



Whitsunday  
Catchment  
**Landcare**

# Newsletter

November 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

Jacquie Sheils, Secretary

Cath Campbell, Treasurer

Dale Mengel

Canegrowers rep. John Casey

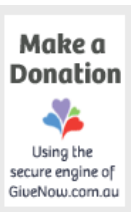
WRC rep. CR. Gary Simpson

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



## Coming Up

### Community Nursery Volunteer Activities:

Tuesday & Thursday mornings 9am to 12 noon. Volunteer activities include Plant Propagation, Native seed sowing & preparation, nursery maintenance tasks and a great morning tea. 33 Kelsey Creek Road, Proserpine

### Tangaroa Blue Beach Clean events: -

#### Thursday 7th December: Conway Beach, 8:30am

Meet at end of Alans Rd, Conway in carpark.

#### Friday 8th December: Wilsons Beach, 9:30am

Meet in playground/picnic area car park behind swim enclosure.

#### Monday 11th December: Don River Mouth 10:30am

Meet in car park opposite end of Queens Beach at Don River Mouth Esplanade

#### Tuesday 12th December: Queens Beach 11:00am

Meet at playground/picnic area carpark, Queens Beach Esplanade

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 Tuesday and Thursday and the 1st Saturday 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  
Clodendrum 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



### Tangaroa Blue Beach Clean Events

WCL cordially invites its volunteers to attend any or all, of the 4 beach clean events planned 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. Please register your interest via email to the Coordinator. Events will be held at the following sites: -

**7th December: Conway Beach, 8:30am** Meet at end of Alans Rd, Conway in carpark.

**8th December: Wilsons Beach, 9:30am** Meet in playground/picnic area car park behind swim enclosure.

**11th December: Don River mouth 10:30am** Meet in car park opposite end of Queens Beach at Don River Mouth Esplanade

**12th December: Queens Beach 11:00am** Meet at playground/picnic area carpark, Queens Beach Esplanade



## New on LUCID - the Australian Mistletoe Key by Roger Fryer

Mistletoes are a common and diverse feature of the Australian flora. They are epiphytic parasites on native trees, spread by fruit-eating birds. Mistletoes in the family Loranthaceae have large showy flowers with abundant nectar, those in the Viscaceae have small flowers that are easily overlooked.

The Australian Mistletoe Key arose from a need identified by Roger Fryer and Jill Newland. Together, they had photographed the majority of Australian mistletoes, but needed an up-to-date key. Unfortunately, Jill died before work began, but, supported by the Australian Tropical Herbarium, Roger has developed the key over the past 2 years.

This key covers all the Australian aerial mistletoes from the Loranthaceae and Santalaceae families, including the off-shore islands. The parasitic trees and shrubs of these families are not covered. It runs using the familiar Lucid format, and can be accessed here:

<https://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v4/australian-mistletoe/>



Mistletoe sp. Photo: Christine Peterson

## Healthy Horse, Healthy Land Workshop — Bloomsbury by Donna Jackson, PCL

A series of two Healthy Horse, Healthy Land workshops were held in late October. The first, a joint venture between Pioneer Catchment Landcare and Whitsunday Catchment Landcare Inc. was held in the Bloomsbury Soldiers Memorial Hall, a beautiful hall kept going by a volunteer committee of dedicated locals. The workshop was presented by Stuart Myers, acclaimed author, and joint creator of Equiculture, with his wife Jane.

The system presented sees a world where the needs of domestic horses are met by providing them with a species-appropriate lifestyle that recognises horses as part of an ecosystem, not separate from it. The workshop was well attended with 10 participants and was engaging, fun and informative. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive with Stuart holding his audience captivated throughout the day. A massive thankyou to Stuart, who had just flown in from the UK, for a thought provoking and practical workshop.

Also, thanks to Farmacist who helped with sponsoring of our event, Kayla, Brooke and Leigh from WLC who helped make the event run smoothly and the committee at Bloomsbury Soldiers Memorial Hall for the excellent location. The second workshop was held in Sarina on Saturday, run by Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Assoc.



If you'd like to find out more check out <http://www.equiculture.net> which is full of information and contacts for Stuart and Jane Myers.

Bloomsbury Healthy Horse Workshop Photo: Donna Jackson,

# What's Showing

**Family:** Rutaceae

**Common name:** Cudgerie, Bumpy Ash

**Scientific name:** *Flindersia Schottiana*

**Description:** Tall slender tree to 40m. Bark is pale to grey, smooth often with scattered bumps on trunk with branches in distinct whorls. The trunk often may have 'bumpy' protrusions where branches have fallen off. The bark is grey, fairly smooth or finely warted.

