



Whitsunday
Catchment
Landcare

Newsletter

December 2022 - January 2023

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.

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

Canegrowers Representative- 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:



Make a Donation

Using the secure engine of GiveNow.com.au

WCL staff and committee would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe festive season.



The office and community nursery will be closed from 22/12/22 to 10/01/23.

Coming Up

WCL AGM

When: Thursday 8 December, 7.00 pm

Where: Canegrowers Proserpine Boardroom

Guest Presentation: *Communication, Cooperation and Coordination for Effective Pest Control.* Bren Fuller, Land Protection Officer, Whitsunday Regional Council.

Please contact Christine to RSVP or obtain nomination papers.

coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au

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

Perfect Christmas gifts for the gardener or blockie. More gift ideas can be found on page two.

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

Native Plant Seeds Wanted

We are currently seeking seed of the following species. If you can help please contact us or bring some in. Remember, we need local provenance i.e. the parent tree is growing in the Whitsundays naturally rather than planted from nursery stock elsewhere.



Casuarina cunninghamiana

Casuarina equisetifolia

Clerodendrum floribundum

Cryptocarya triplinervis

Eugenia reinwardtiana

Euroschinus falcata

Falcataria toona

Flueggia virosa

Glycosmis trifoliata

Guioa lasioneura

Hibiscus tiliaceus

Homalanthus nutans - fruiting now

Larsenaikia jardinei - fruiting now

Lomandra longifolia

Macaranga tanarius - fruiting now

Maytenus disperma

Lophostemon suaveolens

Micromelum minutum

Murraya ovatifoliolata (or cuttings)

Planchonia careya - Summer fruiting

Scolopia braunii

Syzygium australe - Summer fruiting

Tabernaemontana orientalis

Terminalia sericocarpa

Trema orientalis

Dysoxylum gaudichaudianum (yes that's a real name), pictured above, isn't on this list, but we'll take these too!

WCL receives support from the following:



Australian Government
Department of the Environment



Gifts for the Gardener available from the Landcare Nursery

Tree Planting Kits - \$3.00

WCL has kits available to assist with establishment of newly planted trees; useful for those who can only get round to weed maintenance sporadically or who have trouble with wildlife or pets while trees are establishing.



Kits include a (1) biodegradable jute weed mat square, 370mm x 370mm; three bamboo stakes; and a 12mth slow release fertiliser tablet. A plastic sleeve is also provided free of charge. These sleeves are not used by Landcare in our plantings; they are suitable for domestic use with careful disposal when finished.



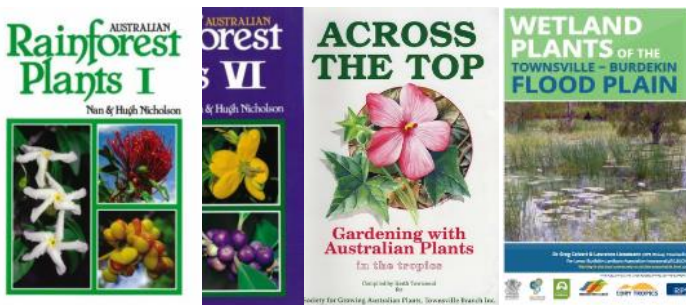
Herbicide Dabbers - \$18.00

Designed for use with concentrated herbicides for cutting and pasting or scraping and pasting weeds to minimise overall herbicide use. Each bottle includes 2 replacement dabber heads.



Books - \$ varies

We have books on native plants, native animals as well as books on weed identification and control.

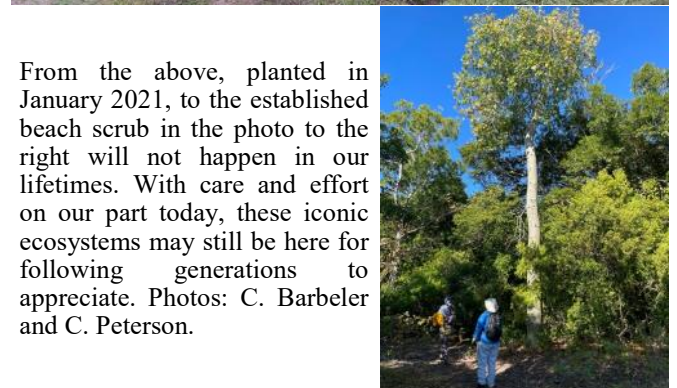


Cape Gloucester Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Vine Thicket Restoration Project

WCL has finalised our State Government Community Sustainability Action Grant funded project. This project invested a little over \$31 000 into revegetation of small areas of the coastal vine thicket (beach scrub) at Hydeaway Bay, Dingo Beach and Nelly Bay.

This project included collection of seed from vegetation onsite, at the Landcare nursery, a number of tree planting days with Landcare volunteers and staff followed by nearly two years of weed control and supplementary watering. Community awareness raising days were also held in the Nelly Bay beach scrub.

One of the challenges with attempting revegetation in these areas is the slow pace of growth. It is expected that with the next wet season these plants will continue to establish well and kick on with more speed. However, these ecosystems are slow to establish. They are harsh environments with free draining soils (sands), seasonal rain, and salt laden winds.



From the above, planted in January 2021, to the established beach scrub in the photo to the right will not happen in our lifetimes. With care and effort on our part today, these iconic ecosystems may still be here for following generations to appreciate. Photos: C. Barbeler and C. Peterson.

