



Whitsunday  
Catchment  
**Landcare**

# Newsletter

March 2020

[www.whitsundaylandcare.org.au](http://www.whitsundaylandcare.org.au)



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Central QLD Coast  
**Landcare**  
Network

*A partnership for the natural resource management of catchments in the Central QLD Coast Bioregions.*

**CATCHMENT COORDINATOR:**

Cath Campbell

Ph.: 0408 187 944

[coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au](mailto:coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au)

**PROJECT OFFICER:**

Chris Barbeler

Ph.: 0488 768 567

[project@whitsundaylandcare.org.au](mailto:project@whitsundaylandcare.org.au)

**CONTACT US FOR INFORMATION:**

- Natural Resource Management
- Land management Plans
- Native plants
- Environmental weeds
- Volunteer activities

**BECOME A VOLUNTEER:**

Come seed collecting; learn to identify native plants; how to propagate them; improve your environment; enjoy the outdoors in a fun, social setting.

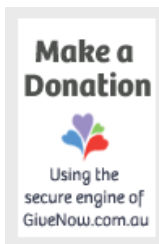
If you're interested in doing your bit for the environment and socialising with like-minded people, we offer coordinated activities on Tuesday & Thursday mornings and more. Contact us!

**WCL Management Committee:**

Graham Armstrong, Chair  
Scott Hardy, Deputy Chair  
Jacquie Sheils, Secretary  
Glenda Hodgson, Treasurer  
Dale Mengel  
John Casey  
Cr Ron Petterson

**WCL is a community not-for-profit group, relying on grants & donations.**

We are a registered charity; donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. To make a donation please contact us or go to our page:



**Coming Up in March**  
**COMMUNITY NURSERY OPEN**  
**FOR PLANT SALES (CASH ONLY)**  
**9am-12noon Tuesday, Thursday & the 1st Saturday**  
**of each month-**  
**Next Saturday opening—7th March 2020**

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**Volunteer Event -Thursday 19th March 9am-12ish.**  
**Peri- Urban Sustainable Land Management Project-**  
**Participant Property Visit.**

**Come along & see how Marlene Reiffel has implemented her**  
**Sustainable Land Management Plan**  
**at her property at Paluma Road, Cannonvale**  
**Please wear long sleeved clothing, a hat & closed in shoes.**  
**Morning Tea Provided**  
**Please Call Cath to RSVP & get the address.**

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**At the Community Nursery & Volunteer Activities in March:**  
**33 Kelsey Creek Rd Proserpine**  
**Tuesday & Thursday 9am—12.30pm.**  
**For enquiries please Ph. 0408 187 944 or email:**  
**[coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au](mailto:coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au)**

Tuesday	Thursday
<b>3rd:</b> Nursery Maintenance & propagation activities	<b>5th:</b> Propagation, Seed processing, Potting, Record keeping etc. at the nursery
<b>10th:</b> Nursery Maintenance & propagation activities	<b>12th:</b> Propagation, Seed processing, Potting, Record keeping etc. at the nursery.
<b>17th:</b> Nursery Maintenance & propagation activities	<b>19th: Peri- Urban Sustainable Land Management Project- Participant Property Visit.- Reiffel's Place 321 Paluma road Cannonvale - 9am- 12 noon</b>
<b>24th:</b> Nursery Maintenance & propagation activities	<b>26th:</b> Propagation, Seed processing, Potting, Record keeping etc. at the nursery
<b>31st:</b> Nursery Maintenance & propagation activities	

WCL receives support from the following organizations:



Australian Government  
Department of the Environment



**Peri-urban Land Management Project—  
Volunteer Event  
Property visit at Paluma Road**

**Project History:**

During 2014—2016 the Central Queensland Landcare Network (Pioneer, Sarina & Whitsunday Catchment Landcare groups) receive a grant to under take 3 projects— Coastal, Riparian & Peri-Urban Land management projects. WCL undertook the management of the peri-urban component of the project. Over the 3 year life of this project 160 non-commercial landholders in the region (WCL— 75, PCL -10 , Sarina 75)received a 3 year sustainable land management plan for their properties & 40 free plants.

