

Pioneer Catchment & Landcare News

October 2024



Plant of the Month

Pest Spotting

Tangaroa Blue
Monitoring

Native Bee Work-
shop



Our Mission

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

Exciting Update: Quarterly Newsletters for a Richer Read

At Pioneer Catchment Landcare, we are always striving to improve how we communicate with you. That's why we're excited to share that our newsletters will now be sent out every three months. This shift to a quarterly schedule will allow us to craft richer, more detailed stories that truly capture the impact of our projects, the progress of our environmental initiatives, and the exciting developments happening in our region.

By offering fewer, but more comprehensive updates, we aim to provide you with a more enjoyable and informative read each time. You'll get to dive deeper into our work, stay up to date on important milestones, and gain insights into the key conservation efforts that support the biodiversity of our local area.

We'll also be featuring more highlights from our events, partnerships, and successes in regenerating nature, as well as giving you a behind-the-scenes look at how we collaborate with schools, businesses, and community groups. We want these newsletters to not only keep you informed but to inspire you with what we can achieve together for the future of our environment.

This change is part of our ongoing commitment to delivering greater value to you as a member of Pioneer Catchment Landcare. And with that in mind, now is the perfect time to invite others to join our growing community! Whether they're passionate about wildlife, love the outdoors, or just want to make a positive impact, there's a place for everyone here. Plus, with general memberships starting at just \$25, becoming part of this important work has never been easier.

If you know someone who might be interested in joining us, please share our membership details with them. We're always excited to welcome new members.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and we can't wait to share our next quarterly update with you. We hope you enjoy this new approach and find each newsletter more enriching and beneficial to your experience as a valued member.

To join as member you can scan the QR code with your phone or alternatively email:

admin@pioneercatchment.org.au



Native Plant of the Month

Macaranga tanarius Macaranga

Family: Euphorbiaceae

Description: *Macaranga tanarius* is a fast-growing tree, typically reaching heights of about **5 to 20** metres. Exudate red and sticky.

Distribution: Tropical regions across the Pacific, parts of Asia and the Pacific and northern and eastern Australia from the NT to northern NSW. It prefers coastal areas, rainforests, and disturbed sites, typically growing in well-drained soils and tolerating moderate salinity.

Leaves: Simple, alternate, large, heart shaped, 80-200mm long x 70-100mm across, with the petiole attached near the centre.

Flowers: Small, greenish-yellow, within fringed floral bracts. Male and female flowers on separate trees. Sessile female flowers borne in axillary fascicles, lightly perfumed, male flowers borne in pendulous axillary sprays.

Fruits: Small, round three lobed capsules about 15mm in diameter, covered in yellow glands. These capsules change colour from green to brown as they mature and split open to release 1-4 small black seeds.

Growing Notes: As a pioneer species, *Macaranga tanarius* is often utilized in reforestation plantings due to its rapid growth and ability to establish in disturbed areas. It thrives in a pH range of 5.5 to 7 but can tolerate slightly alkaline conditions.

Origin of Name: The genus name *Macaranga* after the Malagasy name for the genus. The species name *tanarius* is thought to be an Ambonese name from when the plant was first described.



Photo - Male plant: [Macaranga | Central QLD Coast Landcare Network \(cqclandcarenetwork.org.au\)](http://Macaranga | Central QLD Coast Landcare Network (cqclandcarenetwork.org.au))
References: https://apps.lucidcentral.org/rainforest/text/entities/macaranga_tanarius.htm
Melzer R. & Plumb J. (2007) Plants of Capricornia.

Pest Spotting

Thunbergia alata Black-eyed Susan

Family: Acanthaceae

Description: Long-lived twining, climbing vine up to 5m in length. It has slender, hairy, green stems when young, becoming woody with age. The striking bright yellow to orange flowers have made it an attractive garden plant.

Leaves: Simple, opposite, heart-shaped, coarsely hairy with toothed or smooth margins, 20-80mm long by 10-45mm wide, borne on narrowly winged stalks.

