



Whitsunday  
Catchment  
**Landcare**

# Newsletter

April 2023. Editor: C. Campbell

[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.*

#### 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:

Frank Millar, Chair

Jacque Sheils, Secretary

Cath Campbell, Treasurer

Dale Mengel

Canegrowers rep. John Casey

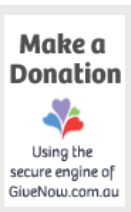
WRC rep. CR. Gary Simpson

*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.givew.com.au](http://www.givew.com.au)



## Coming Up

### Landcare Nursery Volunteer Activities:

Tuesday & Thursday mornings 9am to 12 noon at the Community Nursery. 33 Kelsey Creek Road Proserpine.

#### What: **Weed Walkers in the National Park**

When: **Thursday 20th April**; 9.00 am to 12 noon

Where: Meet at the carpark at the beginning of the Great Whitsunday Walk– Forestry Road, Brandy Creek.

Bring: Mosquitos will be an issue so please wear appropriate clothing, and insect repellent. As with all of our outdoor activities please wear closed in shoes, bring a hat & your water bottle.

The focus may be on weeds, but there will always be time to discuss the natives. Water refills will be available. Morning tea provided.

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

**When:** Every Tues and Thurs and the 1st Sat. of each month (2nd April, 2023) 9 am to 12 noon. Cash payments or EFTPOS available.

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





Wanting to understand the future **biosecurity risks and invasive species trends** that could impact your property?

Join Reef Catchments and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for an informative workshop on Thursday April 13 at Bloomsbury Soldiers Memorial Hall.

Topics covered include:

- ✔ Trends of emerging weed and pest species for the Mackay Whitsunday Region
- ✔ Emerging biosecurity risks & legislation considerations for local properties
- ✔ Current biosecurity management & on-farm management options

Register now via Eventbrite: <https://bit.ly/3JtTHjZ>

View the flyer for more information: <https://bit.ly/3ZVDmvs>

This project is funded by the Australian Governments Reef Trust and supported by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

### Send Leucaena to the Bin!

Due to the invasive nature of the weed *Leucaena* and its persistent seed, thought should be given to its disposal. Landholders who are clearing (or are having contractors clear) *Leucaena* on their properties are encouraged to dispose of any seed bearing material by taking it to the Landfill rather than green waste facilities. If placed in green waste, the seed will likely remain viable and spread to the home gardener etc. who purchases the mulch. It is much safer to dispose of it into the skip bins at Carlo Drive or into the general waste at Kelsey Creek Landfill; just tell the operators at the facilities that it is the invasive weed *Leucaena*.

### Weed Walkers of Whitsunday Landcare

On the 16th March, 4 WCL volunteers & Staff met at the Conway Day use Area in Conway National Park, Shute Harbour to undertake weeding along the circuit track.

It was a lovely morning, even if still a bit humid and we set out to tackle the emerging weeds along the sides of the walking track. We targeted Creeping Cinderella weed (*Calyptocarpus vialis*); Coral Berry (*Rivinia humilis*) & Cobblers pegs (*Bidens pillosa*) by hand weeding & collecting in our bags for removal from the site.

Evidence of feral pigs was observed, especially creek side. But of particular notice were the many alongside the many beautiful native plants. Each time we visit, we get to observe the seasonal changes to the vegetation and this time the *Hoya* sp. vine was of particular interest. Other species that were observed included the *Pandorea jasminoides*, which was in flower, *Alyxia spicata* and the magnificent, *Brachychiton compactus*- Whitsunday Bottle Tree, that must have a trunk circumference of 3-4m around.

WCL has a Memorandum of Understanding with QLD National Parks to undertake this work within the local national parks. We try to go at least once a month as an alternative to volunteer activities at the nursery.



Photo: WCL volunteers removing weeds on the Circuit Track at Conway National Park

Photo: Cath Campbell

## Cape Gloucester–Hideaway Bay: Rovers visit to the Whitsundays

WCL hosted a group of 16 Rover Scouts at the Nelly Bay Beach Scrub site on the 17th March.

Rovers are adult Scouts aged between 18 & 25, who undertake a wide variety of adventurous activities & challenges. This group were visiting the Whitsundays from Melbourne and they were keen to be involved in environmentally focused activities whilst here. Their week was filled with sailing, bushwalking and assisting WCL with weed management at the site.

