



A 2021 wish-list for the PCL Display Garden

This summer, in the cool shade of the Pioneer Catchment Landcare display garden, volunteers have been meeting monthly to design, re-vamp and tend what is already in place in the garden, located at the entry to PCL's office at Mackay Natural Environment Centre.

The display garden aims to inspire ideas for home gardens as part of our Gardens for Wildlife program. Wildlife-friendly gardens can be created through thoughtful landscape design and planting appropriate species, and can offer food, water and habitat for a variety of creatures, from insects to birds, frogs, reptiles and mammals like microbats and possums.

To realise the design developed by volunteers and Project Officer Tom Crow, PCL is looking for businesses or people willing to make donations of useful items and materials for the garden.

- A solar pond pump or guppies
- A table or bench
- Rocks
- Archway
- Signage

Please contact Tom Crow at projectofficer@pioneercatchment.org.au to get involved in volunteering or to donate items.



PCL volunteer-member David Bowen at work in the Display Garden.

Photo: Kirilli Lamb

VACANCY: Administration Officer / Bookkeeper

PCL is seeking an Administration Officer (20 hours/week part time Clerks Award range \$23.09 - \$26.66 / hour plus leave entitlements).

Duties will include: process payroll; manage finances (ATO/BAS etc, accounts payable and receivable) and produce reports; HR administration as directed; general secretarial, business support and administrative duties; Assist with Landcare related projects and programs (e.g. volunteer administration, event organisation).

We are looking for a team member who is adaptable in a fast paced environment, bringing a can-do attitude and a pleasant demeanour. They will have a current drivers licence, proficient book-keeping skills (e.g. Quickbooks) and solid experience across the Microsoft Office Professional suite (particularly Word and Excel). Experience working with conservation or NRM groups will be an advantage.

Please send applications, including cover letter and two-page resume to PCL Co-ordinator Nichole Zahra, coordinator@pioneercatchment.org.au .

Ring Road Re-Veg

Pioneer Catchment Landcare staff have begun revegetation work on five sites along the Mackay Ring Road, with the commencement of a contract with Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads.

PCL Coordinator Nichole Zahra said the project had started in February, and would run until March 2022.

"The work will deliver a range of environmental benefits along the Mackay Ring Road," she said.

"Not only will it reduce erosion and water runoff from the new road, but will increase habitat for native animals, improve amenity, and reduce the seedbank of weed species and introduced grasses."



PCL Project Officer Tom Crow with an array of plants ready to send out to one of the Mackay Ring Road sites.

Photo: Kirilli Lamb

Shiny-leaved Canthium, Sweet Susie**Family: Rubiaceae**

Psydrax odorata is a slow-growing medium shrub to small tree reaching to 8m. It is native throughout the tropical South Pacific and Hawaii, and common in the Mackay-Whitsunday Region, particularly in coastal/island ecosystems. Found in dry rainforest, it favours well-drained soils in light shade to full sun in cultivation if plants are sun hardened before planting. Its fruit are favoured by the Rose-crowned Fruit Dove and Australasian Figbird, and the plant is also food for the larvae of several species of hawk moth. It can be propagated from seed or cutting.

Leaves: Simple, opposite, glossy green leaves are elliptical to lance-shaped, about 80 mm long by 30 mm wide.

Flower: White, four-petalled, 5-6mm long, highly perfumed, occurring in prolific clusters from the leaf axils in spring to late summer.

Fruit: Fleshy black drupes, about 5-8mm in diameter containing one or two 'seeds'.

Information sourced online from Australian Native Plants Society (anpsa.org.au/c-odo.html) and Atlas of Living Australia (<https://bie.ala.org.au/species/https://id.biodiversity.org.au/node/apni/7844610>) and 'Plants of Capricornia' by Rhonda Melzer and Joel Plumb (2007: Capricorn Conservation Council). Photo: Kirili Lamb

**Pest Spotting***Sphagneticola trilobata***Singapore Daisy****Family: Asteraceae**

A vigorous mat-forming herbaceous groundcover, rooting at the nodes. Occasionally it may be a low climber. Introduced from Central America, Singapore Daisy is a category 3 restricted invasive plant and so should not be given away, sold or released into the environment. It has historically escaped from gardens and has become prolific in a wide range of habitats, including Mackay region's riparian systems. It prefers moist areas on a range of soil types, and has established in parks, gardens, and storm water and wetland systems across Queensland.