**Leaves:** Opposite, pinnate, up to 28cm long with 8-18 paired leaflets plus a single terminal leaflet. The soft textured, stalk less leaflets, 7-13cm long are slightly curved, unequal sided at the base and taper to a point at the apex. They are dark green above, greyish and softly hairy beneath.



*Leaves & Flowers : P. Alden*



**Flowers:** Honey-scented conspicuous cream flowers, finely downy, in large terminal panicles. Flowering period, November to December



*PHOTO: Central Queensland Landcare Network*

**Fruit:** Large, ovoid, five valved woody capsules, about 10cm long and covered in woody spikes. The boat shaped valves of broken fruit release about 30 winged seeds. Fruit reach maturity during December -January.



*PHOTO: C. Peterson*

**Propagation:** Best from fresh seeds. Seeds should be densely spread in a shallow coating on the potting mix surface. Germination should take place in 2-3 weeks.

**Distribution:** Eastern Australia from Cape York to Hasting River in New South Wales. Found locally in sub-tropical rainforests, littoral rainforest/beach scrub, dry rainforests, and riverine scrub. Also grows in West Papua and Papua New Guinea.

**Notes:** This pioneer species can establish far from the parent plant. Silver Ash is flowering in paddocks along Shute Harbour Road at the moment. Bumpy ash is often used in rainforest revegetation and regeneration as it grows quickly, but displays longevity.

**Source:** The Mackay Branch Society for Growing Australian Plants. (1989) One Hundred and One Trees of Mackay.

## 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 an article please forward your items identified as: "Newsletter contribution" to:

[coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au](mailto:coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au)

Thank You.

## Plant Pest Hall of Fame— Restricted Invasive plant

Cat's claw creeper is a category 3 restricted invasive plant under the Biosecurity Act 2014. It must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment without a permit. The Act requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with invasive plants and animals under their control. This is called a general biosecurity obligation (GBO)

**Family:** Bignoniaceae. **Deciduous.**

**Common Name:** Cats Claw Creeper

**Botanical name:** *Macfadyena unguis-cati*  
**syn. *Dolichandra unguis-cat***

**Origin:** Central & South America. It is widely naturalised around the world, occurring in southern Africa, south-eastern USA and Hawaii, Asia, the Pacific Islands, Republic of Cape Verde, Mascarene and recently in Europe.

**Description:** Cat's claw creeper is a long-lived rampant vine with long slender stems & bright yellow flowers. Older stems become very woody with time. The vine bears very long, narrow and flat pods containing many papery seeds.

**Leaves:** The compound leaves are oppositely arranged and are borne on leaf stalks (petioles) 5-25 mm long. They consist of a pair of oval (elliptic) to slightly elongated (lanceolate) leaflets and a third 'leaflet' that has been modified into a small three-clawed tendril (each claw is 3-17 mm long). The leaflets (10-80 mm long and 4-30 mm wide) are hairless (glabrous) with entire margins and pointed tips (acute or acuminate apices). However, young seedlings have simple leaves with slightly toothed margins. .



Photo: QLD Government

**Flowers:** (4-10 cm long and up to 10 cm wide) are tubular and have five petal lobes (corolla lobes), each about 1-2 cm long. These flowers usually have several fine reddish-orange lines in their throats. They also have five partially fused sepals (a calyx tube) 10-18 mm long. Flowers are borne singly or in small clusters originating in the leaf forks (in axillary clusters). It flowers in spring.

**Fruit & Seeds:** The fruit (15-50 cm long and 8-12 mm wide) are initially glossy green in appearance, but turn dark-brown as they mature. They are very elongated (linear), flattened, strap-like capsules (they are not pods). Each fruit contains numerous papery seeds (10-40 mm long and 4-10 mm wide). These oblong seeds have two see-through (translucent) wings that are not easily separated from the rest of the seed. The numerous seeds have papery wings that aid dispersal, particularly by water and wind. Seed capsules mature in late summer to autumn, approximately 8-10 months after flowering. Seed begins to drop in late May, with peaks in July and August. Seeds germinate best when not buried and will germinate readily in moist leaf litter. Although seed viability is low, seed production is high and some seeds produce multiple seedlings.

**Notes:** Established plants can reproduce vegetatively from tubers and creeping stems. Detached tubers and cuttings may resprout in moist conditions. Roots start to develop tubers in their second year and plants may be well established before they start to flower. Plants are capable of surviving heavy frost but seed germination is reduced at low temperatures. Cat's claw creeper grows in a range of soil types, but does not tolerate poorly drained soils. Cat's claw creeper prefers warm-temperate, tropical and sub-tropical areas. It can be found in gardens, over fences, along roadsides, waterways and in disturbed rainforests. It occurs in coastal and sub-coastal areas of south-eastern Queensland, and in central and northern Queensland.

