

# Pioneer Catchment & Landcare News

May 2023

Free Plant Giveaway  
with Mackay Regional Council



Plant of the Month -  
Bower of Beauty



Pest Spotting -  
Arrowhead Vine



New Project Officer -  
Danny Hudson



**PIONEER  
Catchment  
LANDCARE**

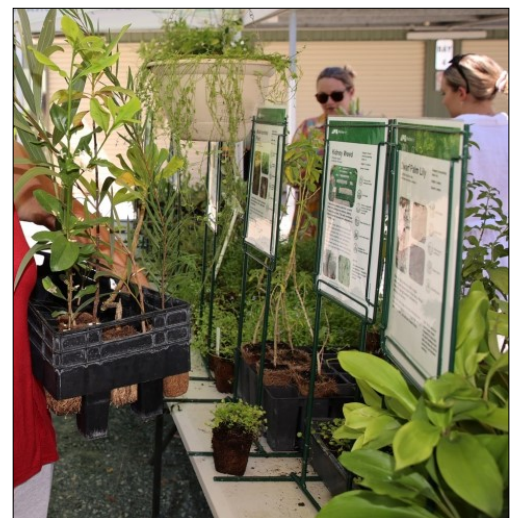
## Our Mission

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

## Free Plant Giveaway with Mackay Regional Council

Biannually, Pioneer Catchment and Landcare is involved in Mackay Regional Council's Free Plant Giveaway, in which Mackay rate-payers can attend the Mackay Natural Environment Centre and claim their 4 free native plants. PCL members are also able to claim an additional 4 free native plants, and Land for Wildlife members are eligible for 20 additional free plants! The giveaway occurred on Friday 21st and Saturday 22nd April with the opening of the front gate at 9am each morning resembling a hectic scene as people rushed in to pick their favourite natives.

PCL had a stall set up for members of the public who sought landcare advice and on the first day, PCL Officer, Angus was kept busy answering all kinds of questions, from weed control options, which native plants are suitable for creek bank erosion and how to attract wildlife to your garden. Land for Wildlife was of particular interest to many visitors, who put in expressions of interest for the popular program. Both days were a huge success with 866 ratepayers collecting 3464 free native plants, plus another 1688 plants sold. That's a staggering 5152 plants going into the ground and aiding in the greening up of our region. Well done to all involved.



Above: Mackay Natural Environment Centre Nursery Team. Images: Mackay Regional Council Facebook Page

### 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 ◦

### Bower of Beauty

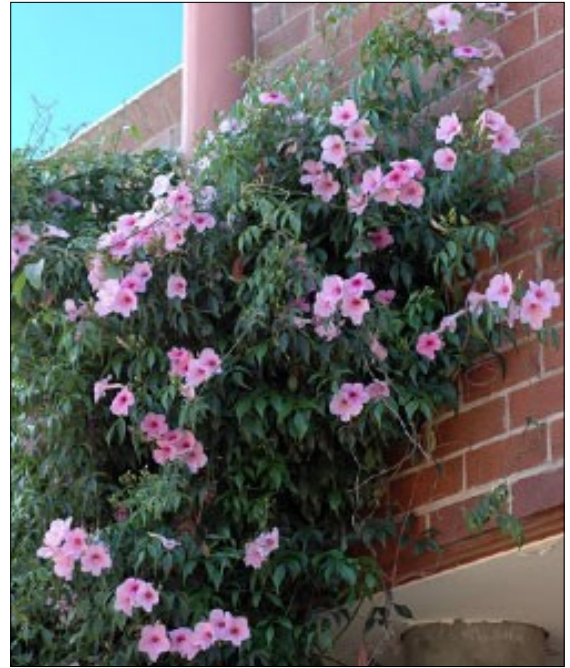
*Pandorea jasminoides* is a fast growing, woody climber found in tropical and subtropical rainforests and warm temperate regions of Queensland and south to NSW. In this district it primarily occurs at higher altitudes such as Eungella. It has a beautiful display of bird and butterfly attracting flowers that last for several months of the year.

**Leaves:** Glossy dark green, compound, opposite or in spirals of three, 80-170mm long, grooved from base to apex with 4–7 unequal sided leaflets, 45-60 x 15-30mm, per leaf.

**Flowers:** White or pale pink trumpet-shaped with dark red centres, up to 50mm in diameter, borne in terminal clusters from late spring to summer.

**Fruit:** An oblong woody capsule, 60-100mm long and 15-25mm wide, containing many papery elongated or circular winged seeds, 15-25mm in diameter including the wing.

**Growing Notes:** Can be propagated from fresh seeds in spring and from cuttings in summer. Can be used as a ground cover if there is nothing for it to climb on. Juvenile plants are very susceptible to frost damage and prefer only light doses of slow-release and water soluble fertilisers. Drought tolerant once established. *Pandorea* species develop a penetrating root system and should not be planted near underground pipelines.



