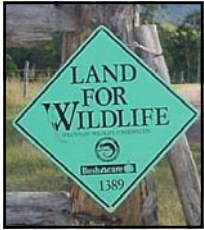




Pioneer Catchment & Landcare News

October 2010

Land for Wildlife



Under a new Agreement with Mackay Regional Council, PCL and Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association will be delivering Land for Wildlife within the Mackay Regional Council area. As well as undertaking new assessments, we will be following up with Land for Wildlife

landholders to review their Management Plans and see what assistance is needed. Our newsletter will contain Land for Wildlife news, and we plan to have workshops and field days with particular relevance for this program. If you are interested in your property being included in the Land for Wildlife program, please contact the PCL office for further

Appointment of Hayley as Coordinator

by Margaret Lane

I am pleased to welcome Hayley Glover as our new Catchment Coordinator. Hayley has been our Project Officer for over a year now, and so there will be a very smooth transition to Coordinator. Hayley commenced in the role of Coordinator on 4 October. In the new funding regime (see August newsletter) we will be working closely with Reef Catchments Mackay Whitsunday to deliver catchment based regional natural resource management priorities. PCL is very excited that we now have a three year time



Free Composting Workshp

When: 13 November 2010, 9am to 12 noon.

Where: Community Gardens, Streeter Avenue, West Mackay

To register call Council's Environmental Education Officer on 4961 9051.

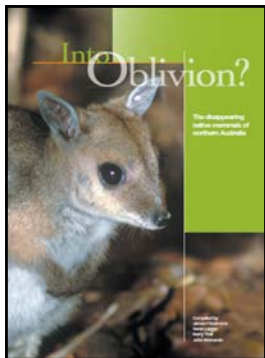
As Queensland's population grows the amount of waste generated in our communities also grows. By taking simple measures at home every one in the community can contribute to a better environment and a reduction in waste that ends up in our landfills. Learn how at **Mackay Regional Council's free composting workshop on 13 November at the Community Gardens.** Waste Services Councillor Greg Thomsen said "the workshop date was set to coincide with National Recycling Week from 8-14 November".



Image: PCL

Composting is nature's way of recycling!

New report highlights the perils facing our native mammals



At European settlement, 308 native land mammal species were recorded in Australia and its offshore islands. Since that time, 27 mammal species have become extinct. This report, recently produced by The Nature Conservancy entitled "**Into Oblivion? The Disappearing Native Mammals of Northern Australia**" looks at the major causes of mammal decline in

northern Australia and what can be done to reverse the trend. This fascinating read can be found by following the links at <http://www.nature.org/>

Landcare groups eligible for share of \$150,000 in grants

A new funding program has been announced through the inaugural Queensland Government Landcare Grants Program 2011.

Eligible groups include Landcare, Indigenous, 'Friends of' and other environmental and sustainable land management groups. Groups are eligible for grants of up to \$5000 for individual projects or \$10000 for genuine collaborative projects.

Projects must be completed within six months and applications close **Friday 12th November 2010.**

For more information, please contact PCL on 4944 1979.

Plant of the Month

Water Snowflake *Nymphoides indica*

Description: A hardy, perennial water lily with floating leaves to 50cm in diameter. Pretty flowers usually have 5 white petals with orange/yellow at base, with fringing/hairs on the inside. Floating stolons to 2 meters long.

Distribution: An attractive plant found in natural waterbodies and garden ponds. Found in stationary or slow-moving water in the tropical and sub-tropical areas of QLD, NSW, NT and WA.

Flowering: Spring to Autumn.

Features: One of the many species of native water lily in Australia. Large but thin leaves spread the weight of the plant over a large area of water, using the surface tension to keep the leaves afloat.

On show now at the Mackay Regional Botanical Gardens Lagoon.

Notes: there are many species of *Nymphoides* in temperate and tropical Australia, the 'crenata' group are yellow-flowered while the 'indicia' group are mostly white-flowered.

Source:

G.R Sainty & S.W.L. Jacobs. 4th Edition 2003. Waterplants in Australia: A Field Guide. Sainty & Associates Pty Ltd, NSW.



Weed of the Month

African Tulip *Spathodea campanulata*

Family: *Bignoniaceae*

Origin: Tropical Africa

Spread by: Wind, garden waste and suckers.

The African tulip tree is commonly used as an ornamental garden or street tree, however they pose a serious environmental threat in north Queensland. It is a fast growing tree up to 24m in height that can form dense stands in gullies, vegetation along streams, open forests and disturbed rainforests. It is highly invasive. The tree reproduces via suckers and seeds, which are numerous, thin and encircled by clear wings. The large distinctive orange-red bell shaped flowers occur in terminal clusters. The fruit are upright capsules up to 20cm long.

CLASS 3 Declared Weed:

The African Tulip is a declared Class 3 plant under the Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002. The primary objective of this declaration is to prevent the supply or sale of plants or seeds, to prevent the spread of these pests into new areas.

Management:

Young trees can be manually removed by hand pulling or digging out, when soil is moist. With their ability to sucker, stumps of felled trees need to be treated with herbicide.

Source:

QPI & F Fact Sheets;

'Are Your Garden Plants Going Bush?', Mackay Regional Pest Management Group. Available by contacting the PCL office on 4944 1979.



Website helps residents take action against pests and weeds

by Reef Catchments' coordinator Adam Folkers

Mackay and Whitsunday residents have a new resource to help take action against pest animals and weeds, with support and information now available on the new Pests Forum on the new-look Reef Catchments interactive website.

