



Whitsunday
Catchment
Landcare

Newsletter

August 2022

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.

COORDINATOR:

Christine Peterson

Ph.: 0483 811 229

coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au

PROJECT OFFICER:

Joe Trigger

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

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 to assist with works such as revegetation.

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:

www.givenow.com.au



Make a Donation

Using the secure engine of Givenow.com.au

COMING UP

What: **Walk, Talk and Weed**

When: **Thursday 11th August**, 9 am to 12 noon

Where: Conway Day Use Area - (Shute Harbour Road, on the right just after the Airport at Flametree). Meet in the Day use area Carpark.

Bring: Closed-in shoes, sun protection (hats, sunscreen etc), gardening gloves, water bottle.

Join us to learn a little about the ecology of this national park and help with weed control along the track. This is part of our ongoing formal agreement with Qld National Parks/ Department of Environment and Science. Morning Tea will be provided.

What: **Beach Scrub Walk and Talk**

When: **Saturday 13 August**, 9.00 am

Where: Nelly Bay car park, Dingo Beach

Bring: Closed-in shoes, sun protection (hats, sunscreen etc), water bottle.

Refreshments will be provided.

Whitsunday Catchment Landcare invites you explore and learn about the threatened ecological communities at Cape Gloucester.

This guided walk will traverse through coastal vine thicket and littoral rainforest at Nelly Bay and will also include some weed control activities. This is part of our Beach Scrub project supported by funding from a Community Sustainability Action Grant from the Queensland Government.

For more information or to express your interest in attending please contact us: Phone: 0483 811 229 OR

Email: coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au



Landcare Nursery Open for Plant Sales (33 Kelsey Creek Rd)

When: **6th August** (1st Sat. of each month) 9 am to 12 noon.

Cash only please.

Regular Landcare Volunteer Activities

at 33 Kelsey Cr Road, Proserpine

Tuesdays: 2nd, 9th, 16th and 30th: Plant propagation, seed processing, sorting, record keeping, tool maintenance etc. at the nursery.

Thursdays: 4th: Propagation, seed processing, potting, record keeping, maintenance etc. at the nursery.

11th: Walk, talk & weed – Conway Day Use Area– see above for details

18th and 25th: Propagation, seed processing, potting, record keeping, maintenance etc. at the nursery.

WCL receives support from the following:



Australian Government
Department of the Environment



Staff News.

Coordinator:

Many will be aware that our new Coordinator, Christine Peterson has been in the position part-time since December 2021. Christine has been working hard implementing projects and keeping the organisational wheel turning.

Landcare Officer:

Chris Barbeler has resigned from the Landcare Officer position to undertake overseas travel and have a well earned break. Chris has gone over & above to fulfill WCL's contract & grant work for the 7 year involvement with WCL as both a casual & contracted employee. His project work included: revegetation, weed control, volunteer engagement and NRM agency liaison. We thank Chris for all his efforts, often in challenging environments & climatic conditions. We wish him all the very best for his future and hope to see him back with WCL as a volunteer.

WCL's new Officer, Joe Trigger, commenced in the role in June 2022. Joe has moved to the Whitsundays from Victoria, after growing up in northern NSW and holds a Degree in Environmental Science, a Certificate 3 Conservation & Land Management with several years' experience in bush regeneration and fire management with the Victorian Department of Environment. Joe is keen to gain further experience in our local environment and keep broadening his skills and knowledge. Joe is also assisted from time to time by our valued Casual staff.

So, welcome to WCL, Joe, we look forward to the future and your involvement in the various projects that the WCL Landcare Officer undertakes.

Nursery Manager:

Nicole Murphy is our part-time Nursery Manager. Nicole has held this position for just over three years and manages the production and sales of our local native plants as well as nursery volunteer engagement. The quality and range of plant species produced at the nursery are a credit to Nicole and our reliable volunteer co-hort.

Office Admin & Bookkeeper:

Leigh Donkers is WCL's Office guru and has been in position for five years. Leigh's expertise & skill at managing the complexity of grants and contract financial administration as well as general organisational administration enables WCL to successfully meet our organisational obligations as a Registered Charity & Registered Environmental Organisation, a Federal & State Government grant recipient and a local community based organisation.

Volunteers:

It goes without saying (so perhaps is not said often enough) that the work that the staff above achieve is matched and then some by the hard work and dedication of our volunteers; seed collecting, seed cleaning, plant propagation, weed control, tree planting, irrigation, marine debris collection, record keeping, attending committee meetings and more! WCL would not be the organisation it is without you and what you do, usually for nothing more than a cuppa and a slice of cake (or maybe two). Your contributions and your positive energies are so very much appreciated.