Sources: [https://www.mackay.qld.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/266572/Pandorea\\_jasminoides\\_.pdf](https://www.mackay.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/266572/Pandorea_jasminoides_.pdf), <https://www.anbg.gov.au/gnp/interns-2014/pandorea-jasminoides.html>. Cooper and Cooper. Image: Australian National Botanic Gardens

### Arrowhead Vine, Goosefoot, Syngonium

### Family: Araceae

*Syngonium podophyllum* is a vigorous fleshy climber with watery-milky sap that can burn skin. It climbs by adventitious roots or spreads over the ground if there is nothing to climb. A garden escapee with many cultivars, that has become an invasive plant in Queensland. It is established in areas of our natural environment, particularly along riparian zones and Melaleuca forests where conditions are moist, shady, and fertile but it isn't restricted or prohibited under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*.

**Leaves:** Alternate, three-lobed, arrow-shaped with silvery-white veins or white centres bounded by green on juvenile leaves. Mature leaves dark green, +/- orbicular in outline to about 350mm across and deeply divided with up to 11 unequal leaflets.

**Flowers:** Minute green, white or cream, clustered on an axillary spike 10-20mm long sheathed by a white, cream or yellow, spathe (a modified leaf) 90-110mm long.

**Fruit:** Red to reddish-orange tightly clustered 'berries' on a central spike, 30-70mm long by 15-35mm wide; seeds black or brown, 5-11 mm long, within a soft, greyish pulp (aril).

**Spread by:** Spread by cultivation and the dumping of garden waste. Once established, it will take root wherever stems touch the ground.



**Control:** Small infestations can be hand pulled, however, it's important to remove all roots and stem fragments to prevent regrowth. Bag plant pieces and take to the dump or keep off the ground to prevent reshooting. There are no herbicide products specifically registered for the control of arrowhead vine in Queensland. However, a permit held by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries allows people generally to use some herbicide products to control arrowhead vine as an environmental weed in various situations. Monitor treated areas regularly for any new seedlings or regrowth. If you keep this plant on your property, it's important to ensure it does not spread into the environment.

Sources: [https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/59948/arrowhead-vine.pdf](https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/59948/arrowhead-vine.pdf). Weeds of the Mackay Whitsunday Region. Image: Brisbane City Council

## Upcoming Community Events

### May

**Tues 2** - PCL Volunteering in the nursery, 8am to 12pm.

**Thurs 4** - Native Plants Queensland (Mackay Branch) meeting 7:30pm at Mackay Regional Botanic gardens meeting room.

**Sat 6** - Birdlife Mackay Outing at Mt Ossa, meet at the Coningsby Roadhouse at 6:30am.

**Tues 9** - PCL Volunteering in the nursery, 8am to 12pm.

**Wed 10** - On Farm Treatment Systems and Drainage Works, A Water Quality Improvement Workshop, Habana Community Precinct, 8am to 3pm, bookings essential.

**Mon 15** - Reef Catchments Seagrass monitoring at St Helens Beach, end of Ramp Road, 12:30pm.

**Tues 16** - PCL Volunteering in the nursery, 8am to 12pm.  
- Reef Catchments Seagrass monitoring at Clairview Rest Area carpark, 1:30pm.

**Wed 17** - Reef Catchments Seagrass monitoring at Clairview Rest Area carpark, 2:15pm.

**Tues 23** - PCL Volunteering in the nursery, 8am to 12pm.

**Sat 27** - Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens Open Day and 20th Birthday Celebrations

**Tues 30** - PCL Volunteering in the nursery, 8am to 12pm.

### June

**Thurs 1** - Native Plants Queensland (Mackay Branch) meeting 7:30pm at Mackay Regional Botanic gardens meeting room.

**Sat 3** - NPQ-SGAP Mackay Plant Sale, Mackay Regional Botanic Garden Nursery, 8:30am to 11am.

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

**Tues 13** - PCL Volunteering in the nursery, 8am to 12pm.  
- Reef Catchments Seagrass monitoring at St Helens Beach, end of Ramp Road, 12:15pm.

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

**Tues 27** - 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](mailto: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

Paul Tippett

### **Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group Inc. Office contacts:**

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**Project Officer** | Danny Hudson  
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**Administration and Marketing Officer** | Taleah Virgona  
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**Newsletter** | Hannah Murphy  
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## **Introducing our newest member of the team: Danny Hudson**

Pioneer Catchment and Landcare is happy to introduce our new Project Officer, Danny Hudson.

Danny brings with him over 15 years experience working in the field of environmental management with a focus on pest management and education relating to protected areas in Australia.

Danny has spent the majority of his career working with Parks Victoria, recently migrating to Queensland for a change of scenery and to continue his passion for environmental conservation.

Make sure to say hello if you swing by the office, or see him out in the field working on one of our projects.

