

2017 Grazing Forum

The annual Reef Catchments Grazing Forum was held on 1st March at Harrup Park Country Club. The day was hugely successful with over 100 regional graziers and landholders. Kim Kleidon (as MC) was at her best keeping everyone entertained, stimulated and on time.

This very well run meeting highlighted many aspects of interest and concern for local graziers including water quality, grazing and vegetation management, soil health as well as cattle identification and the National Livestock Identification Scheme (NLIS). Trade displays were informative and interactive in which an emphasis was clearly on the impact of weeds. Live streaming of the forum will allow non-attendees to gain much valuable information.

PCL had the pleasure of holding a trade display at the event which allowed us to engage with many of our local graziers and discuss our current funding projects. PCL gave away 150 trees at the event. Conference bags contained a wealth of case studies on activities around our local area and other informative literature. The following day had on-farm demonstrations on many aspects spoken of during the conference.

Are You Our Next Volunteer?

PCL is in need of an office volunteer to assist in the move to a paperless office. We also need assistance in moving data to the cloud –no jokes about “cloud bursts”.

PCL Volunteers at Far Beach



On March 7th, over ten bags of weeds were removed from a 50 metre section of Far Beach! Thank you to the volunteers for their fantastic effort!

What Is Your Impact?

For the inquisitive and environmentally conscious readers, go to <http://www.footprintnetwork.org/resources/footprint-calculator/> to find out how many planets it takes to support your lifestyle. The **Footprint Calculator** will run you through a series of questions –you can choose to answer one “basic question” or more detailed Q&A for more accurate answers –that will overall determine your Ecological Footprint. For some, this may be a reality check. For others, this is a good starting point to explore ways to reduce your Ecological Footprint. *Image sourced from www.footprintnetwork.org*

WHAT IF...?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> What if you pledged to reduce the amount of animal-products you currently eat by half? | If every Australian did this, we'd use 18 million fewer global hectares, an area that could cover 8 million football fields. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> What if you pledged to purchase products that used less packaging or were made out of 100% (PCR) recycled material? | If every Australian did this, we'd use 14 million fewer global hectares, an area that could cover 6 million football fields. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> What if solar panels provided most of the electricity for your house? | If every Australian did this, we'd use 9 million fewer global hectares, an area that could cover 4 million football fields. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> What if all of your appliances were very energy efficient? (Six-star rated models for example) | If every Australian did this, we'd use 2 million fewer global hectares, an area that could cover 1 million football fields. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> What if you pledged to use public transportation one day more each week instead of driving your car? | If every Australian did this, we'd use 9 million fewer global hectares, an area that could cover 4 million football fields. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> What if this year you pledged to take a local holiday to avoid flying this year? | If every Australian did this, we'd use 1 million fewer global hectares, an area that could cover 784 thousand football fields. |

Native Ginger

Family: Zingiberaceae

An understory perennial herb with large leaves and erect, cane-like stems to 3m. Fruit eaten by Cassowaries, Crimson Rosellas, King Parrots, Regent and Satin Bowerbirds, Lewin's Honeyeaters, Bush Rats, Giant White-tailed Rats and Fawn-footed Melomys. The underground stems are edible.

Leaves: Alternate, Simple, 240-550 x 50-100mm, glabrous, underside may be purplish-red; petioles absent.

Flower: Three petals, green; labellum about 14mm long, white, cream or pink with a pale lemon stripe; calyx green. September to April.

Fruit: Blue 3-valved capsules, 10-18mm long x 10-15mm wide, borne in terminal clusters 80-300mm long; seeds about 30, black at maturity, 3-4mm long, surrounded by thin white flesh.

Distribution: Present in coastal rainforests in Eastern Queensland and New South Wales; altitude 0 to 1400m.

Source: Cooper, W. 2004, Fruits of the Australian Tropical Rainforest.

Image: S & A Pearson, S Robins



Weed Spotting

Cascabela thevetia

Yellow Oleander, Captain Cook Tree

Family: Apocynaceae

Captain Cook tree is a restricted invasive plant under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. Native to tropical South America and the West Indies, it was introduced as an ornamental tree in gardens. This woody weed is capable of producing large amounts of seed and can become highly invasive if left uncontrolled. All parts of the plant are poisonous. It has a milky sap and is easily recognised by its narrow, pointed leaves and bell-shaped waxy flowers. Usually much-branched shrub to 4m but sometimes a tree up to 10m. Young plants have the potential to flower and produce seeds within the year. Mechanical control coupled with basal bark treatment on remaining exposed stems is recommended. Herbicide control options can be found at: https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/66592/IPA-Captain-Cook-Tree-Fact-Sheet.pdf

Leaves: Alternate, linear, simple densely spiralled, dark glossy green above, narrow, pointed at tip, 93-150 x 4-15mm.

Flower: Bell-shaped with 5 overlapping lobes, waxy, yellow or peach coloured up to 50mm in diameter, scented, arranged in several flowered clusters.

Fruit: Lantern shaped, laterally compressed drupes, 25-40mm in diameter, green ripening black, with 4 seeds enclosed within 2 bony structures.

Distribution: Common in coastal southern and central Queensland.

