

Membership Renewal: Members, don't forget your membership renewal is due in June/July, with each member entitled to 20 free local native plants every year! Not a member? Sign-up! Membership is free
contact: admin@pioneercatchment.org.au or 4944 1979

Out with Soil Erosion

PCL and SLCMA held a soil erosion 'Walk and Talk' field trip at Hay Point on May 22, with soil erosion expert Peter Pearce. Staff, landholders, NRM workers and community members had the benefit of walking a lucky landholders property as Peter explained common causes of paddock and gully erosion on the site; giving advice and a range of possible solutions, for every budget.

In the group were others experienced in dealing with erosion, which resulted in great discussions on how to tackle erosion in different situations.

Key messages taken away from the day;

- i) *Maintain good ground cover:* this will slow the movement of water, allowing it to spread over a wider course and aiding in infiltration, as well as hold together surface soil. If you stock animals, use grazing practices that prevent overgrazing
- ii) *Use natural contours:* rather than placing a fence or planting a crop running in lines up and down a slope, run them along natural contours, this will slow the travel of water and allow it to pool in natural depressions; plus depositing nutrients on your crop where you want them!
- iii) *Divert flow over wider areas:* if water runs in a channel, use embankments, vegetative barriers, or even hay bales to alter the course of water over larger areas and into natural depressions, this will slow the water and increase the area of infiltration
- iv) *Get in there early!* Don't wait until you have the Grand Canyon in your backyard

Travels with the 'PET'



Image: C Bartron

The Pest Education Trailer, or 'PET', has started to make it's rounds at community and agricultural events for the 'dry' season. The last week of May saw it at the Farleigh Palm Fete with PCL (left) and the BSES Field Days with PCL, WCL, SLCMA, MRC, and Reef Catchments.



*SGAP plant sale at Farleigh
Image: C Bartron*

The PET is kitted out with information on pest species, both plant and animal, to provide valuable information for community members and landholders on identifying and managing their pests.

Inclement weather was an unfortunately at hand for both the Farleigh Palm Fete and BSES Field Days. However, despite the conditions, a number of interested landholders signed on with PCL for property assessments with the Peri-Urban and Land for Wildlife Programs; under which they will receive management plans for their properties, including advice on how to manage their pest species.



*Free plants and information
at the BSES Field Days
Image: D Milburn*

In addition to the PET, information on a range of landcare issues and opportunities were on hand, with free plants again the order of the day; the three catchment groups giving out 300 free plants at the BSES Field Days.

The next PCL PET outing will be at the Pioneer Valley Show, Sunday 17 June, Finch Hatton Showgrounds

Busy Bees Revegetate River Bank at Marian



Cale and Alicia get their hands dirty for Landcare. Image: M Lane

PCL and the Marian Community Group had a very productive working bee at the Marian River on April 21. Eighteen volunteers came along and planted 200 native plants from a variety of ten species, ranging from bank stabilising Lomandra to butterfly attracting Euodia. The plants will help stabilise the bank, suppress weeds and provide future habitat for a variety of fauna.

It was great to see a number of families come out for the day, with parents and kids working side by side and learning the importance of conserving our natural environment. Visual surveys of the plants in mid-May indicated that they were going well, aside from a few that had unfortunately fallen victim to unaware feet.

Get Involved! The next Marian Community Group Working Bee will take place on Saturday June 9, 0800—1100hrs at the Marian River Bank, opposite Tolcher's Lane

Please bring a hat, sunscreen, water and sturdy footwear (shovels and spades are also appreciated). This event is supported by Mackay Regional Council through the Natural Environment levy

PCL Community Nursery!

Come meet with like-minded green thumbs and help out at our community nursery; growing plants to revegetate our environment

When: Tuesday Mornings, 0900 - 1200 (morning tea provided), starting 12th June

Weed of the Month

Spathodea campanulata African Tulip

Description: fast growing, large tree, to 24m, with dense foliage and an open crown.

Leaves: large, deeply veined, opposite, broadly oval pinnate leaves to 200mm, bronze in colour when young maturing to a deep glossy green.

Flowers and fruit: large orange-red bell shaped flowers in terminal clusters which form upright capsules to 200mm. Produce numerous, clear winged thin seeds.

Habitat: invades creek banks, open forest and rainforest.

Origin: tropical West Africa

The problem: highly invasive, they form dense stands, crowding out native vegetation. Able to spread by seeds and suckers, a single plant can result in heavy infestation. The flower contains toxic components that are lethal to native bees.

