



Whitsunday
Catchment
Landcare

Newsletter

July 2023. Editor: C. Campbell

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.

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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

Jacquie Sheils, Secretary

Cath Campbell, Treasurer

Dale Mengel

Canegrowers rep. John Casey

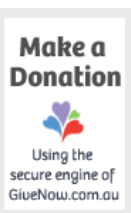
WRC rep. CR. Gary Simpson

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.givewell.com.au



Coming Up

Community Nursery 33 Kelsey Creek Rd

Volunteer Activities:

Tuesday & Thursday morning 9am to 12 noon.

Volunteer activities include Plant Propagation, Native seed sowing & preparation, nursery maintenance tasks and a great morning tea.

Whitsunday Catchment Landcare Community Nursery 21st Birthday Celebration. 15 July

See Info page 2 for further information

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

Where: **Galbraith Creek** (via Galbraith Park—southern side)

What: **Site Preparation for National Tree Day** - Join our other avid volunteers to finish mulching and moving irrigation pipe in preparation for our National Tree Day planting at the end of the month.

When: **Sunday 30th July**; 9.00 am to 12 noon

Where: **Galbraith Creek** (via Galbraith Park—southern side)

What: **National Tree Day** - Join us for additional planting of the Galbraith Creek Riparian zone. Filby's Motors will be joining us to offer a BBQ lunch.

For all our field activities please wear closed in shoes, sun safe clothing, hat, and sunscreen. BYO gloves if you have them, water bottle and snacks. WCL will provide water refills and light morning tea.

Landcare Community Nursery Open for Plant Sales

When: Every Tues and Thurs and the 1st Sat. of each month (next Saturday open— 1st July) 9 am to 12 noon. Cash or EFTPOS available.

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 originating elsewhere.



Alphitonia excelsa
Clerodendrum floribundum
Crinum pedunculatum
Eucalyptus platyphylla
Eucalyptus raveretiana
Euroschinus falcata
Falcataria toona
Guioia lasioneura
Livistona decora

Lomandra longifolia
Lophostemon suaveolens
Maytenus disperma
Melaleuca leucadendra
Phaius australis
Scaevola taccada
Scolopia braunii
Tabernaemontana orientalis
Trema tomentosa

WCL receives support from the following:



Australian Government
Department of the Environment



WCL Community Nursery 21st Birthday Celebration.

The Community Nursery has been operating at the Kelsey Creek Road site **for 21 years.**

The Community Nursery has been operating at the Kelsey Creek Road site **for 21 years!**

To celebrate, we are having a special birthday morning tea on the **15th of July – 9.00 am to 11pm with cutting of the cake at 10.00 am.**

All past and present members and volunteers are invited to attend and share in celebrating our achievements. Come along and see the many improvements to facilities over the years.

Staff and experienced volunteers will be on hand to provide guided nursery tours as well as information on:

- Native plants for the garden
- Revegetation establishment
- Weed identification and control
- Various weed control equipment

Native plants will also be available for purchase.

Plus we'd like to share our Birthday cake and a tea or coffee with you.

Don't forget to collect your lucky door prize ticket on the way in!

Weed Walkers - Cape Upstart Station Adventure

Early June saw 6 intrepid weed walking volunteers & 2 valiant WCL staff, venture further afield to the beach & Vine thicket scrub at Cape Upstart Station. And what a wonderful place it is. A beach with no one but us—collecting marine debris, enjoying the breeze & magnificent country and removing weeds.

WCL has completed a contract with NQ Dry



WCL Volunteers & Staff— Intrepid Weed Walkers at Cape Upstart. Photo: J. Emery

Tropics, the natural resource management body for the Burdekin Dry Tropics region. This work removed weeds from within the areas of nationally listed & critically endangered beach scrub at the site & collected marine debris from the beach. This work had carried over a number of years, so we have been able to observe the seasonal changes with each of our visits.

