



Whitsunday  
Catchment  
**Landcare**

# Newsletter

March 2024.

Editor: C. Campbell

[www.whitsundaylandcare.org.au](http://www.whitsundaylandcare.org.au)

| Ph: 0483 811 229 |



Central QLD Coast  
**Landcare**  
Network

*A partnership for the natural resource management of catchments in the Central QLD Coast Bioregions.*

#### COORDINATOR:

Christine Peterson

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

#### FIELD OFFICER:

Kayla Simpson

#### 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  
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:*

[www.givenow.com.au](http://www.givenow.com.au)



**Make a  
Donation**

Using the  
secure engine of  
[GiveNow.com.au](http://GiveNow.com.au)

## Coming Up

**ReefClean Marine Debris Monitoring** - RSVP with contact details essential in case of change of dates or times.

#### Monday 4th March: Wilsons Beach, 8:00 am

Meet in playground/picnic area car park.

#### Tuesday 5th March: Conway Beach, 9:00 am

Meet at the end of Alans Rd, Conway.

#### Wednesday 6th March: Don River Mouth 9:30 am

Meet in car park at the far end of Queens Beach at Don River Mouth Esplanade.

#### Thursday 7th March: Queens Beach 10:00 am

Meet at playground/picnic area carpark, Queens Beach.

**Activities:** Setting up transects and collecting/recording marine debris followed by a general beach cleanup. ReefClean is funded by the Australian Government's Reef Trust and is delivered by Tangaroa Blue Foundation in partnership with WCL.

#### Beach Scrub Rehabilitation and Seed Collecting

**Where:** Dingo Beach (end of Olive Street)

**When:** Thursday March 21. 9am to 12 noon.

**What:** Join us to help continue our long term works to rehabilitate this wonderful patch of beach scrub. Second breakfast at Dingo Beach shelter sheds.

*Please contact Christine at [coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au](mailto:coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au) or on 0483 811 229 for more details for each day, to let us know you are coming along, or if you require a lift to the sites as there may be room in the WCL vehicle or carpooling opportunities with other volunteers. Please let us know if you are happy to offer others a lift. As for all our field activities please wear closed in shoes, sun safe clothing, hat, and sunscreen. BYO water bottle and snacks. WCL will supply water refills and some light morning tea.*

#### Community Nursery Volunteer Activities

**Where:** 33 Kelsey Creek Rd

**When:** Tuesday & Thursday mornings 9am to 12 noon.

**Activities :** Plant propagation, native seed sowing & preparation, nursery maintenance tasks and a great morning tea with a fantastic bunch of volunteers.



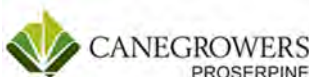
#### Landcare Nursery Open for Plant Sales

33 Kelsey Creek Rd. Tuesday & Thursday mornings 9am to 12 noon and the 1st Saturday of each month.

**Open Saturday 2nd March.** EFTPOS & cash sales. Gift vouchers available for a gardener you know.

**Addendum to February newsletter:** the article "Hoop Pine—Monarch of the Forest" was written by Ernie Rider from Gympie Landcare. Jim Dickens brought this article to our attention. Thank you Jim.

WCL receives support from the following organizations:



Australian Government  
Department of the Environment



## What's Showing

**Common name:** Pink Nodding Orchid, Shepherds Crook Orchid

**Scientific name:** *Geodorum densiflorum*

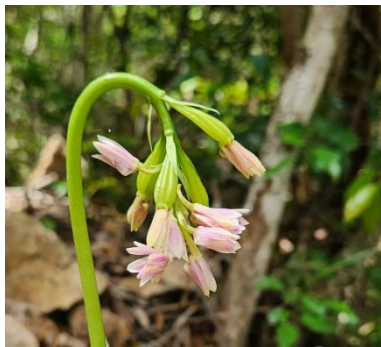
**Family:** ORCHIDACEAE

**Description:** A terrestrial orchid to 40 cm forming small clumps. Pseudobulbs crowded, subterranean to partially emergent, erect, ovoid, 3-5 cm x 2-3 cm, fleshy, often yellowish.

**Leaves:** Three to five leaves to 25-35 cm x 6-8 cm, marked by prominent ribs. Held erect to prostrate, apical; petioles 2-8 cm long, enclosed in sheathing bracts forming pseudostem; lamina ovate to lanceolate.



Above: *Geodorum densiflorum* leaves & flower  
PHOTO: L. Donkers



Above: *Geodorum densiflorum* flowers  
PHOTO: L. Donkers

**Flowers:** Flowering stem to 30 cm long, 8 – 20 white to deep-pink flowers. The stem grows erect, nods when in flower and then straightens for seed dispersal. The flowers do not open, but remain as a tube. Flowers in December and February. Inflorescence an axillary raceme, 200-300 mm tall, nodding in flower, erect in bud and at seed dispersal; pedicels 5-10 mm long. Flowers 8-20, crowded, tubular to bell-shaped, 20 mm across, pale pink, rarely white. Sepals and petals not widely spreading.

