



Whitsunday
Catchment
Landcare

Newsletter

May 2020

www.whitsundaylandcare.org.au



Find us on [Facebook](#)



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

PROJECT OFFICER:

Chris Barbeler

Ph.: 0488 768 567

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.

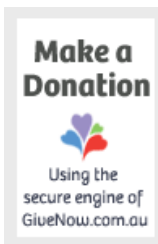
If you're interested in doing your bit for the environment and socialising with like-minded people, we offer coordinated activities on Tuesday & Thursday mornings and more. Contact us!

WCL Management Committee:

Graham Armstrong, Chair
Scott Hardy, Deputy Chair
Jacquie Sheils, Secretary
Glenda Hodgson, Treasurer
Dale Mengel
John Casey
WRC representative TBA

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



**DUE TO THE IMPACTS OF THE
Covid 19 virus:**

**THE COMMUNITY NURSERY IS
CLOSED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC TILL
FURTHER NOTICE**



**All Volunteer Events –
have been cancelled until further notice.**

**For enquiries please Ph. 0408 187 944 or
email:**

coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au

**We hope to recommence activities mid
April but this is totally dependent on
what happens locally with the
transmission rates of the virus.**

**Stay safe, be kind & wash your hands
regularly**

WCL receives support from the following organizations:



Australian Government
Department of the Environment



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](#)

Lately I have been chasing specimens of an undescribed new Temeritas collembola spider that feed on fungi. A research professor of collembola spiders had seen my photos of our local unnamed Temeritas on FLICKR and contacted me requesting I collect some specimens for science, so it can be described and named like other new collembola I have found.

The rainforest here is far enough away from everywhere that little research has been done on anything OTHER THAN THAT MAGNIFICENT CORAL REEF ! Anyhow this is great for me as I live in the bush and do not have to worry about the home isolation all



Above: *Ariadna* sp. In its web tube

the time, I can go into our bush, on my own, searching for the collembola.



Above: *Ariadna* sp.
Photos: Steve & Alison Pearson

While enjoying my little exploratory walks I have come across quite a few entrance holes of our Mandalay *Ariadna* sp aff *dysderina* – tube-web or tunnel tube spiders.

In our local Mandalay Rainforest, the Tube-web Spider sometimes called tunnel web spider and mistaken for Funnel web spiders is *Ariadna* sp aff *dysderina* of small family Segestriidae which has only four genera. These little spider are far more common than I thought and have a greater range of micro habitats in our rainforest. I have found them tunnelled in the thick flaky bark of live standing trees and tunnelled into rotting standing trees and fallen rotting logs. I have even seen them tunnelled in the ground under rocks and logs. They have a distinctive, neat, but dense web entrance with silky threads radiating out to alert the spider of nearby insects. The silky threads also run back inside along its length to its retreat chamber.



Above: *Ariadna* sp. Web-tube entrance hole. Photos: Steve & Alison Pearson

Our local tube tunnel web spider *Ariadna* hunt like funnel webs and when hungry, puts out fresh new web lines and waits for prey to get hooked up in the web lines. They are not large spiders and somewhat similar looking to a juvenile house spider *Badumna insignis* of family Desidae (which can also make web tunnel homes in rough bark on trees but their web entrance is much messier and they are a faster more aggressive hunters -out and into battle very quickly and then back into the hole with



Above: *Ariadna* sp. Pulling an ant into its web-tube tunnel Photos: Steve & Alison

their capture as quick as possible) but the Tube spider *Ariadna* seems to be much more wary, taking its time to feel the web line, sensing how big and maybe what its prey is, rather than rush out into a bad situation. It seems that once it senses it is all is okay it comes out cautiously to fight, kill and drag its catch back into the tube tunnel. I observed one with an ant that had fallen victim and the spider was dragging the ant into its tube to feed on its prey, undisturbed and protected.

The female Tube spider grows to about 12 mm and the male to about 10 mm. The only records I could find stated that the toxicity of this spider's venom is unknown but it may cause mild illness in humans so this species should be handled with caution.

It also noted that *Ariadna* species is uniformly dark coloured (mostly) and has three pairs of legs pointing forward and the fourth pair pointing backwards. *Ariadna* tube tunnel spiders have only six eyes while most other spiders have 8 eyes. Anyhow here is another one of our special local spiders that needs our local Whitsunday rainforest, for its survival.

