

Land for Wildlife members, don't forget to get you 2013 plant orders in by November 30!
e-mail: admin@pioneercatchment.org.au or slcmap@mcs.net.au

Report it with Redmap! *Contributed*

More and more marine animals are moving to new locations along the Australian coast, and Redmap is looking for local knowledge on what is moving where!

It appears several dozen Australian marine species have made range shifts over the last few decades in response to changes in the marine environment. However, given the size of Australia, it is difficult for scientists to monitor the distribution of animals along the entire coastline. Enter Redmap (Range Extension Database and Mapping Project), a new online database being launched in Queensland at the end of November. Redmap allows the local community to act as 'citizen scientists' and collect their own marine data, share stories and upload photos of 'unusual' animals on the Redmap website or smartphone App. Photographs submitted to the website are verified by scientists to confirm species identification.

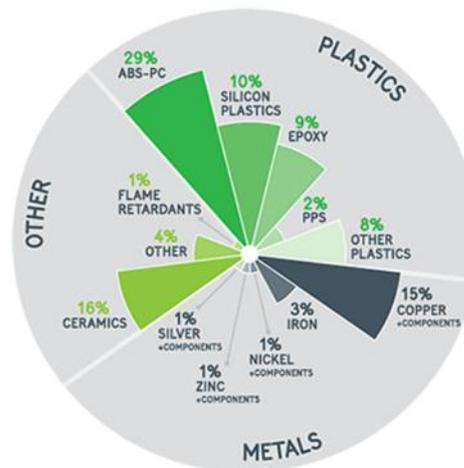
Over time, Redmap will use the information collected from Australian fishers, divers, swimmers and the general public, to map which Australian marine species may be extending their range in response to changes in the marine environment, such as ocean warming.

For more information about Redmap, log onto redmap.org.au and sign up for our quarterly newsletter, or contact; enquiries@redmap.org.au, Nina McLean, Redmap's Queensland coordinator; nina.mclean@jcu.edu.au, or Dr Jemina Stuart-Smith, Redmap Australia Coordinator; Jemina.Stuart-Smith@utas.edu.au.

Redmap QLD is led by James Cook University, in collaboration with the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies.

Mobile Muster

Unused mobiles lurking in the dark corners at home? You are not alone. An estimated 22 million unwanted mobiles are creating unwanted clutter across Australia; roughly 2,200 tonnes of metals, minerals, plastics and glass ready for recycling.



Mobile Muster is a nation wide stewardship program that makes it easy for us all to recycle our unwanted mobiles.

Around 90% of the materials in mobiles and accessories can be recovered and made into new products. Gold, silver, copper,

What is your mobile made of?

nickel and plastics are just a few of the components that can be recovered. Recycling 50,000 handsets is estimated to result in the recovery of gold equivalent to 110 tonnes of mined gold ore, now that's something to think about!

Mobile Muster drop-off locations are found throughout Mackay (such as most Post Offices and Post Shops), so go to the website to find your closest location and find out more recycling your mobile.

<http://www.mobilemuster.com.au/recycle-a-mobile/>

Mackay Coastline Cleaner after Community Contribution



Image: Eco Barge Clean Seas

269 volunteers took part in the inaugural Mackay Coastal Clean-Up held by Eco Barge Clean Seas over the weekend of Saturday 13- Sunday 14 October. PCL helped with the clean-up adopting and working with volunteers at Far Beach, one of the 12 beaches targeted over the weekend.

Along with other clean-up teams we helped remove 2,689kg of rubbish from the Mackay regions coastline, not a bad effort for two mornings work! The weekend attracted a diversity of attendees, with locals, interstate visitors, and adults and kids of all ages taking part. The October clean up was the first in a three year programme, with the next clean up being scheduled for May 2013. Interested in finding out more about Eco Barge? go to,

www.ecobargecleanseas.org.au

Saving Water in the Garden; Handy Tips

- 1) water wisely: only water on your rostered days and never between 10am-5pm
 - 2) pick your plants: different plants have differing watering needs, choose native plants over exotics
 - 3) mulching: by mulching around your plants you reduce moisture loss through evaporation
 - 4) watch where you water: make sure you are watering the garden and not the driveway, house or road
- go to www.mackay.qld.gov.au/water_services for more water saving tips

Weed of the Month

Sporobolus spp Giant Rats Tail Grass

Description: erect, tufted perennial grass which grows to approximately 1.7m tall.

Leaves: narrowly bladed with folded or rolled to 500mm. Relatively hairless.

Flowers and fruit: immature, orange-brown seed heads form distinguishing cylindrical spike-like shape, opening to a pyramid shape at maturity. Profuse seeders with high seed viability.

