

# Pioneer Catchment & Landcare News

July 2024



Plant of the Month -

Pest Spotting -

Tangaroa Blue

Highly Commended



## Our Mission

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

## Welcome Kirili

Kirili Lamb is Pioneer Catchment Landcare's new Chairperson, taking the reins following Judith Wake's careful but short guidance as Acting Chairperson, and Sharon Dwyer's many years in the Chair position steering PCL through a growth period.

"I'm honoured to take on the role, and acknowledge the strong work of past chair-people," she said. "It is a pleasure to be back working with PCL after a few years away."

Kirili worked as PCL's communications officer for a year and a half until February 2022 after having volunteered in the PCL nursery team.

She has worked across communications, journalism and stage management for the past 24 years in Mackay, having moved here from Newcastle.

Currently, she is Communications and Membership Development Manager with Canegrowers Mackay and serves as a member of the Healthy Rivers to Reef Partnership management committee.

In the past, she wrote for Rural Weekly, but has covered community, arts, environment, industry, and rural news for various regional and state publications.

While volunteering with Mackay Community Gardens and completing a six-month Permaculture Design Certificate with Geoff Lawton Online, Kirili found a connection with the incredible, innovative work being done in regenerative farming and land management. She loves to work with landholders and conservation workers, to help them tell their stories and inspire others with what they have achieved for their livelihoods, land and for the environment.

Welcome Kirili! We look forward to the experience and passion you will no doubt bring to PCL and are excited to continue on with the growth of PCL with you as Chair.



## Queensland Landcare Awards 2023-2024

What a wonderful surprise!

We are thrilled to announce that Pioneer Catchment Landcare has been awarded "Highly Commended" in the Australian Government Community Partnerships Landcare Award at the 2023-2024 Queensland Landcare Awards! This recognition means the world to us, as it celebrates our passion and dedication to preserving our beautiful environment. We are incredibly grateful for the support of our community, our amazing dedicated staff, and all our hardworking volunteers. Together, we are making a difference!



## Native Plant of the Month

**Plant of the month – gave away seeds as the prize for our nature treasure hunt at the recent Northern Beaches community day.**

***Abelmoschus moschatus subsp. tuberosus* – Native rosella, musk mallow**

**Family: MALVACEAE**

### **Description:**

Fast-growing trailing herbaceous plant with tuberous roots, spreading up to 2m diameter. Stems are soft and hairy. Native to northern and eastern Qld, NT and northern Western Australia in open woodlands or grasslands.

### **Leaves:**

Alternate, rough, hairy and heart shaped with 3 to 5 lobes and serrated margins.

### **Flowers:**

Hibiscus-like, watermelon red, sometimes white or pink, with dark centre. Each flower only lasts a day. Flowers between October and April. Insect attracting.

### **Fruits:**

Papery, 5-lobed hairy capsules with persistent epicalyx at the base; small black hard seeds.

### **Growing notes:**

Full sun to part shade, adequate moisture, well-drained soil. Dies down to tuber during the dry. Leaves, shoots and tuberous roots are edible.

### **Origin of name:**

*Abelmoschus* comes from Arabic – father of musk alluding to the smell of the seeds; *rhodopetalus* rhodo - rose or rose-coloured; *petalus* refers to the petals.

### **Note:**

*Abelmoschus moschatus* is a recognised species, but there are no records for our district.



# Pest Spotting

**Pest of the month – identified by children at the northern beaches community day.**

***Mimosa pudica* – Sensitive weed – Family: Leguminosae, Subfamily Caesalpinioidea**

## **Description:**

Prickly long-lived herb or sub-shrub with prostrate stems to 1.5m long; 150-500mm tall but can grow up to 1m if supported by other plants. Stems reddish-brown to purple becoming brown and woody with age, sparsely to moderately hairy with downward pointing sharp spines, 3-6mm long.

## **Leaves:**

15-62mm long, divided into 1 or 2 pairs of pinnae each with 10-25 pairs of small, elongated leaflets with slightly hairy margins. Leaflets fold inwards when plant is touched.

## **Flowers:**

Pink/purple arranged in fluffy globular heads 9-15mm across, 1-5 heads in each leaf axil.

## **Fruit:**

Oblong and flattened pods, 9-20 x 3-5mm, edges covered in stiff bristles. Initially green, turning dark brown and breaking up when ripe, contain 1-5 light brown seeds.

## **Habitat:**

Wetter coastal areas in tropical and sub-tropical regions. Found in disturbed land, pasture, roadsides, parks and lawns. Probably introduced as an ornamental plant. Originates in Central and South America.