Dorsal sepal lanceolate, 12-15 mm x 3.5-4 mm. Lateral sepals free, lanceolate, 12-15 mm x 4 mm, exterior keeled, apex cymbiform. Petals similar to lateral sepals, 13-16 mm x 4-5 mm. Labellum 13-15 mm x 10-12 mm, pink with dark red veins, obscurely 3 lobed; lateral

lobes; obliquely erect midlobe concave, apex shallowly emarginate. Column 5-6 mm long. Column foot 1.5-2 mm long, nearly at right-angles to column.

**Fruit:** Capsules pendulous, obovoid, conspicuously ribbed, 2.5 cm long, dehiscent.

**Reproduction:** From seed. Seed dispersal takes 2-4 months from pollination.

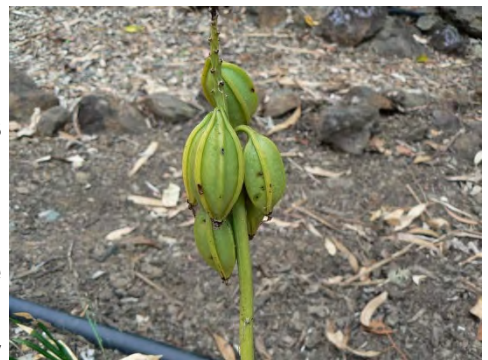
**Notes:** Occurs in the Kimberley region in Western Australia, in the northern parts of Northern Territory and from Cape York, Queensland to the Mackay River, New South Wales, found in open eucalypt forests. Also distributed extensively throughout the Pacific, occurring in New Caledonia, New Guinea and Indonesia, and across South East Asia to Japan.

It also occurs in Sri Lanka. A hardy species that is sometimes found growing in road drains and culverts. It is one of the most commonly encountered orchids locally.

Also known as *Geodorum neocaledonicum* and *Geodorum pictum*, this is the only *Geodorum* found in Australia. A pretty, ephemeral plant, quite common. Plant is dormant (not visible above the ground) during winter/ dry season.

### References:

[https://www.anbg.gov.au/cpbr/cd-keys/RFKOrchids/key/rfkorchids/Media/Html/Geodorum\\_densiflorum.htm](https://www.anbg.gov.au/cpbr/cd-keys/RFKOrchids/key/rfkorchids/Media/Html/Geodorum_densiflorum.htm)  
Pink nodding orchid | Central QLD Coast Landcare Network ([cqclandcarenetwork.org.au](http://cqclandcarenetwork.org.au))



Football shaped capsules of *Geodorum densiflorum*. Photo: C. Peterson.



## Update. The Whitsunday Bottle Tree, *Brachychiton compactus* & the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra

Back in March 2015 we received an update from Toby Golsen informing us that the seed of the *Brachychiton compactus*, that WCL had sent for the national plant collection had been successfully germinated & planted out.

Earlier this month we were contacted by Toby who informed us that the trees are doing well in sunny Canberra. Occasionally the plants get to experience temperatures below -7deg. and the trees will defoliate, if in exposed positions but bounce back with the next summer. The species is closely related to *Brachychiton rupestris* which is similarly at home in Canberra.

Toby reports the tallest trees are close to 3 meters, so slow growing in the Canberra climate but generally tough as.



Above: *Brachychiton compactus* growing at the National Botanic Gardens PHOTO: Toby

## Plant Pest Hall of Fame.

**Common Name:** Light Blue Snake Weed

**Botanical Name:** *Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*

**Family:** Verbenaceae

**Origin:** Tropical & subtropical America

**Description:** Snakeweeds also known as Porter weeds (*Stachytarpheta* spp.) are all clumping perennial plants, with rather tough, branched stems and woody roots. Four snakeweeds are found in Queensland varying in flower colour and leaf shape – some hybridisation has also been reported.

Light blue snakeweed (*Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*) has smooth stems. Stems are 4 angled & generally purplish. The leaves are very different to other snakeweeds, making it difficult to recognize until flowering. Light blue snakeweed is hardier and grows in sandy soils. Snakeweed, like most other weeds, becomes a problem only when pastures are overgrazed.

**Leaves:** Opposite or sometimes alternate, simple, oval or lance shaped with toothed margins, thick & leathery, bluish-grey in colour, 20-80cm long

**Flowers:** Tubular 5-lobed blue to violet or purple approx. 8mm diameter borne in groups along a stout snake-like terminal spikes, up to 40cm tall.