A more localised version of this project was repeated during 2018-19 when WCL received a National Landcare Program—Small Environment Grant. This project resulted in another 25 local landholders receive the same benefits.

One of the participant's of WCL's 2014-16 Peri-Urban Project, Marlene Reiffel, has invited WCL volunteers to come & have a look at the results of implementing of her Land Management Plan. Marlene wanted to rehabilitate the remnant native vegetation on her property, eradicate weeds, minimise maintenance, as well as have space for her favourite (non-weedy) exotics around the house.

It will be interesting to hear about Marlene's successes & no-so successful experiences over the last 3-4years of implementing the land management plan & see all the beautiful plants provided as part of the grant funds & what she has purchased from WCL's Community Nursery.

So you are welcome to come along & check out all Marlene's hard work.

**Volunteer Event -Thursday 19th March 9am-12ish.**

**Peri- Urban Sustainable Land Management Project Participant Property Visit.  
Come along & see how Marlene Reiffel has implemented her Sustainable Land  
Management Plan**

**at her property at Paluma Road, Cannonvale**

**Please wear long sleeved clothing, a hat & closed in shoes.**

Morning Tea Provided.

Look for the Green Whitsunday Landcare sign at Paluma Road— parking will be limited so car pool if you can.

**Please call Cath—0408 188 944 to RSVP & get the full address.**



*Above: Aerial photo of Marlene Reiffel's property & her rainforest gully before rehabilitation works  
Photo: Google Earth & C. Campbell*

**This is an interesting article on observations made of Lyrebirds during the major fires down south. Nature it's a marvellous thing.**

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-01-30/lyrebirds-band-together-to-avoid-approaching-bushfire/11910666>



## What's Showing

**Common name:** Scrambling Lily

**Scientific name:** *Geitonoplesium cymosum*

**Flowers:** White to mauve with yellow stamens, about 2cm diameter, 6 petals. Borne in pendant clusters near the ends of branchlets. Pollinated by insects.

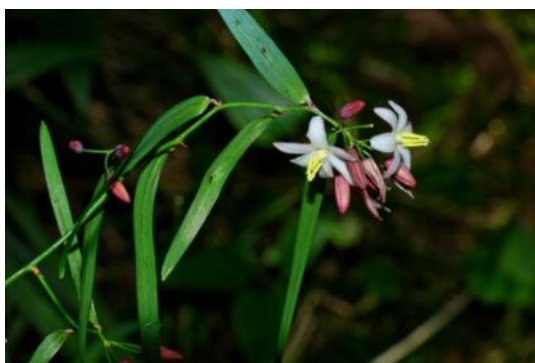
**Fruit:** Bluish-black berries 0.7 to 20 cm diameter.

**Propagation:** From seed or division of fleshy root system. A hardy adaptable plant.

**Description:** *G. cymosum* is a slender perennial vine with fibrous roots. *Geitonoplesium* can produce stems up to 8m long that scramble along the grounds then twining around vegetation for support. It has been reported that the young shoots, cooked, are edible & said to taste like asparagus. (Tim Low: Wild Food Plants of Australia 1989). BRAIN reports the fruit pulp is edible and attractive to birds & possums. As always, caution is advised when eating native plants.

**Distribution:** It is found in moist areas of Eucalypt forests, rainforests and along stream lines. In PNG the tough wiry stems are used in house construction. Fruit are eaten by rose crowned fruit dove, mistle-toe bird and satin bowerbird.

**Notes:** Distinguished from Wombat Berry (*Eustrephus latifolius*) by: black fruit; inner segments of flowers not fringed; conspicuous raised midrib on the upper surface whereas *Eustrephus* has several veins on the lower surface.



Above: *Geitonoplesium cymosum* flowers .  
Photo: Useful Tropical Plants



*Geitonoplesium cymosum* fruit and leaves.  
Photo: C. Peterson



### Homemade Aphid Trap:

Place a YELLOW Solo cup upside down on a wooden stake. Attach with a pin or nail. Cover the outside of the cup with a thin layer of Vaseline. Aphids are drawn to the yellow, stick to the cup, and die. The trap is easy to make and will save your plants from aphid damage.