Habitat: invades pastures out competing desired pasture species. Can grow well in low fertility soils. Mostly found throughout coastal regions of Northern NSW into tropical Qld.

Origin: Africa

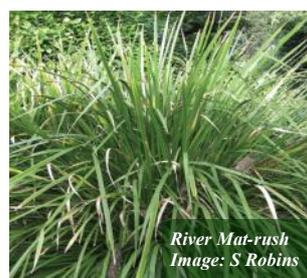
The problem: rapidly invades areas, especially where pasture cover is poor. Will exclude native vegetation and rapidly recovers from fire. When wet seeds become sticky and are easily spread by animal, water and machinery as well as by wind. Mature plants unpalatable to livestock.

What you can do: maintain good pasture cover to reduce incursion and spot treat scattered plants and light infestations with glyphosate or flurproprionate, preferably before it seeds. Do not move livestock and machinery from infested to clean areas to prevent spread. Heavy infestations can be treated with glyphosate.

GRT is spreading in our region and cross property management is recommended. Contact PCL of the Mackay Regional Pest Management Group for more information.



River Mat-rush
Image: S Robins



River Mat-rush
Image: S Robins



Giant Rats Tail Grass
Image: NSW DPI

Plant of the Month

Lomandra hystrix River Mat-rush

Description: herbaceous clumping rush which grows to 1m.

Leaves: long simple strap-like leaves to 1m in length. Apex with 2-3 teeth. Colour varies from a deep green to a pale yellow-green depending on condition.

Flowers and fruit: separate male and female plants. Produces small cream, heavily perfumed flowers 3-5mm in diameter borne on auxiliary 'spikes'. Fruits are three valved capsules surrounded by pointed bracts which encase 1-3 white 'rice-like' seeds

Propagation: mature clumps can be split and replanted or may be grown from seed. Seeds need to be removed from capsules before propagation.

Distribution: occurs from NE Qld south into coastal areas of central NSW.

Habitat: most commonly found along water courses in upland and rainforest habitats. Good riparian revegetation plant, forming large foot balls which hold together sediment to assist with erosion mitigation. Easily grown and maintained it is a common landscaping plant.

Around Mackay: widely used in council roadside plantings *L. hystrix* can be seen flowering along the walking path north of Forgan Bridge as well as in the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens. Walking alongside an expanse will be rewarded with a beautiful and unexpected scent from this unassuming plant.

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

Composting Workshop

Learn to compost at home by attending a FREE composting workshop. See composting in action and have the fundamental basics explained on how to make your own compost and reduce the amount of waste that leaves your home and ends up in landfill.

Practice nature's way of Recycling. Don't throw food scraps into the general waste bin, instead turn them into beneficial compost and help your garden grow! Celebrate National Recycling Week by participating in this composting workshop.

Where: Mackay Community Gardens, Streeter Avenue, West Mackay

When: Saturday 24 November 9am-11:30am

Bookings are essential-phone Fiona Paterson on 4961 9051

Bats in the Backyard

Bats comprise the largest group of mammals, with around a quarter of all mammals being bats. Australia has approximately 78 recorded bat species with 26 known to occur in Qld.

Many of us in Mackay will be familiar with the macro-bats, also called Flying Foxes, but micro-bats are also common in our region.

Micro-bats can often be seen flying around street lights as they feed on insects attracted to the light. All micro-bats are insectivorous and hunt their prey using echolocation, with different frequencies being used to hunt different prey. Whilst the hunting calls of most micro-bats are inaudible to the human ear some species can be heard, such as the White-striped Free-tail Bat whose call can be heard as a high-pitched 'ting-ting'.

Micro-bats are capable of eating between 1/3 and 3/4 of their own body weight in insects in a single night, now that's quite a few mosquitoes!

A number of micro-bat species are under threat, largely due to a loss of roosting habitat. Micro-bats roost, and nest, in dark, sheltered places such as tree hollows, roof spaces and caves systems (e.g. Capricorn Caves north of Rockhampton).



Image: C Bartron

Common Bent-wing Bat

Found in northern and eastern Australia, from northern WA across to Queensland and down into NSW, Vic. and south-eastern SA the Common Bent-wing Bat is one of our most widely spread bat species.

Mostly found in moist habitats where it roosts in very large numbers in caves, old mines, stormwater tunnels and occasionally buildings. Forages for insects in forests, woodlands and grasslands.

Females give birth to their young in summer and roost together in warm, humid maternity caves. Up to 3,000 young bats per square metre can be found clinging upside down to the ceiling. Though small in size these bats can live as long as 18 years.

