



Whitsunday
Catchment
Landcare

Newsletter

APRIL 2024 Editor: C Campbell

www.whitsundaylandcare.org.au



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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

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:

Dale Mengel, Chair
Jacquie Sheils, Secretary
Cath Campbell, Treasurer
Jan Armstrong.
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.givnow.com.au



Make a Donation

Using the secure engine of
GiveNow.com.au

Coming Up

Property Visit and Seed Collection

Where: Gregory River Catchment. RSVP essential.
When: Thursday 18th of April, 9am to 12 noon.
What: Walk through private property looking at forestry plantings/ revegetation and remnant vegetation with potential for seed collection for our nursery.

For more information or to RSVP please contact Christine at coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au or on 0483 811 229 Please let us know if you require transport 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 transport. 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.
What: 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

Where: 33 Kelsey Creek Rd
When: 9 am to 12 noon each Tuesday & Thursday and the 1st Saturday of each month. Open Saturday 6th April.
What: A huge range of local native plants grown from locally collected seed, all at great prices from \$3.50. Gift vouchers available for a gardener you know. Knowledgeable volunteers are on hand for friendly advice.



You Know You're Successful When...

You know your revegetation efforts are successful when you have ceased large scale weed control of young plants and have switched to more targeted bush regeneration techniques made possible by well established vegetation. Bush regeneration is "the practice of restoring bushland by reinstating and reinforcing the system's natural regeneration processes" (AABR). This isn't possible if there is no natural system left in the first place, such as with much of the riparian zone of Galbraith Creek adjacent to Galbraith Park. After many years of revegetation efforts by Landcare volunteers (thank you especially Dave and Jim), the earlier plantings are established enough to be performing in some ways like natural a natural system. Trees are providing habitat for many animals, dropping leaf litter and bark, and self seeding new generations of plants. Unfortunately, the birds also bring in weed seeds... cont. page 5

WCL receives support from the following organizations:



Australian Government
Department of the Environment



Burdekin plum (*Pleiogynium timorense*) germination at the WCL Community Nursery. By Jacquie Sheils

Burdekin plum (*Pleiogynium timorense*) fruits are oddballs: the trees are placed in the family Anacardiaceae, along with the cashews, mangoes and pistachios.

Unlike their relatives, Burdekin Plums have a thin fleshed fruit covering a hard, woody central endocarp that looks a lot like a little flying saucer with 5 to 12 little 'portholes' around the outside.

The 'portholes' are called locules and each contains one tiny, bean shaped seed. If you look under a female Burdekin Plum tree at any time of year you can usually see some of these, as they are so hard that they stay around for a long time after falling off the tree.

At the Landcare nursery we have had beautiful ripe fruit given to us, as well as old dry endocarps from under the tree and some that had been freshly defleshed by helpful fruit bats. We had dutifully processed (soaked and defleshed) all of these and put them on the soil surface in pots to await their germination, which can take a while.

After much waiting, some of our Burdekin Plum seeds started to germinate. This was exciting, not just because they take a long time, but also because we actually caught one of the seedlings in the act of emerging from the fruit's hard, woody endocarp. They are the acrobats of the seedling world: first a tiny root emerges from the porthole in the woody endocarp and reaches out until it reaches the soil surface, where it embeds itself and gets a hold. It then gradually *pulls* the rest of the seedling backwards out of the porthole until they are separate. Then the more normally oriented seedling 'straightens up and grows right'. If you haven't paid attention, seedlings will magically appear in a cluster around the old 'flying saucer'.

Hard to believe that it works if you didn't actually see it happening!

For those with access to fresh Burdekin Plum fruits, I found this recipe in an article by Andrew Rozefelds of the Queensland Museum:

Burdekin Plum Jam

Ingredients:

1kg ripe Burdekin plums (seeds in)

1 cup of white sugar

Juice of a medium sized lemon (pectin)

Method:

Place plums in a stainless steel saucepan (do not use aluminium). Just cover the fruit with water. Bring to the boil and cook for 10 minutes.

Stir with a wooden spoon to remove the flesh from the seeds. The seeds can then be discarded.

The fruit may be left chunky or can be strained through a coarse sieve. Add sugar and lemon Juice. Bring to the boil and simmer for 15 minutes.

Test a small amount on a cold saucer to see if the jam is thickening. Boil a bit longer if necessary. Bottle while hot into sterilised jars

Getting the best out of your Burdekin plums: the fruit of the Burdekin plum (*Pleiogynium timoriense*) should be plump-looking and dark purple when picked.