Flowers: Tubular, with yellow or orange petals, and a black throat, 30-40mm wide, and borne singly in the upper leaf axils.

Fruit: Oblong capsule with a rounded base (5-10mm across) an elongated beak, and enclosed in leafy bracts. Capsules split at maturity to release several brown seeds.

Habitat: Thrives in wetter coastal areas in tropical and subtropical regions, commonly found in disturbed lands, pastures, roadsides, parks, and gardens. Originally introduced as an ornamental plant, the Black-eyed Susan is native to Central and South America.

Threats to Australia:

Black-eyed Susan is considered an environmental weed in Queensland and New South Wales due to its invasive nature. It poses a threat to native ecosystems by smothering native plants and disrupting biodiversity. The vine can spread rapidly, especially in disturbed areas, leading to restricted grazing for livestock.

Control: Control of Black-eyed Susan involves hand-pulling young plants, ensuring that the roots are removed to prevent regrowth. Chemical control can be achieved using registered herbicides such as foliar sprays. Garden waste should be carefully disposed of to avoid further spread.

What You Can Do: To manage this plant, it is important to remove any young plants before they set seed. If the plant has already seeded, bag the seed heads and dispose of them appropriately to prevent further dispersal.



Photo: [Black-eyed Susan \(brisbane.qld.gov.au\)](http://Black-eyed Susan (brisbane.qld.gov.au))
References: <https://weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au/weeds/black-eyed-susan>

Native Bee Workshop

Our native bee workshop, held during Landcare Week, was a fantastic success! With over 20 passionate participants in attendance, the event was a true celebration of our native bees and the vital role they play in our ecosystems.

Throughout the workshop, attendees had the opportunity to dive into the fascinating world of native bees, learning hands-on techniques for hive rescue and transfer. A huge thank you to Dean & Helen from Native Bee Rescue & Education Sunshine Coast for their incredible live demonstrations. Their expertise and enthusiasm brought the workshop to life and left everyone buzzing with excitement.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens for generously providing the perfect venue for the event. Your support helped make the day run smoothly and allowed us to create a memorable experience for all involved.



Attracting Native Bees to your garden

Native bees play a crucial role in pollinating plants and maintaining healthy ecosystems. Choosing the right plants can help provide these important pollinators with the resources they need. Here are some flowering plants categorised by their growth habit that are particularly beneficial for native bees:

Ground Covers

- Paper Daisy (*Xerochrysum bracteatum*)
- Flax Lily (*Dianella caerulea*)

Climbers

- Jasmine (*Pandorea jasminoides*)

Shrubs/Small Trees

- Flowering May (*Leptospermum polygalifolium*)
- Lilly Pilly (*Syzygium australe*)
- Weeping Bottlebrush (*Melaleuca viminalis*)

Trees

- Paperbark Teatree (*Melaleuca viridiflora*)
- Weeping Paperbark (*Melaleuca leucadendra*)
- Euodia (*Melicope elleryana*)

Schools Tree Day & National Tree Day

We had an incredible time celebrating Schools Tree Day on Friday, 26th July, and National Tree Day on Sunday, 28th July! These important days allow us to come together as a community to appreciate and enhance our environment through tree planting and conservation efforts.



Submerged Exhibition

We hope you had the chance to visit the Submerged Exhibition, which was held in July at Gallery•31 CQUni Mackay City Campus!

Pioneer Catchment Landcare's officer, Taleah, had an amazing time assisting with the judging alongside other judges. Congratulations to all the winners!

The exhibition showcased pieces that celebrated our region's waterways, underscoring the importance of collaboration in maintaining and improving their health for the future.



Landcare School Support visits

Mirani State School

On Friday, 16th September, Pioneer Catchment Landcare had the privilege of speaking to six groups of enthusiastic students at Mirani School. Each 20-minute session was filled with exciting facts that highlighted just how incredible Australia truly is!

