



Whitsunday
Catchment
Landcare

Newsletter

April 2020

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

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.

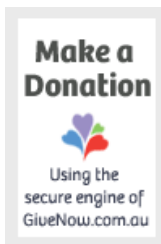
If you're interested in doing your bit for the environment and socialising with like-minded people, we offer coordinated activities on Tuesday & Thursday mornings and more. Contact us!

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 page:



**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**



Left: Chalcophaps indica– Emerald dove

Photo: Steve & Alison Pearson

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](#)

The Salticidae spider family has more than 5000 species and makes up about one eighth of the world's spider species list. Simaetha spiders are jumping spiders.

This months article is on another of our local jumping spiders **Simaetha sp.** These have an affinity to **Simaetha robustior** which is found in PNG and QLD. It is the largest of the Simaetha sp. in our area, thus the name robustior. Our Mandalay rainforest specimen was photographed & measured at being 10mm long. Other local Simaetha species grow to 8mm long.

Our Whitsunday **Simaetha sp. aff robustior** is very slow moving, sneaking around the finer branches of the rainforest trees and just love it when they come across aphid clusters like that found on *Mallotus philippensis*. The aphids farmed by crematogaster ants. Simaetha sp. aff robustior picks off the larger winged adults aphids first and eats them. They also hunt the ants that are protecting, farming & spreading the aphids.

Simaetha spiders are jumping spiders and can move quickly, especially when the ants come running to save one of their own fallen victims. These spiders are very hairy and would most likely be hard for an ant to get hold of to attack.

When you are looking for them you have to move slowly as they can see you coming and try to hide on the other side of the twig they are on. But, you can trick them by putting your finger out towards them and they focus on it. Most other jumping spiders will jump and hang from a web line but not these fellows, they avoid you by moving around to the back of the twig. If you want to get a good look at them or take photos you can use your finger to manoeuvre them around to your side you have to be ready with you camera though as they are very quick. They will also head to holes or narrow gaps and hide there until you are gone.

They have 8 eyes but 2 are barely noticeable and they have an eye pattern on their body, so it can look like they are looking at you. I wonder why have real eyes you can't see and then fake eyes that others can see?

Anyhow they are great value in your forest or garden as they love to eat those pesky aphids and the ants that farm them.



Above & below: *Simaetha sp.* are
Photos: Steve & Alison Pearson



Above: *Simaetha sp.* With its anchor line attached.

Photos: Steve & Alison

Right: *Simaetha sp.* With its 6 obvious eyes

Photos: Steve & Alison Pearson



Getting to Know Our Whitsunday Wildlife & Plants

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This month our feature plant is one that flowered in our patch a few weeks ago, a cyclone Debbie survivor, broken but still there in what was left of the rainforest, **Elaeocarpus obovatus**, Hard Quandong, of family **Elaeocarpaceae**.

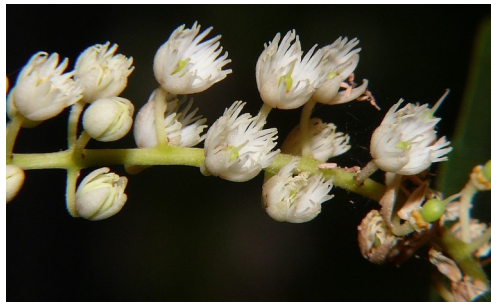
Elaeocarpus obovatus is a lovely lush rainforest tree found in different parts of eastern Australia. It grows in sub-tropical lowland rainforests from near Wyong in New South Wales and sub-tropical upland rainforests along the coast of Queensland up to around here. It also grows in tropical lowland rainforest as well. The trees form and growth habit can be quite variable depending on location. We are the northern end of its natural range and possibly that is why they are slow growers and smaller locally.

It can be fast growing, if it is in the right spot, but our ones grow very slowly in our Mandalay rainforest. It is a canopy tree in the rainforest but also a pioneer on the forest edge & riparian areas. In southern rainforests it grows big enough to be cut and milled for Cabinet Timber, a hard scrub-wood, harder than silver quandong.

In south Qld it grows to 30 metres tall but here at our patch it is only 9m tall, so not a real worry during cyclones. In south Qld it can be a strongly buttressed tree which support its height and feed its larger size but here our small trees have hardly any buttress.



Above: *Elaeocarpus obovatus*
Photo: Christine Peterson



Above: *Elaeocarpus obovatus*—single flower & flower spray
Photo: Steve & Alison Pearson



Elaeocarpus obovatus— unripe fruit above & beautiful ripe fruit below
Photo: Steve & Alison Pearson

After a good season it can flower very heavily and be very showy. The intense fragrance can be hard to put up with. It has small white bell-shaped fringed petal flowers before Christmas but last year here was a poor year and flowering was very poor. Fruit are small blue berries in a drupe. Our trees had only a few fruit this time and they are ripe and dropping now attracting Emerald doves to our patch. The fruits drop on the driveway and the doves spend a fair bit of time there feeding on the fallen fruits and getting grit and then at the bird bath drinking to wash it down, lovely to see them here.