WCL staff & a volunteer met the Rovers in the carpark to discuss the site's history, the importance of the critically endangered littoral rainforest vegetation found at the site and the various projects that WCL has undertaken over many years to help preserve & promote this important, but nationally listed and critically endangered vegetation community.

We all walked along the beach, discussing the local environment, the historical impacts of early shack settlement at the site & the associated weedy legacy impacting on the beach scrub. Then we all ventured into the middle of the beach scrub to see & experience the wide variety of plant species, the microclimates created by dense vegetation & witness the impact of cyclones & extreme weather variation on the remnant beach scrub.

We then returned to the current WCL rehabilitation area for the serious business of weed control around recently planted seedlings. We targeted snake weed, exotic grasses, vinca and centro vine.

The site's exposure to extreme weather events, salt winds & sandy soils make this a particularly difficult site to revegetate and makes protecting what remains, all the more important.

The Rovers were an enthusiastic group and made a fantastic impact on the clearing of the weeds around seedlings. We thank the Rovers whole heartedly for their efforts.

Whitsunday locals are encouraged to participate in these rehabilitation works. WCL will provide training in native plant and weed identification and weed control techniques. If you are interested, please contact us at [coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au](mailto:coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au)

This current phase of littoral rainforest (beach scrub) rehabilitation is funded by Reef Catchments as part of their Threatened Ecological Communities works. WCL volunteers add to the valued works by staff who employed on this project.



Photo: Rover Scouts busy weeding the revegetation area. Photo: Kayla Simpson



Photo: Piles of weeds removed by Rover Scouts . Photo: Kayla Simpson



Photo: Weeds bagged & ready to be removed with Rover Scouts in the background. Photo: Cath Campbell

# What's Showing

**Scientific name:** *Acacia simsii*

**Family:** Mimosaceae

**Description:** *Acacia simsii* is a fast growing shrub reaching 2 to 4m. It may flower in the 1st year. It needs full sun and soil with good drainage. Will look best if planted in dense groups of 3 or 4 shrubs. *A. simsii* occurs in drier areas in the Whitsundays e.g. along Dingo Beach road and Hydeaway Bay.

**Leaves:** Phyllodes( modified stems acting as leaves): Narrow, smooth, straight or slightly curved, tapering at both ends 5-4-15cm long x 0.5-1.2cm, green with a small up-turned hook at the tip, 1-3 prominent longitudinal veins

**Flowers:** Small bright yellow balls borne singly or in one or two pairs on short stalks in leaf axils. Flowering January to March & sporadically

**Fruit:** Flattened brown pods with paler margins. Flattened or constricted between the seeds. Alternately raised and depressed over the seeds.

**Propagation:** From seed—treat with hot water or scarify.

**Notes:** Sims' Wattle is rather a scraggly shrub generally found growing along roadsides. The one photographed is by the side of the West Point road. It is fairly widespread, occurring in the Gove area of the Northern Territory and on the edge of the Barkly Tableland, in North Queensland from Cape York south almost to Mackay. It is found on gentle slopes and plains in coastal areas, and inland on gently undulating terrain. It usually grows in sand and gravel in eucalypt open forest and woodland, sometimes in closed heath on the Cape York peninsula, and sometimes forming closed scrub in disturbed areas. *Acacia Sims'* wattle blossom comes from the Greek ακίς (akis) , a thorn or spike; *simsii* is for 19th century British physician and botanist Dr. John Sims (1749–1831), who took over the editorship of the Botanical Magazine after the death of William Curtis (1746–1799), its founder. The magazine first appeared in 1787 and was produced, according to Curtis, in response to the “repeated solicitations of several ladies and gentlemen for a work in which Botany and Gardening, or the labours of *Linnaeus* and

**Sources:** [Across the Top  
https://www.somemagneticislandplants.com.au/  
index.php/plants/617-acacia-simsii](https://www.somemagneticislandplants.com.au/index.php/plants/617-acacia-simsii)



*Fast growing Acacia simsii in a revegetation plot*  
Photos: P. Alden



*Acacia simsii* in full flower  
Photo: Peter Alden



*Acacia simsii* seed pods.  
Photo– SGAP Townsville

## NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS INVITED

WCL members & volunteers are invited to submit articles for the monthly newsletter. We are especially keen to hear about your success, learnings or problems that relate to revegetation projects that you have undertaken in cooperation with WCL. If you would like to submit please forward your items identified as: “Newsletter contribution” to [coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au](mailto:coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au)