The fruits are best ripened by placing them in a brown paper bag or burying them in sand, as was traditional. The ripe flesh varies in colour, from deep red to greenish white, and the taste can also vary, some being quite astringent. Burdekin plums can be eaten raw, or cooked and added to an apple dessert in place of rhubarb. Chopped pieces can also be cooked in a gravy for rich meats such as kangaroo, emu and venison. The acid/sweet fruit of the plum also works well as a condiment in Asian fusion cooking with seafood and chicken.

Note: An article by Society for Growing Australian Plants (SGAP) Townsville noted that the 'best' tasting ones are part purple and part green and grow in the Townsville region. Here we have found the pale pink-fleshed varieties sweeter. In their Burdekin Plum entry in the book 'Across the Top: Gardening with Australian Plants', SGAP note that there is great potential for selective breeding to improve fruit flavour and consistency.



*Above: Burdekin Plum fruit & seed germination process
PHOTO: Jacquie Sheils*

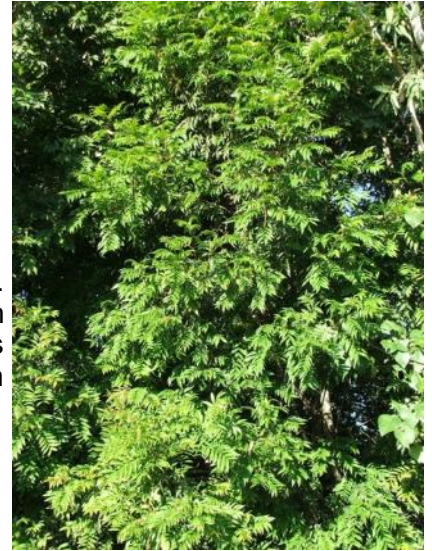
What's Showing:

Botanical name: *Jagera pseudorhus*

Common name: Foam bark. Pink Tamarind, fern tree

Family: Sapindaceae

Description: Tall shrub to small tree to 5-10m with light grey bark. Young shoots densely rusty with new growth pinkish. This is an attractive small tree with graceful compound leaves that form whorls around the ends of the branches and develop a shady crown on maturity.



Jagera pseudorhus form in forest
PHOTO: CP



Jagera pseudorhus Leaves and fruit PHOTO: CP

Leaves: Pinnate, to 60cm long, with 8-20 leaflets, oblong to egg-shaped or oval, sickle shaped, leathery dark green on top and hairy beneath, with coarsely toothed margins, 2-11.5cm x 0.5-3cm. New growth has stiff, rusty hairs.



Jagera pseudorhus Flowers PHOTO: CP

Flowers: June to August. Brownish, hairy outside, 0.4-0.6cm diameter, in much-branched terminal panicles 14-16cm long.

Fruit: Yellow capsules, egg-shaped or oval, covered in stiff, irritating hairs. When ripe they split into 3 segments containing up to 3 black seeds



Jagera pseudorhus—fruit PHOTO: CP



Jagera pseudorhus Fruit and seeds PHOTO: CP

Propagation: From fresh seed.

Notes: It grows from Papua New Guinea to northern NSW. Adaptable to a wide range of soils & climates. Common of edges of stream banks & edges of rainforest. In heavy rain it can produce foam, hence the name 'Foambark'. The foam comes from soap-like chemicals known as saponins that occur in the leaves and bark, which Aboriginals used as a fish poison. Oddly it was also used to make beer foam during World War 1! It is also regarded the flowers are useful for honey production and the timber has been used for tool handles.

If you have any seed please collect it & deliver it to the WCL nursery or office. Best to wear Gloves when handling the seed though.

References:

Across the Top— SGACP Townsville— compiled by K Townsend

Plants of Central Queensland— Identification & uses of native & introduces species. -Eric Anderson

Plant Pest Hall of Fame

Botanical name: *Cassia pendula* var. *glabrata*

Common name: Easter Cassia

Family: Fabaceae, subfamily Caesalpinioideae,

Origin: South America

Description: Easter cassia grows up to about 5 m high. The stems often grow in a zigzag pattern and may be sparsely hairy.



Leaves: Leaves grow in alternate formation and are pinnate with 3–6 pairs of leaflets with rounded tips. The topside of the leaf stalk has a gland between the lowermost leaflets.



Flowers: Yearly but more around Easter, it produces masses of bright yellow flowers borne in clusters at the ends of branches



Fruit/ Seed: Flowering is followed by hundreds of brown, slender hanging seed pods up to 12 cm long with up to 40 seeds/pod. Spreads readily in flood waters, seed transported in contaminated soil & garden waste dumped in bushland



Problem: Easter cassia is a successful invader of disturbed or modified sites. It has been observed to establish in sunny openings and then scramble over the adjacent vegetation, often into the canopy layer of even rain forest. Easter cassia is very common in gardens and is naturalised in highly disturbed urban bushland and farmland in many areas of coastal Queensland and northern New South Wales. Easter cassia is frequently seen along roadsides and on the banks of waterways.