Joe, Christine, Nicole and Leigh at the nursery.
Photo: J. Aldred



Pauline and Heather head down, working on the next generation of revegetation seedlings.

Notice to all Whitsunday Catchment Landcare Members 2022-23 Annual Membership Due.

Please see the end of the newsletter for the membership form & we will also be sending an email with a membership form attached. Please complete the form and send it back to the following email address:

Email: coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au

Or

Call Christine on 0483 811 229 for further information

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/



Above: Female *Mopsus Mormon*
Photo: Steve & Alison Pearson

Citizen Science and the “Great Southern Bioblitz 2022-Whitsunday Region” (Oct 28-31st)

With the aim of involving more of our local nature enthusiasts in formally recording our local wildlife (both plants and animals), WCL has initiated a project under the umbrella of Inaturalist's Great Southern Bioblitz 2022. The Bioblitz is scheduled to run for 3 days in October across the southern hemisphere and WCL has registered the entire Whitsunday Region as a participant area.

The aim is to record photographically as much of our wildlife as possible over the 3 days and WCL will be running some specific group activities for people to attend as well as encouraging enthusiasts to individually record sightings in their backyards, on their properties or at their favourite nature spot.

When the project commences, all you will need is a photo of the plant/animal and then pinpoint the location when entering the record via the INaturalist phone app or on your laptop. You can also add an Identification or wait for one of the project overseers or other experts to identify your observation for you online.

Apart from this being a great opportunity to learn about our local plants and animals you will also be contributing to a larger Citizen Science effort as all records are sent to the Atlas of Living Australia, the largest formal database of Australia's plant and animals and used by wildlife researchers and interested naturalists across the country.

So, keep an eye on the WCL webpage/newsletter/Facebook page for more info on how to participate as the date approaches. Alternatively, you can register as an INaturalist user and select the project.

Let's put the Whitsunday region on the global nature stage.

Give Graham a call on 0416658047 for further information.

Right: Female *Pipturus argenteus*
Photo: Steve & Alison Pearson



What's Showing

What's Showing:

Common name: Weeping paperbark, long-leafed paper bark, white paperbark

Scientific name: *Melaleuca leucadendra*

Family: Myrtaceae

Notes: Melaleuca derived from 2 Greek words— *melas* (black) and *leukos* (white). It is thought that the botanist who named it first saw the tree after a bushfire. The "dendra" in leucadendra derived from the Greek word *dendron* (a tree) Melaleuca leucadendra— the black & white tree. Native throughout northern Australia— NT, WA, QLD (south as far as Bundaberg). Also found in New Guinea & the Solomon Islands. Usually found associated with fresh water but will survive high tide salt water inundation as evidenced along the beach front at Cooktown

Height: Large, spreading tree between 10-40m, with a weeping habit and creamy-white papery bark.

Leaves: Narrow, widest at or below the middle, tapering to a pointed tip, smooth, flat, dull green, 5-6 longitudinal veins, 7-18.5cm x 1-2.5cm. Entire linear/lanceolate and alternate on short petioles. Young shoots covered in white or silver prostrate hairs.

Flowers: Greenish-cream, sessile on open cylindrical spikes 7-16cm x 2-3cm long, carried in groups of 2-3. Heavily scented and nectar filled. Dependent on the season, sometimes 2 periods of blossoming occur.

Fruit: Smooth Cup-shaped woody capsules, 0.3-0.4cm x 0.3-0.5cm.

Propagation: Propagate from seed.

Uses: Bird & butterfly attracting, is cyclone resistant, offers shade, hardy & requires moderate water once established. Adapts to a wide variety of soils and

is particularly suitable for seasonally inundated areas as it can produce temporary fibrous breathing roots during the wet season. Their dense root systems make them particularly good at stabilising the banks of watercourses. Their flowers attract nectar-loving birds and insects by day and flying foxes by night.

Aboriginal people used the bark for roofing, cooking and as a funeral wrapping. In some areas trunks were used for canoes.

Moderately durable timber with a long history of being used as fence posts, railway sleepers and mining pit –props by early colonial settlers. Used medicinally, the essential oil when vapourised is said to soothe bronchial & sinus passages, relieve sore throats. According to Magnetic Island Plants- "As far as I can discover (authorities do not always agree) the essential oil is known as Cajuput Oil." Tea Tree Oil is derived from other species.

