



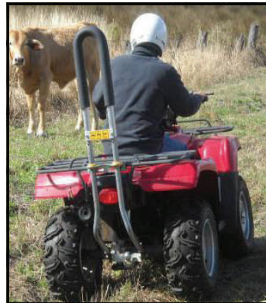
Pioneer Catchment & Landcare News

May 2011

Safe Farming for Peri-urban Landholders

A workshop was held recently by Mackay Regional Council to increase awareness of safe farming practises on small area farms and assist landholders in achieving industry endorsed standards in safety management. Principal investigator John Temperley from Aghealth Australia and the University of Sydney, delivered the workshop highlighting the extensive work done to promote safe agricultural practise and initiatives across regional Australia.

Safe farming initiatives cover a range of issues, from age and attitude of individual farmers, operation of high risk equipment, zoonoses (animal to human transferable diseases) and mental health. One particular issue associated with high risk equipment is the dangers from quad bikes which are responsible for an average of 14 deaths nationwide each year. Mandatory fitting of roll bars is touted as the solution to the vast majority of these incidents, although it seems some manufacturers are reluctant to pre-fit them as they fear a drop in sales. Roll bars can be fitted for as little as \$550. Recent reports suggest that roll bars could have saved 70% of previous deaths from quad bike related fatalities.



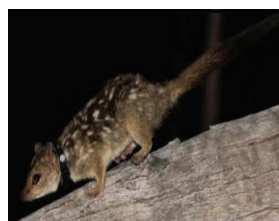
Roll bars are cheap and extremely effective in reducing quad bike related incidents. Image: *Sydney University*

The peri-urban demographic was the main focus of the event with concerns raised about the lack of resources available to landholders, and issues of aging equipment they are often limited to buying with high machinery costs. Farm safety planning on peri-urban properties can reduce the risk of incidents but many landowners lack the time, money and expertise to do so. Mackay is being promoted as one of two regions where further work will be done to investigate the attitudes towards farm safety management by Aghealth Australia in the future. For further information on safety management, planning or advise visit the website at www.aghealth.org.au or contact the PCL office.

Quoll Discovery Day Mackay.

Sunday 9.30 – 12pm, 22 May 2011.
Reef Catchments 172 Victoria St
Mackay.

Come meet a quoll and see presentations on quolls in the Mackay area, living with quolls and how you can help the quoll population. Email Tina (tina.ball@derm.qld.gov.au) or phone 0409 596569 or 4944 7834 with RSVP by 16 May.



Quoll wearing radio-collar. Image: John Augusteyn.



PCL— come and find us at...

- **Slade Point Walk, Wednesday 11 May, 8am. Slade Point Reserve— Lamberts Beach Entrance**

PCL will be hosting an informative walk along the 1.1km Beach Circuit in the Slade Point Reserve. The walk will focus on the characteristic plants of the seaward zone (RE 8.2.1) and the role they play in coastal processes. The walk, guided by Irene Champion, will traverse dune grassland and pass patches of beach scrub. The walk is an opportunity to observe some of the threats to the system and understand the management challenges.



Bring water, hat, sunscreen, sturdy footwear, cameras and identification books, and a chair to enjoy a light morning tea at the conclusion of the walk.

This month our native and weed species will focus on the Convolvulaceae family and look at two species significant to Slade Point.

This project is supported by PCL, through funding from the Australian Governments Caring for our Country.

- **BSES Field Days 2011, Thursday & Friday 19th—20th May.**

Come along and see all that is modern and new in the sugar industry. PCL will once again be in attendance and have on offer information on land management issues such as weeds and erosion, and free native plants.

- **Weed ID Event—Monday 16th, Gargett School Grounds, Gargett.**

Bring in your weeds for identification and management advice. Receive two free trees (please bring all weeds in sealed plastic bags). 8.30-11am.

- **Palm & Cycad Fete—Sunday 15th, Farleigh Mill Palm Gardens.**

A must for lovers of palms and cycads. Visit PCL for land management advise and learn about current PCL projects.

- **Greenmount Festival—Sunday 19th, Greenmount Homestead, Walkerston.**

Mackay Regional Councils annual heritage fair.

Plant of the Month

Goat's Foot/ *Ipomea pes-caprae* subsp. *brasiliensis*

This dune species provides a very important job in the form of stabilisation and is often the first plant to colonise new exposed areas. *Ipomea pes-caprae* subsp. *brasiliensis* (*pes-caprae* is Latin for 'foot of a goat'), is aptly named from the shape of its leaf, and is mainly found on seaward slopes sending long runners down to the toe of the dunes. Although native to Australia, salt tolerant seeds float and are well dispersed by the ocean leading to a large distribution world wide.