Control: Small individual plants can be removed by hand pulling, particularly in moist soil. Take care to remove the roots and consider applying mulch to discourage regrowth. Larger individuals may be dug out with a mattock or similar garden tool. The whole crown must be removed for the achievement of long-term control. This approach may be deemed too labour-intensive for more established individual plants or for larger infestations.

Herbicide control - There are no herbicide products specifically registered for the control of Easter cassia in Queensland. However, an APVMA off-label permit - PER11463, allows people generally to use some herbicide products to control Easter cassia as an environmental weed in some situations. Check the permit for more detailed information - web search "APVMA PER11463".

References: [Weeds Of Mackay Whitsunday Region & QLD Govt Easter Cassia Fact Sheet.](#)

Continued from page 1.

A walk under the canopy of past plantings now shows us the amount of weed establishment from nearby plants, especially mock orange a common landscaping plant. WCL will be conducting weed control visits throughout Galbraith plantings in the coming months. These will be combined with some plant identification and information for those interested, as well as seed collection for our nursery. If you are interested in being involved, please send us an email and we will make sure you are on the list. And even if can't help during our activity days, it is definitely worth a walk in the park some time!



Galbraith Creek plantings, photo taken November 2023. Plantings from June/July in the foreground and more advanced plantings in the background. Photo: WCL.

The RAP Team Travel Further Afield to Improve Driving Skills.

Our WCL Reef Assist Reveg Team Rory Richards and Kayla Simpson recently attended Light Vehicle and 4x4 driver training in Mackay as part of the RAP employee development initiative. They made the most of this opportunity by also visiting Sarina Catchment Landcare Management Assoc. (SLCMA). Of particular interest was the incredible Sarina Community Native Gardens showcasing native plants in garden situations with sensory beds developed around taste, smell, touch, sight and sound. It also included representation of local habitats including coastal, wetlands, riparian and rainforest vegetation.



Saskia von Fahland, SLCMA Coordinator is pictured together with Kayla and Rory in the middle of the gardens. Note the lush *Oplismenus* sp. in the foreground. Photo: WCL

INTERESTING WEB SITES:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/>

Native Animals, Insects, Birds:

www.whitsundaylandcare.org.au

<http://www.wildlife.org.au/magazine/>

<http://www.aussiebee.com.au>

www.birdsinbackyards.net

www.australianmuseum.net.au/reptiles

<http://birdlife.org.au/locations/birdlife-mackay/activities-mac>

Native plants:

<http://ausgrass2.myspecies.info/content/oplismenus>

<https://www.anbg.gov.au/cpbr/cd-keys/rfk/>

<https://www.eucalyptaustalia.org.au/>

<http://sgaptownsville.org.au/>

www.facebook.com.au/sgapmackay

Wetlands

<http://wetlandinfo.ehp.qld.gov.au/wetlands/ecology/components/flora/mangroves/mangrove-moreton.html>

Feral Animals: feralflyer@invasiveanimals.com

<https://alumni.uq.edu.au/cane-toad-baits>

Feral plants:

<https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/biosecurity/invasive-plants-animals/plants-weeds>

www.weeds.org.au

www.environment.gov.au › Biodiversity › Invasive species › weeds

www.iewf.org/weedid/index_by_reserve.htm

www.anbg.gov.au/cpbr/herbarium/

<https://www.vision6.com.au/em/mail/view.php?id=1769275019&a=17056&k=a87f8df>

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. Species we seek include:

<i>Abutilon auritum</i>	
<i>Abutilon albescens</i>	
<i>Acacia aulacocarpa</i>	
<i>Acacia leptocarpa</i>	
<i>Acacia leptostachya</i>	
<i>Acacia simsii</i>	
<i>Alphitonia excelsa</i>	
<i>Alphitonia petriei</i>	
<i>Antidesma parviflorum</i>	
<i>Aphananthe philippinensis</i>	
<i>Archontophoenix alexandrae</i>	Alexander Palm
<i>Allocasuarina torulosa</i>	Black she-oak
<i>Allocasuarina luehmannii</i>	
<i>Aidia racemosa</i>	Archer Cherry
<i>Atalaya rigida</i>	Veiny Whitewood
<i>Breynia oblongifolia</i>	Coffee Bush
<i>Cajanus reticulatus</i>	Native Pigeon Pea
<i>Carallia brachiata</i>	Freshwater mangrove
<i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i>	River oak
<i>Chionanthus ramiflorus</i>	Native Olive
<i>Cordia dichotoma</i>	
<i>Cordia subcordata</i>	Sea Trumpet
<i>Corymbia clarksoniana</i>	
<i>Corymbia intermedia</i>	Pink Bloodwood
<i>Corymbia tessellaris</i>	Morton Bay Ash
<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