**Fruit/ Seed:** Dry enclosed in floral remnants, 3-7mm x 2mm, purple, brown or black. Splitting when mature into two 1-seeded segments.

**Controls:** Seed is spread in contaminated soils, pasture seed & fodder – so ask for certified weed free products. Invades degraded pasture, cropland & disturbed or abandoned areas on any type of soil. Mowing before seed set will break the seed cycle & give time plan to implement further controls. Herbicides licensed refer to DAF.qld.gov.au weed fact sheet. Destock paddocks where a snake weed is a problem



Above – Light Blue Snake Weed.  
*Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*  
PHOTO: C. Peterson

**References:** [https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0005/54392/snakeweed.pdf](https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/54392/snakeweed.pdf)  
Weeds of the Mackay Whitsunday Region-Mackay Regional Pest Group



## Nelly Bay– January 2024

Photos taken by WCL staff on a site visit to monitor the revegetation sites, conduct some week control, collect seed & plan for future visits. This is just a small sample of the diverse range of species that occur in this National listed, under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) & critically endangered vegetation community–Littoral Rain-forest & Coastal Vine Thicket.



Above: 1 and 2. Revegetation from older WCL projects; slow growing in sand.  
Photos: K. Simpson

*Tabernaemontana orientalis*



Above: *Huberantha nitidissima*.  
Photos: K. Simpson

*Commelina cyanea*

*Abrus precatorius*



Above: *Sophora tomentosa*.  
Photos: K. Simpson

*Micromelum minutum*

*Cordia subcordata*



## Plant Pest Hall of Fame

With all this rain you can expect to see lots of weeds coming up. So there will be lots of work ahead for all the landholders – especially the Sporobolus grasses like Rats Tail grasses.

The best time to act is as soon as you see weeds germinating or growing. A small infestation can be removed manually and it's a good method to implement especially when you **first notice** small weed infestations.

WCL is available to help– see below for our Sustainable Land Management Advice & Assistance Schedule which we provide on a Fee for Service basis. For more information please contact the WCL Coordinator at [coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au](mailto:coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au) or 0483 811 229.



### Sustainable Land Management Services

*Please email - [coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au](mailto:coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au)  
or call 0483 811 229 to discuss our services & fees.*

SERVICES OFFERED		PRODUCT
1	<b>Site visit &amp; property management advice. (Verbal)</b>	Site visit with property owner to discuss specific issues and provide verbal advice on weed control, native vegetation and potential actions to address any issues. Owner to take notes. 1 - 2 hours; hourly rate plus travel.
2	<b>Land Management Plan (LMP)</b>	Comprehensive 3 year Land Management Plan covering site specific weed species identification & management techniques, endemic vegetation type/classification & plant species found on site, revegetation plan & ongoing management advice. Plus 40 native tube stock.
3	<b>Weed control undertaken on behalf of the landholder by qualified &amp; licenced WCL Staff.</b>	<b>Initial Site visit:</b> To discuss landholder requirements, site access, topography, water availability, weed type & appropriate control method. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selective/ targeted weed species as determined by landholder i.e. Lantana, guinea grass.</li> <li>• Revegetation site preparation - targeting weed control within a specific area as determined by landholder.</li> <li>• Biological control of specific weed species - hourly rate plus cost of biological controls Madeira vine, prickly pear.</li> <li>• Manual control of selected weed species (cut &amp; paint, basal bark - i.e. cats claw, prickly pear, pond apple, rats tail grass).</li> </ul>
<b>NOTES:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under Queensland Government Legislation, anyone conducting ground distribution (using ground based machines) of herbicides on land they do not own or are not directly related to the owner, must operate under a Commercial Operator's Licence (the licence number will begin with "G"). An organisation or individual contractor in the business of ground distribution must hold a ground distribution contractor's licence (the licence number will begin with "GCD").</li> <li>• Each site requires site specific recommendations for best practice land management advice in the context of current Local, State &amp; Federal Governments Environmental regulations.</li> <li>• Recommended management practices are developed in consideration of Landholder long term intended use for the site and the best way of achieving these outcomes.</li> <li>• WCL will not be complicit in the deliberate destruction of endangered vegetation types, habitats or illegal vegetation clearing and will advise the client of any potential conflict in the initial project discussion phase.</li> </ul>		
Whitsunday Catchment Landcare: ABN 21 925 782 588. Ground Distribution Contractor License No: GDC544		

## WCL Community Nursery– Always Needs Seeds

**The WCL Nursery is very keen to source endemic seed so please keep an eye on your flowering native trees, shrubs & grasses for the volunteer nursery. Some of the species we need are:**