Roosting sites are important for the bats' survival as they are needed for both roosting and breeding. Bats form colonies, from the small to the extremely large, with colonies (especially large ones) known to create their own micro-climate through influencing temperature and humidity. Heat created in roosts is vital for the survival of newborn young who cannot yet maintain body temperature, as well as adults who need to conserve energy during cool periods when insects are less abundant.

Loss of suitable roosting sites is thought to be the greatest threat to our micro-bats. Many of the old-growth forests which contain the old 'habitat' trees used for roosting are greatly reduced.

Fortunately micro-bats are known to successfully roost and breed in artificial 'bat boxes'. By installing purpose built artificial hollows people can assist the survival of our micro-bats. Maintaining existing habitat and protecting and planting trees for future hollows will also be of great benefit.

If you are interested in constructing and erecting a bat box at your place contact PCL for information.



Waders Return Welcomed Noni Zahmel, Reef Catchments

More than 20 community members enjoyed an afternoon of activities at Sandfly Creek Environmental Reserve on Saturday 6 October to welcome the migratory waders back to the region.

Attendees took part in a guided bird watching tour through the Reserve presented by Daryl Barnes from Birdlife Mackay and learned some tips for minimising their impact on resident and migratory shorebirds.

Up to 23,000 shorebirds migrate from the northern hemisphere to the Mackay Whitsunday region every year from October to April. While the birds are here they are resting in order to build up their strength to make the long journey back to the northern hemisphere to breed.



Image: N Zahmel

Sandfly Creek Environmental Reserve is included as one of a suite of shorebird roost sites mapped across the Mackay Whitsunday region. These sites together are recognised as an internationally declared Important Bird Area.

Disturbance from recreational activities is identified as one of the major threats to shorebirds while they visit our shores. Welcome to the Waders promotes the small things we can all do to help reduce our impacts on these birds. We can all help with simple actions such as keeping dogs on a leash, heeding 'no dog' and 'dog on lead' areas and avoiding walking at hightide in known roost locations.

The Welcome to the Waders event was held in partnership by Reef Catchments, Mackay Regional Council, Conservation Volunteers Australia and Birdlife Mackay.

Who's who in Pioneer Catchment & Landcare

Management Committee

Chair Margaret Lane (SGAP—Mackay Branch)

Deputy Chair Dave Hunter

Treasurer Currently Vacant (applications welcomed)

Secretary (Non voting) Wendy Eiteneuer

Committee Members

Irene Champion

Di Salau

Dianne Williams

Cr Theresa Morgan

John Atkinson

Pioneer Catchment office

4944 1979

www.pioneercatchment.org.au

Pioneer Catchment Landcare Facilitator

Claire Bartron

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Project Officer Currently Vacant

Office Manager Wendy Eiteneuer

0427 543 509

admin@pioneercatchment.org.au

Supported by:



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY



Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER

Thursday 1 November, from 7.30pm—SGAP General Meeting, 'African Safari' by Derek and Tina Ball, Mackay Gem and Craft Society Hall, Leisure Court. Visitors Welcome

Saturday 3 November, 8.30-12 noon— Coastal Community Activity, Sandfly Creek Environmental Reserve
Conservation Volunteers Australia, 4951 0933

Sunday 4 November, meet 5.45am— BirdLife Mackay outing, Tedlands Wetlands, meet at the Tourist Information Centre on Nebo Rd
BirdLife Mackay, 4952 2964 or 0488 315 757

Saturday 10 November, from 8am— Morag McNichol Reserve working bee. Contact Jim McNichol, 4942 8802

Saturday 17 November— *Coastal Community Activities*
8-10am—Ball Bay, meet at Vehicle access nearest to Mason Street
3-5pm— Blacks Beach, meet at carpark at end of Anglers Parade
noni.zahmel@reefcatchments.com.au, 4968 4215

Saturday 24 November, 9am —11.30am— Composting Workshop
FREE workshop, Mackay Community Gardens, Streeter Ave,
Bookings essential; Fiona Paterson, 4961 9051

DECEMBER

Saturday 1 December— *Coastal Community Activities*
Celebrate Coastcare Week with Us!

8-10am—Bucasia, meet at beach access track by 172 Waverly Street,
FREE sausage sizzle after activities

3-5pm— Holiday Bay, meet at the park end of Headland Drive
noni.zahmel@reefcatchments.com.au, 4968 4215

Saturday 8 December, 8.30-12 noon— Coastal Community Activity,
Sandfly Creek Environmental Reserve
Conservation Volunteers Australia, 4951 0933

Check our website for more events and updates!
www.pioneercatchment.org.au

**PCL is now on Facebook! If you have a Facebook page
'like' us by searching
'Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group Inc.'**

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