

Pioneer Catchment & Landcare News

December 2022

Another year
in the books

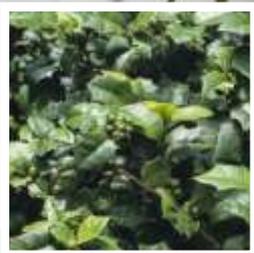
PCL AGM

Small Acreage
Roadshow

in the Pioneer Catchment

PLUS

Keep up to date with PCL's
recent and upcoming
events!



Plant of the Month -
Native Holly



NQ Dry Tropics -
Apps and Maps



Bail out the Bees
Workshop



Low Waste
Christmas Tips



PIONEER
Catchment
LANDCARE

Our Mission

To implement an integrated, science-based approach to natural resource management through supportive partnerships across our catchment

Another year in the books: PCL Annual General Meeting

This year, PCL's AGM was held at the beautiful Wetland Walkabout in Mackay. Attendees enjoyed the outdoor setting for the AGM which concluded with a peaceful walk through one of Mackay's incredibly biodiverse wetland areas.

The AGM also saw the release of the PCL Annual Report 2021—2022 which has been revamped from the old Annual Report style. Visit our website to view the report and read all about everything we have achieved over the past financial year: <https://pioneercatchment.org.au/about-us/annual-report/>.

Thank you to everyone who attended our AGM and who has been a part of the work we do in our beautiful Catchment over the past year.

We look forward to all that is planned for 2023!



Top Left: Annual Report 2021-2022 cover. Top Right: Bushwalk at Wetland Walkabout. Bottom Left: Beautiful views at AGM location, Wetland Walkabout. Bottom Right: AGM attendees



OUR VISION:

To empower our community to build biodiverse ecosystems

OUR MISSION:

To implement an integrated, science-based approach to natural resource management through supportive partnerships across our catchment.

VALUES:

- We are innovative, and driven by action at a grassroots level ◦
- Ethical ◦ Engaged ◦ Passionate ◦

Small Acreage Roadshow in the Pioneer Catchment

The Small Acreage Roadshow was organised by the Central Queensland Coast Landcare Network (CQCLN), which encompasses Landcare groups in the Whitsundays, Pioneer and Sarina Catchments. It was developed as a way to support landholders with small livestock health, biosecurity and sustainable land management. This event was supported by Reef Catchments through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

PCL ran the event in the Pioneer Catchment at the Habana Community Precinct on the 10th November 2022. The 34 attendees were treated to a host of fascinating talks by the incredible guest speakers including animal nutritionist Rob Sands from Nebo Rural Services, Leon Buchanan from Zoetis, agronomists Mandy Jeppeson and Che Trendell from Farmacist, pest officers Shelley Molloy and Maria Ferraro from Mackay Regional Council, project officer Michael Boland from Reef Catchments and Tegan McBride from Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA). On top of all this shared expertise and knowledge, the event provided valuable networking and funding opportunities, as well as practical assistance such as weed identification and soil testing. Each attendee was also given a free native tree to take home, supplied by MRC's Natural Environment Centre nursery.

PCL would like to thank everyone who presented and attended the workshop as well as the Calen's Country Women's Association for catering the event. We hope that this successful workshop will be the first of many events that aim to support landholders in the sustainable management of their properties and farms.



Above: Farmacist presentation. Below: Mackay Regional Pest Management Group Information Trailer.



NQ Dry Tropics: Apps and Maps Workshop

On Wednesday 2nd November 2022, the PCL Team attended the North Queensland Dry Tropics (NQDT) Apps and Maps Workshop, held at Eungella. This workshop was incredibly beneficial to staff who were able to build on their mapping knowledge and skills using a variety of programs including Queensland Globe, Avenza Maps, FORAGE and Google Workspace. Mapping is an important skill used in environmental management to help identify property boundaries, natural resources, landmarks and develop project plans. The mobile phone compatible applications also make mapping more convenient for planners and landholders.

Special thanks to NQDT for running the event and taking the team through the coursework, and to Eungella Community Development Association for use of the Eungella hall and the wonderful catering of the event.



Attendees of the NQDT Apps and Maps workshop.

Bail out the Bees Workshop

On Monday 14th November, Pioneer Catchment and Landcare attended the new Mackay Regional Council Operational Facility for the residents at Nanyima Aged Care to help assemble bee hotels, achieved by placing native bee habitats into 12 durable hexagonal bee hotel frames, which were hand cut and assembled by a Pioneer Catchment landholder. To keep on theme, we were lucky enough to have the very talented, Bee Creatives buzz into the workshop and sing their Homage to the Bees song which was produced by the Bee Creative and Unheard voices to celebrate World Bee Day, 20th May 2022. The

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Bail out the Bees workshop was timed to coincide with Australian Pollinator Week, 12th-20th November 2022.



We would like to sincerely thank Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal and BMA for funding this great event. For more information, visit our website: <https://pioneercatchment.org.au/1626-2/>.



Left: Nanyima Aged Care Residents working on their Bee Hotels. Below: Bee Hotel installed in PCL's Gardens for Wildlife Display Garden



Above: Nanyima Aged Care Residents.

Below: Bee Creative musical group



Native Holly**Family: Euphorbiaceae**

Alchornea ilicifolia is a large shrub to small tree that can grow up to 6m in height. It has grey bark and holly-like leaves with colourful reddish new growth. It can be found in drier rainforests along the East Coast of Queensland and New South Wales.

Leaves: Simple, alternate, dark green above and pale green below, elliptic to rhombic, 20–80mm long, 20–50mm wide, stiff, prominently veined, margins with 2–4 pairs of spine-tipped teeth, petiole 1–3mm long. Resembling the classic Christmas Holly leaves.

