

# Pioneer Catchment & Landcare News

May 2024

Plant of the Month -

Pest Spotting -

Membership  
changes

Mangrove mouse  
monitoring



**PIONEER**  
Catchment  
**LANDCARE**

## Our Mission

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



## Membership changes

Introducing paid memberships allows us to sustainably fund our initiatives, ensuring long-term stability and growth. By providing exclusive benefits to members, we can foster a stronger sense of community and commitment, while also diversifying our revenue streams beyond traditional donations and grants. This approach enables us to better serve our mission and expand our impact in a financially sustainable manner.



### General Membership

**\$ 25.00**

For \$25, you will enjoy the following benefits:

- Voting privileges contributing to our future as an organisation.
- Monthly PCL Newsletter delivered directly to your inbox.
- Exclusive deals and discounts for community events & workshops.
- Be among the first to hear about volunteer opportunities.
- Attend the yearly BBQ & Mingle with likeminded members.
- Participate at informative gatherings.



### Land Carer Membership

**\$ 100.00**

For \$100, you will enjoy the following benefits:

- Voting privileges contributing to our future as an organisation.
- Mackay and Whitsundays Weed book at \$35 value.
- PCL Newsletter delivered directly to your inbox.
- Exclusive deals and discounts for community events & workshops.
- 6 Free native plants.
- Be among the first to hear about volunteer opportunities.
- Attend the yearly BBQ & Mingle with likeminded members.
- Participate at informative gatherings.
- Personalised property vegetation plan.
- Option to upgrade - see Land Carer Upgrade.



### Corporate Membership

**\$ 2,500**

For \$2,500, our Corporate Membership unlocks the following benefits:

- Prominent placement of your company logo on our monthly newsletters and the PCL website.
- A monthly newsletter subscription, delivering cutting-edge insights and updates directly to your organisation's inbox.
- A tailored and personalised annual report showcasing the positive impact your corporate membership has had on our local environment.
- The honour of naming rights to a community workshop or event, showcasing your organisation's commitment to environmental stewardship and community engagement.
- Corporate volunteering opportunities such as tree planting, nature reserve management, clean up events.
- Community networking opportunities including event participation, advertising opportunities, promotional activities.



### Land Carer Upgrade

**\$ 200.00**

Interested in enhancing your Land Carer package? Seize this opportunity to enrich your land management journey and elevate your experience by opting for an upgrade. Unlock a valuable four-hour visit from two of our skilled field officers at your property. Benefit from their specialised guidance and support tailored to landholders like you. During the visit, our experts can lend a hand or provide advice on a range of on ground aspects including:

- Walk and talk through your property.
- Assistance in implementing effective weed control strategies.
- Support in helping you facilitate successful revegetation initiatives.
- Advice on species choice.
- Guiding you through essential property upkeep.

\*Upgrade only available to land carer members.

# Native Plant of the Month

## **Sophora tomentosa subsp. australis – Silver Bean, Bead Tree**

### **Family: Leguminosae**

**Description:** Hardy bushy, evergreen shrub/small tree with almost weeping habit. It has stunning yellow pea flowers and seed pods like strings of beads. Up to 5m height.

**Distribution:** Beaches and in beach forest on NT, CYP, NEQ, CEQ, south to N.NSW.

**Leaves:** Silvery grey, alternate, compound, 100 – 200mm long, with 11 – 17, ovate (egg shaped) to more-or-less circular leaflets, 20 – 40mm long by 10 – 30mm wide; upper side velvety; underside densely velvet hairy. The petiolules (stalk of a leaflet), 2-5mm long.

**Flowers:** Yellow, on axillary or terminal racemes with the youngest flower at the apex. Flower standard about 15mm long; calyx (collective term for sepals) green, about 6 mm long; corolla (collective term for petals) 20–25mm long, pale yellow. Flowers in late winter.

**Fruits:** Brown or grey velvety hairy, indehiscent pods, 100–180mm long and up to 14mm in diameter, strongly constricted between up to 10 smooth, olive, brown or black seeds each about 6mm long.

**Growing notes:** Tolerates exposed sites and coastal areas. Excellent addition to the garden and suitable for the smaller yard.

**Indehiscent** = doesn't split open spontaneously when ripe.



References – [www.somemagneticislandplants.com.au](http://www.somemagneticislandplants.com.au) [www.northqueenslandplants.com](http://www.northqueenslandplants.com), Cooper & Cooper

## Pest Spotting

### **Vulpes vulpes - European fox – Canidae**

**Description:** The European Red Fox was deliberately introduced to Australia for recreational hunting in 1855 and fox populations became established in the wild in the early 1870s. Within 100 years, the fox had spread across most of Australia.

**Habitat:** The fox survives in many different habitats, including urban, alpine, and arid areas. Outside urban areas, it appears to be most abundant in lightly wooded areas that are typically found in agricultural landscapes offering a wide variety of shelter and food.