## Did you know?



1 year: 12 kittens



2 years: 144 kittens



3 years: 1726 kittens



4 years: 20,736 kittens

Many municipalities offer free neutering.  
(Assuming that a female cat gives birth twice a year and on average 2.8 kittens survive)

**1 cat can produce up to 20,736 kittens in only 4 years!**

That's why neutering just a single cat will help to solve the problem of over-population.



www.bostonbark.com

## Getting to Know Our Whitsunday Wildlife & Plants

Steve Pearson is a local dedicated nature photographer. Steve is a retired QP&WS ranger who spent a large part of his career at Eungella and in the Whitsundays. Assisted by his wife Alison, Steve has accumulated a comprehensive photographic reference of plants and also, the less understood and under-appreciated elements of our region's ecology such as invertebrates and fungi. To view more of his photos go to – [steveandalison1@flickr](#)

### Finding the spiders that live near you.

If you want to find what spiders live in your area there is one way scientists use, under scientific guidance of course. Years ago I had occasion to work with wildlife researchers searching for wildlife in remote areas and often they could find very little. But one trick they had up their sleeve was they knew they were not the sneakiest of wildlife hunters in the outback. These super sneaks were super hunters, you guessed it feral cats. A feral cat's survival depends on hunting wildlife and they were killing and eating the wildlife these scientists were trying to find so the question that has to be asked- what are these feral cats been eating? The wildlife of the area! But what wildlife? Our group had trouble finding any wildlife AS IT WAS FIGHTING FOR ITS OWN SURVIVAL & TRYING TO AVOID EXTINCTION BY HIDING FROM THE FERAL CATS.

So what was keeping the feral cats alive, AND WHERE WAS IT? > IN THE CATS STOMACH !! So at every opportunity researchers would humanly euthanize any feral cats they could trap and then open them up and see what was the last meal in their stomach. You would have been amazed at what rare wildlife was eaten by feral cats but not found by scientific field researchers. Amazing! Well, if you want to check for spiders that you can't find in your area you could take a scientific approach and follow scientific principles.

Get a camera and pad and pen and check out what catches spiders? Some wasps such as the Mud-dauber wasp catch and paralyse spiders then pack several paralysed spiders into each mud nest they build. Then they lay an egg in there. When the egg hatches the wasp grub feeds on the paralysed spiders. The spiders stay fresh and paralysed until the wasp grub gets to eat them.

Normally Mud-dauber Wasps can be seen and heard constructing their mud nests in protected areas of houses, buildings and rock overhangs. One species of our local Airlie Beach Mud-dauber Wasps is *Sceliphron formosum* of family Sphecidae, in order Hymenoptera and builds mud nests. They are usually seen carrying a ball of wet mud on their way to build their nest in their chosen spot, sometimes an nuisance to us, especially if it is in the exhaust pipe of a motor or in the cooling fins or in small electric appliances. In dry periods they are also often seen at water spots getting water to make their own mud and occasionally this includes a dripping water tap which can also create a problem for people that drink out of the tap, so be careful and use a cup or run the risk of being stung on the mouth or tongue.

After they have built the shell of their mud nest they can be found flying around the bushes or the home searching for spiders and they find spiders you would never see. You might see the successful wasp returning to its nest with a spider held in its jaws, destined to be fed to larvae in a mud nest. When the nest is full it is capped off.

*Continued over page.*



Above: Sphecidae mud Wasp - *Sceliphron formosum*.  
Photo: Steve & Alison Pearson



Above: Mud Wasp – mud nest  
Photo: Steve & Alison Pearson



### *Finding Spiders Cont.*

I have used scientific guidelines and opened an occasional nest, only one out of a cluster so as to have minimal impact on the breeding numbers, just like when collecting fruit or seeds from the wild, never strip the tree bare. Anyhow, if you have the mud nest causing a nuisance or other spots that you must remove them from, take advantage of the opportunity and have a look at what was inside. It could be something amazing- so have your camera ready to get a photo for the records. (When you are photographing your discovery make a written record and then take a photo of that page as well, that way the paper record is with your discovery and less likely to get separated or lost.) I have been amazed to find that occasionally there are species of spiders I have not seen before. Your photo will show all that was inside the one capsule of the mud nest !



