

# Pioneer Catchment & Landcare News

March 2024



Plant of the Month -

Pest Spotting -

River Reveg Site

PCL Children's book update



**PIONEER**  
Catchment  
**LANDCARE**

## Our Mission

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

## Lets discover!— Flora and Fauna children's book

We're thrilled to announce the completion of our "Our Children's Discovery: Flora and Fauna Activity Book."

PCL will distribute these activity books during Landcare School Support Visits! Our aim is to engage young minds in the exploration of native flora and fauna, fostering a deeper connection with their natural surroundings.

During these visits, we'll provide each student with a copy of the "Our Children's Discovery: Flora and Fauna Activity Book," allowing them to embark on an educational adventure right from their own classrooms. By incorporating interactive activities, vivid imagery, and fascinating facts about Australia's native plants and animals, we hope to spark curiosity and encourage learning in an enjoyable and meaningful way.

### Acknowledgments:

Pioneer Catchment Landcare extends heartfelt gratitude to the individuals and organisations whose unwavering support and contributions have made this book a reality.

Sponsorship: We extend our sincere thanks to Powerlink Queensland for their generous sponsorship, which made the publication of this book possible.

Cover Design: A special acknowledgment is due to Amber W for her outstanding creativity and captivating cover design that sets the tone for our exploration journey.

### References:

<https://mackayturtles.org.au/>

[www.qld.gov/environment/plants-animals/plants/native-plants](http://www.qld.gov/environment/plants-animals/plants/native-plants)

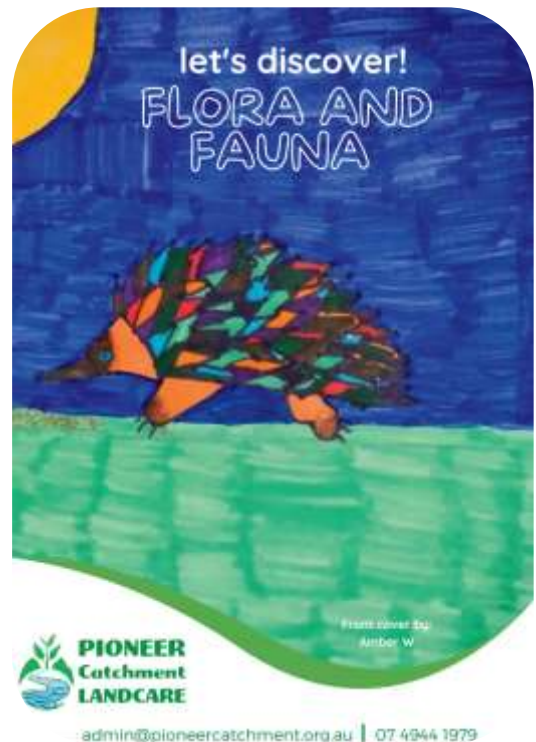
<https://didyouknowfacts.com>

<https://pioneercatchment.org.au>

<https://greatbarrierreef.org/>

Content: Designed by Taleah Virgona, the content of this book is crafted to engage and educate young minds about the wonders of our natural world.

Photos: Jennifer White (Shiller Images), Donna Jackson and Taleah Virgona.



**Image:** Front page of children's activity book designed by: Amber W (Calen District State College)

## Native Plant of the Month

### Showy Sauropus/snowbush *Synostemon albiflorus*

Family: Phyllanthaceae

Open shrub to 2m tall but usually smaller. Occurs in open eucalypt forests and dry rainforests, often on creek banks from north Queensland through to south east Queensland. It is monoecious meaning male and female reproductive organs (flowers) on the same plant.

**Leaves:** Simple, alternate, dark dull green above, paler beneath, elliptical, narrowly obovate to ovate, with recurved margins, 7–34mm long.

**Flowers:** Green or white, some may be pink tinged. 1 to 2 male flowers per axil, 6 sepals fused and spreading. 1 female flower per axil, 6–8 sepals free.

