



Whitsunday  
Catchment  
**Landcare**

# Newsletter

May 2024

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

**CONTACT:**

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

0483 811 229

**CONTACT US FOR INFORMATION:**

- Natural Resource Management
- Land Management Plans
- Native Plants
- Environmental Weeds
- Volunteer Activities

**BECOME A VOLUNTEER:**

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 TEAM**

Coordinator: Christine Peterson

Admin/finance: Leigh Donkers

Field Staff: Kayla Simpson, Rory Richards

Nursery Manager: Nicole Murphy

**WCL Management Committee:**

Dale Mengel, Chair

Jacque Sheils, Secretary; newsletter editor

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:*

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



**Make a Donation**

Using the secure engine of GiveNow.com.au

**Coming Up:**

**Beach Scrub Rehabilitation and Seed Collecting**

**Where:** Nelly Bay (meet at the first car park)

**When:** Thursday 23rd May. 9am to 12 noon.

**What:** Join us to help continue our long term works to rehabilitate this wonderful patch of threatened beach scrub. The visit will involve a bit of a walk and talk—what native plants abound, and why. You will also have the opportunity to learn which are weeds as we remove them to maintain the small remnant of scrub (Littoral Rainforest to some).

**ReefClean Marine Debris Monitoring**

**Where:** Don River mouth; Queens Beach; Conway Beach, Wilsons Beach

**When:** 3rd, 4th, 10th, and 11th June. 8.00 am; please RSVP for exact times/updates.

**What:** See page 6 for detail.

Please contact us at [coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au](mailto:coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au) for more detail, to let us know you are coming along (so that we can contact you if there are changes or cancellations), or if you require a lift to the sites as there may be room in the WCL vehicle or carpooling opportunities with other volunteers. 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 some snacks and water refills.

**Community Nursery Volunteer Activities**

**Where:** 33 Kelsey Creek Rd Proserpine

**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 (EFTPOS available)**

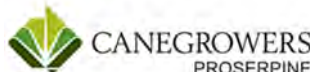
**Where:** 33 Kelsey Creek Rd Proserpine

**When:** 9 am to 12 noon Tuesday & Thursday, & the 1st Saturday each month.

**What:** A huge range of local native plants grown from locally collected seed, at great prices from \$3.50. Gift vouchers available for a gardener you know. Knowledgeable staff & volunteers are on hand for friendly advice.



Supported by:



## Property visit: Jim Muller, Master Tree Grower, Gregory River Catchment

WCL volunteers were invited to visit a property and were able to take up the offer last month. Jim has planted a huge number of trees on his property near Mt Dryander over more than 20 years. He has kept meticulous records of his work in a database, including the locations where the seeds were collected, where the seedlings were planted, the soil type and their growth rates over the first 2 years.

His knowledge and dedication to the subject can be seen in his beautifully managed remnant vegetation, revegetated areas, mowed walkways, timber tree plantations and orchards. He has rainwater tanks set up at convenient intervals, with water catching roofs over them, so that he has water handy for his plantings, and a drink where ever he is working.

The location close to Mt Dryander National Park guaranteed a high diversity of plant species for us to ooh and ahh at, most of which Jim named for us. There were still a few to keep the plant nerds amongst us head scratching about what they

were for some days afterwards. The high species diversity and moist microclimate make this a haven for rainforest plant species, and animal species which will be able to obtain food here in dry spells when it is absent from other parts of the landscape.



*Celastrus subspicatus* vine with fruit

We saw some interesting vine species along the creek, with *Celastrus subspicatus* (Staff Vine) fruiting, *Mucuna gigantea* (Burny Bean) flowering and an oddball looking leaf which belonged to *Parsonsia fulva* (Furry Silk-pod): it's leaf shape varies a lot but the 3 lobed variety we saw looked unusual. A shrub with 5 petalled white flowers also caught our eye: after much looking it was decided that it was probably *Macropteranthes leiocaulis*, a rainforest shrub or tree species found from south of Townsville to Maryborough.