Stems: Usually opposite, simple, lush glossy green, sandpapery or softly hairy both sides, usually 3-lobed, 25-150 x 8-82mm with short stems.

Leaves: The leaves are lush glossy green, usually 3-lobed and in pairs up the stem 4-18 cm long and 1.5-8 cm wide.

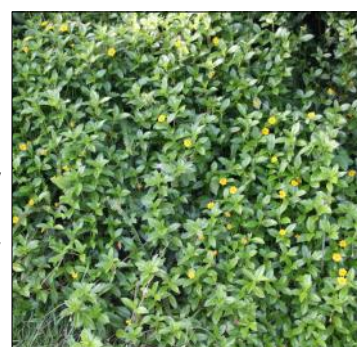
Flowers: Bright yellow daisies, diameter 15-30mm, borne in axillary or terminal sprays, mostly spring to autumn but will flower all year round.

Fruits/Seeds: An elongated brown nut, 4-5mm long. The amount of seed per flowers varies greatly.

Spread By: Pruning and slashing, and in garden waste. Most reproduction is vegetative, from stem nodes: any small fragment has the potential to propagate and so waste should be burnt or solarised in black plastic before further disposal.

Notes: This species outcompetes native plants by smothering their growth, preventing regeneration. It readily establishes in disturbed areas

Information sourced from Queensland Government, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries 'Singapore Daisy' fact sheet; Cooper & Cooper, Fruits of the Australian Tropical Rainforest. Images sourced from Queensland Government/DAF at www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/land-management/health-pests-weeds-diseases/weeds-diseases/invasive-plants/restricted/singapore-daisy.



Land for Wildlife - Not Indian Myna

Indian or Common Myna: *Sturnis tristis*; aka *Acridotheres tristis*

The species, initially introduced from South East Asia to Melbourne in the 1860s to combat agricultural pests, has itself become a pest species across Australia's south eastern coastal regions. In recent years, it has been making incursions into the Greater Mackay-Whitsunday-Isaac regions with flocks up to 50 being noted on Feralscan's *Mynascan* citizen-contributor mapping.



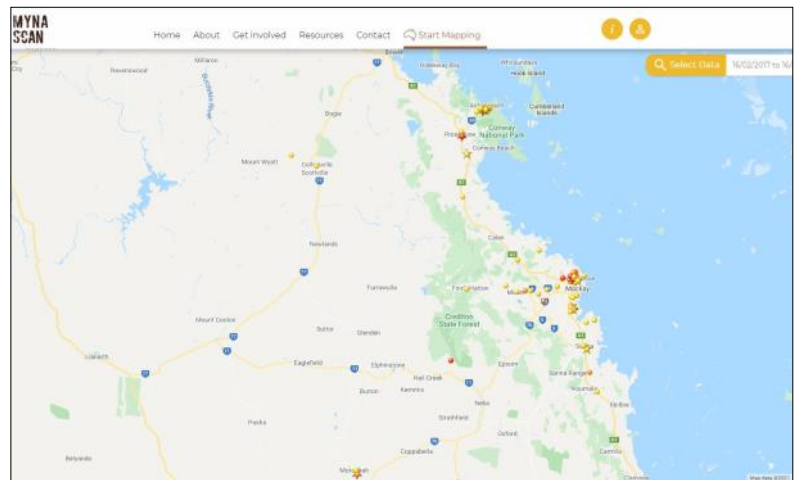
The species is not only a threat to crops and stock feed supplies, but to native species. An aggressive territorial bird, it will out-compete native birds for food, water and shelter, even displacing native animals from tree hollows during its Autumn breeding season. Common Mynas have been listed by the International World Conservation Union as one of the world's 100 worst invasive species, but has not yet been declared an invasive or prohibited species under Queensland's biosecurity legislation. It is not to be confused with the native Noisy Myna species, which is actually a honeyeater *Manorina melanocephala*.

