



Whitsunday
Catchment
Landcare

Newsletter

May 2021

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:

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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 May 2021
COMMUNITY NURSERY OPEN FOR PLANT SALES
(CASH ONLY)

9am-12noon Tuesday, Thursday & the 1st Saturday
of each month-

Next Saturday opening—2nd May 2021

Thursday 20th May- 8.30-11.30/12noon.

Revegetation Planting at Zoologica

. Drinks, snacks and refreshments provided.

There is a toilet and potable water on site.

At the Community Nursery & Volunteer Activities in
May:

33 Kelsey Creek Rd Proserpine

Tuesday & Thursday 9am—12.30pm.

For enquiries please Ph. 0483 811 229 or email:

coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au

Tuesday	Thursday
4th: Nursery Maintenance & propagation activities	6th: Propagation, Seed processing, Potting, Record keeping etc. at the nursery.
11th: Propagation, Seed processing, Potting, Record keeping etc. at the nursery.	13th: Propagation, Seed processing, Potting, Record keeping etc. at the nursery.
18th: Nursery Maintenance & propagation activities	20th: Propagation, Seed processing, Potting, Record keeping etc. at the nursery. Alternate Activity— Revegetation Planting at Zoologica project See page 2 for details.
25th: Nursery Maintenance & propagation activities	27th: 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- Thursday 20th- Alternate to Nursery activity

Revegetation Planting at Zoologica

12 Evans Road Preston

8.30-11.30/12noon.

Drinks, snacks and refreshments provided.

An invitation to **WCL 20-21 registered members & volunteers** has been extended from Zoologica owners Jessica Aldred & Alistair Lyon to visit their property in Preston to assist with the revegetation of a second planting zone. We hoping to plant approximately 200-300 rainforest plant species, purchased from the WCL Community nursery, along our western border

Jess & Alistair have been active members of & volunteers with WCL for a couple of years now. They launched into a project at their property at Preston with a planting event in May 2020 and the plants are going gangbusters. And so a year later we can revisit the site and appreciate the great wet season we have had & see the plant growth results. It is a great opportunity to see another site where broader scale revegetation is being implemented and be rewarded by seeing the results of all the propagation work that our volunteers do.

What to Bring:

- Closed in shoes & suitable clothing (trousers & long sleeves)
- Insect repellent and
- Water bottle
- Gloves

There is a toilet and potable water on site.

If you are interested in attending please register at the Community Nursery

Proserpine Library comes to the rescue.

THANK YOU to Kath Bernett and the staff at the Proserpine Library for rebinding two of our Community Nursery reference books– Cooper & Cooper– Australian Rainforest Fruits and the Capricorn Conservation Council's - Plants of Capricornia.

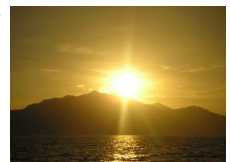
These books are invaluable for our staff & volunteers and are used frequently when they are processing collected seed & propagating them. We use them all the time. They are large thick books and it fantastic to be able to get them repaired. So thank you for your help Proserpine Library staff.

WCL -New Office update.

Just to confirm that we have moved into our new office upstairs at 30 Main Street Proserpine. All the furniture donated by Hastings Deering has fitted in well and we are adapting to all the space and natural light. We have even had our first committee meeting in the meeting room.

I am a follower of the "If you don't ask you will never know" philosophy and we need a few things to make our office fully functional So I thought I would ask our readers if they could donate any of the following items if they happen to be no longer be required in their lives:

- *2 x Curtain rods- 2.7m long x max. 40mm diameter for the new office windows– its so glary after being in a room without windows for the last 7 years. We have the curtains that have metal rings at the top.*
- *A small fridge.*



Volunteering– A WCL Members perspective– Dave Notso (Young)

There are variations on the definition of volunteerism that range from a focus on human relationships through a wish to change the world. WCL volunteers span a wide spectrum of motivations, although key to what motivates us all is the want to contribute to the solution more than to the problem. We volunteer to *do something* positive toward the environment.

Most of us are well beyond the greeting-card shallowness of the need for an adrenaline hit of 'happiness', but I'll stick with the term for the purpose of the story. It has been said that if you want to be happy for a year - get married; if you want to be happy for ten years - get a dog; if you want to be happy for life - grow a forest. Its that last part where most of us dwell, seeking long term and lasting change for the better, with the enduring satisfaction that entails, rather than that which just gives a transitory high.

Others may scoff and offer derisory comments or labels, but water off a Bustard's back to most of us. (I'll share my retort to being called a 'tree-hugger' to any who dare ask). But there is a therapeutic element and a degree of bonding from sharing both tasks and the burden of seeing environmental degradation continue, where the human world should really know better.

A side-effect of this is the risk that those who have been around a while (and through a few campaigns together) may appear a bit of a clique to new volunteers.