*Above: Mud Wasp –opened mud nest with 1mm long parasitic micro-wasps  
Photo: Steve & Alison Pearson*

I have been even more amazed to find different species of smaller wasps that have parasitised the same mud nest and taken over -some of these have been many smaller micro-wasps, as small as 1mm long.

### **Caution!**

The Mud-dauber Wasp can deliver painful stings, but attacks are rare. An ice pack may be used to relieve the pain of the sting. Keep an eye out for an allergic reaction & if observed medical attention should be sought.



### **Whitsunday Catchment Landcare (WCL) is launching our Sustainable Land Management Services.**

We are seeking to encourage *non-commercial* landholders in the sustainable management of their land and offer the following assistance on a **fee for service** basis:

- **Site visits & Land Management Advice**– verbal advice to landholder.
- **Land Management Plans** (3-5 year documented site specific plans)
- **Weed Control Services**– targeted to have minimal impact on Native vegetation & maximum impact on weed species & undertaken by WCL's qualified & licensed staff using our weed control equipment.
- **Hire of weed control equipment**– Landholder operated after training by WCL staff

**If you would like advice on how to sustainably manage the weeds or native vegetation on your land, please consider the services offered by WCL.**

Please email the Coordinator at: [coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au](mailto:coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au) for the fee schedule & detailed description of services offered.

Or call mbl: 0408 187 944 to discuss your requirements.

## **Glyphosate 'not a carcinogen' says US EPA**

Infopest welcomes the findings of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (US EPA) review on glyphosate that concluded the herbicide is not a carcinogen and poses no risk to human health when used according to its label instructions. The US EPA released a media statement on 30 January 2020 which reads:

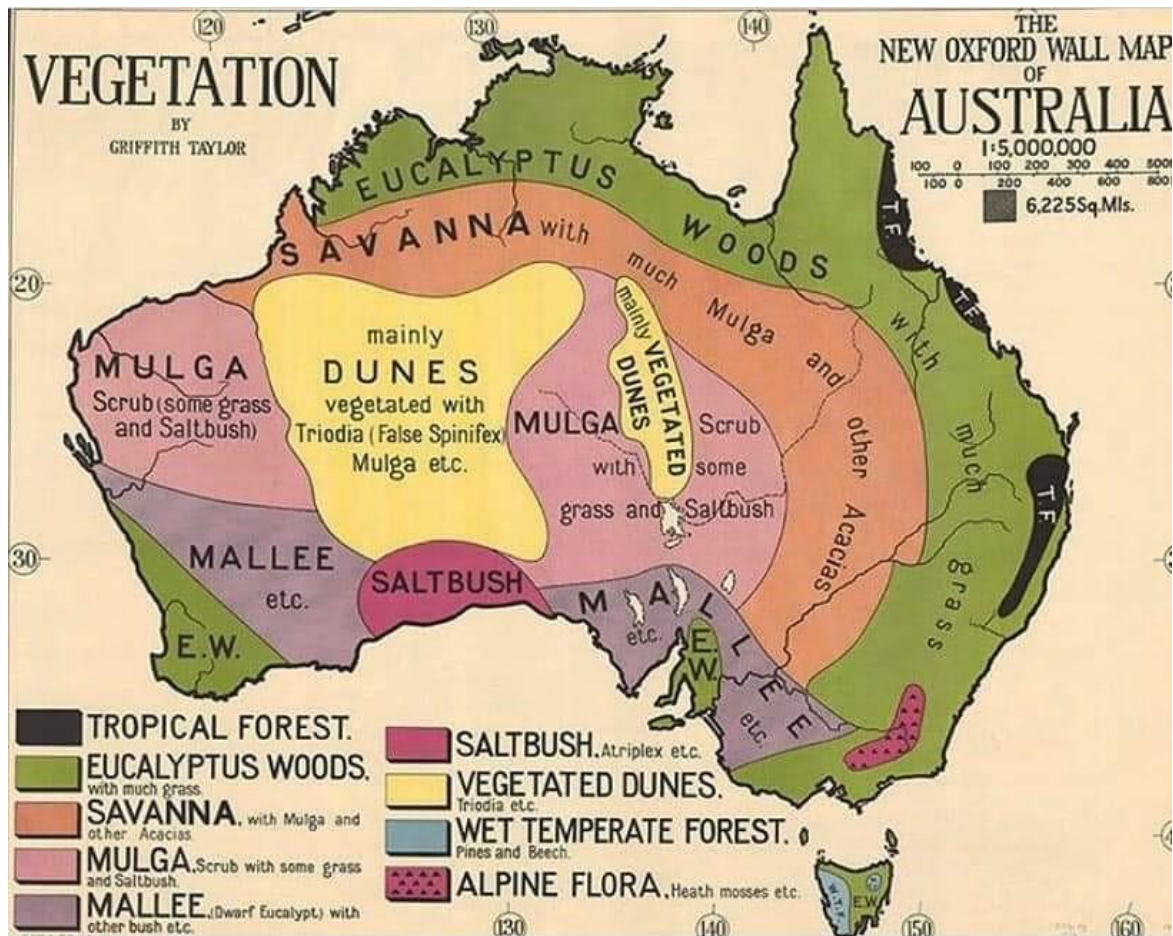
"EPA has concluded its regulatory review of glyphosate—the most widely used herbicide in the United States. After a thorough review of the best available science, as required under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, EPA has concluded that there are no risks of concern to human health when glyphosate is used according to the label and that it is not a carcinogen. These findings on human health risk are consistent with the conclusions of science reviews by many other countries and other federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Canadian Pest Management Regulatory Agency, the Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicines Authority, the European Food Safety Authority, and the German Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. The agency is requiring additional mitigation measures to help farmers target pesticide sprays to the intended pest and reduce the problem of increasing glyphosate resistance in weeds."