What you can do: young trees can be dug out by hand, or pulled when soil is wet. Medium trees can be treated by the cut and paste method, but due to their ability to sucker they need to be treated along surface roots as well. Large trees should be removed professionally. For further information on treating African Tulips please contact the PCL office.

Local impact: previously sold as a popular ornamental tree, African Tulips can be seen flowering throughout Mackay and regional catchments. Native alternatives to African Tulips are *Stenocarpus sinuatus* Wheel of Fire Tree and *Brachychiton acerifolius* Flame Tree.



Images: C Bartron

Plant of the Month

Clerodendrum floribundum Lolly Bush

Description: shrub to small tree. Latin *floribundus* meaning 'profuse flowers', referring to the plants large heads of ornate flowers. Decoctions of the wood, leaves and roots were used by Aboriginal communities to treat a wide range of ailments. Larval food plant of the of the Fiery Jewel and Black-spotted Flash butterflies.

Leaves: simple, opposite, entire, narrowly to broadly ovate or elliptic, 40-180 x 20-100mm. Long purple tinged petioles.

Flowers and fruit: fragrant, white flowers with long stamens, borne in cymes in upper leaf axils or terminal. Fruit is a globular, shiny, bluish black drupe that sits in an enlarged red calyx that has 5 waxy petals.

Propagation: Grow from stem or rooting cuttings, or fresh seed. Germination from seed can be unreliable and may take a few months, treat seeds with boiling

water and leave overnight for better results.

Distribution: Qld, NSW, NT, WA, SA, and New Guinea.

Habitat: Widespread species, occurring on rainforest margins and dry rainforests. Common in this region in littoral vegetation on sandy soils.

Where we are: Lolly Bush is currently flowering throughout Blacks Beach littoral forests, and throughout Slade Point Environmental Management Reserve.



Image: S & A Pearson



Image: D Milburn

Sources: MRPMG, Plants of Capricornia, Weeds Australia website, PCL website

Myrtle Rust Update



Myrtle Rust on Beach Cherry
Image: D Milburn

The Queensland Governments Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) has issued a media release urging Mackay residents to be on the lookout for Myrtle Rust, a serious plant disease spreading through Queensland, after infected plants were confirmed in Mackay. The rust effects plants from the *Myrtaceae* family, which includes melaleuca, lilly pilly and eucalypt species.

PCL responded to a phone call regarding a suspected infection on an urban property, which was confirmed to be Mackay's first incident. The Regional Botanic Gardens and the Natural Environment Centre have since confirmed the presence of the disease.

The first signs of myrtle rust are tiny raised purple to brown spots or pustules, usually on young actively growing leaves and shoots. After a few days, these lesions erupt producing masses of bright yellow spores. Anyone suspecting they have the disease should call Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23.

Coastal Communities: Week of the Volunteer!

The Northern Beaches community turned out in force at Bucasia and Eimeo on Saturday, May 19, capping off a successful national volunteer week on our beaches.

The weekend marked the first Coastal Community Activity held at Eimeo Beach, with local residents keen to become involved in this popular program.

Volunteers generously donated their time to remove several truckloads of invasive weeds from the margin of Eimeo Creek. Weed species, such as Mother-in-law's Tongue and Lantana, invade and out-compete native vegetation. The removal of weeds helps the vegetation regenerate back to its natural state, providing a healthy environment for the future.



Volunteers at Eimeo with their 'fresh kill' Image: K Woodcock

"I started attending these events to do my small bit to help the environment and community"

"Helping out at these coastal volunteer days has been highly enjoyable and satisfying"

"To see the Eimeo locals coming out in such large numbers to help out today brought a social and friendly atmosphere to the event"

- Mr Robert Brown, volunteer

Coastal Community Activities provide opportunities for locals to get involved in the on-ground management of our beaches and coastal environments.

Coastal Community Activities winter program coming soon!

Coming events:

www.reefcatchments.com.au

www.mackay.qld.gov.au

Contact: Noni Zahmel 4968 4215
noni.zahmel@reefcatchments.com.au

Reef Catchments on Facebook! receive regular updates on coastal activities

Mackay Coastal Community Activities are an initiative under the Coasts and Communities Program, supported by Mackay Regional Council and Reef Catchments through the Natural Environment Levy and Australian Government's Caring for our Country program.

New Land for Wildlife Member!