### Physical control:

Use a pruning saw, machete or brush hook to cut all leads/ stems up the trees. All above the cut will die, but regrowth will occur from the underground tubers. Digging the tubers out is not practical in most cases. Don't allow the regrowth to reach host tree's canopy; if they get away you will have to re-cut them.

### Herbicide control:

The regrowth is best treated with a foliar spray. Glyphosate 360 (mixed at a rate of 83 mL to each 1 L of water) can be applied in a cut stump method. It is best done in pairs. Cut the lead as close to the ground as possible and spray/paint on the herbicide. The glyphosate must be applied within 15 seconds of cutting—while the sap is running—to take the poison down into the roots and tubers. If not within 15 seconds, re-cut lower and try again. Because of the multitude of tubers the herbicide tends to knock them down one at a time with new regrowth coming from the next tuber. **Be prepared to continue control over the next five years.**

### Biological control:

Cat's claw creeper is currently a target for biological control. The tingid bug *Carvalhotingis visenda*, the moth *Hypocossia pyrochroma* and a leaf-mining jewel beetle *Hylaeogena jureceki* have been released. The tingid is widely established in majority of release sites and cause visible effects in some areas.

**Sources:** [https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/63336/IPA-Cats-Claw-Creeper-PP139.pdf](https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/63336/IPA-Cats-Claw-Creeper-PP139.pdf)



Cat's Claw Creeper smothering native vegetation along the Proserpine River. Photo: P. Alden



Photo: QLD Government

## Cassia sp. Paluma Range has a new cousin

Jason Halford from the QLD Herbarium [J.Halford@des.qld.gov.au](mailto:J.Halford@des.qld.gov.au) is currently working on a revision for Australian *Cassia* which should be ready for publication sometime in the next year or so. In the meantime he has developed a number of phrase names to help people distinguish some of the distinct taxa in the *Cassia tomentella* complex. Hence, *Cassia* sp. (Woodwark Bay) is the new phrase names for plants in the Whitsunday region from within this complex. A “complex” used in this context is a *group of closely related organisms that are so similar in appearance and other features that they are difficult to tell apart.*

Jason Halford says-

In reality both *Cassia* sp. (Woodwark Bay) and *Cassia* sp. (Paluma Range) are both genetically nested within the *Cassia tomentella* complex and both taxa are quite closely related. The morphological differences between the two are that *Cassia* sp. (Woodwark Bay) is pubescent from the branchlets, through the leaves, inflorescences, flowers and fruits, where as *Cassia* sp. (Paluma Range) virtually glabrous throughout.

Whilst *Cassia* sp. (Paluma Range) occurs from the Seaview Range west of Ingham to Shoalwater Bay, *Cassia* sp. (Woodwark Bay) is restricted to the Whitsunday region from Gloucester Island to Cannonvale. Within the Whitsundays the two taxa occupy different habitats with *Cassia* sp. (Woodwark Bay) occurring in drier foothills scrubs and Euc forests/woodlands, whereas *Cassia* sp. (Paluma Range) inhabits wetter environments with well developed forests at higher altitudes on Mt Dryander and Conway Range and in wetter coastal environments in Conway NP and the offshore islands. From personal observation it is safe to say that *Cassia* sp. (Woodwark Bay) is more common and more likely to be seen in the Whitsundays region (within the range mentioned above) than *Cassia* sp. (Paluma Range) – it is quite common in the Woodwark area and within Dryander NP.

Fantastic. Even though these two taxa are very closely related, I think its important to recognise their morphological differences and the difference in habitat preferences to which they are uniquely adapted.

At this stage its most likely they will both be considered a new species separate to *Cassia tomentella* but that *Cassia* sp. (Woodwark Bay) will be a subspecies or variety of *Cassia* sp. (Paluma Range). This is mostly due to the one specimen of *C.* sp. (Paluma Range) we have from Mt Dryander having some attributes that bring it marginally closer to *C.* sp. (Woodwark Bay), thus slightly blurring the line between them both.

It is interesting how the pubescence seen in *C.* sp. (Woodwark Bay) has never evolved in adjacent drier vegetation types in other areas where *C.* sp. (Paluma Range) occurs. Perhaps just a chance, localised evolutionary event.



Above: What we thought was *Cassia* sp. Paluma Range may now be *Cassia* sp. Woodwark Bay— bark, flower & leaf detail.  
Photo: Cath Campbell

Above : The lovely *Cassia* tree that used to be beside Waite Creek on Shute Harbor Rd near the Reef Gateway  
Photo: Cath Campbell