If you want some for your patch they are available from southern nurseries but not recommended as they will not have our local genetics. So go to the Whitsunday Catchment Landcare Nursery & see if they have any. Records state that germination of collected seeds is seemingly impossible in the nursery but cuttings strike readily.



The leaves are simple, lamina usually obovate to oblanceolate, 5–10 cm long.

Hard Quandong, *Elaeocarpus obovatus*, are lovely lush little trees, hardy and can grow in full sun, they tolerate most soils & situations including waterlogged & coastal, we are only 300 metres from the mangroves here at Airlie Beach in the Whitsundays so if any of you are keen on having our local variety and you are good at growing from cuttings, you can get cuttings here at our patch, we also have a few fresh seeds.

Left: *Elaeocarpus obovatus* leaves.
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](http://www.birdlife.org.au/locations/birdlife-mackay/upcoming-events)

or Contact Daryl Barnes
on 0438 134 738



Photo © Steve Dew



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.

EYE on the REEF– Call to Action, coral bleaching reporting.

GBRMPA's Eye on the Reef Program is asking that those that have been trained in reporting please as a priority, provide any observations of bleaching you may be seeing through the Eye on the Reef app. Equally as important, are any observations of non-bleached coral colonies from your sites.

This information will be used to inform their response and to attempt to provide an accurate reflection of what is occurring across the Reef at as many sites as possible.

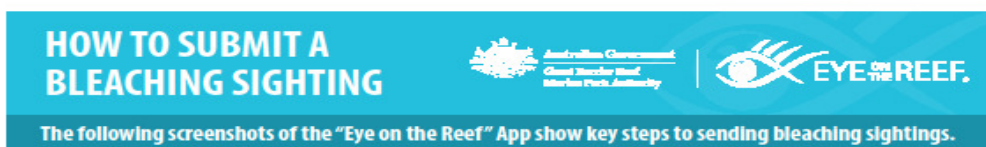
Whilst the dedicated Tourism Weekly surveyors will be providing early warning from their chosen high frequency survey sites, right now what is needed is a quick status check across the Reef.

This can be achieved through the App "Eye on the Reef" which can either be done out at the Reef or after the day is over when you are not so busy.

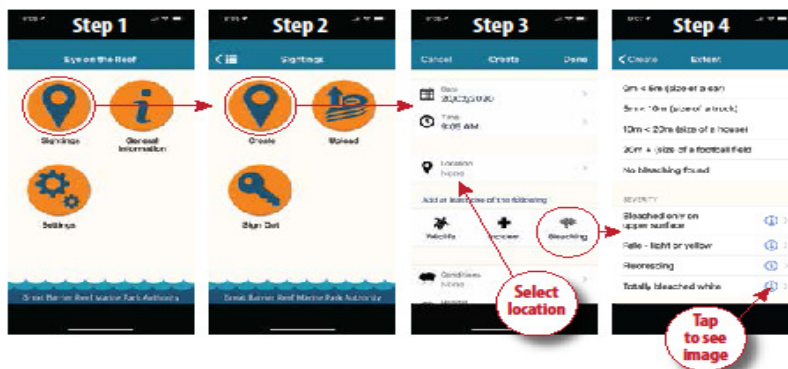
The App can create & store a record without phone reception. Submit your sighting when back in range/Wi-Fi. The App uses the phone GPS for locations or turn it off to manually select a location via a pin on a map. The map for choosing a location has options, including a Reef Name layer and a satellite layer (if in range). Bleaching options are broad and simplified categories for ease of use, including a No Bleaching option. The best response would be to include images of what your site currently looks like by uploading a photo as part of submitting a "Bleaching" sighting.

Please note that all "Bleaching" submissions are automatically hidden from public view, if any submitted images are later used publicly the site location will not be included.

Remember if at any time you want to demonstrate the coral at your site through the public Eye on the Reef website this can be done through the Eye on the Reef app by recording a submission of "Hard Coral" from within the Wildlife >> Invertebrates section.

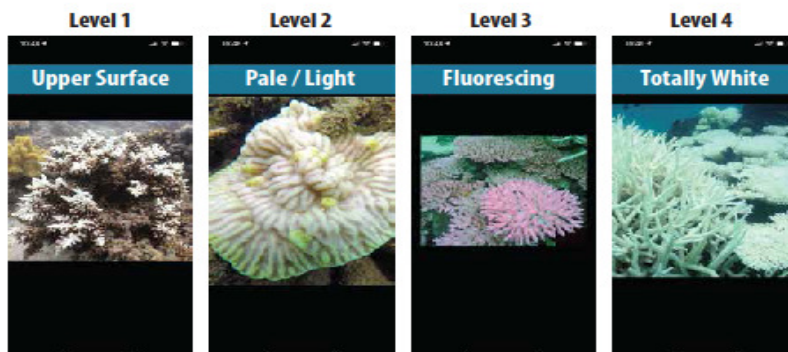


The App can create and store a record without phone reception and then you can submit your sighting when back in range/WiFi.



Choosing a Severity

The App includes four example photographs of bleaching levels to aid in choosing a severity. Tap the "i" button to see photos of example bleaching levels:



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	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

www.iewf.org/weedid/index_by_reserve.htm

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 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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