Source: MRPMG, 2013. Weeds of the Mackay Whitsunday Region. *Captain Cook Tree Fact Sheet*. Retrieved from: https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/66592/IPA-Captain-Cook-Tree-Fact-Sheet.pdf.

Image: M Spalding





Restoring the Understorey Vegetation

Keith & Lindy Burton have been Land for Wildlife members since 2014. Their block of land in Dows Creek has roughly 16 hectares of retained habitat. Integrating cattle grazing and retreating Lantana and Guinea Grass infestations have kept them very busy. This photo was taken on January 20th. The area pictured is slowly regenerating as the understorey was once heavily invaded by Guinea Grass. In order for bush regeneration to continue to occur, Keith will focus on attacking weed infestations around his reveg area and along the edges of weedy areas and working inwards.



Did you Know? Lantana control options are subject to the terrain and presence of remnant vegetation. For dense infestations, splatter gun foliar spraying can reach up to 10m into the weedy growth area. Fire control is also an option (see Reef Catchments Lantana Fire Management Guidelines). And if the area is accessible, mechanical removal with a bobcat can also be effective. Following up on regrowth is key. Remember, restore one infestation at a time. Deal with outlying infestations first, and then work inwards.

Did you Know? Program funding includes provisions for revisits to registered properties. These visits are an opportunity for landholders and the project officer to discuss the effectiveness of particular management practices. If you are currently “working towards” Land for Wildlife registration and would like to be re-assessed, or are seeking advice for your property please contact the office to request a site visit.

PCL Volunteer Mornings

The next three months will see our team of volunteers helping Sue at the nursery and adventure out to Far Beach. For all activities, please wear closed-in shoes and sun-smart clothing. Meet at 8:30am.

March 14: Nursery activities. Meet at Mackay Natural Environment Centre on Swayne Street.

March 21: Far Beach Dune Rehabilitation Project. Weeding activity. Meet at Far Beach site where Petrie Street ends.

March 28: Nursery activities. Meet at Mackay Natural Environment Centre on Swayne Street.

April 4: Revegetation planting day at Far Beach. Meet at Far Beach site where Petrie Street ends.

April 11: Nursery activities. Meet at Mackay Natural Environment Centre on Swayne Street.

April 18: Far Beach Dune Rehabilitation Project. Weeding activity. Meet at Far Beach site where Petrie Street ends.

April 25: ANZAC DAY

May 2: Nursery activities. Meet at Mackay Natural Environment Centre on Swayne Street.

May 9: Far Beach Dune Rehabilitation Project. Weeding activity. Meet at Far Beach site where Petrie Street ends.

Membership Renewals

PCL plans to send membership renewals out this week. Keep an eye out for your renewal notice and instructions. We are trying out new forms this year so contact the PCL office with any questions.

St. Helens Rehabilitation



Last year, PCL received funding from the National Landcare Programme to assist in weed control and maintenance of a revegetation site along St. Helens creek. PCL engaged Ranges to Reef Environmental Services to help restore a section of riverbank previously overrun with Guinea Grass. Alf and his team have gone above and beyond assisting in the restoration of riparian vegetation. Alf has used a selective herbicide to spray the climbing legume that was in danger of suffocating the trees already planted. They have also knocked back some of the weedy grasses that were overtaking the riverbank, in preparation of further revegetation in the future. Thank you to Ranges to Reef for helping transform this section of riverbank.



Upcoming Events

March

Tuesday 21 - International Day of Forests (<http://www.un.org/en/events/forestsday/>)

Wednesday 22 - Friends of Morag McNichol Reserve group meeting at Kupke residence ph. 0447 215 359

Saturday 25 - Earth Hour - switch off your lights from 8:30-9:30pm. (<http://www.earthhour.org.au/home/>)

April

Sunday 2 - Birdlife Mackay outing at Cape Palmerston. Meet at Tourist Info Centre 6am ph. 4959 3382

Tuesday 4 - Reef Catchments Coastcare activity at Town Beach

Thursday 6 - Forestry Field Day. Learn about forestry management on a walk through a forestry plantation in the Eungella Highlands called "Wanemya". RSVP to Juliane Kasiske on 4964 6102

Thursday 6 - Native Plants QLD-SGAP General Meeting, MRBG meeting from 7:30pm; *Show & Tell* and raffle

Thursday 6 & 7 - 4th Annual Soil Health Field Day - Day one at Souths Leagues Club. RSVP Simon Mattsson on mattsson@mcs.net.au

Wednesday 12 - MRBG Regional Forest Working Bee—Planting Brigalow Garden Rejuvenation

Thursday 20 - Earth Day

Tuesday 25 - Anzac Day

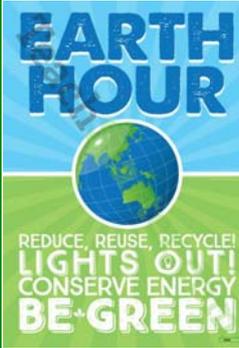
May

May 7 - Volunteer Expo 10am-2pm

Come and explore local volunteering opportunities

May 19 & 20 - Ag Trade Life

Exhibition showcasing the diversity of agriculture



Did you Know?

2017 marks the 10th anniversary of Earth Hour. The event was first launched in Sydney. This year will see over 172 countries participate worldwide.

www.earthhour.org.au

Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group Inc. Management Committee

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