Padaminka has long been familiar with the Land for Wildlife program, having been registered for 10 years under previous ownership. However with new ownership comes new registration, a new set of challenges, and a new lease on life for owners Ian and Andrea Gottke.



Healthy open woodlands are worth visiting at Padaminka.
Image: D Milburn

Padaminka remains an area of natural diversity with abundant wildlife and thriving remnant forests containing endangered ecosystems. It has also been registered as a Nature Refuge. The wetland and riparian systems are

developing well as revegetated areas become established and start regenerating naturally.

Our members will have continued support from the Land for Wildlife program (funded by the Mackay Regional Council), delivered by PCL.



Lalage leucomela Varied Triller

This charming bird occurs throughout the region in rainforest to open country.

Measuring 18-21cm it can be seen flitting from the tops of the tallest trees to low shrubs; feeding on insects, fruit and seeds.



Image: C Bartron

Just one of the birds you might see on a visit to Padaminka

Celebrating Success at the Healthy Waterways Symposium!

We often hear of the impacts of floods, development and industry on waterway health. Well here is a chance to share the successes, new research and future projects for water quality in our region.

The Healthy Waterways Symposium, at CQ University, Mackay, brings together everyone involved in creating resilient waterways and a healthy reef.

Register for the Healthy Waterways Symposium! Thursday 14 June

Special registration prices available for non-profits and community members

Come along for a day of information sharing, networking and celebration

For further Program information or to apply for a subsidised Symposium Registration please contact **Sal Gray at sally.gray@reefcatchments.com.au**

An initiative of Reef Catchments and the Healthy Waterways Alliance, supported by the Queensland Government and ANZ



Wildlife Snapshots

Striated Herons and the fish they feed on depend on waterway health for survival

Butorides striata Striated Heron

A 'dumpy' heron found in intertidal, mangrove and coastal wetland habitats. Though abundant, being secretive in nature it is not commonly seen.

Occuring in a variety of colour morphs; rufous (pictured), grey and intermediate, the name 'striated' comes from the striped juvenile plumage.



Image: C Bartron

Who's who in Pioneer Catchment & Landcare

Management Committee

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

Deputy Chair Dave Hunter

Treasurer Bruce Milles

Secretary (Non voting) Wendy Eiteneuer

Committee Members

Irene Champion

Di Salau

Dianne Williams (Australian Forest Growers)

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Supported by:



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Upcoming Events

Thursday 7 June, from 7.30pm—SGAP Monthly Meeting, *A Visit to the Chatham Islands* by Margaret Lane. Mackay Gem and Craft Society Hall, Leisure Court. Visitors Welcome

Thursday 7 June, 7– 8.30pm—*Coral Reefs—threats and actions*, Information Session, Central QLD University, RSVP mcgmail@bigpond.com. Contact Peter 0458 767437

Saturday 9 June, 8– 11am—Marian Community Group Working Bee, Marian River Bank, opposite Tolchers Lane

Tuesday 12 June, 9–12am—PCL Community Nursery Day, Natural Environment Centre, 6 Swayne St, North Mackay, *morning tea provided*

Wednesday 13–Friday 15 June, Variable times—Healthy Waterways Symposium, contact Sal Gray sally.gray@reefcatchments.com.au for information and registration

Sunday 17 June, 8am-4pm—Pioneer Valley Show, Finch Hatton Show Grounds

Thursday 28–Saturday 30 June, QLD State Landcare Conference 2012, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, www.qldlandcareconference.com.au

Sunday 1 July, 6.45am—BirdLife Mackay Outing, location to be confirmed. Contact 4952 2964 or 0488 315 757

Sunday 1 July, (high tide) 10.47am—Shorebirds 2020 National Winter Wader Count. Contact Queensland Wader Study Group, Linda Cross xenus69@bigpond.com

Check our website for more events and updates!

YOUR VIEW! *Do you have a landcare story you want to tell? Is there something you are passionate about you want to share? A question you want to ask? Send it in! We want to know your views about what is happening in our area.*

Pioneer Valley Show

The Pioneer Valley Show is on again, held at the Finch Hatton Showgrounds, this popular event promises to deliver another full day of family fun.

PCL will be on hand to talk about all things landcare and giving out free plants. So come along, get your free plants, learn about our remarkable part of the world in beautiful Finch Hatton and show your support for this community show.

Pioneer Valley Show, Sunday 17 June, Finch Hatton

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