# Pest hall of Fame.

**Family:** Poaceae  
**Botanical name:** Themeda quadrivalvis  
**Common Name:** Grader Grass  
**Origin:** India, Nepal & Malaysia

**Description:** Erect, tufted robust annual grass. 0.5-2m with golden-red jointed can like stems. Plant are initially green but turn reddish-brown at maturity. A weed of roadsides, disturbed sites, waste areas, open woodlands, grasslands, pastures and crops that is mainly found in tropical and sub-tropical regions.

Grader grass (*Themeda quadrivalvis*) is very similar to the native kangaroo grass (*Themeda triandra*)

**Leaves:** The alternately arranged leaves consist of a leaf sheath, which partially encloses the stem, and a narrow (i.e. linear) leaf blade (7-60 cm long and 1-7 mm wide). These leaves are folded in the bud and green at first, but also turn brownish in colour with age. The leaf margins are flat or sometimes rolled under (i.e. recurved) and the leaf blades have pointed tips (i.e. acute or acuminate apices). Where the leaf sheath meets the leaf blade there is a small membranous structure (i.e. membranous ligule) 1-3 mm long.

**Flowers, Fruit & Seeds:** The seed-heads (15-60 cm long) have several small branches that are interspersed with short 'leaves' (i.e. spathes). They turn brown or slightly reddish in colour and become somewhat drooping in nature as they mature. These seed-heads consist of several complex triangular-shaped or fan-shaped flower clusters (1-3 cm long), enclosed in leafy bracts (about 2 cm long), that contain both fertile and sterile flower spikelets. The fertile flower spikelets (5-6 mm long) are oval (i.e. elliptic) or almost cylindrical (i.e. sub-terete) in shape. They have one tiny fertile flower (i.e. floret), one tiny sterile flower, and a pair of bracts (i.e. glumes) 4.5-6 mm long. The bracts (i.e. glumes) are elongated in shape (i.e. lanceolate) and stiffly hairy (i.e. setose) in the upper half. Flowering occurs mainly during summer and autumn, but may also occur during winter. The 'seeds' (i.e. grains or caryopses) are brown in colour with an obvious cluster of reddish hairs at the base (i.e. callus). These 'seeds' (4.5-5.5 mm long) are topped with a relatively large, conspicuous,

bent and twisted, awn (10-45 mm long) and are enclosed within two hairless (i.e. glabrous), smooth, bracts (i.e. a palea and lemma). This plant only



Photo above: *Themeda quadrivalvis* seed heads Photo: P. Alden

reproduces by seed. Seeds are spread by animals and vehicles, in clothing and mud, and as a contaminant of agricultural produce. They are also commonly dispersed during soil moving activities, such as the grading of roads (hence the common name "grader grass")



Photo above: *Themeda quadrivalvis* invading roadside vegetation. Photo: P. Alden

**Notes:** Grader Grass replaces native plants and forms tall thickets that can cover large tracts of land. Due to its greater biomass than the native plants it replaces, and hence its higher fuel loads, grader grass (*Themeda quadrivalvis*) alters the fire regime. It does this by carrying more wildfires that are of a much greater intensity than the native plants are used to. Each of these hot fires, during the late dry season, cause a thinning of the native woodlands and eventually the number of trees in the ecosystem are reduced, resulting in a change from native savanna woodlands to exotic grasslands.

It is currently causing most concern in the semi-arid rangelands of northern Queensland and the Northern Territory, where it is abundant and continuing to spread. However, it also appears in the list of the top 200 most invasive plants of south-eastern Queensland, and is in the New South Wales North Coast environmental weed list. It is also seen as a potentially significant threat to the Kimberley region in northern Western Australia, though it is not yet very widespread in this region.

Grader grass (*Themeda quadrivalvis*) is also an important weed of crops in many parts of northern Australia. It is particularly troublesome in sugar cane, but can also be found in Lucerne and other legume seed crops. It is regarded as a major weed of crops in coastal northern and central Queensland, and is also a minor crop weed in inland central Queensland and the Northern Territory.

This species is a also very common weed of roadsides, where it can quickly become a safety hazard by reducing visibility on corners.

*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.*