

Pioneer Catchment & Landcare News

June 2024

Plant of the Month -

Pest Spotting -

Good luck Sharon & Fran

Crediton Hall



Our Mission

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

Exciting News: New Membership Packages Now Open!

We are thrilled to announce that Pioneer Catchment Landcare has launched new membership packages! This marks a significant step forward for our organisation, and we are incredibly excited to share it with our community.

Our new membership packages are designed to offer more value, benefits, and opportunities for involvement than ever before. Whether you're a long-time supporter or new to our cause, there's a package that's perfect for you.

Becoming a member means you're directly contributing to the preservation and enhancement of our local environment. Your support helps us continue our vital work in conservation, education, and community engagement.

We believe these new packages will foster a stronger, more connected community of members who are passionate about making a positive impact in our catchment. Join us today and be part of this exciting journey towards a greener, healthier future for all.

Don't miss out – sign up now and become a member of Pioneer Catchment Landcare. Together, we can achieve great things!
Memberships are valid for a year from purchase. To sign up, visit <https://pioneercatchment.org.au/> and click on the membership level button.



For more details on the new membership packages and to sign up, please visit our website or contact us directly. Thank you for your continued support!

Native Plant of the Month

Xanthorrhoea spp. Grass Trees

Family: Xanthorrhoeaceae

In flower now. Three species occur in this region. They can rarely be identified on 1 or 2 characters alone, but locality is often a useful aid to identification. They are Protected by Qld law from being dug up

Description: Grass trees are a shrub to tree on a woody trunk that is covered by packed leaf bases bonded with natural resin.

Leaves: Crowded in a terminal crown, narrowly linear, long, tapered. Bases broad and thickened, shape is characteristic for some species.

Inflorescence: Cylindrical spike-like on a woody scape (stem). **Flowers:** Creamy-white, bisexual in spirally arranged clusters surrounded by packed bracts; nectar rich, attract bees, butterflies, birds, and bats.

Fruits: Hard pointed capsules, dark brown to almost black, containing several dark seeds. Surrounding packed bracts also hard and pointed.

X. latifolia subsp. *latifolia* Forest Grass Tree

The most common species here from coastal dunes to surrounding hillsides in sclerophyll forests. Found on sandy and gravelly soil in the coastal regions of eastern Australia from Northern NSW to Cairns. The trunk appears to be missing on young plants and up to 3.5m tall on older specimens; stems branched or single; crowns 1 to many, each with spreading mature leaves. Spike around half as long to almost equal to scape, 500 to 1200mm long.

X. johnsonii Johnson's Grass Tree

Usually found in drier locations here. Distribution Qld and northern NSW. Habitats include coastal, tablelands and western slopes in eucalyptus forests. Trunk to 5m high; stem and crown usually one; young leaves in spreading upright tuft, older leaves strongly reflexed. Spike 0.75 to 1.25 as long as scape, 200-1200mm long.

X. pumilio Dwarf Grass Tree

Known to occur on headlands and offshore islands here. It occurs in Qld from Cooktown to south of Gladstone and west to the Great Dividing Range. It is sometimes hard to distinguish from the 2 species above. Trunk up to 60cm high; stem simple or branched, crown one; leaves broadly spreading or recurved. Spike less than a quarter as long as scape, 50-400mm long.

Growing notes: All tolerate exposed sites and coastal areas. Can be grown in pots. Excellent addition to the garden as a specimen plant and suitable for the smaller yard. Their lifespan is up to 600 years! Self-sown seedlings of *X. latifolia* subsp. *latifolia* in a local garden has flowered in less than 10 years and has a trunk of 370mm that was hidden by the leaves until they were cut back. Another self-sown seedling now 21 years in the same garden has a trunk of at least 750mm.

Origin of name **Xanthorrhoea** comes from two words – (xanthois) yellow and (rheo) to flow, referring to the yellow resin noted in the type species.



Image: *Xanthorrhoea johnsonii* – Johnson's Grass Tree, Forest Grass Tree



Image: *Xanthorrhoea latifolia* – Coastal Grass Tree

Pest Spotting

***Centrosema molle* (previously *pubescens*) – Centro vine – Family: Leguminosae (Papilionoideae)**

Description: Vigorous twining vine forming tangled mats or growing over trees and shrubs. Stems are minutely hairy. Classified as 'an invasive plant – not restricted' but known to spread rapidly and cause negative impacts. Leaves are dark green, alternate, and trifoliate with triangular stipules. Upper and lower surfaces covered in fine hairs. Flowers are pink to mauve, and pea shaped, densely hairy on the back and 20mm long x 20-30mm wide. Fruit is brown and in flattened straight or curved pods with thickened margins, 70-1250mm long x 7mm wide, and contain 8-20 red-brown mottled seeds.

Habitat: Native to South America, Centro was introduced as a pasture legume in the wet tropics. It is spread by vehicles, garden waste, animals, and contaminated soil, colonises disturbed soil, natural areas, agricultural land, and urban areas.

Threats to Australia:

Centro destroys the tree layer and prevents regeneration of native plants by smothering them with a thick mat of growth. Economic threats include smothering of crops including sugarcane in early growth stages.

Control: Hand pulling of isolated plants ensuring entire root is removed. Chemicals registered for control of Centro including glufosinate-ammonium (Basta), Dicamba, fluroxpyr (Starane).

What you can do

Pull out any weeds when small, do not let run to seed. If seeded, bag and dispose of.



References

[Centro | Central QLD Coast Landcare Network \(cqlandcarenetwork.org.au\)](http://cqlandcarenetwork.org.au)
[IS13082-Centro.pdf \(sugarresearch.com.au\)](http://sugarresearch.com.au)

Free Plant Giveaway

On Friday, 17th May, and Saturday, 18th May, Mackay Regional Council held a Free Plant Giveaway at the Mackay Natural Environment Centre. The event aimed to boost local biodiversity particularly in home gardens.