The region has changed a lot in the 35 years since I first called it home, but one thing that hasn't is the cycle of people coming and going. As a new arrival myself I mostly met other people who were also relatively recent arrivals in a xylem. Getting to know people who were from an inner layer was difficult but mattered little as there were hundreds in my friendship layer. Over time people in my xylem left the area and a new layer formed outside. Extending the hand of friendship to close-contact new arrivals often ended with those people leaving too, with the tendency evolving of a reluctance to bother with other layers.

WCL volunteer activities, centred around the Nursery sessions, actually have a fast-track to integration. After the lock-down last year it was a glorious thing to see temporary residents who were here to protest against Bravus at the same table as those who have been born and lived here 'three score years and ten'. Some come for a year or two and are never seen again. Some come three or four times a year forever. But the effort applied to nurturing the next generation of plants, so vital to the mission to leave the country better than grandad did, all adds up to a greater whole.

This is all pretty much the preamble to note the departure of David Moon, who arrived with such a level of enthusiasm and thirst for knowledge about all things local that it strained credulity. But those who got to know him in his short time here can attest to his sincerity, genuineness and likeability. His move here was on the back of his partner's appointment to a job, that for obscure reasons was terminated. With her being unceremoniously wedged they decided to cut and run, with the result that we have lost a volunteer otherwise destined to make a great contribution to the local scene.

No doubt our loss will be some other organisation's gain, and we wish them well.

Footnote: On behalf of the WCL Management Committee & staff we too would like to thank David Moon for his volunteering efforts and hope that the future is a good one for both David & his partner.

*Right: Galbraith Park Riparian Revegetation project– mulched planting area
Photos: Cath Campbell*



Reef Assist Program

Whitsunday Catchment Landcare has been contracted by Reef Catchments to deliver a component of the Queensland Governments Reef Assist program. A total of 11 on-ground projects will be delivered in partnership with local governments and natural resource management organisations.

Work involves tackling a range of environmental issues including protecting critically endangered species habitat, rehabilitating dunes to improve resilience to natural disasters, stabilising stream and riverbanks, removing weeds and other invasive pest species, investigating ecotourism trail opportunities, developing conservation-based tourism expeditions, and undertaking revegetation works. Some projects also draw on the skills and knowledge of First Nations people to provide training and environmental management skills for Indigenous job seekers.

The WCL Reef Assist Team

The funding has enabled WCL to employ 2 extra full-time staff, for a 12 month term, to undertake landscape rehabilitation projects as well as extend the hours of 2 existing staff to assist in the supervision & administrative management of the project.

Wayne Oakley & Fenna van Zeilen are our new employees. Initially, the team has undertaken formal training in First Aid & Chemical Certification Units to qualify them to acquire their Agricultural Chemical Distribution Control License, as well as on-ground training in equipment used in natural resource management.

Wayne & Fenna have been able to gain experience using the variety of WCL's weed control equipment and learning the most appropriate techniques to use in a variety of landscape contexts such as, critically endangered beach scrub plant communities, riparian revegetation. They are also working with our volunteers on planning the last stage of riparian revegetation at Galbraith Park.



Above: The Reef Assist Team– Wayne Oakley & Fenna van Zeilen
Photo: Chris Barbeler

What's Showing



Common name: Orange Annona

Scientific name: *Meiogyne* (syn. *Fitzalania*) *heteropetala*
Fitzalania from Eugene Fitzalan who collected extensively in the Burdekin in 1860; *heteropetala* meaning different or uneven parts on the petals.

Family: Annonaceae

Leaves: Alternate in a zig-zag pattern along stem, oval-shaped, leaf blades about 4-12 x 2-7.5 cm, prominent venation, covered in fine hairs, especially on the underside; petioles (leaf stalks) very short. Oil dots visible with a lens. Younger twigs hairy.



Above: *Meiogyne heteropetala* plant form.

Photos: Christine Peterson



Flowers: Dark purple to almost black, 6 petals in two whorls, hanging limply and solitary in the leaf axils, fragrant. Petals densely clothed in prostrate hairs, making them silky soft; outer petals about 25-40 mm long; inner petals about 6-8 mm long. Inner surface of petals dotted with purple glands. Anthers brown, filaments pink. Ovaries 1-5, clothed in simple hairs.

Fruit: Ripening to bright orange, ovoid to cylindrical, cigar-shaped 4-5cm long, in clusters of 1-12, derived from a single flower, containing numerous disc-shaped seeds around 7 x 5cm. Not very fleshy and while the flesh smells weakly of bleach, they are apparently edible; even described as "sweet, sometimes delicious".



Photos: C. Peterson

Above: *Meiogyne heteropetala* flower detail

Photo: CANBR

Propagation: From fresh seed which can be slow.

Description: An erect shrub often to 4 or 5m with distinctive horizontal branching. It often grows in the understorey, clambering through other vegetation.

