



Whitsunday  
Catchment  
**Landcare**

# Newsletter

December 2020

[www.whitsundaylandcare.org.au](http://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.: 0483 811 229

[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!

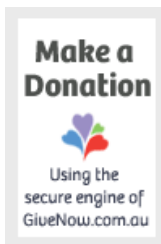
#### WCL Management Committee:

Graham Armstrong, Chair  
Jacquie Sheils, Secretary  
Glenda Hodgson, Treasurer  
Dale Mengel  
John Casey

WRC representative- CR. Gary Simpson  
One Community position vacant

#### 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 December 2020 - January 2021**  
**COMMUNITY NURSERY OPEN FOR PLANT SALES**  
**(CASH ONLY)**  
**9am-12noon Tuesday, Thursday & the 1st Saturday**  
**of each month-**  
**Next Saturday opening—16th January 2020**



**Christmas Closure—**  
**Nursery closed after the volunteer morning on the 17th December 2020 & will re-open on the 12th January, 2021**

**WCL Office will close at 4pm on the 23rd December & reopens on the 12th January, 2021**

**WCL 2019-2020-Annual Report is available on our website**

**At the Community Nursery & Volunteer Activities in**  
**January :**  
**33 Kelsey Creek Rd Proserpine**  
**Tuesday & Thursday 9am—12.30pm.**

Tuesday	Thursday
<b>12th January:</b> Nursery Maintenance & propagation activities	<b>14th:</b> Propagation, Seed processing, Potting, Record keeping etc. at the nursery.
<b>19th:</b> Nursery Maintenance & propagation activities	<b>21st:</b> Propagation, Seed processing, Potting, Record keeping etc. at the nursery.
<b>25th:</b> Nursery Maintenance & propagation activities	<b>27th:</b> Propagation, Seed processing, Potting, Record keeping etc. at the nursery.

WCL receives support from the following organizations:



Australian Government  
Department of the Environment



## **WCL Volunteers Christmas Party– 10th December 2020**

This year the WCL Volunteers ventured to the endangered beach scrub at Nelly Bay to undertake a planting event before attending lunch at the lovely Cape Gloucester Eco Resort for lunch. 23 of our 42 registered volunteers attended the tasty lunch. The Cape Gloucester staff had laid & dressed our Christmas tables out under the shady trees, overlooking the fabulous Gloucester Passage. Even though it was hot what a great spot to gather, reminisce about the year & plan for 2021.

Thank you to all our volunteers for all the hard work you have donated to our organisation. The WCL Management Committee have provided a token of appreciation to all our volunteers and for those that were unable to attend the lunch, it has been left at the nursery for when you next attend.

We wish you all the best for Christmas and hope that 2021 brings us all good health, happiness and greater freedoms. Stay safe and we look forward to seeing you during the coming year.

### **Nelly Bay Beach Scrub Project.**

The project at Nelly Bay is funded by a grant received from the QLD Government Department of Environment and Science – Community Sustainability Grants Program, in October 2019. WCL received funding to undertake planting, weed control and revegetation maintenance at the remnant beach scrub areas at Nelly Bay, Dingo Beach and Hydeaway Bay and the project runs through to November 2022.

A total of 160 plants have been replanted in areas affected by Cyclone Debbie at Nelly Bay with another 160 funded by a Reef Catchments contract planted at nearby site. WCL staff have been visiting the site on a regular basis to undertake watering. We will wait till after the wet season to plant another 340 tube stock at Dingo Beach & Hydeaway Bay.



*Above: The WCL Volunteers.  
Photo: C. Campbell.*



*Left and Above: WCL volunteers undertaking the last 2020 planting event at Nelly Bay  
Photo: C. Barbeler*

## 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](#)

It is Christmas month so Alison and I would like to wish everybody a safe and merry Christmas season. Christmas is the season of the flowering of the fantastic Pink Evodia tree *Melicope elleryana* in the family Rutaceae.