**Fruit:** A green, white or cream, 3 lobed, capsule, 4.5–7mm x 5–8mm with persistent white calyx lobes. Seeds, 6, cream/pale brown ridged, flattened, ballistically expelled at maturity.

**Growing Notes:** Bee and butterfly attracting. Attractive, hardy, self propagating cyclone survivor for sunny or partly-shaded areas with adequate moisture. Prune to maintain shape.



**Reference:** DES ([Species profile—Synostemon albiflorus | Environment, land and water | Queensland Government \(des.qld.gov.au\)](https://www.des.qld.gov.au/species-profile-synostemon-albiflorus)), Lucid Central ([Synostemon albiflorus \(Lucidcentral.org\)](https://lucidcentral.org))

**Image:** Donna Jackson

## Pest Spotting

### Red-leaved Alternanthera *Alternanthera brasiliana* 'Rubiginosa'

Family: Amaranthaceae

Herbaceous perennial, commonly planted for year round colour and weed suppression. Native to Central and South America.

**Weed Category:** Other Invasive Plant, invasive plants that are not prohibited or restricted invasive plants, but are known to spread readily and cause negative impacts, within the region.

**Leaves:** Opposite, simple, dark green to purple, oval to tapered at each end 10–100mm long x 7–50mm wide.

**Flowers:** Many small papery, white to cream, borne in axillary 'heads' 7-10mm long near the top of the stems.

**Fruit/Seeds:** Small, brown fruits containing 1 seed that remains viable in the seed bank for many years.

**Spread by:** Garden waste, self layers, cuttings and seeds. Will invade open forests and form a dense cover that will dominate the ground layer.

**Control:** Hand pull small plants; whole plant needs to be removed from site.



**Reference:** 'Mackay Regional Pest Management Group (2018) Weeds of the Mackay Whitsunday Region Second Edition. CQC Landcare Network.

**Image:** [cqqlandcarenetwork.org.au](https://cqqlandcarenetwork.org.au)

## Edward Lloyd Park river access revegetation

### Update 1:

On January 11<sup>th</sup>, in the hot and humid conditions with imminent rain threatening, the PCL team and loyal volunteers met at the Melba House revegetation site. After the Christmas break and all the warm and wet weather we have had, the weeds had grown enough to hide the plants! In a little under 2 hours, our wonderful volunteers and experienced field officers had managed to get the site under control using a combination of hand pulling and brush cutting the weeds. Most of the Guinea Grass was hand pulled which will make future control easier. We have also had an explosion of weed vine growth including Stinking Passionflower (*Passiflora foetida*) and Siratro (*Macropitium atropurpureum*), much of which was also hand pulled. The plants have grown fantastically well, unfortunately, some have disappeared which is disappointing when local school students and volunteers were responsible for much of the planting.

### Update 2:

Our second working bee of 2024 at the Pioneer River bank revegetation site dawned hot and humid again. We were blessed with a dry morning, but it certainly heated up extremely quickly. This month saw us weeding around the base of each plant. We've certainly had good growing weather, so the plants have grown big and strong – unfortunately, so have the weeds! Great success from last month's working bee though – the area around each plant was still relatively weed free so we rolled back the vines and pulled out some Guinea Grass which gave a clear zone around the plants so they wouldn't get accidentally damaged by the brush cutter. A Platypus was also seen in the river by John as he was hand pulling the weeds. This was extremely exciting – even more so because on our recent Platypus count at Broken River, he hadn't seen any at all! It just goes to show how much wonderful wildlife we have in our area and how much benefit projects such as this, that increase habitat, improve water quality, and increase biodiversity, are to our beautiful region.

Huge thanks to our amazing volunteer, John, who turned up to help us weed around the 500 plus plants before our awesome Field Officer, Mitch, turned up to complete the weed control with a brush cutter. Great job everyone!

