



Whitsunday
Catchment
Landcare

Newsletter

November 2022

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Central QLD Coast
Landcare
Network

A partnership for the natural resource management of catchments in the Central QLD Coast Bioregions.

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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 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.givnow.com.au



Make a Donation

Using the secure engine of
GiveNow.com.au

Coming Up

What: **Weed Control in the Beach Scrub—Vol. opportunity**
When: **Thursday 17th November 7.30 am to 10.30am**
Where: Nelly Bay revegetation site
Bring: Closed-in shoes, sun protection (hats, sunscreen etc.), gloves, water bottle and snacks.

Come along and help us with some weed control in the endangered beach scrub and learn a little about these ecosystems. No RSVP needed. Meet at the car park off Trochus Street. If you can't see anyone when you arrive, give Joe a call on 0488 768 567; he will most likely be started already. This is part of our contract work with Reef Catchments and the more volunteer helpers over the long term, the greater the area controlled and the more successful the long-term outcome.

What: **Revegetation planting event— WCL member property**
When: Thu 10 Nov 8 am -11am AND/ OR Sat 12 Nov 8 am -11am
Where: 12 Evan Road , Preston
Bring: Closed-in shoes, sun protection (hats, sunscreen etc.), gloves, water bottle. BYO chair.

Regular Landcare Volunteer Activities

Tuesdays: Plant propagation, seed processing, sorting, record keeping, tool maintenance etc. at the nursery.

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

17th November: Walk, Control – Nelly Bay Littoral Rainforest– see above for details

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

When: Every **Tues and Thurs** and 1st Sat. of each month (**3rd December**) 9 am to 12 noon. Cash only please.

What: **WCL AGM**
When: Thursday 8 December, 7.00 pm
Where: Canegrowers Proserpine Boardroom
Guest Presentation: *Communication, Cooperation and Coordination for Effective Pest Control; from lifestyle blocks to landscape scale.*
Bren Fuller, Land Protection Officer, Whitsunday Regional Council.

October's Special Dates:

8th-14th National Recycling week

13th-21st Australian Pollinator Week

WCL receives support from the following:



Invitation to help WCL member volunteers Jess & Alistair, with the next stage of their revegetation

Jess and Alistair are planning another planting at their property where they have been progressively implementing the Land Management Plan, they engaged WCL to prepare a few years ago. WCL volunteers have helped on two previous occasions and it's great to see the progress in the rehabilitation of this property and to be able to help fellow members with these good works.

This time another 450-500 plants (propagated at and purchased from the WCL Nursery) will go in the ground, just in time for the wet season. This will be a mixed planting of rainforest and riparian species. Everyone is welcome to have a look at the previous Landcare revegetation zones as well - some are more than 6m tall now!

The plan for this revegetation event is to hold two planting sessions, as it's quite a few plants and gives people options to attend. An earlier start has been set due to heat, but people are welcome anytime in this time frame.



Above: The new revegetation site – weeded & mulched and ready for planting. Photo: Jess Aldred

Where: 12 Evans Road, Preston

When: Thursday 10 Nov - 8 AM - 11AM

Saturday 12 Nov 8 AM - 11AM

As with their two previous revegetation events, Jess & Alistair will provide morning tea for everyone. Call Jess if you have any questions - 0421 174 566. Please wear closed-in shoes, sun smart clothes, a hat and bring your water bottle, plus BYO chair for rests mid-planting.

Great Southern Bioblitz Whitsunday Region

The last weekend of October was the Great Southern Bioblitz, an international period of intense biological surveying in an attempt to

record all the living species within designated areas across the Southern Hemisphere. If you are interested in seeing just how many countries participated check out [iNaturalist GSB](#)

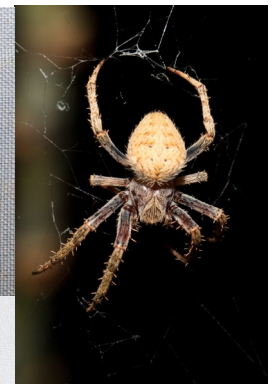
WCL hosted one project - Whitsunday Region. To kick this off, 13 Landcarers met at Galbraith Park, Cannonvale to conduct a night walk. While they searched for critters that flew, slithered and scuttled around the establishing revegetated creekline, a tent with a UV light inside was busily attracting a multitude of insects.



