



Whitsunday
Catchment
Landcare

Newsletter

June 2024

www.whitsundaylandcare.org.au

Find



us on [Facebook](#)

Acacia leptostachya: Photo CP



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

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

Jacquie 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



Make a Donation

Using the secure engine of
GiveNow.com.au

Coming Up:

Weed Busters: Mother of Millions & optional lunch at Dingo Beach Pub

Where: Nelly Bay (meet at the first car park on Trochus Street)

When: Thursday 20th June 9am to 12 noon.

What: Our long term works to control this pesky weed in this wonderful patch of threatened beach scrub has had several chapters & we can see progress. To avoid damage to native seedlings we hand weed: it is loose sand, but still 'many hands make light work'.

Bring: Gloves & a stool or kneeling pad if needed.

Special Winter Solstice morning tea: Tea/coffee and savoury snacks provided, but if you would like to bring a little something, please do! (Rumballs already mentioned). The Landcare tent will be in place.

Afterwards: Option of lunch at the local watering hole.

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 need transport: there may be room in the WCL ute or in other volunteers cars. 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. WCL will supply 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, seed propagation 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, & 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.

This month we have a great plant for hedges and screens which is fast growing & hardy: *Pittosporum spinescens*, also known as Emu Apple, or Native Orange. It's natural home is the understorey in open woodlands. Growing to 2-8m tall, it has dense branches & twigs ending in a small spine, providing great cover for small birds. It has small white flowers which turn into lots of edible orange-sized fruits that taste slightly sweet and crunchy.



Pittosporum spinescens seedlings PHOTO: JS



As a mature tree PHOTO: Steve Pearson



Flowers PHOTO: Steve Pearson

Supported by:



[Also this month: Reefclean Marine Debris Monitoring](#)

WCL will be conducting our quarterly ReefClean Marine Debris Monitoring starting this week at the Don River and Queens Beach, and later at Conway Beach and Wilsons Beach as part of our work with Tangaroa Blue Foundation. We are looking for 2-4 volunteers to help record the marine debris along designated transects. Then we will do a general beach clean-up. On the following Thursday and Tuesday, we will need volunteers to help with sorting and counting the marine debris at the Landcare Nursery.

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 and snacks. **Please email Christine (see front page) to RSVP for these events**, providing your preferred contact method - to let us know that you are coming, in case we need to alter days or times. If you need a lift to the sites there may be room in the WCL ute or a seat in another volunteer's car: please also tell us if you can offer others a lift. *ReefClean is funded by the Australian Government's Reef Trust and is delivered by Tangaroa Blue Foundation in partnership with Whitsunday Catchment Landcare.*

When:	Monday 10 th June
Where:	Conway Beach, Allan Road
What:	ReefClean Marine Debris Monitoring - Setting up transects and collecting/recording marine debris. General beach clean-up. Microplastics survey.

When:	Tuesday 11 th June 11.00 am start
Where:	Wilson's Beach, meet in the playground/picnic area near the car park.
What:	ReefClean Marine Debris Monitoring - Setting up transects and collecting/recording marine debris. General beach clean-up.



Marine debris monitoring coming up this month.

PHOTO: JS

Galbraith Park National Tree Day site one year on, by Dave Young

The tale of Galbraith Park is now approaching an epic. The volunteer planting we did in April 2023 is now up to 4metres tall and in rude good health by every metric. The section planted on National Tree Day in July 2023 is also going well (in the background of 'before' pic) with the area mulched months earlier doing noticeably better than the bits only mulched in the days prior. Soil biota flourishes with a humus layer applied with enough time to develop. As time goes on, and natural processes gain hold, we might expect to see less difference, but it will be interesting to watch.

There were other challenges in this zone, as a day after we planted there was fill applied to the watercourse that flows in larger rainfall events (and which we had studiously avoided planting). So with even modest rain the planting zone now gets swept by overflow, and some mulch got washed away.

After the photo call there was a stroll though earlier sites, doing some *Centro* vine pulling as we went, and even we are staggered by the extent and success of earlier efforts.