*Source: Infopest February 2020 Newsletter*

## Blast from the Past & hurtling in to the future

Below is a wall map produced for New Oxford Maps during the 1920's by Thomas Griffith Taylor (1880-1963) depicting the general vegetation types that existed throughout Australia at that time.

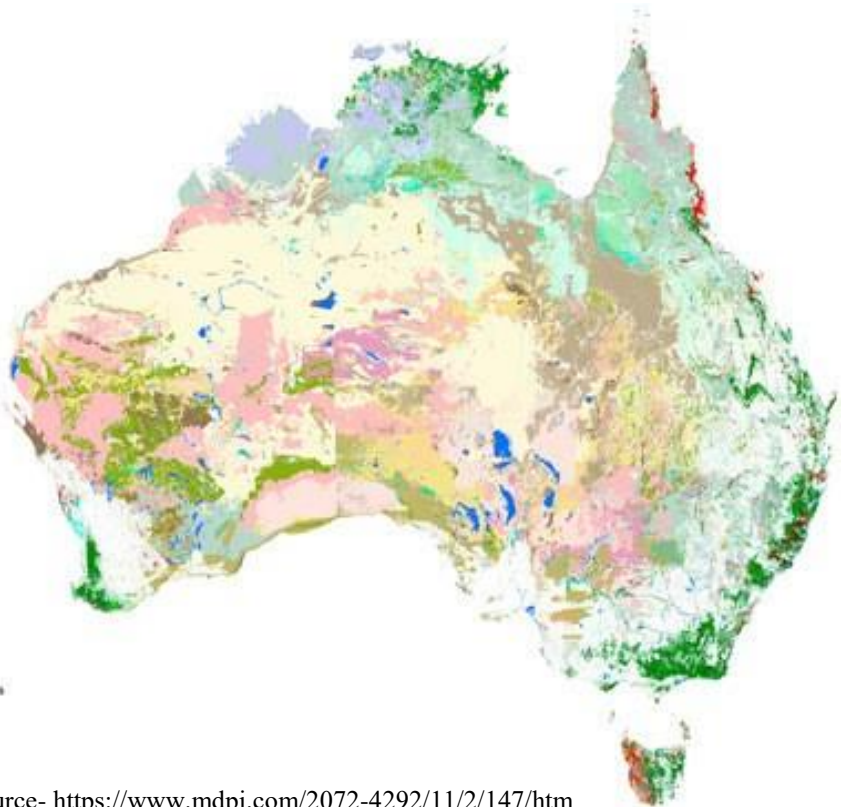
Improvements in technology aside—it is interesting to compare with that of 2019 Map- A Structural Classification of Australian Vegetation Using ICE Sat/GLAS, ALOS PALSAR, and Landsat Sensor Data