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](#)

Pandorea pandorana, commonly known as the Wonga Wonga vine, is a species of woody climbing vine in the **family Bignoniaceae**. It has many local variations but - they have not been separated into different species as some plants have been done. I think it depends on how conservation fussy the botanist that specialised in that plant group was. Some botanists have strong conservation beliefs and some of those that specialise in one plant family, have considered identifying and conserving the different forms found in different areas, that were once considered all in one species and they have given each form its own species name or sub-species name, identifying the possible uniqueness of that local one within in its local habitat.

This can be very important as our " Whitsunday Wonga vine " is different from the form I found growing west of Rockhampton. I feel this needs to be identified so that there is a conservation status established and a push to preserve a patch of scrub where each variation that occurs everywhere else, has its own local form. Rather than say, Oh, a form of *Pandorea pandorana* grows in a reserve on Cape York Peninsula, so it is already conserved and now there is no need to save it in any other patch in Australia.

Forms of **Pandorea pandorana** are widespread in eastern Australia from Cape York to Wilsons Promontory. Usually found in moist forests but also occurs in drier environments on sand and loamy soils. Forms of it also occur on Flinders Island and in central Australia, Malaysia and in the south western Pacific region. Here in our patch it has been part of the rainforest and has played an interesting role in the repair of the rainforest since cyclone Debbie. It was in trees that had branches snapped but the *Pandorea* stopped some branches from tearing completely away so only drooped. Amazingly over the last 3 years since Cyclone Debbie, regrowth sprouting of some tree branches and the *Pandorea* vine, has occurred with a great increase in new branches and leaves, enabling gap filling that has occurred to repair the rainforest canopy and wall, back to what it should be. Before cyclone Debbie it flowered well but not since, possibly due to being focussed on repairing itself and also the dryness of last year.

Generally after successful flowering and pollination, large pointed seed pods grow and develop. The seed pods open when matured to reveal it filled with papery seeds that come loose, drift and flutter in the winds, eventually settling on the ground somewhere. Then if conditions are right the seed will germinate and if it becomes established, will colonise that spot.

I read an article that said the vine was named *Pandorea* after Pandora of Greek mythology. Have you heard of Pandora's box ? Pandora opened the sealed box and allowed evil sprites to escape. Well our *Pandorea* seed pods work that way, they open and let the seeds escape, spreading the species. If you collect a couple of ripe seed pods when they just open and catch the seeds they are easy to germinate.

Local variations of *Pandorea pandorana* grow in a great variety of habitats but all really prefer a reliable water supply. Once established, they will tolerate extended dry periods. So remember that new plants will need to be watered.

Propagation can be carried out easily from either seed or cuttings, however if using cultivars - introduced plant nursery forms with pretty flower colour variations- the seed off those selected colour forms will not throw true to colour, so best to use cutting for the cultivars. One cultivated form sold in some plant nurseries is 'Snowbells' which has pure white flowers. Looks lovely but it is much better ecologically, to grow local true species to look after the local flora/fauna interdependencies of survival and trueness of genetics of our local species.

Seedlings start with two-lobed dicotyledon and the leaves of the juvenile vine are very different to those of adult vines. Cross pollination with introduced forms of plants can produce seeds that grow and the plants can flower but they can be sterile -so when the old vines die of old age there are no young vines in the area. Then that form and some of the bugs that relied on it, disappear from the area . Over time this makes the area so much poorer in diversity.

We have a Wonga vine moth *Hyblaea* sp aff *ibidias* of moth family *Hyblaeidae* that has caterpillars that rely on the leaves for food for survival, so look after our Wonderful Whitsunday Wildlife and grow a Whitsunday Wonga Wonga vine.



Above: *Pandorea pandorana* Wonga Wonga Vine.

Photos: Steve & Alison Pearson



Above : *Pandorea pandorana*– juvenile leaves. Below: Adult leaves Photos: Steve & Alison Pearson



Above: *Hyblaea* sp aff *ibidias* moth Photo:

Steve & Alison Pearson



Eungella Bird Week

14-18 September 2020

4 Days, over 140 Species including the Endemic Eungella Honeyeater

Data Collection and Birding through the Eungella National Park and Clarke Ranges.