Conway Range Banded ...
(*Marilynessa yulei*)

This is a snippet from iNaturalist; an observation of a Conway Range Banded Snail at Sugarloaf, uploaded by C. Peterson.

Flora and fauna observed and photographed during the evening as well as over the next couple of days, were uploaded onto the iNaturalist. Eleven observers made 270 observations of 209 species. It wasn't a competition, but if it was, Graham would have won the most observations. Species have been and continue to be identified by expert members of iNaturalist; to date for this project 79 people have listed as identifiers. This extraordinary project brings people together in the common cause of interest in biology and proves that you do not have to be a scientist to be a citizen scientist.



Photos taken during our Bioblitz evening by Dale Mengel, from top left: *Comostola cedilla*; Night Orb Weaver and Emperor Gum Moth. Identification confirmed by Alison Pearson

What's Showing

Family: Apocynaceae

Common name: Milky Pine, Milkwood, White cheesewood.

Scientific name: *Alstonia scholaris*

Description: A tall rainforest tree, not usually more 20m in cultivation, but to 40m in ideal conditions. Deciduous at irregular intervals. Flowers after marked period of dry weather. The large branches provide favourable nesting sites for wild bees. In its natural range in Australia, it is a dominant canopy species found in coastal mesophyll vine forest with a canopy height of 35-42 metres, in palm-dominated forests and in notophyll vine forests.

Distribution:

Rainforests north of Sarina. Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam.

Bark: Tessellated corky grey to grey white bark. Rough at base, exudes milky sap if damaged.

Leaves: Leaves in whorls of 4-8 in the upper axils; leaf stalks 1-1.5 cm long, the lamina obovate to elliptical or elliptical-lanceolate, glabrous or sparsely hairy, tapering towards the base, 11.5-23 x 4-7.5 cm. Upper surface is dark green, the lower green-white with 25-40 pairs of lateral veins on each side of the midrib and 2-6 mm apart. The tip of the leaf is rounded or shortly pointed, tapering towards the base.



Flowers: The inflorescence is a much-branched terminal panicle, up to 120 cm long; flowers 7-10 mm long white, cream or green; the tube hairy; lobes sparsely or densely pubescent, 1.5-4 mm long, the left margins overlapping; strongly perfumed.

Pollination is by insects. When flowering, these stately trees are often surrounded by butterflies and bees.



Fruit: a pendulous, two-lobed, dehiscent follicle, brown or green, dry or woody, spindle-shaped, 15-32 cm long, 4-6 mm in diameter, containing numerous flat, oblong, brown seeds, 4-5 x 0.9-1.2 mm, with a tuft of hairs 7-13 mm long at each end. The seed does not taper to a point at either end. The fruits open on the tree and the seeds, which have a tuft of silky hairs at each end, are dispersed by wind.



Propagation: From fresh seed.

Notes: *Alstonia* is named after Dr C. Alston (1685-1760), a professor of botany at Edinburgh University. The specific name *scholaris* is derived from the use of the wood for school boards in Myanmar. *Alstonia* is used widely throughout its range for food, fuel, fibre timber, essential oils, medicine and charcoal. It has also been listed as a wind resistant species by James Cook University, based on observations and reports from a number of botanists with regards to cyclones in northern Qld and the Northern Territory since 1971. Their Comments: Minimal damage, some branches may be broken, good open architecture, trunk is sturdy. Should not be planted close to buildings as at maturity forms a large tree. Can be pruned to reduce height.