There are only 5 species in the genus, 4 are found only in Queensland, while one occurs in the NT. It can be found as a shrub or a tree up to 25m.

We did get some seeds from a group of heavily fruiting *Jagera pseudhorus*, soon we will have to tackle getting the seeds out of the itchy-hairy capsules. **Continued page 5...**



Jim and Christine admire the lower section of Deep Creek which Jim has cleared of historic rubbish.



A young *Neisosperma kilneri* (we think) flowering along the creek (above & right)



*Parsonsia fulva* vine



*Macropteranthes leiocaulis* flowering shrub

## What's Showing:

**Botanical name:** *Acacia simsii*

**Common name:** Sim's Wattle

**Family:** Mimosaceae

**Description:** A medium sized, compact shrub, usually growing 2-4m high, found on coastal plains and near-coastal foothills of North Queensland, south to Proserpine, also in Arnhem Land and PNG.

Needs good drainage and full sun. Fast growing and can flower in the first year. For the best effect plant in a group of 3 or more.

**Leaves = Phyllodes** Like most wattles, *Acacia simsii* has stems that are flattened and modified for photosynthesis, rather than leaves. These 'leaves' are called Phyllodes. In this species the phyllodes are small and narrow, (5-15cm x 0.5-1.2cm) and have 1-3 prominent veins, as well as a small hook at the tip.

**Flowers:** January to March and sporadic. Bright yellow balls, singly or in one or two pairs in the leaf axils.

**Fruit:** Pods are flattened, small (5-6.5 cm x 0.4 to 0.6cm), brown when ripe and slightly constricted between the seeds.

**Propagation:** Grow from treated seed. Soak in hot water or scarify before sowing.

**Notes:** A pioneer species that is used in landscaping, revegetation, screening, erosion prevention and windbreaks. Bark is rough to begin with, becoming smoother & reddish brown as it matures. Provides pollen and nectar for bees & other insects, this in turn attracts insectivorous birds. Tolerant of periodic cool fires.



*Acacia simsii*: form in the forest

PHOTO: Peter Alden



Flowers

PHOTO: Peter Alden



*Acacia simsii*, leaves and flowers

PHOTO: Peter Alden



Pods

PHOTO: Steve Pearson

### References:

*Across the Top*– SGAP Townsville– compiled by K Townsend

*The Burdekin Delta Tree Guide* – Dr Greg Calvert, Lower Burdekin Landcare Association Incorporated, 2010.

## Plant Pest Hall of Fame

**Botanical name:** *Centrosema molle*

**Common name:** Centro

**Family:** Fabaceae

**Origin:** South America

**Description:** Vigorous twining perennial climber, forming tangled mats over trees, shrubs and everything else, up to a height of 3m or more. Stems become woody after about 18 months. Develops a strong tap-root which hosts nitrogen-fixing *Rhizobium* sp. bacteria. Stems can send down roots at the nodes.

**Leaves:** Alternate, pinnate, 3 leaflets, broadest below the mid-point, terminal leaflet lanceolate and much larger than the lateral leaflets.

**Flowers:** Pea-shaped, pink to mauve, 20 x 20-30mm, densely hairy on the back, in axillary groups of 1-several at the end of slender stems. Flowering now.

**Fruit/ Seed:** Flattened, straight or curved, smooth pale-brown pods with thickened margins, 70-150 x 7mm, containing 8-20 red-brown mottled seeds.

**Problem:** Introduced as a pasture legume in the Wet Tropics. A pest plant in crops such as sugar cane. Produces large amounts of viable seed and is now widely naturalised in this region. Destroys the tree layer in native plant communities and prevents regeneration of forest by smothering tree seedlings as they emerge. Spread by seeds in garden waste or contaminated soil, vehicles and animals.

### Control:

Whatever method is used it is important to prevent further seeding to exhaust the seed bank in the soil; if you look for the flowers you can spot them more easily. For small areas vines can be hand pulled when the soil is still moist, larger stems can be cut at the base and painted with herbicide or sprayed when they re-shoot.