The area of revegetation and mowed margins is an amenity for the public now so large that we are seeking to pass ongoing maintenance responsibility to Council. As it is a public space, well used and appreciated by locals (including the wildlife) with council now adding community facilities, it is a natural progression that this occurs - a work in progress.

The success of our 'best practice' planting is a shop-front for people to see species available at the WCL Nursery fully grown, as there is no more accessible or dramatic demonstration of what our customers can achieve than this site. If you haven't been for a wander there for a while yourself, now, before the dry season, is a great time.



Like magic! The original planting team (above) and (mostly) the same crew in front of the same planting a year later (below)

PHOTO: DY



What's Showing:

Botanical name: *Melaleuca viridiflora*

Common name: Broad-leaved Paperbark

Family: Myrtaceae

Description: A small tree with papery bark, 3-10m tall, usually with a straight, slender trunk.

Leaves: Pale blueish-green, Broad, stiff, flat, thick, oval in shape, with 5-7 longitudinal veins, 7-19cm x 2.58-5.5cm, and silky-hairy new growth.

Flowers: Cream to greenish, more rarely red or pink, in dense cylindrical spikes 5-10cm x 4-6cm, in clusters of 1-4.

Fruit: Stalkless brown woody capsules retained on the stalk in clusters after the flowers have dropped, 0.3-0.5cm x 0.4-0.6cm.

Propagation: Collect unopened seed capsules and store in a paper bag in a warm, dry place to open. Mix the fine seed with sand before sowing to space out the seedlings.

Notes: Grows naturally across the northern tropics of Australia, along streams, swampy areas and in dense stands in open woodlands in coastal areas. Also found in south eastern Irian-Jaya, Indonesia and south-western Papua New Guinea. Adaptable to a wide range of soils and conditions but does well on heavy clays which are seasonally waterlogged. A good source of pollen and

nectar for birds and insects.

Indigenous people used the bark for wrapping, bedding, shelter, watercraft, fire tinder & fish traps.



Melaleuca viridiflora in flower

PHOTO: CP



As a young tree

PHOTO: CP



Flowers, bark & and leaves

References:

'Across the Top: Gardening With Australian Plants in the tropics', Keith Townsend, Society for Growing Australian Plants Townsville Branch, 1994.

Plants of Central Qld: Identification & Use of Native Species, Eric Anderson, CSIRO Publishing, 2016.

Plant Pest Hall of Fame

Botanical name: *Bryophyllum delagoense* (previously. *B. tubiflorum*, *Kalanchoe delagoensis*) and *Bryophyllum x Houghtonii* (Previously *B. daigremontianum* x *B. delagoense*, *Kalanchoe x houghtonii*) & *Bryophyllum pinnatum* (Resurrection plant)

Common name: Mother of Millions

Family: Crassulaceae

Origin: South America and Africa

Description: Succulent perennials, with a stiff stem and erect form, growing up to 1m tall.

Leaves: Opposite, fleshy pale green to pale brown with dark green mottling. Leaves have a tubular groove above and both species produce small plantlets in notches along the leaf margins (this vegetative reproduction results in the 'millions' of the common name).

Flowers: Orange-red, bell-shaped, 4 lobed, 2-3cm long, drooping, in flat-topped clusters on tall stems.

Fruit/ Seed: Dry and papery capsule to 10mm long, remaining enclosed in the old flower parts. Deeply divided into 4 sections and containing many small brown seeds less than 1mm long.

Problem: These plants were originally cultivated as garden plants due to their ability to survive in sandy coastal soils. They can withstand drought and new colonies form rapidly. It is highly toxic to livestock, particularly cattle. It invades pasture, roadsides and coastal vegetation such as beach scrubs. Spread by dumping of garden waste and contaminated soil, water and machinery. Plantlets and broken pieces of the plant will readily take root and grow.

Control:

In loose sandy soils, small infestations can be easily removed by hand but all pieces must be bagged and destroyed (burnt or sent to landfill). For larger areas cool burning and/or chemical control may be necessary.



Plantlets forming on the leaves. Each of these (and any bits that break off) will grow into new plants. PHOTO: Steve Pearson



Bryophyllum sp. growth form

PHOTO: Steve Pearson



Flowers and leaves

PHOTO: Steve Pearson



Spent flowers contain the seed capsules

PHOTO: Steve Pearson

Spraying in winter when

plants are flowering makes spotting them easier and also prevents more seeding.