Image: *Backyard Nature*

Leaves: Leaf blades are roughly oval in shape, 3-14cm long, 2.5-12cm wide, and notched at the tip to give a 2-lobed effect. Leaves are on petioles varying in length from 2-16cm.

Flowers: Pink to purple bell shaped flowers, 3-7cm in length, borne on a stalk that is sometimes branched bearing several flowers.

Propagation: The best time to collect seed is Autumn, although it can be available all year round. Sow direct into the sand or propagate in nursery and plant out at 1m centres.

Distribution: Common along the entire Queensland and upper NSW coastal regions.

Slade Point: The creeper provides an important stabilising function on the foredunes of Slade Point and helps to prevent further erosion from prevailing south east winds. Aboriginal people utilised the leaves and roots as a food source and used a decoction of the flowers to treat box jelly fish stings.

Source: *Goats foot convolvulus—description of major dune plants IV-03*, Department of Environmental Resource Management.

Weed of the Month

Red Convolvulus/ *Ipomoea hederifolia*

Red convolvulus is an annual creeping vine belonging to the Convolvulaceae family, a family of many species in Australia, including weedy species such as mile-a-minute (*Ipomoea cairica*) and blue morning glory (*Ipomoea indica*). It has spread across tropical regions of the world and is naturalised in NEQ but can be found down to NE NSW, from sea level to an altitude of 750m. Its attractive red flower can often be a misleading perception of this creeper, which is particularly invasive in cane fields in the Mackay region.

Description: Leaves are ovate to orbicular in outline, 30-150 x 30-150mm, obscurely to deeply tri-lobed with stalks 20-170mm long. Flowers are scarlet red with a yellow throat 15-25mm across. The tube is 20-40mm long with protruding pale stamens and styles.

The Problem: Like most exotic *Ipomoea* species, prolific growth patterns and effective seed dispersal lead to many infestations. The vine out-competes its host and is capable of completely smothering it, occasionally causing death. It is particularly devastating to natural and revegetated areas as it will quickly smother young seedlings and saplings and break them off under the sheer weight of its mass. The development of a thick carpet on the ground will stop any further regeneration. This leads to a rapid decline in biodiversity and is particularly degrading to the ecosystems overall health.

Control: In cane fields it can be treated with a broad leaf herbicide, in environmentally sensitive areas it is best pulled out from host plants and heaped into a bundle before being sprayed. Or, it can be scrapped and painted at the base of the stem.

Slade Point: Red convolvulus has been spotted growing amongst the young revegetation site of casuarinas near the Lambert's Beach entrance to Slade Point. Participants of the Slade Pt coastal walk (see front page) will see the vine up close before it is eradicated from the revegetation plot in an effort to keep it excluded from the reserve. The source of this new and localised introduction is suspected to be forest mulch contaminated with its seeds.

Source: *Flora of South East Queensland Vol 2*, 349 Stanley & Ross



I. hederifolia in casuarinas at Slade Pt.

Images: *D Milburn*

Feeding Native Animals

by Margaret Meng, SLCMA Project Officer

Many people enjoy feeding native wildlife on their property, giving them an opportunity to get close to local wildlife and encouraging their return. However, feeding native animals may produce long-term negative effects. Potential problems which may arise include:

- Introduction of disease and risk of injury
- Dietary deficiencies
- Food dependence
- Altering migration patterns
- Creating unbalanced populations (e.g., favouring pest species)

Feeding local native animals in your own backyard can make them susceptible to predation from household pets. Furthermore, many plant species found in the surrounding native bushland rely on birds to pollinate flowers and spread seed.

Encountering native wildlife without feeding can be achieved through establishing native vegetation which produces nectar and native fruits. You can also reinstate natural habitat features like fallen logs and encouraging a healthy understorey of leaf and twig litter. A shallow water source should be placed where predators cannot reach and are easily seen.

Increasing your knowledge of local native species will help you locate and identify species in the wild and nature walks, whilst less predictable, are a more adventurous way of countering native animals.

For more information see:

http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/wildlife-ecosystems/wildlife/living_with_wildlife/feeding_native_animals.html.

Source: 'Land for wildlife Note 20; encountering wildlife without feeding'.



A musk lorikeet feeds upon an in bloom Euodia - *Melicope elleryana*.
Image: H Glover

Interested in joining Land for Wildlife?