## **Threats to Australia:**

Suspected of poisoning cattle (Parsons and Cuthbertson (2001)). Can restrict grazing when high population of plants. Thorns cause painful wounds. Seeds remain viable in the soil seed bank for many years.

## **Control:**

Hand pulling of isolated plants ensuring entire root is removed. Chemicals registered for control include Dicamba.

## **What you can do**

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



**Image:** [cqclandcarenetwork.org.au](http://cqclandcarenetwork.org.au)



## References

Hacker, JB 1990 [A Guide to Herbaceous and shrub legumes of Qld](#). UQP  
Parsons, WWT and Cuthbertson, EEG 2001 [Noxious Weeds of Australia](#). CSIRO  
[Weeds of the Mackay Whitsunday Region](#)  
[www.portal.apvma.gov.au](http://www.portal.apvma.gov.au)  
[www.weeds.org.au](http://www.weeds.org.au)

## Tangaroa Blue Monitoring

Earlier this June, Pioneer Catchment Landcare conducted an impactful environmental monitoring and cleanup event at Pioneer River and Harbour Beach, Mackay.

### Harbour Beach Cleanup and AUSMAP Sampling

At Harbour Beach, our team successfully removed over 20kg of litter, highlighting our commitment to preserving our natural habitats. Among the debris, we discovered a tyre, illustrating the ongoing issue of marine pollution. A striking observation was the entanglement of natural debris with three different fishing lines, providing a stark reminder of the direct impact human activities have on our marine ecosystems.

In addition to the cleanup, we collected AUSMAP samples, contributing to a broader understanding of microplastic pollution in our waterways. This hands-on experience was invaluable for our officers, enhancing their skills and knowledge in environmental monitoring.

A notable discovery during our Harbour Beach cleanup was the sighting of a Golden Bristle Worm (*Chloeia flava*) washed up on the beach. This find was a first for many of our staff, adding an element of excitement and education to the day's activities. The presence of this unique marine creature further underscores the biodiversity of our coastal areas and the importance of our conservation efforts.

### Pioneer River Cleanup

The cleanup efforts at Pioneer River were equally commendable, with our team removing a significant amount of litter, though not as large as the haul from Harbour Beach. Among the items collected, was an e-scooter that had been stripped of its hardware. If anyone encounters a similar find, please contact [Beam Support](#) to report it. This effort nonetheless reflects our ongoing commitment to maintaining the health and cleanliness of our local waterways. Every piece of litter removed contributes to the overall well-being of our environment and the creatures that inhabit it.



**Image:** Tyre on Harbour Beach



**Image:** Golden Bristle Worm (*Chloeia flava*)



**Image:** Three fishing lines around natural debris.

## Northern Beaches Community Day

On Friday, the 7th, our Pioneer Catchment Landcare (PCL) officers, Donna and Taleah attended the Northern Beaches Community Group Day. The event was brimming with community spirit and provided an excellent opportunity to share what PCL is all about.

PCL hosted a Nature Passport Game, where children explored and identified weeds and native plants. This activity was both fun and educational, and it inspired this month's Plant and Pest of the Month. Children who completed and returned their Nature Passports received *Abelmoschus* subsp. *tuberosus* seeds as a reward now named (*Abelmoschus rhodopetalus*).

One of the highlights of the day was the Community Tree. Children wrote their names on leaves and placed them on the Community Tree which was then donated to the Northern Beaches Community Group.

The day was a beautiful collaboration of community effort.



PIONEER  
CATCHMENT  
LANDCARE  
MEMBERSHIP  
LEVELS

# EXPLORE OUR NEW MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS TODAY!

Join us in making a difference!



## Upcoming Community Events

July 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4 Native Plants Qld (Mackay Branch) meet-	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

### **August**

**Thurs 1** - Native Plants Qld (Mackay Branch) meeting, Botanic Gardens Meeting Room 7:30pm

**Tues 6** - PCL Volunteering in the Botanic Gardens Nursery , 8am to 12pm.

**Tues 13** - PCL Volunteering in the Botanic Gardens Nursery , 8am to 12pm.

**Tues 20** - PCL Volunteering in the Botanic Gardens Nursery , 8am to 12pm.

**Tues 27** - PCL Volunteering in the Botanic Gardens Nursery , 8am to 12pm.

## Contact Us

### Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group Inc.



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# 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

### Last newsletter for non members

Please note this will be the last newsletter for members who are yet to pay membership.

To join as a member head to:

1. pioneercatchment.org.au
2. Click membership levels in the menu



**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.**