It was interesting to see the changes. Whilst traversing the beach scrub looking for weed species we came across a 20m² patch of *Tephrosia* sp. atop an old dune which was filled with av. 2m tall plants. *Tephrosia* is a legume & fixes nitrogen in the soil. What was interesting about it were all the wattle seedlings that were sprouting below the canopy of sparse *Tephrosia* leaves. I think this is a great example of natural revegetation in play. The wattles are legumes too and being a shorter lived plant will change the fertility in old sand dune soils through it's nitrogen fixing capacities, leaf litter and shady microclimates for seed from other species in the surrounding forest, to germinate in the future.

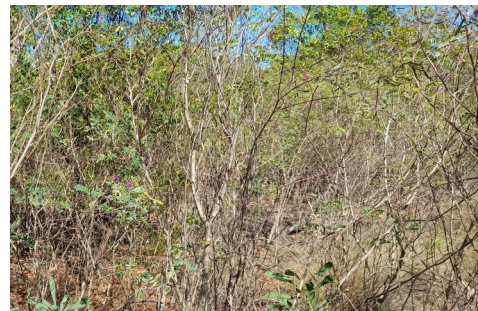


Photo left: Dense patch of *Tephrosia* sp. with wattle seedlings sprouting below. Photo: Cath Campbell

We found a few pockets of lantana in the northern contracted sites and targeted rubbervine at the southern site, but these we leave onsite after treating chemically or by hand removal.

We collected & brought back to landfill 100 kg of marine debris; a small contribution to helping remove plastics from the natural environment, but will assist with reducing entanglement of nesting turtles for the next season. It is quite shocking to see the amount of plastic trash that us humans discard into the ocean, which lies in stark contrast to the natural materials that are washed up on a remote beach with minimal human visitation.

Our biggest find this time was a very new FAD – fish attracting device – a tangle of net attached to floats that is dropped into the ocean by the fishing industry.



Photo left : A FAD– fish attracting device. We found the solar powered pinger too. This was disentangled and moved above the high tide mark for later collection by vehicle. Photo: Cath Campbell

Overall we had an enjoyable time, especially back at camp where we were entertained by families of wallabies, birds and myriad of other creatures that call Cape Upstart home.

WCL would like to acknowledge the funding from NQ Dry Tropics which made this work possible, as well as the land owners who allowed our access to this gorgeous property.

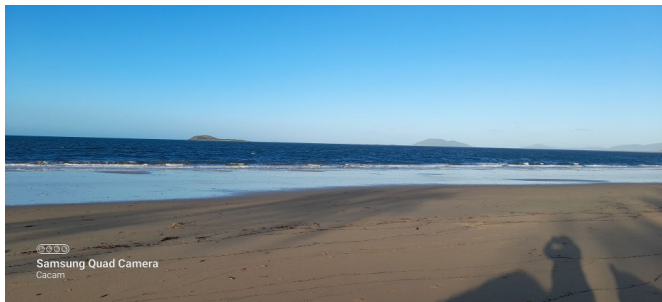


Photo above: Looking south east to Camp Island
Photo: Cath Campbell

What's Showing

Family: Acanthaceae

Common name: Native Holly

Scientific name: *Hypoestes floribunda*

Description: *H. floribunda* is a perennial herb or subshrub 50-100cm high.



Hypoestes floribunda in my garden
Photo: C. Campbell

Distribution:

Endemic to Australia, occurs in WA, NT, CYP and NEQ and southwards to north-eastern New South Wales. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 1000 m. Grows in a variety of forest types from brigalow scrub to frontal dune vegetation. When found in rain forests it is usually in the drier more open rain forests, monsoon forest and vine thickets

Leaves: Leaves ovate to lanceolate, 10-90mm long and 4-25mm wide. Both surfaces usually hairy. Twigs usually pubescent, longitudinally ridged. Leaf blades about 0.7-9 x 0.8-2.5 cm, pubescent on both the upper and lower surfaces, more densely so on the midrib and lateral veins on the undersurface. Leaf [oil dots](#) or glands elongated, streaky when viewed with a lens.

