

Get on board for Plastic Free July



Plastic Free July is all about raising awareness of the damage that single-use plastics cause. Challenge yourself to avoid single-use plastics during the month of July... you can sign up for a day, a week or the entire month.

Enjoy all the links, information and alternative solutions the website (<http://www.plasticfreejuly.org/>) has to offer. Readers can look forward to being pleasantly surprised by some of the alternatives and recommended products (Check out the "toolbox" tab).

Australians send 1 million tonnes of plastic waste to landfill each year. Do your part to make a change.

"Even the smallest actions can add together to make a large difference"

Planting at St Helens Creek



This revegetation project at St Helens Creek included funding for 500 native plants. Tree planting took place on Tuesday, June 14th.

Native Plant List:

Melaleuca viminalis (Weeping Bottlebrush), *Nauclea orientalis* (Leichhardt Tree), *Syzygium australe* (Creek Lily Pily), *Eucalyptus tereticornis* (Queensland Blue Gum), *Lomandra hystrix* (River Matrush), *Casuarina cunninghamiana* (She Oak) and *Pandanus* spp. Recent rains in the area were a positive start to these settling plants.

Community Tree Planting

Get Involved

National Tree Day is the perfect time to gather your sports club, community group or family together to enhance your local environment. National Tree Day is Australia's largest community tree-planting and nature care event. Connect with your local environment and head out to the Lagoon Creek Wetland!

Friday 29 July | School Tree Day

Schools looking to participate in School Tree Day can attend Mackay Regional Council's sponsored event at Janes Creek. Plan on a fun and productive day with your students! Sandwiches will be provided by Auto Corner Pty Ltd, and planting HQ will be located at the clubhouse. Attendees can park at the football zone carpark. Register your school by contacting Gerard Ferguson of Mackay Regional Council at Gerard.Ferguson@mackay.qld.gov.au.

Sunday 31 July | National Tree Day

Council is hosting a second event which is open to the public at the Lagoon Creek Wetland site (between Lansdowne Rd Glenella Connection Rd). Everyone is welcome to participate! Visit <http://treeday.planetark.org/site/10013109> to view the event and register online.

SAVE THE DATE



When: Friday, 22nd July
Bird Watching for Beginners

Daryl Barnes of BirdLife Mackay and Laura Whitbread of PCL have teamed together to host this event for those who are interested in birdwatching. Whether you have birdwatched before, or you have never done so before... join us!

Weed Swap for a Native Tree

PCL will also be hosting a *weed information and awareness* session at the same place, so if you have an unknown planting lurking in your backyard bring your possible weed in and **swap it for a native tree**.

Where: Demoleyns Lagoon

Transport to be arranged for those who require it. *Morning tea provided.*

For more information and to RSVP contact Melissa Spalding at melissa.spalding@pioneercatchment.org.au or 07 4944 1979

RSVP by Wednesday, 20th July.

Nicker Nut, Wait-a-While**Family: Caesalpinaceae**

A sprawling shrub or robust climber with stems to 20m that are covered in prominent straight and hooked prickles. Usually grows as a vine but may flower and fruit as a shrub. Seeds of this species can float and retain their viability for several years. They are often found washed up on beaches.

Food plant for the larval stages of the Speckled Line-blue Butterfly. Seeds are poisonous. Leaves and other plant parts have been used for their medicinal properties.

Leaves: Alternate, large compound up to 500mm long including stalk, armed with straight and hooked spines; three to 11 pairs of pinnae, each with six to 10 pairs of somewhat hairy oblong to ovate leaflets, 20-35 x 10-18mm; dark green above, paler beneath.

Flower: Five-petalled, cream or yellow, about 10-12mm long, borne in supra-axillary or terminal sprays.

Fruit: Pods, brown about 60 x 40mm, dehiscent. They have the appearance of a nest with a prickly exterior and smooth interior and hold one to two bluish-grey marble-like seeds; April to November.

Distribution: Along shorelines from Northeast QLD to Northeast NSW. Usually grows in beach forests close to the sea but also found in monsoon forest.

Source: Melzer, R and Plumb, J., 2007, Plants of Capricornia. Australian Tropical Rainforest Plants Edition 6, CSIRO, 2016.

Image: S and A Pearson

**Weed Spotting*****Tithonia diversifolia*****Japanese Sunflower****Family: Asteraceae**

A robust perennial and many branched sub-shrub to 3m with course, pithy-centred green stems. Forms extensive, dense thickets and out-competes native vegetation. Japanese sunflower invades waterways and embankments, spreading its seeds via wind, water and animals. It can also re-sprout from rootstock after disturbance.

Leaves: Alternate, ovate in outline with 3-5 deep palmate lobes, 60-250 x 50-120mm, margins bluntly toothed, dull green above, paler below and softly hairy on both surfaces; stalks to 100mm long.

Flowers: Large, bright golden-yellow, sunflower-like heads to about 100mm across, borne in terminal and axillary sprays on long stout stems; flowers in winter.

Fruits: Seeds are brown, silky-haired, oblong and slightly flattened and 4-angled. 5-8mm long.