It is usually found in coastal vine thickets and along stream banks from Townsville to the Mary River in SE Qld. Locally it can be found in some of the creeks around Cannonvale and Airlie Beach.

The branchlets form a zig-zag pattern and younger twigs are hairy. Interestingly, the plant is known to flower and fruit from as small as 35cm tall. In the garden it can be kept compact by pruning. It needs well drained soil and plenty of mulch. It grows in full shade but does better with some sun

Orange Annona is a food plant for the larval stages of the Green Spotted Triangle (*Graphium Agamemnon*) and the Pale Green Triangle (*Graphium eurypylus*) Butterflies.

Sources: CSIRO (2010) Australian Tropical Rainforest Plants, V 6.1.; Nicholson H. & N. (1988) *Australian Rainforest Plants VI*; James Cook University website; SGAP Townsville (1994) *Across the Top: Gardening with Australian Plants in the Tropics*.



Thank you to **Nigel Rowe from Cannonvale Fire Protection Services** for supporting WCL. Nigel very kindly services our fire extinguishers, annually, at the community nursery.

Pest Hall of Fame

Pests described in this section may be declared under state legislation, local law or known to have the potential to be a problem in our catchment.

Phasey Bean (*Macroptilium lathyroides*)

Family: Fabaceae

Phasey Bean is a herbaceous annual or short-lived perennial; slightly branching or sometimes trailing or twining. Stems are covered in short, soft erect hairs. It originated in the Americas.

Description

Leaves: Alternate, pinnate with three lanceolate to narrow-elliptic leaflets, 40-80 x 10-30mm, lower surface hairy. Stipules triangular, 4-8mm long.

Flowers: Crimson or dark pink pea-flowers to 13mm wide, crowded in pairs along the upper half or quarter of stout axillary 'spikes' up to 400mm long.



Fruits/Seeds: Pods, sub-cylindrical, straight, 80-100 x 2.5- 3mm with soft hairs, containing approximately 20 seeds, brown when mature, twisted after opening. Seeds plump, kidney-shaped, 3-4 x 1-2.5mm, reddish brown, flecked with black.



Photos: C. Peterson



Spread by: Water and contaminated soil

Problem

Invades/threats: An environmental weed found on unmanaged or disturbed lands including native vegetation, creek bank communities, roadsides and pastures.

Notes

Grown as a palatable, nitrogen fixing plant in pasture situations; also a source of pollen for honey bees.



Control/ Prevention

Hand removal is appropriate for small infestations. Foliar application of the herbicide Fluroxypyr (333g/L) is registered for control of Phasey Bean in certain situations. Alternatively Glyphosate (360g/l) (e.g. Roundup) or Fluroxypyr may be used under Permit PER11463 in non-crop areas. This permit is issued by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA). Read the label carefully before use and always use the herbicide in accordance with label directions. It is a requirement of an off-label permit that all persons using the products covered by the permit comply with the details and conditions listed in the permit. In addition, read the herbicide label carefully before use and always use the herbicide in accordance with label directions.

Source:

Weeds of the Mackay Whitsunday Region, Mackay Regional Pest Management, Weeds of Central & Northern Queensland—Weed Society of Queensland.

Rivers of Carbon: Working in NSW

Rivers of Carbon is the on-ground component of the Australian River Restoration Centre (ARRC), a not-for-profit organisation that believes rivers and people need each other to thrive. They work with landholders to protect and restore rivers, streams and wetlands so that the fish, birds, platypus and other animals that call these riparian areas 'home', can thrive. Looking after our riparian areas makes sense, as trees, shrubs and reeds along our riverbanks stop erosion, filter and trap sediment, provide habitat for native animals, shelter stock, improve water quality and make our rivers great places to swim, paddle and picnic. This is their website address: riversofcarbon.org.au

Rivers of Carbon, Birdlife & Greening Australia have produced a *-Guide to Attract more birds to your riparian real estate*. You can download or just have a read of this at: <https://riversofcarbon.org.au/guide-how-to-attract-more-native-birds-to-your-riparian-real-estate> that has some pertinent information for local landholders that have a love of birds and all the benefits they bring to our lives.

The take home messages are:

- Understand what sort of birds use your riparian land.
- Protect remnant vegetation first, restore second.
- Revegetate.
- Create complex and varied habitats.
- Be patient, allow waterways to regenerate and move- Streams, creeks and wetlands are not static, they are constantly moving, with riverbanks and riverbeds changing according to water flow.
- Enjoy your regenerated riparian ecosystem and its beautiful wildlife.



*Above: O'Connell River Revegetation site
Photo: Leigh Donkers*

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.eucalyptaaustralia.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)
www.iewf.org/weedid/index_by_reserve.htm
www.anbg.gov.au/cpbr/herbarium/
<https://www.vision6.com.au/em/mail/view.php?id=1769275019&a=17056&k=a87f8df>