Information and pictures sourced from www.feralscan.org.au/mynascan; Birdlife Australia www.birdlife.org.au/bird-profile/common-myna; and ABC Science www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2004/04/08/2044900.htm

The Common Myna (left) and sightings mapped through Mynascan since February 2017. Red dots indicate flocks of over 50, orange for flocks of 21-50, and yellow for smaller numbers



Images from Feralscan, including photo: Andrew Tatnell, Big Island Photographics



Meet the Crew: Reveg Officer Bernie Zeigenbein

Bernie Zeigenbein is a PCL Reveg Officer who is bringing the music to land management. After volunteering with PCL last year, then coming on board as a casual in early 2021, Bernie has been happy to find a way to work caring for the environment.

"I wanted to work at PCL because I believe in the benefits of the work and have always wanted to work outdoors involved with plants and/or the natural environment in some way. When I heard of the work being done, I very interested in getting involved," said Bernie.

He is working on a range of PCL's revegetation projects across the catchment, including sites along the new Mackay Ring Road, at the Upper O'Connell River and some important flood remediation sites along St Helens Creek.

"I love that I am actually doing something positive for the natural environment as well as being outdoors, staying physically active and learning about land management practices.

"I haven't worked in this sector other than volunteering at tree planting days when I was living in Victoria. I have actually spent most of my working life in the metal fabrication industry, however I longed to be working with the things I love most: music and nature."

And the music? Bernie is one half of breezy acoustic duo Moss and Ferns. With partner Lyka on vocals and Bernie on guitar, the pair can be found playing around Mackay's markets and hotels. You can hear snippets of their gigs on Facebook.



Photo: Tom Crow

Upcoming Events

March

Tue 2 - PCL Volunteering in the display garden. 8am to 12pm.

Wed 3 - PCL/Friends of Far Beach stall at CQUniversity Orientation day.

Thur 4 - Native Plants Queensland meeting 7:30pm at Mackay Arts Society Building, Snow Wright Court Andergrove

Sun 7 - Conservation Volunteers Australia Town Beach Clean Up. Register via their online volunteer portal.

Sun 7 - Join Bird Life Mackay for Proserpine District trip. Contact 0438134738 for more information.

Sun 7 - PCL Office Working Bee - Volunteers needed 9am to 12pm. Ph Nichole for more information.

Tue 9 - PCL Volunteering. 8am to 12pm.

Tue 16 - PCL Volunteering. 8am to 12pm.

Thur 18 - Join Bird Life Mackay at Bakers Creek Reserve. Contact 0438134738 for more information.

Fri 19 - Reef Catchments Walking the Landscape workshop at Shamrock Hotel. See www.eventbrite.com.au

Tue 23 - PCL Volunteering at Far Beach. 8am to 12pm.

Wed 27 - Coastcare revegetation walk at Far Beach: 8-11am

April

Thur 1 - Native Plants Queensland meeting 7:30pm at Mackay Arts Society Building, Snow Wright Court Andergrove

Tue 6 - PCL Volunteering in the display garden. 8am to 12pm.

Fri 9 - PCL Slade Point Guided walk: 9-10.30am (meet at the entrance by Seabreeze Hotel)

Sat 10 - Friends of Morag McNichol Reserve working bee/lunch

Tue 13 - PCL Volunteering. 8am to 12pm.

Fri 16 & Sat 17 - MRC Click & Collect Free Plant Giveaway. See www.mackay.qld.gov.au/environment

Sat 17 - Coastcare Children's event at Harbour Beach: 8-10am

Tue 20 - PCL Volunteering at Far Beach. 8am to 12pm.

Thu 22 & Fri 23 Reef Catchments Grazing Forum



**PCL'S ID:
C10041933**

Opportunity for Broken River Landholders

NQ Dry Tropics' Landholders Driving Change project has been successful in receiving funding through the Great Barrier Reef Foundation to build on the success of the Queensland Government funded Burdekin Major Integrated Project (Landholders Driving Change). A call for improved land management project proposals is open, but **closes March 26**. Enq : LDC officer Rodger Walker 0408828276

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March 2021

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Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group Inc.
PO Box 3181
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