



### ***Bring Your Land to Life***

The Central Queensland Coast Landcare Network (CQCLN) was pleased to be invited to hold a stall at the Reef Catchments 'Bring Your Land To Life' field day event on the 24th October at the Finch Hatton Showgrounds. Highlights of the day included learning about different regenerative and sustainable land management practices (including the value of rotating goats with stock for weed control), talks from Mackay Regional Council Pest Management and Natural Environment Centre representatives, and getting to answer lots of questions from the community about what we do. PCL's Peter Alden was on hand to talk all things native plants, Lachlan & Morgan from SLCMA and Tom & Nichole from PCL spread the word about our current and upcoming programs, like the MRC Land for Wildlife program and the NQ Dry Tropics Eungella Cluster Group Project.

The CQCLN is a working group made up of Pioneer Catchment and Landcare (PCL), the Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association (SLCMA) and Whitsunday Catchment Landcare (WCL).



### ***Planting, Propagation and Presentations with Mackay Christian College***

In October PCL began working on a project supporting the Mackay Christian College (MCC) to continue revegetation of the Vines Creek Wetland. Pioneer Catchment and Landcare were delighted to coordinate a planting, host a presentation and a nursery learning day for the year five students at MCC.

The events were a great success with over 100 salt tolerant trees and shrubs planted & around 75 students engaged in learning about how to improve the health of wetlands and ultimately the Great Barrier Reef. Phil Trendell from DAF to provide an informative presentation to give students the basics of why we all need to do our bit to improve waterway health, from catching pest species like Tilapia, to not releasing unwanted aquarium fish into waterways. The students also had the chance to propagate seedlings, sow seeds and make seed bombs at the MRC Mackay Natural Environment Centre.



This project has been made possible by sponsorship from Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Mackay Regional Council.



*Photo credit:  
Nichole  
Zahra*

**Milky Pine****Family: Apocynaceae**

Named Alstonia after the botanist Dr Charles Alston and Scholaris from schola (school) and aris referring to its use as school blackboards in Burma. A large tree up to 40m high, can be buttressed. Found in rainforests and monsoon forests in Queensland from Cape York to Sarina, and abroad in New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Malesia, Asia, Sri Lanka, India and China.

**Leaves:** Simple, green with a whitish underside 4 to 8 whorled, 115-230mm by 40 to 75mm. 25 to 40 pairs of lateral veins 2 to 6mm apart, petioles 7 to 12mm long.

**Flower:** 5 to 12mm diameter, 5 green, white or cream petals. Flowers are fragrant and present from January to April.

**Fruit:** A green or brown follicle, 150 to 450mm by 4 to 6mm, typically occurring in pairs. Contains numerous seeds. Present from January to April

Seeds: 4 to 5 mm long and attached to 7 to 13mm long white plumes at both ends.

*Information sourced from 'Fruits of the Australian Tropical Rainforest' by W. & W. Cooper. Photo sourced online from 'www.northqueenslandplants.com'*

**Pest Spotting****Barleria repens****Coral Creeper****Family: Acanthaceae**

Native to Africa, Coral Creeper is a garden escapee with the potential to become a threat to bushland and riparian areas as it forms thick infestations and has the ability to constantly seed. However, the species is Not Declared as a threat according to Biosecurity Queensland.

**Form:** A shrub and climber.

**Stems:** Mature stems are woody, young stems are green and sparsely hairy. Stems put down roots wherever they touch the ground.

**Leaves:** Opposite, full margined, dark green and shiny.

**Flowers:** Tubular, borne in leaf forks, two large green leafy bracts form at the flowers base. petals are bright red to pinkish red in Queensland but pink, mauve and purple flowered forms exist internationally.

**Fruits:** Small club shaped capsule, splits open when mature to release four seeds.

**Spreads By:** Seed and vegetatively through the roots. Seeds spread a few meters via explosive release mechanism from fruit, further dispersal by water, animals and in mud. Spread through dumped garden waste and roadside slashing.

*Information and photo sourced from Coral Creeper - Barleria repens by the Brisbane city council and information sourced from Coral Creeper (Barleria repens) by Weed Watch.*



## Soil Symposium

If you are interested in finding out more about soil ecology, why not register to attend Reef Catchments 'Healthy Soil Symposium' on Eventbrite (links below). This years Soil Symposium will be taking place on the 26th of November at the Windmill Motel, with a follow up field day on the 27th at Freckle Farm.

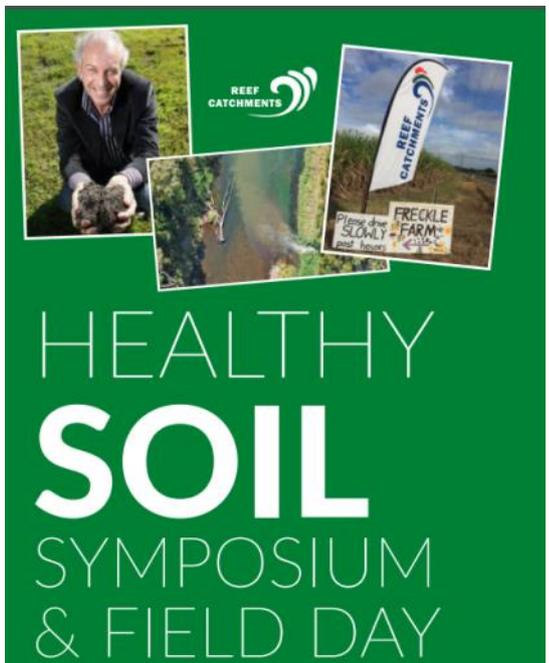
On the 26th Dr Graeme Sait will be talking about soil ecology and how to use it to reduce your chemical bill and address issues in modern agriculture. Local examples of best practice agriculture and an insight into the state of soil health in the Mackay, Whitsunday and Isaac Region will also be presented on the day.