### Herbicide control -

In Australia (Queensland), glufosinate-ammonium is registered for use on centro in certain non-agricultural situations. In addition, under permit no. [PER11463](#) (expires April 2027), several herbicides can be used against environmental weeds in "non-agricultural areas, domestic and public service areas, commercial and industrial areas, bushland/native forests, roadsides, rights of way, vacant lots, wastelands, wetlands, dunal and coastal areas". BUT not in pastures. These include: picloram + triclopyr; imazapyr; imazapyr + glyphosate; metsulfuron-methyl; 2,4-D; fluroxypyr; fluzifop-P; imazapyr; triclopyr; picloram + triclopyr + aminopyralid; aminopyralid + fluroxypyr; dicamba; 2,4-D; MCPA; glyphosate; 2,4-D + picloram; and haloxyfop. *When using a pesticide, always wear protective clothing and read and follow all instructions on the product label.* Recommendations will vary with the crop and system of cultivation. Expert advice on the most appropriate herbicides to use should always be sought from local agricultural authorities.

### References:

*Weeds Of Mackay Whitsunday Region, Mackay Regional Pest Management Group, 2013.*

*Pacific Pests, Pathogens, Weeds & Pesticides: [https://apps.lucidcentral.org/pppw\\_v12/text/web\\_full/entities/centrosema\\_541.htm](https://apps.lucidcentral.org/pppw_v12/text/web_full/entities/centrosema_541.htm)*



Seeds and Pod

PHOTO: CP



Flowers and leaves

PHOTO: CP



Pods

PHOTO CP



It can smother and break trees.

PHOTO: JS



There were several *Jagera pseudhorus* loaded with fruit: Dave tackled the job of getting the seeds

A *Terminalia* that Jim was curious about may be *Terminalia porphyrocarpa*, Brown Damson, similar in appearance to a *Terminalia muelleri* but distinguished by having small wings on the immature fruits. We probably need to see the fruits to be sure, but none were on the tree.

Other interesting tree species seen were *Glochidion sumatranum* (Sumatran Buttonwood), *Grevillea hilliana* and *Macaranga involucrata* (Brown Macaranga) .



*Proiphys ambionensis*, or Christmas Lily, flowering image courtesy of Steve Pearson

The understorey had treasures too: *Proiphys ambionensis* or Christmas Lily, which has beautiful white scented flowers, although not at the time. There were *Adiantum hispidulum*, (Rough Maidenhair Fern), *Drynaria sparsisora* (Oak Leaf Fern), masses of *Synostemon albiflorus*



*Synostemon albiflorus*, photo by Steve Pearson

(Showy sauropus) and lots more in the understorey.

A small plant with a cluster of white flowers (rights) may be *Pimelia latifolia* (found in Pearson's Plants of the Whitsunday Region) but it is uncertain. The photo on the right is another mystery from the day, Jim knew it as Scrub Bloodwood, but it didn't seem to fit as the leaves are not hairy, so unsolved for now.



Maybe *Pimelia latifolia*?



Mystery plant.



Admiring a python tree (*Gossia bidwilli*)

There were also mobs of *Larsenaikia jardinei* (Native gardenia), although only one had fruit. The Python tree (*Gossia bidwilli*– pictured left) is one of my favourites, with its beautiful bark and cold, hard wood.



Jim's vintage sign. Photo: Harm Mol.

The wood is very dense and the tree is slow growing. We do have some at the nursery at present as they fruited in 2023.

We thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to see Jim's little piece of paradise and hope to visit again sometime to solve some of the mysteries.

Photos by Jacquie unless labelled otherwise

### INTERESTING WEB SITES:

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

Native Animals, Insects, Birds:

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

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

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

[www.birdsinbackyards.net](http://www.birdsinbackyards.net)

[www.australianmuseum.net.au/reptiles](http://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.eucalyptaustralia.org.au/>

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

[www.facebook.com.au/sgapmackay](http://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](mailto:feralflyer@invasiveanimals.com)

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

## Volunteers Needed for ReefClean Activities

WCL has once again partnered with Tangaroa Blue Foundation for ReefClean. Volunteers help with setting up transects and collecting/recording marine debris and general beach clean-ups. If you are interested please contact us.