References:

Across the Top, Gardening with Australian Plants in the Tropics, SGAP 2008

Plants of Tropical North Queensland, John Beasley, Footloose Publications 2011. magneticislandplants.com.au



Melaleuca leucadendra
Flower PHOTO: CP



Melaleuca leucadendra flowers
Flower PHOTO: CP



Melaleuca leucadendra leaves
PHOTO: CP

Plant Pest Hall of Fame– Category 3

Family: Bignoniaceae

Common Name: Yellow Bells, Yellow Elder
Botanical name: *Tecoma stans* var. *stans*
Origin: Central America

Description: Large dense shrub to medium tree, 2-10m, bark initially green and smooth, turning grooved and grey with age. Younger stems are smooth, hairless, greenish in colour & slightly four-angled in cross section. Prolific seed production, fast growth rate & tendency to recolonise area post fire disturbance allow it to compete heavily with native shrub layers.

Leaves: Opposite, pinnate compound– 8-250mm long with 3-9 elliptic lanceolate or ovate leaflets, 70-100 x 18-30mm, pointed at tip; margins serrated, smooth & hairless. Stalk 40-63mm long.

Flowers: Bright yellow (with reddish throat) bell-shaped with 5 unequal petals. Borne in showy terminal clusters. Flowers throughout the year locally.

Fruit & Seeds: Cylindrical, brown capsules, 160-220 x 6-8mm, tapering at both ends and containing many thin yellow seeds, 6-9 x 0.35-0.45mm with 2 papery wings.

Notes: regarded as an environmental weed in QLD & NSW. Introduced as a garden ornamental– scattered naturalized populations at Dingo Beach. Category 3 Weed in QLD– must not be distributed or sold. A weed of roadsides, riparian areas, open woodlands, forest margins, waste areas and disturbed sites in tropical & sub-tropical environments.

Reproduction & Dispersal: The light & papery seeds are primarily wind dispersed but may also spread by flood waters and in dumped garden waste.

Physical control: Cut—stump, foliar spray, basal bark and stem injection. Best method determined by density of infestation accessibility/ location & available resources. Always read the label when using chemical

Biological control: NSW currently being researched based on South African trials of beetles (*Mada poluta*– ex– Mexico) , Rust-fungus (*Prospodium transformans*)



Above: Tecoma stans var. *stans* growth form
PHOTO: C. Peterson



Above: Tecoma stans var. *stans* flowers
PHOTO: C. Peterson



Above: Tecoma stans var. *stans* flowers
PHOTO: C. Peterson

Left: Tecoma stans var. *stans* immature & ripe fruit capsules
PHOTOS: Sheldon Navie Lucid Cen-



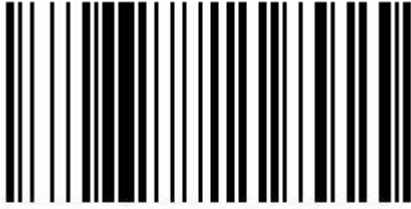
Sources: Research.csiro.au
[Weeds of the Mackay Region](http://Weeds.of.the.Mackay.Region)

<https://weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au>

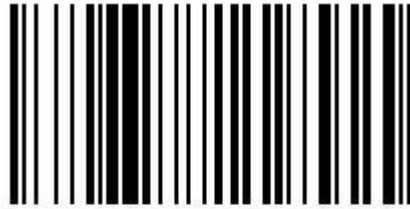
[https://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/efrinet/weeds/key/weeds/Media/Html/Tecoma stans %28Yellow Bells%29.htm](https://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/efrinet/weeds/key/weeds/Media/Html/Tecoma_stans_%28Yellow_Bells%29.htm)

Thank You Everyone!

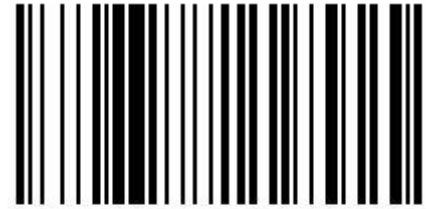
Thank you to so many of you who have generously and kindly donated your container refunds to WCL. Your contributions are allocated to the WCL Public Fund which allows WCL to take on various projects for the ongoing education of our members and the wider community. Please find below our Containers for 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!



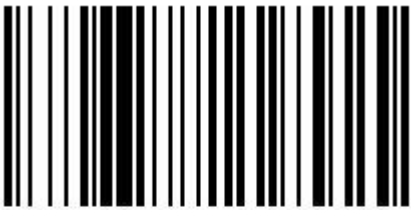
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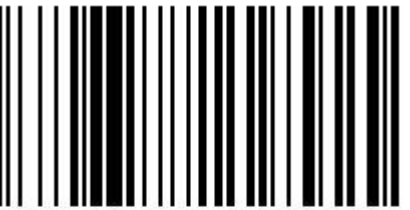
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