Presented by Birdlife Mackay

Program & Registration
<http://www.birdlife.org.au/locations/birdlife-mackay/upcoming-events>
 or Contact Daryl Barnes
 on 0438 134738

birdlife
MACKAY

Photo © Steve Dow

Covid 19 restrictions may affect the holding of this event– but please register your interest so the organisers know of your desire to attend the event– whenever it can be organised.

Powerful Owls secrets revealed - Planet ARK has an interesting news article– one especially on the benefits of a quiet city, due to Covid 19 restrictions, & research into the Powerful Owls.

Just google– planet ARK.org/news– Quiet cities & <http://birdlife.org.au/projects/powerful-owl-project>



Whitsunday
Catchment
Landcare

Whitsunday Catchment Landcare (WCL) 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.
- **Revegetation site preparation & planting of native tube stock**– skilled staff to implement your revegetation project.
- **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 for the fee schedule & detailed description of services offered.

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

Greater Whitsunday Littoral Rainforest Project.

Littoral Rainforest and Coastal vine thickets of Eastern Australia are listed under the EPBC Act as a nationally threatened and critically endangered ecological community. In early 2017 the Dept. Environment & Energy issued a draft National Recovery Plan. Guided by this document, Whitsunday Catchment Landcare (WCL) has developed this project to increase the resilience & connectivity of the remnants & restore the damage caused by Cyclone Debbie in 2017. and submitted a grant application to the State Government Community Sustainability Grants program. WCL has been successful in receiving a total of \$31,444.00 for the project grant duration commenced in October 2019 and will end on the 31 October 2022 period.

The project objectives align with Whitsunday Regional Council Biosecurity Plan and Reef Catchments NRM Strategic Plan by focusing WCL activities on WONS, new and emerging weeds and threatened plant communities. The project seeks to rehabilitate critically endangered littoral rainforest remnants by managing weed infestations & undertaking re-vegetation within a total area of 13,207m². WCL expects that the implementation of this proposed project will significantly reduce the weed infestation threats to the critically endangered plant community and assist the littoral rainforest regenerate from cyclone impacts and surrounding development pressures.

WCL has a community nursery where endemic seeds, collected from the sites, are propagated by volunteers, for replanting at the same sites, thus ensuring local genetic provenance is preserved. WCL volunteers have attended the Nelly Bay site to undertake weed control activities for the last 4 years. These visits have informed these projects' objectives and enabled WCL to identify the primary threats to this plant community currently in need of rehabilitation. The WCL Community Nursery produces an average of 20,000 plants per annum which are donated to local schools & community groups, sold for large NRM revegetation projects & to the local community.

Site works include: Mark out accurately and GPS each Revegetation patch; Hand remove gross weeds within remnant vegetation & removal of pulled weeds from site; spot & blanket spraying of weed species in larger infestations at each site. Target species will be Lantana, rubber vine, Prickly Pear, Guinea Grass, Bryophyllum & Asparagus species; delivery of & mechanical spread of 126m³ mulch (some remnant revegetation areas will require hand spreading around infill plantings due to machinery in -accessibility); Plant & manually water in 500 tube stock; undertake 12 months weed control & watering maintenance. within the revegetated areas. The littoral rainforest sites are located in an area not serviced by town water & locals rely on stored rainwater. Revegetation plantings will be hand watered via a tank on the tray of the WCL vehicle. This tank will be refilled from the local Rural Fire Service water tank & grant funds will be used to replenish the Fire Service tank twice over the 12 month maintenance period.

WCL will also hold two Public Community Education events- Beach Scrub Eco Walks- through the largest remnant at Nelly Bay. These walks will be open to the public and will be advertised locally at the community notice boards & 2 local business and through WCL's newsletter, Facebook page & website and Reef Catchments (RC) NRM website. The proposed events will be advertised more widely locally on community notice boards, local shop, rural fire brigade & progress association, to encourage more local residents to attend and WCL will offer ongoing support for the formation a local group to monitor the sites into the future.