ReefClean is a program focused on continued monitoring, removal, prevention & reduction, and data collection to deepen our understanding of marine debris in the Great Barrier Reef. The initial phase of ReefClean (2019-2023) delivered a number of wins for the Great Barrier Reef including:

- Conducting 1,410 clean-up events with 13,310 volunteers across the GBR region
- Removing more than 127.5 tonnes of debris from the GBR catchment
- Cleaning 7,829 hectares of QLD
- Rolling out 75 source reduction plan campaigns
- Engaging 396 different organisations in ReefClean activities
- Running more than 1,048 educational and awareness raising activities involving 69,132 participants



WCL volunteers and staff with marine debris collected sand for microplastics survey.



WCL volunteers and staff with marine debris collected during our March round of monitoring.

ReefClean is funded through the Australian Government's Reef Trust and its on-going data collection is vital for evaluating policies and adaptive management practices. Data collected contributes to the Australian Marine Debris Initiative Database, the largest marine debris database in the southern hemisphere. ReefClean embraces Australia's circular economy, directing debris into innovative recycling programs. Engaging communities is paramount, empowering community education and awareness.

ReefClean is funded by the Australian Government's Reef Trust and is delivered by Tangaroa Blue Foundation, in partnership with Whitsunday Catchment Landcare.

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

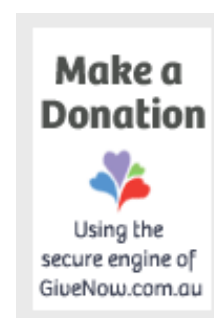
You can make a tax deductible donation to the Whitsunday Catchment Landcare Fund at any time.

Just go to <http://www.givenow.com.au/whitsundaycatchmentlandcare>

All donors will receive a receipt from Givenow for tax purposes.

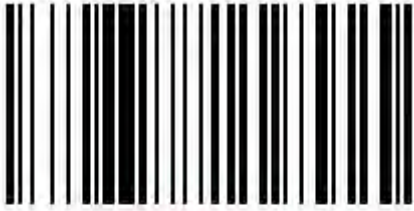
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*accuracy, Whitsunday Catchment Landcare does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.*



**Thank You Everyone!**

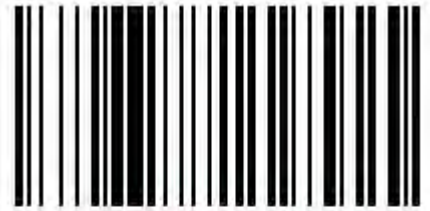
Thank you to so many of you who have generously and kindly donated your container refunds to WCL. Your contributions are allocated to the WCL Public Fund which allows WCL to take on various projects for the ongoing education of our members and the wider community. Please find below our Containers for 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. Every little bit helps!



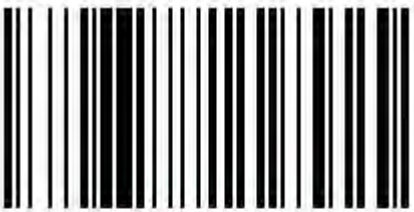
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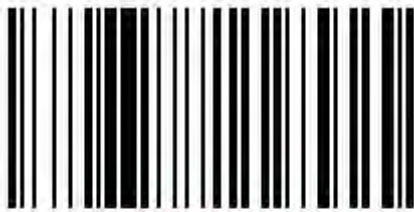
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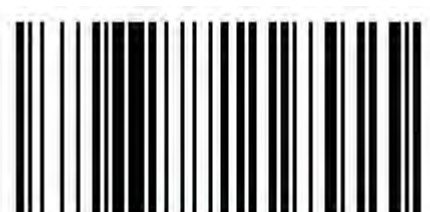
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