Above: Source– Trove nla.gov.au/nla.obj-23

### Major Vegetation Groups

- Unknown/no data
- Unclassified native vegetation
- Unclassified Forest
- Tussock Grasslands
- Tropical Eucalypt Woodlands/Grasslands
- Sea and estuaries
- Regrowth, modified native vegetation
- Rainforests and Vine Thickets
- Other Shrublands
- Other Open Woodlands
- Other Grasslands, Herblands, Sedgeland and Rushlands
- Other Forests and Woodlands
- Naturally bare - sand, rock, claypan, mudflat
- Melaleuca Forests and Woodlands
- Mangroves
- Mallee Woodlands and Shrublands
- Mallee Open Woodlands and Sparse Mallee Shrublands
- Low Closed Forests and Tall Closed Shrublands
- Inland aquatic - freshwater, salt lakes, lagoons
- Hummock Grasslands
- Heathlands
- Eucalypt Woodlands
- Eucalypt Tall Open Forests
- Eucalypt Open Woodlands
- Eucalypt Open Forests
- Eucalypt Low Open Forests
- Cleared, non-native vegetation, buildings
- Chenopod Shrublands, Samsphire Shrublands and Forblands
- Casuarina Forests and Woodlands
- Callitris Forests and Woodlands
- Acacia Shrublands
- Acacia Open Woodlands
- Acacia Forests and Woodlands



Above: Source- <https://www.mdpi.com/2072-4292/11/2/147/htm>



# REGENERATIVE CANE FARMING FORUM

2020

CAIRNS



**LIMITED PLACES**

**23rd & 24th  
March 2020**

**BOOK NOW  
ONLINE**

[www.regencane.com.au](http://www.regencane.com.au)

Join us for this hands on forum where you will visit farms and see and hear from farmers in the Cairns region who are successfully changing their farming systems and from the extension specialists supporting them.

- Soil Health
- Controlled Traffic
- Permanent Beds
- Min & NoTill
- Cover Crops
- Composting
- Row Spacing



## Contact:

Michael Waring - 0428771361

David Hardwick - 0409 646565

more info : [www.regencane.com.au](http://www.regencane.com.au)



## WCL Community Nursery– Always Needs Seeds

The WCL Nursery is very keen to source endemic seed so please keep an eye on your flowering native trees, shrubs & grasses for the volunteer nursery. Some of the species we need are:

Acacia– all local species	
Archontophoenix alexandrae	Alexander Palm
Allocasuarina torulosa	Black she-oak
Aidia racemosa	Archer Cherry
Atalaya rigida	Veiny Whitewood
Breynia oblongifolia	Coffee Bush
Cajanus reticulatus	Native Pigeon Pea
Carallia brachiata	Freshwater mangrove
Casuarina cunninghamiana	River oak
Chionanthus ramiflorus	Native Olive
Cordia subcordata	Sea Trumpet
Corymbia clarksoniana	
Corymbia intermedia	Pink Bloodwood
Corymbia tessellaris	Morton Bay Ash
Cryptocarya hypospodia	Large leafed Laurel
Cupaniopsis anacardioides	Tuckeroo
Dysoxylum gaudichaudianum	
Elaeocarpus grandis	Blue Quandang
Eucalyptus crebra	Narrow-leafed Ironbark
Eucalyptus platyphylla	
Eucalyptus exserta	QLD Peppermint
Eucalyptus tereticornis	QLD Blue Gum
Euroschinus falcatus	Ribbonwood
Ficus racemosa	Cluster fig
Hymenosporum flavum	Native frangipani
Ganophyllum falcatum	Scaly Ash
Lophostemon confertus	Brush Box
Lophostemon grandiflorus	Nthn Swamp Mahogany
Lysiphyllum hookeri	Hookers Bauhinia