Flowers: Tiny greenish, perianth (sepals and petals) 1–1.5mm long, male flowers borne on axillary spikes to 30mm long, female flowers usually borne singly. Male and female flowers occur on separate plants.

Fruit: Dark brown, 3-lobed capsules, up to 7mm in diameter, with one seed in each cell. Seeds are forcibly expelled at maturity.

Growing Notes: Hardy plant that can withstand dry conditions. Pruning regularly will maintain a compact shape. It is suitable for hedging and is great for revegetation sites to create shade and ground cover. Grows easily from cuttings.

Sources: NSW Flora Online, <<https://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Alchornea~ilicifolia>>. Australian Plants Society, 2020, <<https://resources.austplants.com.au/plant/alchornea-ilicifolia/>>. Image: Robert Whyte

**Pest Spotting***Lantana camara***Lantana****Family: Verbenaceae**

Lantana camara is considered a weed of national significance due to its invasive nature and ability to completely smother large areas of native vegetation with its dense thickets as well as being toxic to stock. It is drought tolerant and fast growing, invading a wide range of habitat types. It was originally introduced as a garden ornamental in the 1840s and spread into forests, pastures and plantations, becoming one of Australia's worst weeds for environmental and economic reasons. Controlling this weed is a high priority as over 200 native plant species are now threatened due to Lantana.

Leaves: Opposite, simple, ovate 25-100mm by 15-75mm, bright green with sand-papery hairs above, paler and hairy underneath, shallow-toothed margins. Crushed leaves have a distinct aroma.

Flower: Slender tubular with 4-5 spreading lobes, 9-14mm long and 4-10mm across, borne in many flowered axillary 'heads', 20-30mm in diameter. There are various colour variations including pink and yellow, and orange and red.

Fruit: Fleshy berry-like drupes, 4-8mm by 4-8mm, glossy purplish-black in colour with 1-4 brown seeds.

Spread by: Seeds distributed by birds, stem fragments in garden waste, suckering from roots, layering or taking root where stems contact the ground.

Control: Various removal methods can be successful including chemical, manual or mechanical, however, it is important to remove in patches and revegetate the area with suitable replacement species to prevent recolonisation.

Sources: Queensland Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation, 2009, 'Lantana: Best Practice Manual and Decision Support Tool'. Mackay Regional Pest Management Group, 2018, 'Weeds of the Mackay Whitsunday Region: Second Edition'. Images: DAF, 2020



Upcoming Community Events

December

Thurs 1 - Native Plants Queensland (Mackay Branch) meeting 7:30pm at Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens Meeting Room

Tues 6 - PCL Volunteering in the nursery, 8am to 12pm.

Tues 13 - PCL Volunteering in the nursery, 8am to 12pm.

Tues 20 - PCL Volunteering in the nursery, 8am to 12pm.

Fri 23rd - PCL Office Closure for Christmas (Opens January 9th 2023)

January

Mon 9 - PCL office opens after Christmas break

Tues 10 - PCL Volunteering in the nursery, 8am to 12pm.

Tues 17 - PCL Volunteering in the nursery, 8am to 12pm.

Tues 24 - PCL Volunteering in the nursery, 8am to 12pm.

Tues 31 - PCL Volunteering in the nursery, 8am to 12pm.



PCL'S ID:
C10041933

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Keen to volunteer with PCL? We are looking for new volunteers keen to get involved in Landcare planting activities at beautiful locations! Come join us! Contact projectofficer@pioneercatchment.org.au for more information.

There are no longer restrictions in place for new volunteers for propagating activities at the MNEC nursery. Existing and new volunteers are welcome.

Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group Inc.

Executive

Chair | Sharon Dwyer

Deputy Chair | Judith Wake

Secretary | Fran Mann

Treasurer | Claire Stribbles

Committee Members

Earl Neilsen

Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group Inc.

Office contacts:

Phone | 07 4944 1979

Email | admin@pioneercatchment.org.au

Website | www.pioneercatchment.org.au

Coordinator | Nancy Pratt
coordinator@pioneercatchment.org.au

Project Officer | Sally Stutsel
projectofficer@pioneercatchment.org.au

Administration and Marketing Officer | Taleah Virgona
admin@pioneercatchment.org.au

Newsletter | Hannah Murphy
communications@pioneercatchment.org.au

Low Waste Christmas Tips

Do you want your Christmas to be more meaningful and less wasteful?

Australians produce about 5 million tonnes of food waste, throw away 125,000 km of wrapping paper and receive roughly 20 million unwanted gifts each year at Christmas time. Overall household waste has been seen in previous years to increase by 30% over this period! But maybe we can change this by simply being more intentional about what we consume over this period, while still making Christmas special for your family. Here are some tips for creating a more conscious Christmas this year.



- ◆ Buy less gifts that are better quality. Find items that will be loved and that will last.
- ◆ DIY some of your gifts - people love the thought that goes into homemade gifts.
- ◆ Be mindful of plastic packaging when buying gifts.
- ◆ Making your own decorations is such a fun festive activity that will create lovely family memories! You can use natural materials that don't end up in landfill and that can be composted or repurposed each year.
- ◆ Plan your Christmas lunch so that you can accurately predict the amount of food required and freeze leftovers to eat later in the week so that nothing is wasted.
- ◆ Make sure to use your compost bin where you can! This will save so much waste. Compost food scraps and use wrapping paper that can be composted.

- ◆ If you have an abundance of food or gifts, give it to someone who can't afford to buy Christmas supplies.
- ◆ Buy your Christmas supplies from local businesses to save resources and support your local economy.