Upon arriving at the Reef Catchments website, visitors should listen to the prompts to navigate their way to the pests home page (top image, right). Visitors can click on 'projects' or 'groups' to learn about current projects and pest groups involved. The 'outlaws' page offers information on pest management equipment and information to guide visitors in identifying and controlling pest animals and weeds in the region. Including instructional pest control videos (below image, right) and fact sheets on everything from feral pigs and dogs to cat's claw creeper, leucaena and lantana.

A key feature of the pest section of the website was a forum where visitors could ask specific questions about pest management issues and have them answered by regional council pest officers.

Reef Catchments will regularly update the website with more pest animal and weed management information, so check back regularly for the latest news and publications.

The website is available now at: www.reefcatchments.com.au if you would like any assistance, please contact PCL.



Screen shots from the new, interactive pest website by Reef Catchments.

Weed Alert!

Thunbergia fragrans

This Class 1 declared weed was detected at the Gooseponds on Willets Road earlier this month. As with all Declared Class 1 plants, Queensland Primary Industries & Fisheries were immediately notified.



Description:

Thunbergia is a small low vine with slender climbing stems which originated from India and Africa. Flowers are blue, purple or white and are trumpet shaped. Fruit is cone-shaped capsules, 3-5 cm long. The plant is spread through illegal dumping of garden waste and transported by water often invading Melaleuca forest, open forests and rainforests.

Source: QPI&F Fact Sheets; 'Are Your Garden Plants Going Bush?', Mackay Regional Pest Management Group.

QLD Landcare Conference ~ celebrating 21 years of Landcare

by Saskia Von Fahland

The QLD Landcare Conference was held recently at Caloundra and as said by Jock Douglas, elder statesman of Landcare in QLD, it was: *".. a time for celebration and reflection, ..a time for taking stock of the large job still ahead, ..a good opportunity to think about the future and the direction in which we need to head.."*

The conference offered an opportunity for Landcarers across QLD to come together, network, listen and tell their stories. Day one of the conference offered the delegates the chance to see local projects with the choice to attend one of four field trips: Sunshine coast hinterland, Coastal areas, Noosa Biosphere and the Indigenous Culture tour.

The coastal tour joined Maroochy Waterwatch to discover some of the projects being undertaken by the community. Volunteers demonstrated the use of coir logs and a "6 knots No Wash Campaign" to reduce bank erosion of Currimundi Lake. We then visited the Maroochy River, where we delved into the processes of a mangrove monitoring project and water monitoring program. Volunteers of the Coolum Community Native Nursery gave us a guided tour of their flash facilities and provided a lovely BBQ lunch. To finish up, we walked through the Yinneburra Bushland Reserve, currently being rehabilitated by Coolum Coastcare and, discussed some of the obstacles and achievements of working within urbanised coastal zones.

Day two & three provided some interesting presentations from keynote speakers about the future of the Landcare movement and challenges ahead. Guest speakers gave presentations on a variety of topics including coastal, grazing, biodiversity, pest, indigenous-land, management, urban Landcare, community engagement, Landcare group function, climate change and water quality. Next years' conference will be hosted by Lower Burdekin Landcare, Ayr.

Who's who in Pioneer Catchment & Landcare?

Management Committee

Chair Margaret Lane

Deputy Chair Dave Hunter

Treasurer Wendy Eiteneuer

Secretary (Non voting) Hayley Glover

Committee Members

Cr. Wendy Cameron

Irene Champion

Joan Fitzsimmons

Cr. Karen May

Bruce Milles

Dianne Williams

Coordinator Hayley Glover

4944 1979

0419 778 402

h.glover@pioneercatchment.org.au

Project Officer

4944 1979

Newsletter Hayley Glover, Margaret Lane.

Upcoming Events

October

Thursday 7, from 8pm—SGAP Monthly Meeting. Guest presentation "Update on Quoll Research" by Tina Ball, QPWS. Mackay Gem and Craft Society Hall, Leisure Court. Visitors welcome.

Wednesday 13, 6.30-9am—Ride to Work Day. Free breakfast by Bicycle Mackay for anyone who leaves their car at home and gets to work by cycling, walking or public transport. Bluewater Quay, Sydney St, more information at www.ride2work.com.au

Lots more activities are occurring throughout October for Bike Week, for more information, visit www.bicyclemackay.org.au/

Saturday 30—31 Sunday, 9-4pm—Mackay Woodturners Inc. Open Day, Snow Wright Crt, Andergrove (access via Norris Rd).

November

Thursday 4, from 8pm—SGAP Monthly Meeting. Mackay Gem and Craft Society Hall, Leisure Court. Visitors welcome.

Saturday 6, 8am—Morag McNichol Reserve working bee. Contact Jim McNichol on 4942 8802 for details.

Sunday 7, 05.45am—MACBOCA trip to Eungella, Chelmans Rd, meeting at the Coningsby Mobile Service Station. Contact Marj Andrews for details (4952 2964).

Saturday 13, 9am— 12pm—Free composting workshop (see front page for details).

Supported by:



National Art and Photography Competition 2011

To celebrate World Wetlands Day 2011, WetlandCare Australia is launching its 4th annual Australia-wide Art and Photography competition, offering a number of categories for children and adults, with cash prizes to be won.

WetlandCare Australia is seeking artworks on paper that explore the theme of '**Forested Wetlands: their importance and wise use**'. Entry forms are available at www.wetlandcare.com.au

Closing date for entries is 3 December 2010.

The competition is acquisitive, with the winning works to be used to promote wetlands and the work of WetlandCare Australia.



Pioneer Catchment & Landcare News
October 2010

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA

If unable to be delivered please return to

Pioneer Catchment & Landcare

Group Inc.

PO Box 1076

MACKAY Qld 4740