Distribution: Naturalised in the region, especially on hills with remnant open forest and roadside between North Mackay and Farleigh.

Source: MRPMG, 2013. Weeds of the Mackay Whitsunday Region.

Image: S and A Pearson



Native Bee Workshop

Are you interested in Native Bees?

Central Queensland Beekeepers Association will host a one-day workshop in Sarina on the **18th of September from 8:30am** at Ted Malone Rural Skills Centre.

Dr. Tim Heard, ex CSIRO and renown Entomologist and native bee specialist will be presenting at this event.

Cost: \$40 per person / \$30 for CQBA members (fees to be paid before the event).

RSVP's are essential as this is a popular workshop and spaces are limited.

RSVP to Laura Whitbread at laura.whitbread@pioneercatchment.org.au or

07 4944 1979. Land for Wildlife members are encouraged to attend this special event.



Did you know?

The scientific name for bees is Anthophila, which means "flower lover". Bees originated from a carnivorous wasp species that switched its diet from meat to plant pollen, roughly 120 million years ago. There are now more than 1,600 species of Australian native bees which are important pollinators of wildflowers and vital to bushlands.

Teddy Bear Bee (www.aussiebee.com.au)

"How to Grow Your Garden" Event

On Friday, June 17th Melissa Spalding of PCL, Margaret Lane of Native Plants QLD-SGAP, and Maya Harrison of the Botanic Gardens teamed together for a successful event featuring a special botanic gardens walk followed by a tour of Margaret's home garden. The group included visitors all the way from Canberra! Thank you to all who attended. Interest from the event was certainly enough to encourage PCL to support the community and expand on the concept of creating gardens for wildlife.



The group on their scenic walk at the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens



Margaret showing her beautiful garden. Margaret's garden requires little watering or fertiliser inputs – one of the many benefits of planting natives.

Thank you

Upon the close of this financial year PCL would like to thank our nursery team for their time, effort and enthusiasm brought to nursery each week. Tuesday mornings at the Mackay Natural Environment Centre are always warm, cheerful and fun, not mention the amount of work that is accomplished each week. Over 844 volunteer hours have been recorded! The knowledge and background that each individual brings is invaluable, so thank you to Nichole, Bob, Margaret, Antonia, Charlie, Julie, Sandy, David, June, Peter, Ken and Karen. A very special thank you to Karen who has shared countless stories of her studies and has been a wonderful additional to the nursery team this past six months. You will be missed!



One last group photo! Morning tea was bittersweet as the group wished Karen farewell and safe travels back to Norway.

Upcoming Events

Recycling Tips

What is *contamination*?

According to Sunshine Coast Living Smart news article (www.livingsmartqld.com.au), following a few simple recycling tips can prevent *contamination* –placing items in the yellow-lid recycling bin that cannot be recycled through council's recycling process. Contamination of recyclables raises the cost for collectors, recyclers and the community, and can be prevented by:

- Removing lids from plastic bottles and jars – they are often a different type of plastic to their containers.
- Removing lids from all other bottles too – they go in the general waste (green lid) bin.
- Recycle items that have numbers 1-6 in the little triangle. Glass bottles, jars, milk and juice cartons, aluminium and steel cans, and aerosols can also be recycled.
- Never put fluorescent lights, batteries or e-waste in recycle bins. Old batteries can be dropped off at A1 Battery Pro.
- Never put plastic bags in your recycling bin. Plastic shopping bags can be returned to your supermarket for recycling.

If you are unsure about what is recyclable check with council.

Source: Plastic Recycling Fact Sheet. www.cleanup.org.au; MRC website.

	PET (Polyethylene terephthalate) - soft drink and fruit juice bottles
	HDPE (High-density polyethylene) - milk bottles or shampoo containers
	PVC (Polyvinyl chloride or plasticised polyvinyl chloride) - cordial, juice or squeeze bottles
	LDPE (Low density polyethylene) – garbage bags and bins
	PP (Polypropylene) – ice cream containers, take-away food containers and lunch boxes
	PS (Polystyrene) – yoghurt containers, plastic cutlery, foam hot drink cups

July

Sunday 17 - MRBG and Native Plants QLD-SGAP Regional Forest Working Bee from 7:30am

Friday 22 - PCL Birdwatching Event & Weed Swap at Demoleyns Lagoon; RSVP Melissa Spalding

Friday 29 - **School Tree Day** at Janes Creek Mackay. *All schools welcome*; RSVP to Gerard Ferguson

Sunday 31 - **National Tree Day** at Lagoon Creek Wetland site. Register at: <http://treeday.planetark.org/site/10013109>

August

Thursday 4 - Native Plants QLD-SGAP Mackay general meeting at the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens from 7:30pm ph.4955 1745

Sunday 7 - BirdLife Mackay outing at Glen Isla Road Proserpine meet at Tourist Info Centre at 0630 ph.4959 3382

Saturday 13 - Friends of MacKillop Working Bee ph.0419756357

Wednesday 17 - MRBG and native Plants QLD-SGAP Regional Forest Working Bee from 7:30am

Saturday 20 - BirdLife Mackay Monthly Count Programme at Shellgrit Creek at 9am ph.0488315757

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