



Whitsunday
Catchment
Landcare

Newsletter

October 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.

COORDINATOR:

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PROJECT OFFICER:

Vacant

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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

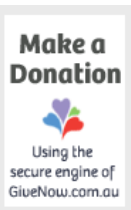
WRC rep. CR. Gary Simpson

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.givenow.com.au



Coming Up

Community Nursery 33 Kelsey Creek Rd, Proserpine 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.

Healthy Horse Healthy Land Workshop (see flyer page 2)

When: Thursday 26th November

Where: Bloomsbury Soldiers Memorial Hall, Dougherty's Rd., Bloomsbury
9 am to 2.30pm

For further information contact:

admin@pioneercatchment.org.au / 074944 1979 or purchase tickets

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/healthy-horse-healthy-land-workshop-mackayproserpine-tickets>

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 - 4th November- 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
Guioa 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:

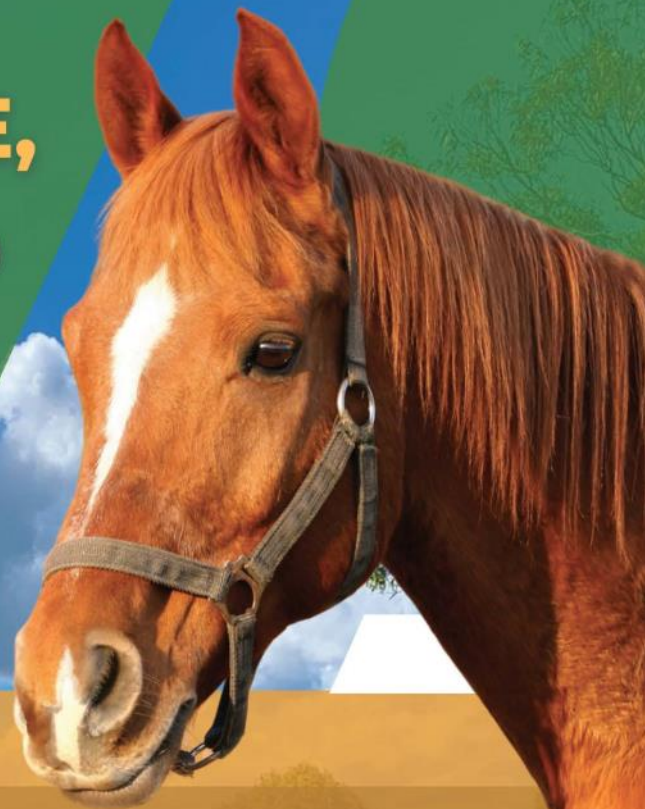


Australian Government
Department of the Environment



HEALTHY HORSE, HEALTHY LAND WORKSHOPS

FEATURING INTERNATIONALLY
ACCLAIMED AUTHOR AND HORSE
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
EXPERT, STUART MYERS!



Benefit your horse, save your pasture, and keep money in your pocket.

Are you a passionate horse owner?

If so, you won't want to miss this extraordinary event!

Mackay/Proserpine

Thursday 26th October 2023

Bloomsbury Soldiers Memorial Hall, Dougherty's Rd,
Bloomsbury

9:00am to 2:30pm

For more information contact:

admin@pioneercatchment.org.au / 07 4944 1979

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/healthy-horse-healthy-land-workshop-mackayproserpine-tickets-731656413027?aff=oddtcreator>

Sarina

Saturday 28th October 2023

Sarina Bowls Club, 1 Patroyce Ct, Sarina

9:00am to 2:30pm

For more information contact:

admin@sarinalandcare.org.au / 07 4956 1388

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/healthy-horse-healthy-land-workshop-sarina-tickets-731651859407?aff=oddtcreator>

Property enhancement and management techniques:

- Utilise natural horse behaviours to improve and maintain your property.
- Sustainable pasture management.
- Improve biodiversity.
- Learn about horse-pasture relationship.
- Manure, water, and vegetation.
- Property planning and design.

Benefits:

- Improved horse health.
- Lower feed bills due to more grass for a longer period of the year.
- Happier neighbours, fewer flies and less dust and mud.
- Cleaner water and more habitat for wildlife.
- An increased property value.

\$50 PER PERSON

\$90 FOR TWO FROM SAME PROPERTY

Registrations close COB on the Monday 23rd



This event is supported by Reef Catchments through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program and Farmacist

What's Showing

Family: Sterculiaceae.

Common name: Peanut tree

Scientific name: *Sterculia quadrifida*

Description: A deciduous small straight tree, usually 5-10m with a spreading canopy. Light grey, tight & smooth bark. Hardy & fast growing, doing well in well drained soils. Useful as a shade / shelter tree & for coastal stabilisation.

Distribution: *Sterculia quadrifida* occurs naturally in some vine thickets and gallery forests in north-eastern New South Wales, Queensland, the Northern Territory, Western Australia and P.N.G. It does not like exposed cold frosty places.

Leaves: 9-20cm x 5-17cm, stalk 4-10cm long. Broadly egg shaped, sometime heart shaped at the base, dark green and smooth above, paler & finely hairy with tiny pores beneath. Veins prominent. Leaves are clustered towards the ends of branches.

Flowers: Greenish yellow, softly hairy and somewhat bell-shaped, 0.5-1cm x 0.4-0.6cm. Borne in small clusters in the upper branch axils. Flowering occurs November to January— but adaptable to weather conditions (locally it has flowered early and is now in fruit.)