<i>Lagerstroemia archeriana</i>	
<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>	Brush Box
<i>Lophostemon grandiflorus</i>	Nthn Swamp Mahogany
<i>Lysiphyllum hookeri</i>	Hookers Bauhinia
<i>Macaranga tanarius</i>	Macaranga
<i>Melaleuca dealbata</i>	Blue Tea Tree
<i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i>	
<i>Melaleuca viminalis</i>	Weeping Bottle Brush
<i>Melicope elleryana</i>	Corkwood, Euodia
<i>Memecylon pauciflorum</i> var. <i>pauciflorum</i>	
<i>Micromelum minutum</i>	Native Lime Berry
<i>Omphalea celata</i>	
<i>Pandanus</i> sp.	
<i>Petalostigma pubescens</i>	
<i>Planchonia careya</i>	Cocky Apple
<i>Ptychosperma elegans</i>	Solitaire palm
<i>Phyllanthus novae-hollandiae</i>	
<i>Sterculia quadrifida</i>	Peanut Tree
<i>Syzygium australe</i>	River cherry
<i>Tabernaemontana orientalis</i>	
<i>Timonius timon</i>	Tim Tam Tree
<i>Trema tomentosa</i> var. <i>aspera</i>	Peach-leafed Poison Bush
<i>Trema orientalis</i>	
<i>Vachellia bidwillii</i> (WAS <i>Acacia bidwillii</i>)	Corkwood
<i>Vitex trifolia</i> <i>Vitex</i>	

Guidelines for seed collecting:

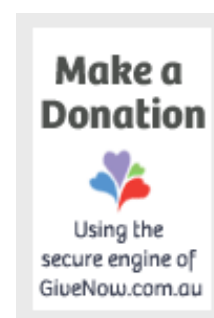
- Only collect seed from your own property or with written permission
- Source plants must have grown from seed from the Whitsunday Region
- Collect ripe, mature seed & no more than 10% of the seed from any one plant
- Collect from several parts of the plant, mainly the middle & upper branches
- Use 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 Fund at any time. Just go to <http://www.givenow.com.au/whitsundaycatchmentlandcare>

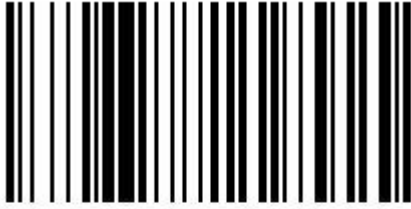
If you would like to receive this e-newsletter please email coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au with your request. Or you can phone Cath on mbl:0483 811 229 to request one.

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.

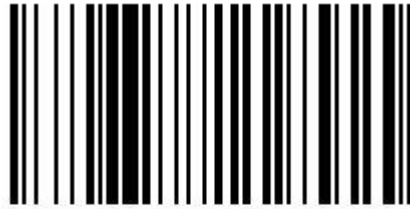


Thank You Everyone!

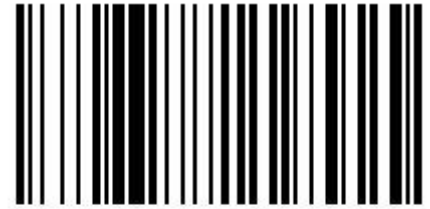
Thank you to so many of you who have generously and kindly donated your container refunds to WCL. Your contributions are allocated to the WCL Public Fund which allows WCL to take on various projects for the ongoing education of our members and the wider community. Please find below our Containers for Change ID number to conveniently cut off and include in your bags. Anything Environmental who manage the local container exchange have moved to a QR Code– please find the new WCL ID below. Thank You again!



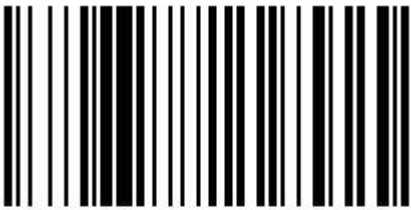
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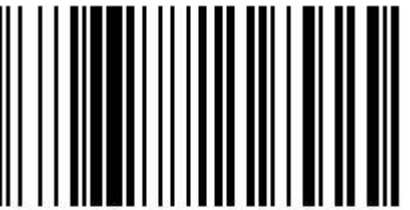
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