On the 27th we will be hearing from Freckle Farm producers Rob Bauman and Deb McLucas. Dr Graeme Sait will also be undertake a practical composting demonstration and will show us tools on how to monitor crop health.

### Links to register:

**Nov 26th** "<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/healthy-soil-symposium-tickets-127412033823>"

**Nov 27th** "<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/healthy-soil-field-trip-tickets-127417036787>"



## PCL Annual General Meeting 22/10/2020

Thank you to everyone who attended our AGM on October 22nd at the Mackay Conservation Group meeting space. PCL's Chair Dave Hunter has stood down from his position of Chair, but will stay on as a general committee member. Sharon Dwyer was appointed as the incoming Chairperson, Dianne Williams and Nancy Pratt were re-elected as Deputy Chair and Treasurer respectively. Fran Mann who is our committee member and MRC representative, has also now been appointed as Secretary. We are pleased to welcome Dr Judith Wake, former Central Queensland University senior lecturer, as a general committee member. Eddie Adams, Ranger Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS), gave a presentation about the work done to raise the profile of the Water Mouse (*Xeromys myoides*) as part of a project lead by PCL in 2019 (National Landcare Program 2 grant funded).

## Board Member Profile - Sharon Dwyer: Chair

I moved to Mackay and bought a house with a 120 acre backyard in the Pioneer Valley 8 years ago. I am not a farmer so bought the animals on the property to teach me how to farm. I also went to as many information sessions as I could to fast track my education. It was a godsend as one of the first events I went to was the Healthy Soil Symposium and since then I have focused on soil health and biodiversity in all species. This has involved planting multispecies pasture crops, mineral balancing soils and mechanical instead of chemical removal of weeds, and encouraging wildlife corridors through riparian fencing. It is a challenging but hugely rewarding experience.

I joined PCL a number of years ago mostly for the information contained within the newsletters. Several years ago I joined Land For Wildlife as part of my personal commitment to protecting biodiversity. I am also a member of Central Queensland Soil Health Systems where I was encouraged to volunteer as a committee member for PCL. I have loved every minute of it. PCL volunteers are diverse and dedicated individuals with similar goals. Time spent with them is always educational and refreshing.

As Chair for PCL, I work with a talented team fostering an environment where our officers and volunteers can thrive and grow while enhancing the wonderful landscape we are part of. If you would like to volunteer for PCL I suggest you give it a go. If you feel you have particular skills, let us know and we will see where we can utilise them. What you can learn, who you can meet and what you can contribute are huge rewards to be gained through volunteering for PCL.



# Upcoming Events

## November 2020

**Tue 3** - PCL Volunteering. 8am to 12pm.

**Tue 10** - PCL Volunteering. 8am to 12pm.

**Sat 14** - Friends of the Morag McNichol Reserve, working bee annual general meeting and general meeting. Location TBA on the day.

**Sat 14** - Abundance day at Mackay Community Garden. 10am onwards at 3 Sarah Street West Mackay.

**Tue 17** - PCL Volunteering. 8am to 12pm.

**Tue 23** - PCL Volunteering. 8am to 12pm.

**Thur 26** - Reef Catchments 'Mackay Whitsunday Healthy Soils Symposium'. For more information email [Juliane.kasiske@reefcatchments.com](mailto:Juliane.kasiske@reefcatchments.com)

**Fri 27** - Reef Catchments 'Mackay Whitsunday Healthy Soils Symposium Field Day'. For more information email [Juliane.kasiske@reefcatchments.com](mailto:Juliane.kasiske@reefcatchments.com)

## December 2020

**Tue 1** - PCL Christmas Party—field trip TBA followed by refreshments

**Tue 8** - PCL Volunteering. 8am to 12pm.

**Tue 15** - PCL Volunteering. 8am to 12pm.

**Tue 22** - PCL Volunteering. 8am to 12pm. At Mackay Natural Environment Centre only

**Tues 22** - PCL Holiday Closure commences

## January 2021

**Mon 11** - PCL re-opens following Holiday Closure

**Tue 12** - PCL Volunteering. 8am to 12pm.



**PCL'S ID:  
C10041933**

### Wildlife Display Garden

PCL is currently looking for a small solar powered pump for their feature pond at the Gardens for Wildlife display garden. If you have a pump you would like to donate please contact Tom Crow.

### Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group Inc. Management Committee

#### Executive

**Chair** | Sharon Dwyer

**Deputy Chair** | Dianne Williams

**Secretary** | Fran Mann

**Treasurer** | Nancy Pratt

#### Committee Members

Dave Hunter

Judith Wake

#### MRC Representative

Fran Mann

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**Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group Inc. Proudly supported by:**



**November 2020**

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