For registered herbicides for use on these species and control methods

see: https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/61461/mother-millions.pdf

When using a pesticide, always wear protective clothing and follow the instructions on the product label, such as dosage, timing of application, and pre-harvest interval. 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.](#)

https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/61461/mother-millions.pdf

Another mystery solved by Steve Pearson!

The photo on the right was the mystery plant from Jim Muller's place, mentioned in the last newsletter. Jim knew it as **Scrub Bloodwood**, but that plant's description didn't quite fit, as the leaves on this plant were definitely



Steve Pearson's images of *Actephila latifolia*, which look like a good match. Thanks Steve!

The 'mystery plant' from Jim Muller's place PHOTO: JS

not hairy. After seeing the newsletter, Steve Pearson suggested that it was probably *Actephila plicata* or a relative. Judging by the revolute (rolled under) leaf edges, it looks like *Actephila latifolia*, so I think that Steve nailed it! No wonder it wasn't in any field guides: this species is only found between Cape Hillsborough and Mt Dryander in dry rainforest and vine thicket. In fact the type specimen appears to have been collected from Mt Dryander, on the left branch of Dryander Creek in 2004. Maybe one day we might get some seed from it for the nursery...

Nelly Bay activities during May:

Landcare has been busy at Dingo Beach recently. Christine and a group of volunteers revisited the Mother of Millions in the beach scrub (the local nickname for the type of rainforest that grows near the beach). This coastal rainforest is often disturbed by human activity and cyclones and this makes it vulnerable to weed invasion. This particular regional ecosystem is classed as endangered because of the threats it faces, from coastal development, illegal clearing for views, fires and dumping of garden waste leading to weed invasion.



Jannell tackles the Mother of Millions.



A turtle nested here!



Our Canadian volunteer Remi weeding at Nelly Bay.

Turtle Nesting Threats and Solutions:

Christine and Kayla also held a turtle information stall at the Dingo Beach Markets. The information provided on the day focused on two of the major threats to turtle nesting: lighting and vehicles on beaches. Every sandy beach is a potential turtle nesting beach so. At least 2 species of sea turtle nest on the beaches of Cape Gloucester: Green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) and Flatbacks (*Natator depressus*). Neither of these species nest en masse here, but scattered nesting occurs throughout our region. Light from housing, street lighting, and camping all has impact. Most hatchlings emerge at night and use a combination of topographic and brightness cues, orienting toward the lower, brighter horizon over the ocean (often reflecting the moon) and away from elevated darkened silhouettes of dunes and/or vegetation behind the beach. Artificial lighting can confuse and disorient hatchlings who may crawl in circles or move in the wrong direction, possibly attracted to the artificial lights. (National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water). To avoid light impact try any combination of these. Keep it: off (use timers/motion sensors), low (power/brightness), shielded (downward directed), long (wavelength—red, orange, amber). A working display of an amber 12v camping light, purchased from a 4x4 store, created some interest and discussion at the information display. Some local plants were also on offer as screening plants to minimise light impact from houses.

The Great Barrier Reef Foundation's Community Action Plan project is funded by the partnership with the Australian Government's Reef Trust.



Cr. Gary Simpson and wife Deb were talking about threats to turtle nesting habitat and nesting success at the Landcare information stall.

WCL Community Nursery – always needs seeds

The WCL Nursery maintains a seed bank of local species. We are always looking for endemic seed, so please keep an eye on your flowering native trees, shrubs & grasses for the volunteer nursery.

