

## Case study – Supporting Mirani residents to improve Pioneer River

Through the Peri-urban Project, Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group (PCL) has been assisting Mirani residents in aims to improve the condition of the Pioneer River bank. Thus far, two groups have been involved, from the local primary and secondary schools. PCL has conducted numerous site visits to assist with weed identification, offer vegetation management advice and to identify additional issues and risk.

The two schools have selected sites along the bank of the Pioneer River. Mirani Primary School has done significant work controlling weeds, planting trees and restoring a former environmental plot along Helena Street. The Mirani State High School site is only 350 metres downstream. Work planned for this site will also continue on from past works to control weeds and revegetate the river with native species, and will be carried out by staff and students starting from early 2010.

Working with the schools at their respective sites will improve the condition of peri-urban land, biodiversity and water quality along this section of the Pioneer River. Perhaps more significant is the potential of these Mirani river bank projects to raise awareness of land management issues and solutions through the schools and into the wider community. These sites will both provide educational facilities, and on-ground activities to restore and maintain them will provide students and others with real skills in land management that they can apply elsewhere.

PCL has already been working with Mirani State Primary School to secure funding, including a donation from Landcare Queensland and \$1000 through the Junior Landcare grant program. PCL is currently negotiating for further funding and a volunteering day at the primary school's site, to deliver a set of much-needed tools for students to use, enrich planting and spread mulch. PCL has started to work with staff to develop site plan for the Mirani State High School river bank project, including securing funding for tools, weed control and plants.

PCL aims to expand this part of the Peri-urban Project by including other interested landholders adjoining the Pioneer River. One longer term vision seeded by this project is the development of a riparian corridor project based from Mirani, controlling pest species, restoring locally native vegetation communities, and improving the native habitat value of a stretch of our river. This is a long-term project that will require strong partnerships and much hard work.



Images from the Mirani Primary School Environmental work, where parent Annette Burmeister has been very active in restoring the site and re-involving the school community  
*Photos: T McDonald*

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**Funding through the Reef Catchments Mackay Whitsunday Peri-urban Project that has enabled Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group to work with Mirani groups and residents**

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