The Beach Scrub Eco walks offer the local & wider community an opportunity to experience a guided walk, led by our guest Plant Ecologist- Peter Alden, through an endangered plant community & will gain firsthand knowledge & experience of the role this vegetation plays in providing: habitat for a diverse variety of fauna; protecting the coastline & preserving the diversity of plant species. These sites are remotely located & you must travel through a heavily modified open woodland landscape (grazing properties align the road) and the contrast in vegetation type is dramatic. A similar Eco walk was undertaken in June 2017, funded by Reef Catchments NRM as a one off event. 33 people attended and very positive feedback was received. The 5 local residents who attended requested a repeat of this event.

It is hoped that these two events will increase the value placed on the Littoral Rainforest areas and conservation effort by improving the local community's knowledge of these ecosystems and the species that depend on them, as well as seeking to invigorate the communities interest to take local action to protect these remnants.



Left: Remnant Dingo Beach Littoral Rainforest weed infested & cyclone damage
Photo: Cath Campbell

Right: Hydeaway Bay local resident—Avril Ayling with a keen interest in preserving her local remnant Littoral rainforest & dune habitat.
Photo: Avril Ayling



Twin Creek Riparian Revegetation

The Twin Creek reserve is a drainage reserve that is located between Parker Road & Trader Court in Cannonvale. The reserve has been contributed to the Whitsunday Regional Council by a developer. The purpose of the reserve is to provide a buffer to residential properties against flooding. The Twin Creek reserve has an eastern and western section with a total area of 4.7ha.

The current land use of the reserve is bushland and open space. There is some scope for a small open space area and a walking track through the reserve. Some of the western sections of the reserve were revegetated in 2016 and 2017. The eastern section covers 3.6ha. of the reserve and is mostly cleared of vegetation. Council manages the area by slashing the grass & it is intended that this mown area is reduced over time by revegetating parts of the reserve. It is hoped that in the future that 1.5ha will be revegetated, with an open space area retained and a walking/cycleway track through the reserve will be installed.



Photo & text above: Sourced from Whitsunday Regional Council Twin Creek Project plan

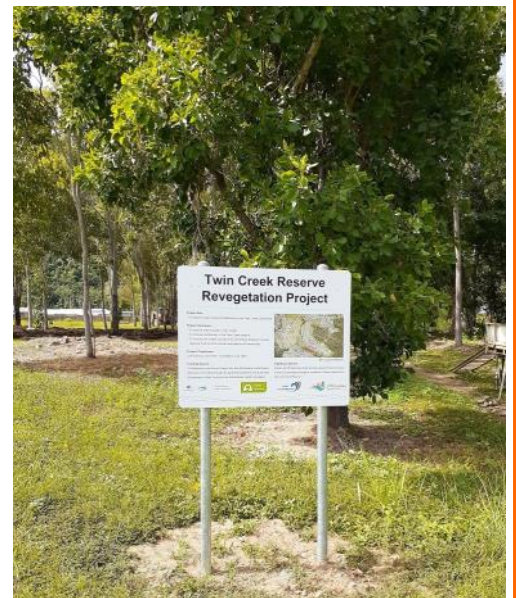
Three organisations Whitsunday Regional Council (WRC), Reef Catchments and Whitsunday Catchment Landcare (WCL), working collaboratively, developed a revegetation project to submit to the Local Marine Advisory Committee's grants program. The overall objectives of the project are to :

- contribute to improved water quality issuing into the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park from Twin & Waite Creeks by reducing sediment runoff
- Increase vegetation connectivity along riparian corridors.

The project planned to undertake the revegetation of 5000m² the upper portion of the creek line with 1500 local native plants. The area has been mulched & irrigated to ensure good plant survival & reduce weed infestation.

All the plants have been grown at the WCL Community Nursery and WCL staff have been contracted to undertake the bulk of the planting works and 6 maintenance visit over the next 6 months.

On the 22nd March 2020, WRC organised a community planting event to put the first 260 plants in the ground. New signage has been installed and the full extent of the planting area has had the mulch installed. Once the irrigation is in & operating, WCL will complete the rest of the planting.



*Right: Twin Creek Revegetation project – mulched planting area & new signage
Photos: Scott Hardy*

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.wildlife.org.au/magazine/>

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

www.birdsinbackyards.net

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.au/sgapmackay

Wetlands

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

Feral Animals: feralflyer@invasiveanimals.com

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

Feral plants:

www.weeds.org.au

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

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 with your request.

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

ID: C10053139

ID: C10053139

ID: C10053139

ID: C10053139

ID: C10053139

ID: C10053139