Thanks to our amazing volunteers, who assisted and provided their expertise in plant selection, community members received the best advice on selecting plants for their gardens.

We also extend our gratitude to the Mackay Natural Environment Centre for hosting the event and supporting Pioneer Catchment Landcare's involvement. This event not only provided native plants but also fostered community spirit and environmental care.



Image: Julie Inkson (PCL volunteer) helping with plant selections.

Crediton Hall Planting

On Friday, May 17th, the Crediton Hall Harmony Project marked a significant milestone in environmental rehabilitation efforts around Crediton Hall, Eungella. Funded by Mackay Regional Council and BHP, the initiative aimed to restore and revegetate the area to its natural beauty and provide native habitat. The day was a resounding success, with over 450 plants from the Mackay Natural Environment Centre finding new homes in the rejuvenated landscape.

The event saw an enthusiastic turnout from the local community, with special thanks to Eungella State School and Crediton Hall Recreation Club for their active participation in the planting activities. Their dedication and hard work were instrumental in making the day a triumph.

A special thank you goes to PCL Field Officer Mitch, who played a crucial role in the project's success. Mitch conducted the site preparation, weed mapping, and surveys, and carefully selected the plants for the restoration effort.

PCL will work in conjunction with Crediton Hall Recreation Club to ensure the maintenance and care of the rehabilitated site.

This project not only highlights the importance of environmental conservation but also showcases the power of community collaboration. Together, we are making strides towards a greener, more sustainable future for Crediton Hall and its surrounding areas.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone involved, especially our funders Mackay Regional Council and BHP. Your support makes initiatives like the Crediton Hall Harmony Project possible, bringing our vision of a restored and thriving natural habitat to life.



Image: School students from Eungella State School.

St Francis & Goodstart Walkerston visits

As part of the Landcare School Support Program, PCL has been actively engaging with kindergartens and schools throughout the region this month. Two notable visits were to St Francis Xavier Catholic Kindergarten and Goodstart Walkerston, where field officers provided hands-on assistance with planting activities.

This initiative, funded by the Mackay Regional Council's Natural Environment Levy, aims to educate young students about the importance of environmental stewardship. Through these planting activities, children not only learn about the significance of native plants and biodiversity but also develop a sense of responsibility towards their local environment.

The Landcare School Support Program is an integral part of PCL's mission to foster community involvement in sustainable land management practices. By involving the younger generation, PCL hopes to instill a lifelong appreciation and commitment to caring for the environment.

The visits to St Francis Xavier Catholic Kindergarten and Goodstart Walkerston were met with enthusiasm from both students and teachers. The hands-on experience of planting native species provided a practical and enjoyable way for children to connect with nature and understand the role they can play in preserving it.



Image: St Francis Xavier Catholic Kindergarten Mackay students planting.



Image: PCL Project Officer Daniel assisting with planting at Goodstart Walkerston.

Good luck Fran

Sending best wishes to Fran, our dedicated former secretary on the Pioneer Catchment Landcare Committee! Your hard work and passion for the environment have truly made a difference. Fran served as Secretary from 2020 and brought a wealth of experience from her role as councillor on Mackay Regional Council and the many other organisations she was involved with. We all learned so much from you, Fran.

Wishing you all the best in your future endeavors. Thank you for everything!



Good luck Sharon

As you embark on your new endeavours, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your exceptional leadership and dedication to Pioneer Catchment Landcare. Your passion and commitment have made a lasting impact on our community and environment. Sharon took on the role of chair in 2020 after serving time as deputy chair and worked particularly hard to ensure PCL's governance and policies were up to date and fit for purpose. PCL is in a position of strength thanks to your enthusiasm, experience and hard work.

Wishing you all the best in your future pursuits. May you continue to inspire and achieve great things.



Upcoming Community Events

June 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Native Plants Queensland (Mackay Branch) meeting 7:30pm at Botanic Gardens Meeting	7	8	9
10 Harbour Beach Clean- up 8am (meet at wall)	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

July

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

Thurs 4 - Native Plants Qld (Mackay Branch) meeting, 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.

Contact Us

Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group Inc.



07 4944 1979



admin@pioneercatchment.org.au



www.pioneercatchment.org.au

Coordinator | Nancy Pratt
coordinator@pioneercatchment.org.au

Senior Project Officer | Donna Jackson
seniorpo@pioneercatchment.org.au

Project Officer | Danny Hudson
projectofficer@pioneercatchment.org.au

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

Newsletter | Taleah Virgona
communications@pioneercatchment.org.au



PIONEER Catchment LANDCARE

Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group Inc. Management Committee

Executive

Chair | Kirili Lamb

Deputy Chair | Vacant

Secretary | Judith Wake

Treasurer | Claire Stribbles

Committee Members

Earl Neilsen

Paul Tippett



**Follow PCL on social media
to keep up to date with
recent projects and events**

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.

Big shout out to our volunteers who have shown their support of PCL by assisting with plant propagation at the MNEC nursery, and for registering their interest in our events and workshops – we couldn't do it without you!

PCL Membership is Due

Thank you for your continued patience whilst we sorted out the final details in PCL'S new membership structure.

Memberships will be valid for 1 year from purchase and can be purchased through the PCL website.

For any further information please reach out to:

admin@pioneercatchment.org.au



QWaLC
QUEENSLAND WATER & LAND CARERS



**PCL'S ID:
C10041933**

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 ◦

Printed newsletters are on 100% recycled & carbon-neutral paper.