Do you have an area of bush you are interested in conserving for the purposes of wildlife? PCL wants to hear from anyone interested in joining the program to help conserve areas of native bush land. Landholders will be visited by a PCL officer who can offer advice on a range of conservation and land management activities, as well as identify native and exotic species present on the land. Successful applicants receive a free sign and management plan, and are entitled to 50 free natives trees of local provenance every year. For further information contact PCL or visit the Mackay Regional Councils website.



Register now for Chemclear 2011

Chemclear will soon be returning to Queensland for the first time since 2009. The program encourages anybody with unwanted chemical to register for the event. Since its inception, Chemclear has collected over 59 000 litres of unused chemicals in Queensland alone. The service discards any old, unknown or unwanted agricultural or veterinary chemicals in a safe and environmentally friendly manner.

Is It Free? All chemicals will either be classified into 2 groups. Group 1 chemicals are collected free of charge and refer to currently registered ag and vet chemicals manufactured by companies supporting the initiative. Group 2 chemicals refer to those chemicals that are no longer registered, unknown, unlabelled, out of date, or mixed agvet chemicals. A fee applies for disposal unless a state government subsidy is in place. A full list of group 1 and 2 chemicals are available on their website (see below).

Register Now—In order for Chemclear to accept chemicals they must be pre registered with the organisation. This can be done by filling out an inventory of the type, amount of each chemical, and the size of the container it is kept in. Inventory sheets can be found online, or contact PCL to have one sent out. Registration can be done online or over the phone, at which point you will be contacted by phone in the lead up to the collection to be advised of the drop off location and which day the event will be held (yet to be decided).



Old agricultural chemicals can become a personal and environmental hazard.
Image: D Milburn

Further Information— For more information on chemical classification, inventory sheets, and to register visit www.chemclear.com.au or free phone 1800 008 182. We are also happy to help here at PCL, please contact us directly for assistance.

Who's who in Pioneer Catchment & Landcare?

Management Committee

Chair Margaret Lane (Society for Growing Australian Plants—Mackay Branch)

Deputy Chair Dave Hunter

Treasurer Wendy Eiteneuer

Secretary (Non voting) Hayley Glover
Committee Members

Cr. Wendy Cameron (Mackay Regional Council)

Irene Champion

Joan Fitzsimmons (Mackay Conservation Group)

Bruce Milles

Dianne Williams (Central Queensland Forestry Association)

Cr. Ross Walker (Mackay Regional Council)

Pioneer Catchment office

4944 1979

admin@pioneercatchment.org.au

www.pioneercatchment.org.au

Pioneer Catchment Landcare

Facilitator Hayley Glover

0419 778 402

hayley.glover@reefcatchments.com.au

Project Officer Dallas Milburn

0447 749 769

d.milburn@pioneercatchment.org.au

Newsletter Hayley Glover, Dallas Milburn

Upcoming Events May

Thursday 5, from 8pm—SGAP Monthly Meeting. Guest presentation "*Island Taskforce Project*" by Derek Ball, Reef Catchments. Mackay Gem and Craft Society Hall, Leisure Court. Visitors welcome.

Saturday 7, 8am—Working Bee at Morag McNichol Reserve. Contact Jim McNichol on 4942 8802 for details.

Sunday 15, 8am—1pm—Palm & Cycad Fete with SGAP Plant Sale. Farleigh Mill Palm Gardens.

Monday 16, 8.30—11am—Weed Id day, Gargett School grounds, Mackay- Eungella Rd Gargett. Contact PCL for more information.

Thursday 19 & Friday 20—BSES field days, Te Kowai Station.

Saturday 21—Sunday 22—St. Lawrence Wetlands Discovery Weekend. Lots of great activities and a free bus from Mackay. Contact PCL for more information.

Sunday 29, from 10am—Greenmount Festival at Greenmount homestead in Walkerston. Contact PCL for more information.

June

Thursday 2, from 8pm—SGAP Monthly Meeting. Guest presentation "*The Forgotten Islands of the South Pacific*" by Dave Pritchard. Mackay Gem and Craft Society Hall, Leisure Court. Visitors welcome.

Saturday 4, 8am—Working Bee at Morag McNichol Reserve. Contact Jim McNichol on 4942 8802 for details.

Sunday 5, 10am—Eco Expo at Queens Park. Contact Mackay Conservation Group for more details 4953 0808.

Sunday 5, 7am—MACBOCA trip to Sandringham Conservation Reserve. Meet at Tourist Information Centre, Nebo Rd. Contact 49522964 or 49540937 for further details.

Sunday 19, from 6am—Pioneer Valley Agricultural Show, Finch Hatton Showgrounds, Eungella Rd. Ph 4958 3162.

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<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Reef-Catchments-Inc/133200190083077>



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