WCL will continue to maintain these sites into the future to ensure the long term success of our work, in addition to our other long term weed control efforts in the established beach scrubs. If you are interested in assisting with any of these works please contact us.

Staff Changes

As some of you may already know, our project officer Joe is leaving us later this month to explore other parts of the world. Joe has been a wonderful addition to our Landcare team and will be sorely missed. We wish Joe all the best for his future endeavours and are confident he will succeed and be valued wherever he goes.

What's Showing

Family: Sterculiaceae

Common name: Flame Tree

Scientific name: *Brachychiton acerifolius*

Description: Medium to tall (45m) - smaller in cultivation - upright tree with a straight thick trunk developing a rounded crown with age. Briefly deciduous before flowering. Adaptable to a wide range of soils & climatic conditions

Distribution: Cape York QLD to southern NSW. Found in coastal scrubs and rainforest. Widely planted in gardens.

Bark: Wrinkled, grey with a greenish tinge, especially when young.

Leaves: Can be variable from egg shaped to deeply lobed— usually 3 -5 lobes. Juvenile leaves often different from adult forms. Bright green & shiny. 8-20cm x 25cm



Photo: Lucid Central

Flowers: Bright red, bell-shaped approx. 1.5cm. Held in large terminal panicles most often when tree is leafless. Usually flowering from October through to March, it can be easily seen scattered across the hillsides around the Whitsundays when in flower.



Brachychiton acerifolius flowers & buds. Photo: Peter Alden

Fruit: Large boat shaped dark brown follicles. Leathery or woody to touch. Borne in clusters, each follicle is about 10cm long and may persist on the tree for some time.

Seeds are oblong, corn-like, with a brittle hairy coating. These hairs are irritating to the skin.



Above: *Brachychiton acerifolius* seed follicles. Photo: Lucid Central



Left: *Brachychiton acerifolius* seeds. Note the irritant hairs. Photo: Kim Cott

Propagation: Handle with care due to irritant hairs. Propagate from seed or cutting. Seed germination is rapid in warm conditions.



Left: *B. acerifolius* seedlings two weeks after being sown at the Landcare nursery in a warm January. Photo: C. Peterson

Notes: *Brachychiton* is a genus of 30 or more species, most of which occur in tropical parts of Australia in dry areas or in rainforest. Flowering trees are often visible from afar.

Brachychiton...from Greek, *brachys*, short and *chiton*, a tunic, a reference to the coating on the seed. The deciduous nature of the plant is variable; in some seasons foliage will be retained on all or part of the tree. In a “good year” the flame tree is arguably the most spectacular of all Australia’s native trees. Flowering may take around 5-8 years from seed.

Sources:

https://anpsa.org.au/plant_profiles/brachychiton-acerifolius/

[Plants of Tropical QLD— the compact Guide—John Beasley](#)

[Across the Top— Keith Townsend](#)

Pest hall of Fame.

Family: Myrtaceae

Common name: Brazilian Cherry, Barbados Cherry, Pitanga

Scientific Name: *Eugenia uniflora*

Description:

Native to South America, Brazilian Cherry was introduced and sold as an ornamental hedge and fruit tree. It is a highly ornamental shrub 3-6m tall and up to 4m wide with spreading branches & aromatic foliage & edible fruit. It is regarded as highly invasive in Queensland, particularly in fertile soils.



Photo: Lucid Central

The bright coloured, fleshy fruits are attractive to birds which results in its dispersal throughout natural areas. Brazilian Cherry can form dense thickets which outcompete native vegetation and prevent successful establishment of seedlings of native species. Brazilian cherry is regarded as a relatively important environmental weed in south-eastern Queensland, where it appears on the list of the top 200 environmental weeds. It is also regarded as an environmental weed or potential environmental weed in northern New South Wales and is naturalising in various places in northern Queensland, including the Whitsundays. If you see this weed in a natural setting, distinctive leaf shape and smell when crushed.

If you grow this tree for the fruit, it is best to net the tree to prevent birds eating the fruit and spreading the seeds. The seeds germinate very easily and most gardens with unnetted trees would continue to contribute to a wider problem.

Leaves: pointed, ovate-lanceolate in shape. The leaves are a glossy, dark green with new, young growth a rich bronze colour. They have a distinctive odour when crushed.



Photo: Lucid Central

Flowers: Small, white with prominent stamens.

Fruit: The 2cm fruits, starting out green in colour, turn to orange/dark red and grow to about the size of a normal cherry. The fruit's characteristic deep ribs make for a distinctive identification

feature, fruiting in autumn and spring. For some, the fruit is delicious eaten out-of-hand or as an ingredient in jelly, sauce and pies.

Refrigeration enhances the flavour.



Photo: Juliet Musgrave, Fraser Coast Regional Council -<https://finia.org.au/2018/02/10/give-yourself-a-weed-workout-brazilian-cherry/>

Control:

Pull out smaller plants ensuring the whole taproot is removed or foliar spray with glyphosate or other appropriate herbicide. Larger plants can be cut off close to the ground and the stump immediately painted or sprayed with glyphosate (50:50 dilution with water) or other appropriate herbicide. Alternatively the outer layer of bark can be scraped away and this herbicide painted onto the growing layer underneath.

Use of herbicides on Brazilian Cherry may be made under the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) off-label permit PER11463. 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 instructions and restrictions on the specific product label.

Sources:

<https://apps.des.qld.gov.au/species-search/details/?id=12146>; and Weeds of the Mackay Whitsunday Region. Mackay Regional Pest Management Group.

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.