It is another tree that has had a few name changes. It is a FANTASTIC wildlife HOST TREE, sometimes called corky bark tree, a local native but with recorded distribution also growing in New Guinea, parts of eastern Indonesia, the Solomon Islands and down coastal Queensland south to northern New South Wales. It can grow into a big tree, 15m tall in 15 years in the right spot, even bigger over more time and has been logged and milled as a useful general purpose timber.

We had one in our patch and loved how it brought in so much wildlife but Cyclone Debbie got it. It was affected in a way I have not mentioned before. Lots of strong trees that do not break in cyclones are still wiped out because they are shallow rooted and if living in shallow soils or soils that get saturated and lose their structure. That is what happened to our Evodia tree at our place- heavy rain and 20 hours of cyclone Debbie pulling, pushing twisting and turning our tree, stressing its root system and supporting soil. As the Evodia tree became more and more exposed to the winds because others around it snapped off and then when it was almost last tree standing in that spot, finally the supporting soil turned to slop and our Evodia tree was blown over in cyclone Debbie. Sadly it never recovered as its roots were up in the air exposed, they gradually dried and so did the tree. While only 15 metres away our neighbours Evodia trees, living in deeper soil and in a more sheltered spot survived the cyclone, never broke and never blew over.

The heavy ongoing soaking rains combined with the winds pushing, pulling and twisting the trees in soil on steep country can cause those soils to turn to slop also and result in landslides like the big one in the forest above shopping centre in Cannonvale in Cyclone Debbie that took away a whole patch and left a big scar.



Left: Landslip at Cannonvale after Cyclone Debbie  
Photo: Steve & Alison Pearson

Anyhow the fantastic Pink Evodia tree *Melicope elleryana* was a great tree to have in our patch and it is great to see the neighbours ones are still there, still going strong and still being FANTASTIC wildlife HOST TREES and so important to lots of wildlife.

It is getting close to Christmas and my recent insect observations brought to my memory our amazing Evodia tree and its life web going on almost unnoticed. I have seen at least a dozen different types of spiders on the Evodia tree but there is one that I have only ever seen on the Evodia corky bark, making its home in the crevices in the corky bark and never seen on any other tree, and that spider has no name, it is not described so maybe unique to here and to our local corky bark trees. There are many critters with survival depending on the evodia tree, it has nectar for the birds, and butterflies, seeds for other types of birds and grubs, leaves for other types of grubs and insects, bark for caterpillars and wasps and spiders and bark lice and assassin bugs, ecto-parasites and endo-parasites to name just a few.

*Continued over page:*



## 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](#)

*Continued from previous page:*

The other day I was sneaking around in the bush at our patch and saw a special wasp, I called it Santa's little helper, a Gasteruption species from wasp family Gasteruptionidae that was hovering searching for a beetle larvae to drop a present down its chimney. It was hovering close to a dead tree, snapped off by cyclone Debbie, right next to where our Evodia tree lived before Cyclone Debbie wiped it out.

Anyhow the recent sighting of the Santa's little helper wasp reminded me of what I saw one do on the Evodia tree in a past Christmas season. It was actually Christmas day and after a big lunch I needed a walk, so I took the camera and had my walk. I checked out our Evodia tree and saw the Santa's little helper wasp, a Gasteruption species in action.

I watched it hover close to the bark of the Evodia tree and amazingly was using its' antennae to sense test holes in the corky bark. It would put its antennae forward into the hole feeling for life



*Above: Santa helper wasp using antennae to search for prey.  
Photo: Steve & Alison Pearson*

vibrations, sense searching for caterpillars. It seemed to drift hover up and down looking for holes and then forwards putting its antennae into holes and crevices on the Evodia trunk and then drift backwards and the up or down or sideways searching until it found what it was searching for. It landed and then took the ovipositor needle out of its sheath, the long needle like tail end and drilled into the corky bark and then that same needle/drill - ovipositor - passed an egg through into the caterpillar, Christmas day and being SANTAS' LITTLE HELPER passing a present down the chimney for the grub, actually parasitised the grub, like



*Above: Santa helper wasp using ovipositor in hole.  
Photo: Steve & Alison Pearson*

coal in the stocking, must have been a naughty grub.