Species we seek include:

<i>Acacia aulacocarpa</i>	Brown Salwood
<i>Acacia leptocarpa</i>	Coastal Wattle
<i>Acacia leptostachya</i>	Townsville Wattle
<i>Acacia simsii</i>	Sim's Wattle
<i>Alphitonia excelsa</i>	Red Ash
<i>Alphitonia petrei</i>	Pink Ash
<i>Antidesma parvifolium</i>	Current Bush
<i>Aphananthe philippinensis</i>	Native Elm
<i>Aidia racemosa</i>	Archer Cherry
<i>Atalaya rigida</i>	Veiny Whitewood
<i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i>	Hoop Pine
<i>Brachychiton acerifolius</i>	Flame Tree
<i>Breynia oblongifolia</i>	Coffee Bush
<i>Cajanus reticulatus</i>	Native Pigeon Pea
<i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i>	River oak
<i>Chionanthus ramiflorus</i>	Native Olive
<i>Cordia dichotoma</i>	Glue Berry
<i>Corymbia clarksoniana</i>	Clarkson's Bloodwood
<i>Corymbia intermedia</i>	Pink Bloodwood
<i>Corymbia tessellaris</i>	Morton Bay Ash
<i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i>	Tuckeroo
<i>Diospyros compacta</i>	Native ebony
<i>Diospyros geminata</i>	Qld Ebony
<i>Diospyros hebecarpa</i>	Scrub Ebony
<i>Dysoxylum gaudichaudianum</i>	Ivory Mahogany
<i>Elaeocarpus grandis</i>	Blue Quandong
<i>Eucalyptus crebra</i>	Narrow-leafed Ironbark
<i>Eucalyptus platyphylla</i>	Poplar Gum

<i>Eucalyptus exserta</i>	QLD Peppermint
<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i>	QLD Blue Gum
<i>Hymenosporum flavum</i>	Native frangipani
<i>Indigofera pratensis</i>	Native Indigo
<i>Ixora timorensis</i>	Native Ixora
<i>Ganophyllum falcatum</i>	Scaly Ash
<i>Lagerstroemia archeriana</i>	Native Crepe Myrtle
<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>	Brush Box
<i>Lophostemon grandiflorus</i>	Nth Swamp Mahogany
<i>Lysiphyllum hookeri</i>	Hooker's Bauhinia
<i>Melaleuca viridiflora</i>	Broad-leaved Paperbark
<i>Petalostigma pubescens</i>	Quinine Bush
<i>Planchonia careya</i>	Cocky Apple
<i>Sterculia quadrifida</i>	Peanut Tree
<i>Syzygium australe</i>	Lilly-pilly
<i>Tabernaemontana orientalis</i>	Banana bush
<i>Themeda triandra</i>	Kangaroo Grass

& more!

Guidelines for seed collecting:

Not sure of your plant identification? Include a stem with some leaves & take photos of the leaves, flowers & fruit if possible, and of the whole plant.

- 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, dry place
- Label the bag with the species, location, date and your name.

You can drop seed off at the nursery on Tuesday or Thursday mornings, at 33 Kelsey Creek Road Proserpine, or in the drop-off box (old microwave) at the front gate anytime.

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

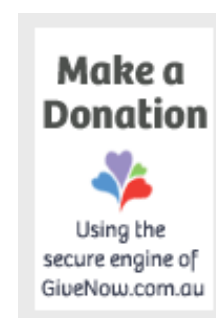
Just go to <http://www.givenow.com.au/whitsundaycatchmentlandcare>

If you would like to receive this e-newsletter please email

coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au with your request.

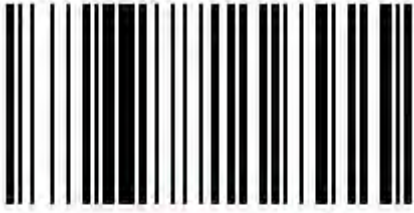
Disclaimer: Information in this newsletter is offered as a guide only and while every care is taken to ensure its

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!

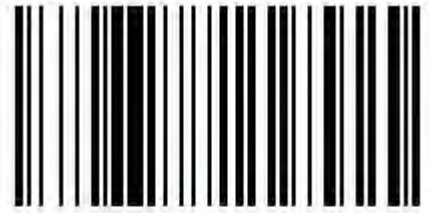
Thank you to so many of you who have generously and kindly donated your container refunds to WCL. Your contributions are allocated to the WCL Public Fund which allows WCL to take on various projects for the ongoing education of our members and the wider community. Please find below our Containers for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



C10053139



C10053139



C10053139



C10053139



C10053139



C10053139