<i>Abutilon auritum</i>		<i>Lagerstroemia archeriana</i>	
<i>Abutilon albescens</i>		<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>	Brush Box
<i>Acacia aulacocarpa</i>		<i>Lophostemon grandiflorus</i>	Nthn Swamp Mahogany
<i>Acacia leptocarpa</i>		<i>Lysiphyllum hookeri</i>	Hookers Bauhinia
<i>Acacia leptostachya</i>		<i>Macaranga tanarius</i>	Macaranga
<i>Acacia simsii</i>		<i>Melaleuca dealbata</i>	Blue Tea Tree
<i>Alphitonia excelsa</i>		<i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i>	
<i>Alphitonia petriei</i>		<i>Melaleuca viminalis</i>	Weeping Bottle Brush
<i>Antidesma parviflorum</i>		<i>Melicope elleryana</i>	Corkwood, Euodia
<i>Aphananthe philippinensis</i>		<i>Memecylon pauciflorum</i> var. <i>pauciflorum</i>	
<i>Archontophoenix alexandrae</i>	Alexander Palm	<i>Micromelum minutum</i>	Native Lime Berry
<i>Allocasuarina torulosa</i>	Black she-oak	<i>Omphalea celata</i>	
<i>Allocasuarina luehmannii</i>		<i>Pandanus</i> sp.	
<i>Aidia racemosa</i>	Archer Cherry	<i>Petalostigma pubescens</i>	
<i>Atalaya rigida</i>	Veiny Whitewood	<i>Planchonia careya</i>	Cocky Apple
<i>Breynia oblongifolia</i>	Coffee Bush	<i>Ptychosperma elegans</i>	Solitaire palm
<i>Cajanus reticulatus</i>	Native Pigeon Pea	<i>Phyllanthus novae-hollandiae</i>	
<i>Carallia brachiata</i>	Freshwater mangrove	<i>Sterculia quadrifida</i>	Peanut Tree
<i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i>	River oak	<i>Syzygium australe</i>	River cherry
<i>Chionanthus ramiflorus</i>	Native Olive	<i>Tabernaemontana orientalis</i>	
<i>Cordia dichotoma</i>		<i>Timonius timon</i>	Tim Tam Tree
<i>Cordia subcordata</i>	Sea Trumpet	<i>Trema tomentosa</i> var. <i>aspera</i>	Peach-leafed Poison Bush
<i>Corymbia clarksoniana</i>		<i>Trema orientalis</i>	
<i>Corymbia intermedia</i>	Pink Bloodwood	<i>Vachellia bidwillii</i> (WAS <i>Acacia bidwillii</i> )	Corkwood
<i>Corymbia tessellaris</i>	Morton Bay Ash	<i>Vitex trifolia</i>	Vitex
<i>Corymbia erythrophloia</i>	Red Bloodwood		
<i>Cryptocarya hypospodia</i>	Large leafed Laurel		
<i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i>	Tuckeroo		
<i>Diospyros compacta</i>			
<i>Diospyros geminata</i>			
<i>Diospyros hebecarpa</i>			
<i>Dysoxylum gaudichaudianum</i>			
<i>Elaeocarpus grandis</i>	Blue Quandang		
<i>Eucalyptus crebra</i>	Narrow-leafed Ironbark		
<i>Eucalyptus platyphylla</i>			
<i>Eucalyptus exserta</i>	QLD Peppermint		
<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i>	QLD Blue Gum		
<i>Euroschinus falcatus</i>	Ribbonwood		
<i>Ficus racemosa</i>	Cluster fig		
<i>Hymenosporum flavum</i>	Native frangipani		
<i>Indigofera pratensis</i>			
<i>Ixora timorensis</i>			
<i>Ganophyllum falcatum</i>	Scaly Ash		

### Guidelines for seed collecting:

- Only collect seed from your own property or with written permission
- Source plants must have grown from seed from the Whitsunday Region
- Collect ripe, mature seed & no more than 10% of the seed from any one plant
- Collect from several parts of the plant, mainly the middle & upper branches
- Use paper bags (not plastic) to store the seed & keep them in a cool place
- Label the bag with the species, location, date and your name. Not sure of your plant identification? Include a stem with some leaves & /or take a photo.

You can drop seed off at the nursery on Tuesday or Thursday mornings, at 33 Kelsey Creek Road Proserpine, or call 0483 811 229.

You can make a tax deductible donation to the Whitsunday Catchment Landcare Gift Fund at any time. Just go to <http://www.givenow.com.au/whitsundaycatchmentlandcare>

If you would like to receive this e-newsletter please email [coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au](mailto:coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au) with your request.

Disclaimer: Information in this newsletter is offered as a guide only and while every care is taken to ensure its accuracy, Whitsunday Catchment Landcare does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.

**Make a Donation**

Using the secure engine of GiveNow.com.au