YES, Gasteruptionidae wasps are parasitoid wasps laying an egg inside the grub, endoparasite wasp larvae that feeds on the insides of the grub but lets the grub live and go on feeding until it is time for its own

emergence as a wasp. I did not dig out the grub so do not which type of grub it got. It could have been a beetle or moth as both have grubs that feed on live sections of tree trunks. The other day I saw the same thing happening but this time it was an early Christmas present for a grub under the bark of the dead tree, most likely a borer beetle grub. Beetles and moths have larvae that feed on dead timber and cambian layer boring holes into the timber or tracks along the cambian layer under the bark.

I mentioned it to an entomologist at the Museum and he was amazed, he had a researcher visiting and she was studying braconid wasps and making amazing new discoveries on how Braconid wasps searched for big moth larvae, grubs under the bark out of sight that eat the timber of gum trees in south east Queensland, but the Braconid wasp ovipositor needle was able to drill right through hard bark and timber to the big moth grubs but the Braconid wasp was not using its antennae exploring into holes like our Gasteruption species wasp. I have found that we have those big braconid wasps here as well and the big moths like South Queensland so maybe it is happening in our local Whitsunday eucalypt forests as well, just waiting for citizen scientists to get out and about and observe, great exercise after Christmas lunch.

We hope Santa brings you a camera for Christmas and you turn into a citizen scientist and have a Merry Christmas and great future..

## 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](https://www.flickr.com/photos/steveandalison1/)



Above: *Evodia jumper spider*– male

This month's feature spider is one I have only ever found on the Evodia tree, a jumping spider of family Salticidae that has not been positively identified and no record of it ever being found anywhere else so has no scientific name, so I will call it the little Evodia jumper spider for now. It is only a small but amazing part of the unknown web of life in the corky bark crevices, just waiting to be discovered and named.

It is one of several spider species I have found on our *Melicope elleryana*- Evodia tree. These little Evodia jumper spiders had one habit. They would come out around the same time each day, OPENING THEIR BAG slowly, sneaking a peek before venturing out to slowly explore their territory. They are very timid and quickly disappear if they see your movement. The corky bark of our Evodia tree was soft and had lots of crevices, ideal hiding places and homes for a great range of insects. Amazingly the corky bark seems to hold lots of moisture from rains and heavy dews and that moisture encourages lots of surface fungi and algae and crustose lichens to grow in patches in suitably protected parts of the corky bark.



Above: *Evodia jumper spider*– female  
Photo: Steve & Alison



Above: *Evodia Assassin bug* eating bark lice

Photo: Steve & Alison Pearson

The Evodia tree trunk was a world of its own supporting not only a dozen types of spiders but also other members of the food chain, the web of life, beetles and their larvae from insect order Coleoptera, caterpillars of moths and butterflies from insect order Lepidoptera, cicadas and plant hoppers and nymphs from insect order Hemiptera, bugs from insect sub-order heteroptera, ants and wasps from insect order Hymenoptera, Bark lice from insect order Psocoptera but now Psocodea, to name just a few.



Above: *Evodia jumper spider bag home*  
Photo: Steve & Alison Pearson



Above: *Evodia Bark lice*– psocoptera

Photo: Steve & Alison Pearson

This last group, Psocoptera is an interesting group and seemed to be the one the Evodia jumper spider hunted. The bark lice have a few different types on the Evodia tree, some types just roam as a group like a herd of cattle grazing over the tree bark feeding while other types build dense webs, staying put, living in small groups or solitary under web structures which are easily mistaken for spider web.