Flowers: Terminal or axillary, 1 to 2 at each node. Pink or mauve and often deep purple on the end of the lip, corolla white, 20-30mm. Calyx segments usually shorter than the inner bracts. Corolla tube about 5-10 mm long, upper lip 7-14 mm long. One lip of the corolla held at right angles to the main axis of the flower. Lips of the corolla reddish purple but the corolla tube +/- white. Staminal filaments pubescent at least in the basal half. Base of the ovary surrounded by a large lobed gland.

Fruit: Capsule 9-12mm long, glabrous or sometimes with hairy apex. Flowering April-August. Calyx green, persisting at the base of the fruit but completely hidden by the bracts. Capsule narrow-oblong, clavate, about 9-12.5 mm long, approximating or extending beyond the involucre. Seeds confined to the upper half of the capsule. Seeds flat, patelliform, testa rugose. Cotyledons much wider than the radicle.

Propagation: From fresh seed.

Notes: Food plant for the larval stages of the Blue Argus Butterfly. Sankowsky & Nielsen (2000).

Leaf and stem material of this species was active against some tumours. Collins et al. (1990).

Several varieties are recognised.

Sources: <http://sgaptownsville.org.au/Hypoestes-floribunda.html>
http://keys.trin.org.au/key-server/data/0e0f0504-0103-430d-8004-060d07080d04/media/Html/taxon/Hypoestes_floribunda.htm



Photo: Society for Growing Australian Plants
Townsville



Pest Hall of Fame

Have you ever come across Hairy Mary?

Cane farmers would know about it, and the image below might give you a hint. Hairy Mary refers to the short prickly hairs that grow on grass stems and leaves that deter ants from climbing up the stem and collecting seeds from the grass before they are ripe. Almost all grasses have some hairs, but a few have very irritating hairs that are stiff and sharp enough to penetrate the skin and cause rashes and adverse reactions. The photo is of Itch Grass, *Rottboellia cochinchinensis*, a relatively new weed to this area and one that if not controlled can spread throughout the whole region.

Itch grass is an erect, annual, coarse, cane like grass that can grow to 4m. It can compete strongly with other grass, growing faster and taller so its heads are above all other grasses, and competes strongly with sugar cane such that heavy infestations can cause severe crop loss. One plant can produce over 2,000 seeds and with a seed soil life of 7 years, it can be very difficult to manage and eradicate.



Itch grass stem

It is not known how Itch Grass came to the Whitsundays but it was probably inevitable as it is widespread in the Burdekin. However we know that Itch Grass is being spread throughout this region on machinery, (slashers, cane harvesting equipment, earthmoving machines), and with movements of soil, hay and mulch.

To reduce the risk of Itch Grass and other weeds being brought onto your property, Landowners should adhere to the following Biosecurity practices:

- ✓ Ensure that all machinery entering your property has been cleaned and free from mud and vegetative materials. When you plan work to be done by a machine, advise the driver that the machine must be cleaned.
- ✓ Watch for sprouting seeds in anything you have brought for your garden. Hand removing that strange seedling growing in your mulch may prevent hours of spraying if it gets away.



Itch grass crown

If you see Itch grass, or you think you have it on your land, please keep cattle and machinery away and contact the Whitsunday Regional Council to report the location of the siting.

A poster for Eungella Bird Week. It features a photograph of a small bird perched on a branch. The text is as follows:

Eungella Bird Week
11-14 September 2023

4 Days, over 140 Species including the Endemic Eungella Honeyeater

Data Collection and Birding through the Eungella National Park and Clarke Ranges

Presented by Birdlife Mackay

Program & Registration
<https://birdlife.org.au/groups/birdlife-mackay/>

or Contact Jenny White on 0409 886 308

birdlife
MACKAY

Photo © Steve Dew

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 Christine : coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au