Sources:

- Townsend K 1994. *Across the Top: Gardening with Australian Plants in the Tropics*. SGAP, Townsville Branch Inc.
- https://www.soe-townsville.org/plants_species_list/Alstonia_scholaris.html
- Agroforestry Database 4.0 (Orwa et al.2009)
- <https://www.cabdirect.org/cabdirect/abstract/20177200441>
- [Discover Nature at JCU - RESPONSES OF SOME SPECIES COMMONLY GROWN IN NORTHERN QUEENSLAND - JCU Australia](#)

Pest hall of Fame.

Family: Araceae

Common name: Goosefoot, Syngonium

Scientific name: *Syngonium podophyllum*

Arrowhead vine is not a prohibited or restricted invasive plant under the Biosecurity Act 2014. However, by law, everyone has a general biosecurity obligation (GBO) to take reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with invasive plants and animals under their control.

Description:

A native aroid of Central America, this fleshy stemmed arrowhead vine is widely used in North Queensland gardens. At least 10 different cultivars have been developed by the nursery industry. Aerial roots form as the plant climbs and these adhere to whatever it is climbing on.

Leaves: Alternate, three-lobed, arrow-shaped leaves vary in size, shape and colour with age and cultivar variety. Juvenile leaves are entire with silvery-white veins or centre, bounded by green. Mature leaves are dark green and segmented into three leaflets, developing with age to 5–9 leaflets. The central leaflet is the longest.

Flowers: Four to eleven flower spikes (spadixes) develop in leaf axils, each comprising 6–9 green tubular flowers, enclosed in a creamy-white to green modified leaf (a spathe), similar to that of an arum 'lily'.

Fruit: red to reddish-orange with many black or brown seeds within a soft, gray-ish pulp.

Control: Manual control - Pull out isolated plants and small infestations, making sure that all roots and stem fragments are removed. Plant pieces should either be bagged and taken to the dump or hung up off the ground to prevent resprouting.

Herbicide control: There are no herbicide products specifically registered for the control of arrowhead



vine in Queensland. However, in non-agricultural areas (the situation) you may be able to use various effective herbicides under The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) off-label permit PER11463. These include: FLUROXYPYR, METSULFURON-METHYL and GLYPHOSATE. You must follow all instructions on this permit as well as any restrictions on the specific product label. Prior to using the herbicides listed under PER11463, you must have read and understood the conditions of the permit. You must follow all instructions on this permit as well as any restrictions on the specific product label. To obtain a copy of this permit visit [APVMA](#). Your chemical label should be affixed to the herbicide bottle. If this has been lost you should print one from the product manufacturer's website. Further information is also available from your local government office, or by visiting [Department of Agriculture and Fisheries](#) or calling 13 25 23.

Notes:

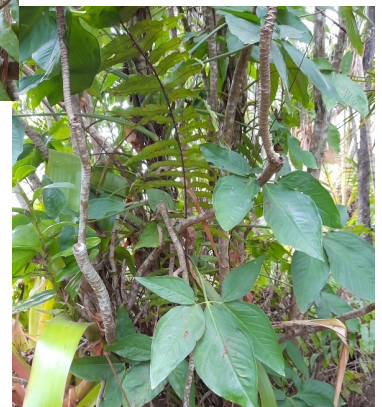
Arrowhead vine prefers moist, shady conditions and fertile soils. It is almost exclusively propagated by cuttings and spread by cultivation and the dumping of garden refuse into bushland. Once established, it will take root wherever its stem touches the ground.

Source:

Weeds of the Mackay Whitsunday Region. Mackay Regional Pest Management Group.



Left: *Syngonium Podophyllum* - Stem & aerial roots
Photo: Cath Campbell



Right: *Syngonium Podophyllum* leaf
Photo: Cath Campbell

Disclaimer: The information in this newsletter is offered as a guide only and while every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of this information, Whitsunday Catchment Landcare does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.