

## Fishway Monitoring

In mid April, PCL assisted Catchment Solutions in their fishway monitoring work. The monitoring involved removing the traps from the water, counting and recording the captured fish species, releasing native fish, then re-setting the trap. The purpose of the monitoring was to see if economically-valuable species were making use of the fishway. There were three traps in total, one was set at the Gooseponds, the second was at Fursden Creek, and the third was rotated between the Lagoons Creek Wetland and a creek at Seaforth. The fish migration is life-cycle dependent, and on a single day trapping at the Gooseponds, Catchment Solutions managed to catch 31,000 fish.

The work was challenging but fun and caught the public's interest, even featuring in Mackay local news reports. During Kade Slater's involvement, many native species were captured and recorded, including two juvenile barramundi. Other native fish captured included the Empire Gudgeon (*Hypseleotris compressa*), the Eastern Rainbowfish (*Melanotaenia splendida*), and Sea Mullet (*Mugil cephalus*).

Along with many native fish, there were also several non-native fish species, including Tilapia (*Oreochromis mossambicus*), Mosquitofish (*Gambusia* spp.), and the Jaguar Cichlid (*Parachromis managuensis*). The jaguar cichlid has only been found in Fursden Creek Mackay, and was almost certainly the result of irresponsible dumping of an exotic fish tank. We urge people to think twice before dumping your fish in waterways. If you no longer want them, many pet shops will take adult fish or you could consider giving you fish away to other aquarium owners.



Images top to bottom:  
 Juvenile barramundi being measured;  
 Fishway at Fursden Creek;  
 Net full of fish with juvenile barramundi;  
 Jaguar cichlid captured at Fursden Creek.

Images sourced from Kade Slater.

For more information visit the Catchment Solutions website at <http://catchmentsolutions.com.au/>

**Native Gardenia, Brown Gardenia or Yellow Mangosteen**

**Family: Rubiaceae**

Handsome large shrub to small tree, made popular by its glossy leaves, fragrant flowers and attractive shapes. It can be hedged, and is easy to grow.

**Leaves:** Simple, opposite, 65-220 x 50-130 mm, glabrous; petioles 10-30 mm long; stipules about 30 mm long.

**Flower:** 25-30mm diameter, 5 petals, white or cream, 10-16mm long; calyx green, cream, white or yellow; fragrant. Male and female flowers on separate trees. Flowers any month.

**Fruit:** A yellowish drupe, 60-100 x 50-90 mm, glabrous; thick pedicels 10-15 mm long; seeds numerous, white or cream, flat about 8 mm long. Fruits January—August.

**Distribution:** rainforests, monsoon forest, littoral rainforest, swamp forest, and mangrove edges from Cooktown area to Koumala, altitudes 0-600m.



Image: *Atractocarpus fitzalanii*  
Image sourced from Australian Tropical Rainforest Plants website.

Source: Wendy Cooper, 2004, Fruits of the Australian Tropical Rainforest & Australian Tropical Rainforest Plants website.

**Weed Spotting**

*Senna spp.*

**Sicklepods**

Weedy Sennas can invade and dominate disturbed areas like pastures, roadsides, creek banks or fence lines. They produce numerous seeds creating large seed banks in the soil that can last up to a decade or more, germinating when conditions are suitable. Most species are toxic to cattle.

The three species that are registered as 'Restricted Invasive Plants' are *Senna obtusifolia* (Sicklepod), *Senna tora* (Foetid Senna), and *Senna hirsuta* (Hairy Senna)

**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 stalks or between lower leaflets. Stipules often deciduous.

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

**Fruit/seeds:** Dehiscent pods with hard seeds.

**Reproduction:** Seeds expelled from opening pods. Seeds spread by water or contaminated soil.

**Distribution:** Found on the tropical coast of Queensland (from Sarina to Cape York), and the top end of the Northern Territory.

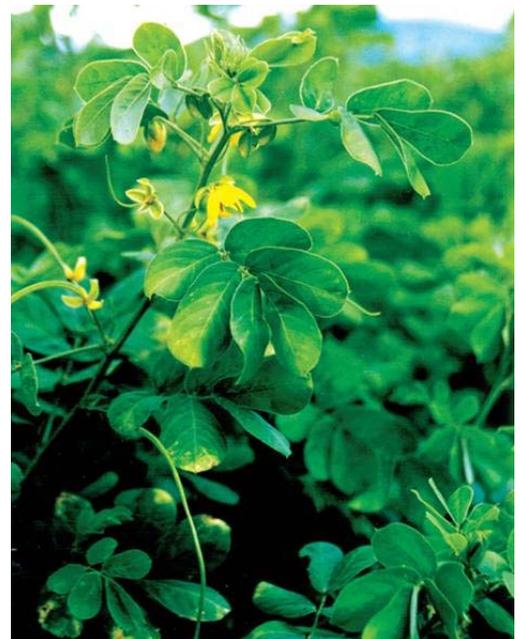


Image: Sicklepod  
Source: Queensland Government are  
[www.business.qld.gov.au](http://www.business.qld.gov.au)