Some caterpillars also build web homes as well as another group of insects I have found here called embiid web spinners from insect order Embioptera.

So when you hear about the web of life, lots more than just spiders have web. If you notice what looks like spider web on the tree trunks it is not always spider web. Also - not all spiders have a complex web structure that you can see. This is the case with the Evodia jumping spider, if it has disappeared and you see a web and search in and under it around it for the spider you never find that spider. They have nipped off and dived into an amazing zip lock web bag hidden in a bark crevice, and when the spider is inside and closed the bag you can not see it.



Above: *Evodia Bark plant hopper*

Photo: Steve & Alison Pearson

Lots of insects hunt about for prey on the corky bark and I have found amazing little creatures there, more types on the corky bark of the Evodia tree than on any other tree in our patch. Along with the bark lice feeding on crustose growths of the corky bark that are food for the Evodia Jumper spider but are also food for small amazing little assassin bugs from family Reduviidae. The assassin bugs are so finely constructed it is amazing how being so delicate they are still able to get into the bark lice web home and hunt, catch and eat the bark lice. The corky bark of the Evodia tree is soft and creviced it is ideal home for so much life, never need to go anywhere else, maybe why the little Evodia Jumper spider is found only there, WHEN YOU ARE ON A GOOD THING, STICK TO IT.

Anyhow because it is an unknown spider nothing is known about its bite and effects on people but always remember, not all people react the same way to bites and stings so a bite could be worse, even deadly for some people, stay safe and play safe but enjoy our wildlife.

## 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	
Vitex trifolia	Vitex

### 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.au/sgapmackay](http://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](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](http://www.environment.gov.au) > Biodiversity > Invasive species > 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:0483 811 229 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.

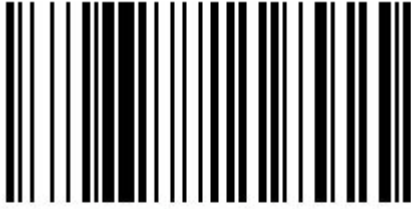
**Make a Donation**



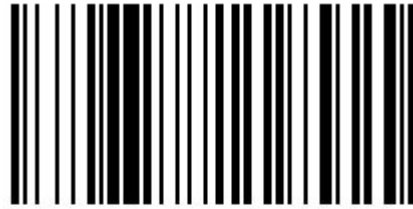
Using the secure engine of GiveNow.com.au

## Thank You Everyone!

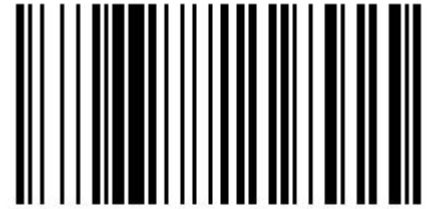
Thank you to so many of you who have generously and kindly donated your container refunds to WCL. To date January 2020 to Dec. 2020) we have had **\$ 175.50 donated**. Your contributions are allocated to the WCL Public Fund which allows WCL to take on various projects for the ongoing education of our members and the wider community. Please find below our Containers for Change ID number to conveniently cut off and include in your bags. Anything Environmental who manage the local container exchange have moved to a QR Code– please find the new WCL ID below. Thank You again!



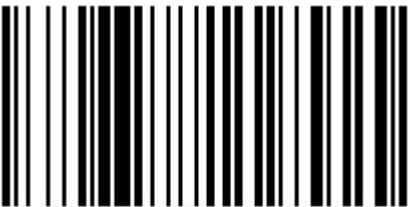
C10053139



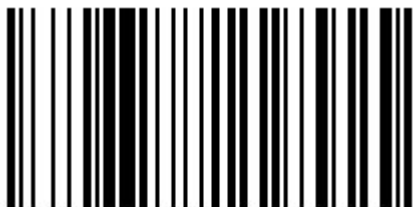
C10053139



C10053139



C10053139



C10053139



C10053139