Reminder – we will be out again next month on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Come and enjoy a bit of nature, coffee, and a chat, whilst benefiting the environment.



### Images:

(Top left) Volunteer, John.

(Top right) *Synostemon albiflorus*.

(Bottom right) *Abelmoschus moschatus*.

## Cane drain treatment chain

PCL and Yuwi Land and Sea Rangers are planting native tube stock along the newly profiled cane drain treatment chain which feeds into Janes Creek. The project, funded by Reef Catchments, will revegetate the banks of the drain providing habitat for wildlife, erosion control, and filtering the runoff from the cane paddocks before it enters the Pioneer River System. A total of 420 plants were put in the ground along one bank, as Stage 1 of the planting. A massive thank you to the Yuwi Land and Sea Rangers for their support, and to PCL project and field officers for a successful morning making a difference to our environment!



## Apps for wildlife workshop

Land for Wildlife and Landcare members from Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association (SLCMA) and Pioneer Catchment Landcare (PCL) came together at the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens to learn about the ways mobile phone apps and computer mapping technology can benefit landholders and community members. The jointly presented workshop started with Saskia (SLCMA) walking us through Queensland Globe. She covered how to find your property, how to look up what Regional Ecosystems (RE) were there, how to interpret the RE number, and other layers. It was a fascinating insight into an accessible and easy mapping tool. Next up was Donna (PCL) who introduced iNaturalist, how to use it, benefits of its broad range and identification processes, and importance of the data which goes directly into mapping Australia's living world. Then Danny (PCL) presented on FeralSCAN which allows linkages between landholders on pest animal impacts, can assist with management of feral animals and links to the Biosecurity Authorities. Rodney (SLCMA) presented on Biocollect and the Mackay Whitsundays Koala Mapping project where collected data has been directly responsible securing funding for koala habitat improvements in our region! Donna presented on FrogID next with a brief overview of the fun of recording frog. The session being wrapped up by Saskia and Donna who introduced the Central Queensland Coast Landcare Network (CQCLN) and their emerging database of plants and animals in our local area and how each person can contribute to this. What a great morning, we all learned so much!! Let's make sure we share our apps with our friends and family and help contribute to invaluable citizen science which really does make a difference!



# Upcoming Community Events

## March 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3 Clean up Australia Day, Mackay Surf Club Harbour Beach 7am –9am
4 Watermouse walk and photo monitoring 9.30am, Sandringham Reserve, Dunrock	PCL Volunteering in the Botanic Gardens Nursery , 8am to 12pm.	6 Edward Lloyd Park River access volunteering.	7 Native Plants Queensland (Mackay Branch) meeting 7:30pm at Botanic Gardens meeting	8	9	10
11 Watermouse walk and photo monitoring 9.30am, Sandringham Reserve, Dunrock	12 PCL Volunteering in the Botanic Gardens Nursery , 8am to 12pm.	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 PCL Volunteering in the Botanic Gardens Nursery , 8am to 12pm.	20	21	22 A Brush with Nature, 104 Victoria Street, 6pm.	23	24
25	26 PCL Volunteering in the Botanic Gardens Nursery , 8am to 12pm.	27	28	29 Good Friday	30 Easter Saturday	31 Easter Sunday

### April

**Tues 2** - PCL Volunteering in the Botanic Gardens Nursery , 8am to 12pm.

**Thurs 4** - Native Plants Queensland (Mackay Branch) Botanic Gardens Meeting Room 7:30pm.

**Tues 9** - PCL Volunteering in the Botanic Gardens Nursery , 8am to 12pm.

**Tues 16**- PCL Volunteering in the Botanic Gardens Nursery , 8am to 12pm.

**Tues 23**- PCL Volunteering in the Botanic Gardens Nursery , 8am to 12pm.

**Tues 30**- PCL Volunteering in the Botanic Gardens Nursery , 8am to 12pm.