Information sourced from the 'Weeds of the Mackay Whitsunday Region' book and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries: 'Sicklepod Factsheet' <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au>

## Land for Wildlife: 24 Years of Good Work

Joining Land for Wildlife in 2009, Caroline Waid has put a lot of hard work into her Marian-Hampden property to achieve what is today a beautifully vegetated block. When the property was purchased in 1994, half the block had been cleared, and what remained of the remnant vegetation was infested with lantana. Caroline used repeated manual removal rather than herbicides, and the block slowly transformed. After 24 years of diligence & hard work, open grazed land has turned into beautiful young forest, with healthy canopy connection and little weed intrusion, and lantana-free remnant vegetation.



It wasn't an easy road for Caroline, often with little assistance when battling with invading weeds and uncooperative neighbours added to the mix, but it was clear that her love for wildlife and conservation was unbreakable. The result of Caroline's efforts is a property that is teeming with native animals, and few signs of the previous clearing that had been done.



Image (left) shows the property's driveway that had been cleared on both sides by previous owners. Image (right) shows a healthy cluster of grass trees among young open woodlands.

## 2018 Operation Target Tilapia Field Day

On Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> of April, PCL had a display and planting event at the Reef Catchments' Operation Target Tilapia Field Day. This event aimed to educate people about Tilapia, a serious pest fish in Mackay and throughout Australia. The event also provided information on other waterway related issues, including pollutants, weeds, other pest species, and revegetation.

Kade led the planting event on the day, promoting upcoming volunteering opportunities involving revegetation of storm water inlets around the Gooseponds. The planting went well and there were several eager kids lending helping hands: sadly the weather had other plans, and rain led to an early end to the day.

By the end of the day, eight tilapia had been captured and removed by the keen anglers, which is another positive step towards controlling this pest species.

Image (top) Kade demonstrating correct planting;  
Image (middle) planting along stormwater inlet half way complete;  
Image (bottom) Helpers watch as holes are drilled  
Images Sourced from Kade Slater.



## Upcoming Events

### May

**Sunday 6** - Birdlife Mackay Monthly Outing for more details visit: <http://www.birdlife.org.au/locations/birdlife-mackay/activities-mac>

**Monday 7** - Labour Day

**Thursday 10** - World Migratory Bird Day

**Friday 11**

- Gardens for Wildlife themed Botanic Gardens Walk from 10am. Meet in front of the MRBG admin building. "How to Attract Wildlife to Your Garden" RSVP to [kade.slater@pioneercatchment.org.au](mailto:kade.slater@pioneercatchment.org.au)

- River Street Twilight Market at Bluewater Quay.

**Saturday 12** - Working Bee and General Meeting, Friends of Morag McNichol Reserve.

**Sunday 13** - Mothers Day

**Sunday 20** - Farleigh Palm Fete

**Tuesday 22** - National Volunteer Week event, held at the Gooseponds, contact Kade Slater if you are interested in attending. [kade.slater@pioneercatchment.org.au](mailto:kade.slater@pioneercatchment.org.au) or 0477 656 751.

**Friday 25** - Freckle Farm Field Day

**Thursday 31** - Society of Growing Australia Plants (SGAP) propagation group nursery session.

### June

**Saturday 2** - Working Bee & General Meeting, Friends of Morag McNichol Reserve

**Sunday 3** - Birdlife Mackay outing to Blacks Beach Spit & wetlands. Meet at the Tourist Information Centre at 6.30am, for more information contact 0438 134 738 or 07 49593382.

**Tuesday 5** - World Environment Day

**Thursday 7** - Native Plants Queensland Mackay group meeting, 7.30pm at the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens meeting room.

**Friday 8** - Wetland Working Group Field Day, for more information contact Carla on 0438 425 990

**Sunday 8** - Worlds Oceans Day

**Sunday 17** - Pioneer Valley Show

## Membership Renewals

It is that time of year again when PCL has sent Membership Renewal notices, so please keep an eye on your emails or post boxes so you can complete and return them as soon as possible. **If you don't receive your renewal form**, contact the office ASAP. Ph 49441979 or email [admin@pioneercatchment.org.au](mailto:admin@pioneercatchment.org.au) .

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

#### Executive

**Chair** | Dave Hunter

**Deputy Chair** | Dianne Williams

**Treasurer** | Mark Radke

#### Committee Members

Irene Champion

Kate Finch

Di Salau

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

Carla Lambropoulos | **Project Coordinator** | 0438 425 990  
[carla.lambropoulos@pioneercatchment.org.au](mailto:carla.lambropoulos@pioneercatchment.org.au)

Kade Slater | **Project Officer** | 0477 656 751  
[kade.slater@pioneercatchment.org.au](mailto:kade.slater@pioneercatchment.org.au)

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Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group Inc.  
PO Box 3181  
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