrush/Creek Bottlebrush**

**Family: Myrtaceae**

Shrub or tree with weeping branches. Bark is dark grey, hard, furrowed. Host shrub for bee pollen as well as a food source for several species birds including Honeyeaters and Rainbow Lorikeets. This local bottlebrush is currently in flower... see if you can spot this beautiful bottlebrush in or around your neighborhood.

**Leaves:** Simple, alternate, narrowly elliptic, 3.5-10 x 0.3-1.5cm, pubescent when young, glabrous when mature.

**Flower:** Sparse to dense axillary or terminal spikes with white, pink or red petals and showy red bottle-brush-like stamens; any month but mostly spring.

**Fruit:** Capsules, about 0.5cm in diameter, brown; contain numerous fine seeds.

**Distribution:** Northeast Queensland and southwards to eastern Victoria. Grows along creeks and rivers, usually in open forest but sometimes on streams flowing through rain forest.

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**

*Centrosema molle*

**Centro**

**Family: Fabaceae**

Vigorous twining climber, forming tangled mats or growing over shrubs and trees to 3m or more. Seeds are spread by contaminated soil, vehicles, garden waste and animals. Can produce large quantities of viable seed and prevents regeneration of native plants.

**Leaves:** Alternate, pinnate with 3 leaflets, broadest below the mid-point, terminal leaflet lanceolate and much larger than laterals. Triangular stipules, 0.3-0.4cm.

**Flower:** Pea-shaped, pink to mauve, 2 x 2-3cm, densely hairy on back, borne in axillary groups of one to several at the end of slender stems.

**Fruit:** Flattened, straight or curved smooth pale brown pods with thickened margins, 7-15 x 0.7cm, contain 8-20 red-brown mottled seeds.

**Distribution:** Widely naturalised in the Mackay region.

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

*Image: M Spalding*



## Land For Wildlife



*During the property visit a group of temporary visitors take residence along the stream*

Pioneer Catchment & Landcare would like to welcome Gordon and Carol to the Land for Wildlife Program. Some may already be familiar with their property which is home to the eco wildlife retreat called the Feathered Nest. Located in Kuttabul, this retreat runs alongside the Mount Toby State Forest. Gordon's goal is to create a wildlife corridor and extend the areas of remnant vegetation. Open areas will be planted with native trees, and Gordon will continue to actively manage the stream running through the property. It is easy to see their commitment to care for the environment is strong.



Gordon's passion for birds like the Black Cockatoo, is another reason why attracting native wildlife is so important. You can find these birds plus many more at the Feathered Nest.

## Community Engagement

PCL Volunteers have spent the last few Tuesdays helping out at the nursery. Seed sowing included Eucalypt, Java Sedge and Mt Blackwood Holly. There is an art to seed sowing with activities ranging from removing seeds from fruit, sieving fine seeds to cracking seed casings (a good workout for anyone involved).

Under previous funding, a seed database was developed and it encompasses all relevant information for nursery plants including: local providence and known locations, seed characteristics and propagation data (storage, treatment). Volunteers and members can find copies of this database in its simplified form at the nursery... the perfect reference for seed sowing!

Potting up activities are always ongoing, with the nursery continuing to produce a variety of plants and trees, despite the nursery being in its "quiet period".

For anyone interested, newcomers are welcome to Tuesday mornings. We promise you a morning of storytelling, a variety of activities, a few good hours of volunteering and a good laugh too.



## Upcoming Events

### November

**Saturday 5** - MRC Community Consultation: Bucasia Beach Local Coastal Plan; meet at Seaview Park, 2pm–4pm

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

**Sunday 13** - MRC Community Consultation: Black's Beach Local Coastal Plan; meet at Bourke Street Park, 2:30-4:30pm

**Sunday 13** - MRC Community Consultation: Grasstree Beach Local Coastal Plan; meet at Grasstree Esplanade Park, 9am–11am

**Saturday 19** - Friends of Morag Morag McNichol Reserve working bee from 9:15am meet at 9 Wattle St, Andergrove

**Monday 21** - [World Fisheries Day](#)

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

### December

**Saturday & Sunday 3/4** - BirdLife Mackay National Bird Count ph. 0427 826 677

**Friday 9** - Friends of MacKillop Working Bee 3pm to 5pm ph. 0419756357

**Friday 23** - Friends of MacKillop Working Bee 3pm to 5pm ph. 0419756357

**Sunday 25** - [Merry Christmas!](#)

**\*\*NOTE: PCL Christmas Breakup date will be announced in the coming weeks**

## Waders Have Returned to Our Shores



Shorebirds who have migrated long distances to reach Australian shores can now be seen along the coastline. Mackay is an important home for migratory shorebirds and BirdLife Mackay members carry out monthly surveys for the Queensland Wader Study Group.

Check out the Queensland Wader Study Group website for more information: <http://waders.org.au>

### Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group Inc. Management Committee

#### Committee Members:

**Chair** | Dave Hunter Irene Champion  
**Vice-Chair** | Dianne Williams Grant Howard  
**Treasurer** | Mark Radke Di Salau  
Laura Whitbread

### Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group Inc. Office contacts:

**Phone** | 07 4944 1979

**Email** | [admin@pioneercatchment.org.au](mailto:admin@pioneercatchment.org.au)

**Website** | [www.pioneercatchment.org.au](http://www.pioneercatchment.org.au)

Wendy Eiteneuer | **Office Manager**

[weiteneuer@pioneercatchment.org.au](mailto:weiteneuer@pioneercatchment.org.au)

Melissa Spalding | **Project Officer**

[melissa.spalding@pioneercatchment.org.au](mailto:melissa.spalding@pioneercatchment.org.au) | 0429 376 662

Carla Lambropoulos | **Project Coordinator**

[projectofficer@pioneercatchment.org.au](mailto:projectofficer@pioneercatchment.org.au) | 0497 441 979

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