Macaranga tanarius	Macaranga
Melaleuca dealbata	Blue Tea Tree
Melaleuca leucadendra	
Melaleuca viminalis	Weeping Bottle Brush
Melicope elleryana	Corkwood, Euodia
Memecylon pauciflorum var. pauciflorum	
Micromelum minutum	Native Lime Berry
Pandanus sp.	
Ptychosperma elegans	Solitaire palm
Sterculia quadrifida	Peanut Tree
Syzygium australe	River cherry
Timonius timon	Tim Tam Tree
Trema tomentosa var. aspera	Peach-leafed Poison Bush
Trema orientalis	

### Guidelines for seed collecting:

- Only collect seed from your own property or with written permission
- Source plants must have grown from seed from the Whitsunday Region
- Collect ripe, mature seed & no more than 10% of the seed from any one plant
- Collect from several parts of the plant, mainly the middle & upper branches
- Use paper bags (not plastic ) to store the seed & keep them in a cool place
- Label the bag with the species, location, date and your name. Not sure of your identification? Include a stem with some leaves & /or take a photo.

You can drop seed off at the nursery on Tuesday or Thursday mornings, or at Reef Catchments, 45 Main St Proserpine, or call 0408 187 944.

### INTERESTING WEB SITES:

Native Animals, Insects, Birds:

[www.whitsundaylandcare.org.au](http://www.whitsundaylandcare.org.au)

<http://www.wildlife.org.au/magazine/>

<http://www.aussiebee.com.au>

[www.birdsinbackyards.net](http://www.birdsinbackyards.net)

[www.australianmuseum.net.au/reptiles](http://www.australianmuseum.net.au/reptiles)

<http://birdlife.org.au/locations/birdlife-mackay/activities-mac>

Native plants:

<http://ausgrass2.myspecies.info/content/oplismenus>

<https://www.anbg.gov.au/cpbr/cd-keys/rfk/>

<https://www.eucalyptaustralia.org.au/>

<http://sgaptownsville.org.au/>

[www.facebook.com/sgapmackay](http://www.facebook.com/sgapmackay)

Wetlands

<http://wetlandinfo.ehp.qld.gov.au/wetlands/ecology/components/flora/mangroves/mangrove-moreton.html>

Feral Animals: [feralflyer@invasiveanimals.com](mailto:feralflyer@invasiveanimals.com)

<https://alumni.uq.edu.au/cane-toad-baits>

Feral plants:

[www.weeds.org.au](http://www.weeds.org.au)

[www.environment.gov.au >Biodiversity >Invasive species > weeds](http://www.environment.gov.au/Biodiversity/Invasive%20species/weeds)

[www.iewf.org/weedid/index\\_by\\_reserve.htm](http://www.iewf.org/weedid/index_by_reserve.htm)

[www.anbg.gov.au/cpbr/herbarium/](http://www.anbg.gov.au/cpbr/herbarium/)

You can make a tax deductible donation to the Whitsunday Catchment Landcare Fund at any time. Just go to <http://www.givenow.com.au/whitsundaycatchmentlandcare> All donors will receive a receipt from Givenow at the time of the do-

If you would like to receive this e-newsletter please email [coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au](mailto:coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au) with your request. Or you can phone Cath on mbl:0408-187-944 to request one.

Disclaimer: Information in this newsletter is offered as a guide only and while every care is taken to ensure its accuracy, Whitsunday Catchment Landcare does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.

Make a Donation



Using the secure engine of GiveNow.com.au



## **Thank You Everyone!**

Thank you to so many of you who have generously and kindly donated your container refunds to WCL. To date ( July 2019– January 2020)we have had **\$ 159.50 donated**. Please find below our Containers for Change ID number to conveniently cut off and include in your bags. Your contributions are allocated to the WCL Public Fund which allows WCL to take on various projects for the ongoing education of our members and the wider community. Thank You again!

**ID: C10053139**

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