Fruit: Egg shaped follicles with smooth leathery feel. 4-7cm x 2-3cm. Orange to red when ripe & opening to reveal shiny black seed the size & shape of a shelled peanut— hence the common name. The seeds are edible and many parts of the tree were used by Indigenous Australians

Propagation: From seed.



Above: *Sterculia quadrifida* loaded with flowers Photo: Steve & Alison Pearson

Right: *Sterculia quadrifida* leaves & flowers with flowers Photo: Steve & Alison Pearson



Above: *Sterculia quadrifida* flower detail Photo: Steve & Alison Pearson



Above: *Sterculia quadrifida* unripe seed pods Photo: Steve & Alison Pearson



Above *Sterculia quadrifida* ripe seed pod with seeds Photo: WCL Kim Cott

Pest Hall of Fame

Getting to Know Our Whitsunday Wildlife & Plants

Steve Pearson is a local dedicated nature photographer. Steve is a retired QP&WS ranger who spent a large part of his career at Eungella and in the Whitsundays. Assisted by his wife Alison, Steve has accumulated a comprehensive photographic reference of plants and also, the less understood and under-appreciated elements of our region's ecology such as invertebrates and fungi. To view more of his photos go to – [steveandalison1@flickr](#)

This month we have a bug feature, **jumping plant lice or psyllids** off our Peanut tree- *Sterculia quadrifida*. Psyllids belong to a family of small plant-feeding insects that tend to be very host-specific, i.e. each plant-louse species only feeds on one plant species (monophagous) or on a few closely related plants (oligophagous) - so ours are not a problem to our other garden plants.

The Psyllid flies mate and lay young in a little bit of white "fairy floss" covering on the new growth of the peanut tree. The new young nymphs suck the sap out of the softest parts of the new growth and exude more fairy floss for protective cover. There are lots of different psyllid species that make this fairy floss, so if you have some on plants at your place PLEASE **do not think** that they will be the same species of insect.

The psyllid nymphs in the fairy floss often congregate and can become large groups feeding, becoming more and more obvious as they grow and morph into adults, which then fly away looking for a mate and then onward looking for new peanut trees for the next generation.

Our Peanut tree Psyllid is *Psylla* spp. of sub family Psyllinae Family Psyllidae Suborder Sternorrhyncha -Order Hemiptera. Members of Order Hemiptera are considered to be the most "primitive" group within the true bug families. Psyllid fossils have been found from the early Permian era, considered to be before any flowering plants fossils. What did they suck sap out of back then, must have been plants that did not flower—conifers & ferns?

Our peanut tree psyllid nymphs congregate to feed on the softer more sappy parts being new growth of stems and leaves and flowers.



Above: Psyllid nymphs in "fairy floss" on flower stem.
Photo: Steve & Alison Pearson

There are more than 100 described species in *Psylla* genus but I never found a photographic match for ours.

Fruit Farmers consider some Psyllids as pests as they can reduce fruit tree fruit yield. The problem with farming is that often one species is grown in abundance in concentrated stands. Plantations of one plant species are a concentrated abundance of food ideal for management for pollination, for fertilizing, for watering, for keeping an eye on for harvesting, keeping costs to a minimum but in they makes an ideal food target for Psyllids. And when conditions are right, insects can breed up to massive numbers, spread fast and suck so much out of the plants that it reduces productivity. This becomes a pest to the farmer who then has to jump into action incurring unwanted labour costs, unwanted machinery costs, unwanted chemical costs, possible damage to the environment and loss of productivity—all equalling loss of farm income.

Most of the "PEST" species have been identified and are commonly known as flies. Many belong to neighbouring genera, such as *Cacopsylla* and proactive farmers keep an eye out for them and usually control them using chemical mixtures in mechanical blower misted machines and then you the consumer have to wash the purchased fruit.

However in the bush where nature rules they are just part of the ecosystem, they eat and are eaten—often by the smaller birds—and are just part of the diversity of life in the battle for survival where they are trying to not become extinct.



Above & below: Adult Psyllid
Photo: Steve & Alison Pearson



Above : Psyllid nymphs on stems
Photo: Steve & Alison Pearson



On Saturday the 10th October WCL staff lead the Tangaroa Blue Great Barrier Reef Clean-up at Conway Beach.

Timed to make the most of a very low tide that exposed the Conway Beach sand flats, participants & staff scoured the beach for rubbish. It was blowing a gale and not many people ventured out, except for the land kite that made the most of the constant wind to whizz back & forwards across the extensive sand flats.

This beach is well loved by local residents & visitors, who regularly collect any rubbish they come across so although it sounds a bit strange we were please that very little rubbish was collected. Mostly cans, plastic bags, bits of rope and much to the joy of one young boy a mysterious bone (from a lamb I think/ hope).

Thank you to all that attended & to Tangaroa Blue for undertaking these important events and supporting Whitsunday Catchment Landcare



Tangaroa Blue Beach Clean events

WCL cordially invites its volunteers to attend any of 4 beach clean events in December. These events collect debris from along a specific transect, sort what is collected & then the data on the different types of waste collected are reported to a national data base. Events will be held at the following sites:

7th December: Conway Beach
8th December: Wilsons Beach
11th December: Don River mouth
12th December: Queens Beach

Times & meeting locations will be advised closer to the date



Photos above: Conway Beach Great Barrier Reef Clean Up.

1. Sign on desk, 2. view of Conway beach with the tide receding & 3. Wind against tide, confirming why the bay is called Repulse Bay. Hard work to get a boat through this.

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