**Threats to Australia:** Many native animal species are preyed on by foxes. The fox has played a major role in the decline of ground-nesting birds, small to medium sized mammals, and reptiles such as marine turtles. Predation by foxes continues to undermine recovery efforts for threatened species. The fox causes significant economic losses to farmers by preying on newborn lambs, kid goats and poultry. The fox could also act as a carrier of rabies, should the disease accidentally be introduced into Australia.

**Control:** Predation by the European Red Fox' is listed as a key threatening process under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (the EPBC Act). Under the EPBC Act, the Australian Government, in consultation with the states and territories, has developed the Threat Abatement Plan for Predation by the European Red Fox.

Current control methods include baiting, trapping, and shooting. Conservation detector dogs are used to detect fox dens which can then be destroyed.



References

[European red fox \(Vulpes vulpes\) - DCCEEW](#)  
[european-red-fox.pdf \(daf.qld.gov.au\)](#)



## Mangrove Mouse monitoring at Sandringham Bay Conservation Park update

The Sandringham Bay Mangrove Mouse Monitoring Project kicked off on March 13th with clear goals: to monitor the local Mangrove Mouse population and to educate and engage the community on threatened species and regional ecosystems.

In mid-April, we reached a significant milestone as we retrieved the cameras set up during the project's inception. Despite our efforts, no mangrove mice were detected. However, this setback presented an opportunity for growth. Nola, one of our members, who missed the initial setup was eager to contribute. We guided her through using GPS to locate cameras and instructed her on camera operations.

Back in the office, Nola and PCL Project Officer Danny analysed the collected data. Every piece of information gathered contributed to our understanding of flora and fauna in the reserve, aiding in the identification of potential threats to the mouse population, such as pest animals. After the information has been analysed it will be sent through to Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services which can contribute and feed into the pest animal programs.



**Image:** Nola finding cameras with the GPS



**Image:** Set-up and shut down of cameras



**Image:** Fox track



**Image:** Nola and PCL Project Officer Danny analysing over camera footage.



**Image:** Brush Turkey (*Alectura lathami*)



**Image:** Agile Wallaby (*Notamacropus agilis*)



**Image:** Forest Kingfisher (*Todiramphus macleayii*)



**Image:** Glider



**Image:** Fox (*Vulpus vulpus*)



**Image:** Buff-banded Rail (*Gallirallus philippensis*)

#### Other species observed:

- Cane Toad
- Peaceful Dove
- Water Rat
- Northern Brown Bandicoot
- Long Nosed Bandicoot
- Buff-banded Rail
- Brushtail Possum,
- Lace Monitor
- Feral Pig
- Echidna
- Feral Dog



## Goodstart Early Learning Visit

On Monday the 29th April, PCL officers Danny and Taleah embarked on an adventure at Goodstart Early Learning - Mackay Shakespeare Street. Amidst the hustle and bustle of playful laughter and endless energy, we found our little green oasis. With the eager hands of the children, we set out to transform the landscape, planting over 40 resilient plants. Here's a glimpse of what we added:

- *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* (Yellow Buttons)
- *Xerochrysum bracteatum* (Golden Everlasting Daisy)
- *Dianella caerulea* (Blue Flax Lily)
- *Cordyline murchisoniae* (Murchison's Palm Lily)
- *Ghania aspera* (Sword Sedge)
- *Pandorea jasminoides* (Bower of Beauty)
- *Backhousia citriodora* (Lemon-scented Myrtle)
- *Alpinia caerulea* (Native Ginger)
- *Mentha* sp. (Native Mint)
- *Dodonaea viscosa* subsp. *viscosa* (Sticky Hop Bush)
- *Glycosmis trifoliata* (Pink Lime)

Amidst giggles and curious questions, we shared the joy of planting and nurturing life. It wasn't just about beautifying the garden; it was about fostering a sense of wonder and stewardship for our environment.



## Upcoming Community Events

May 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2 Native Plants Qld (Mackay Branch) meeting 7:30pm at Botanic Gardens Meeting Room	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Mothers Day
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 Journey into the Salt Marsh
20	21	22	23	24	25 Landcare Awards	26
27	28	29	30	31		

### June

**Tues 4** - PCL Volunteering in the Botanic Gardens Nursery , 8am to 12pm.

**Thurs 6** - Native Plants Qld (Mackay Branch) meeting, Botanic Gardens Meeting Room 7:30pm

**Tues 11**- PCL Volunteering in the Botanic Gardens Nursery , 8am to 12pm.

**Tues 18**- PCL Volunteering in the Botanic Gardens Nursery , 8am to 12pm.

**Tues 25**- 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** | Vacant

**Deputy Chair** | Judith Wake

**Secretary** | Vacant

**Treasurer** | Claire Stribbles

#### Committee Members

Earl Neilsen

Paul Tippet



**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 Changing

Keep an eye out for upcoming changes to our membership policies and new opportunities coming for PCL members



**QWaLC**  
QUEENSLAND WATER & LAND CARERS



**CONTAINERS  
FOR CHANGE**

**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.**