Did you know that Australia is home to over 200,000 species of animals and 24,000 species of plants? Many of these species are found nowhere else on Earth, making us one of only seven mega-biodiverse countries! We had a fantastic time exploring the significance of biodiversity, define a threatened species, and the serious reality of extinction. We also discussed which local species might be at risk, bringing attention to some of the unique challenges our wildlife faces.

Most importantly, we focused on how students can make a positive impact. By planting for wildlife and embracing small, thoughtful actions, we can all help protect our precious environment. The energy and curiosity from the students left us feeling optimistic about the future of conservation.

Thank you, Mirani School, for giving us the opportunity to inspire the next generation of environmental champions!



Goodstart Early Learning Eimeo

In August, Pioneer Catchment Landcare had the pleasure of visiting Goodstart Early Learning Eimeo for an engaging discussion on native plants. We were thrilled to work with four groups of enthusiastic kindergarten children, sharing the importance of local flora and its role in supporting our environment.

The highlight of the day was the planting of 50 native plants, where the children eagerly got their hands dirty, learning about planting techniques and the benefits of native vegetation. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect young minds with nature and instill a sense of stewardship for our beautiful landscapes.



A big thank you to Goodstart Early Learning Eimeo for welcoming us and making this event a memorable experience for everyone involved!

Goodstart Early Learning Rural Veiv

In September, Pioneer Catchment Landcare had a fantastic time visiting Goodstart Early Learning Rural View! We gathered with two groups of kindergarten children to dive into the world of native plants and explore how they grow and thrive.

During our hands-on session, we planted 50 native plants while discussing what helps them flourish in our environment. The kids eagerly got involved, learning about the importance of native vegetation and how it supports local wildlife.

A big thank you to Goodstart Early Learning Rural View for having us!



Tangaroa Blue Monitoring

The team at Pioneer Catchment Landcare returned to Harbour Beach and the Pioneer River in September for our ongoing monitoring efforts. During this latest round, we completed AUSMAP samples and ongoing marine debris monitoring.

We were shocked by the amount of microplastics we encountered during this event. While it's not uncommon to find large amounts of plastic at Harbour Beach, this time, the situation was even more alarming. In the last two years, Pioneer Catchment Landcare has collected a total of **4,853 hard plastic remnants**, with the majority found at Harbour Beach.

Our ongoing monitoring efforts underscore the need for continued action to address the issue of marine debris in our waterways. Thank you to our dedicated team and volunteers for their hard work in protecting our environment!



Image: Our second Golden Bristle Worm (*Chloeia flava*) of the year! This vibrant marine creature typically dwells in silty areas near the reef.



Image: 1 square metre collection of plastics.

Goodluck Danny

As many of you may already know, we recently bid farewell to our Project Officer, Daniel Hudson, who has embarked on a new career journey. Daniel has been an integral part of our team, and while we are sad to see him go, we are excited for him as he steps into this new chapter.

While we will miss his presence and the enthusiasm he brought to the office, we are confident that he will continue to excel and make a difference in his new role.

We wish him every success and happiness as he takes on this exciting new opportunity.



Upcoming Community Events

October 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1 PCL Volunteering in the Nursery	2	3 Native Plants Qld (Mackay Branch) Meeting 7:30pm Botanic Gardens Meeting Room	4	5	6
7 Monarch's Birthday World Habitat Day	8 PCL Volunteering in the Nursery	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 PCL Volunteering in the Nursery	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 PCL Volunteering in the Nursery	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 PCL Volunteering in the Nursery	30	31			

November

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

Tues 5 - PCL Volunteering in the Nursery , 8am to 12pm.

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

Tues 19- PCL Volunteering in the Nursery , 8am to 12pm.

Tues 26- PCL Volunteering in the Nursery , 8am to 12pm.

Frid 29- Pioneer Catchment Landcare AGM, Location –TBC, 11am

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 |

Secretary | Judith Wake

Treasurer | Claire Stribbles

Committee Members

Earl Neilsen

Paul Tippet

Jessica Turchet



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!

+ Pioneer Catchment Landcare

SAVE THE DATE 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 29th November 2024

11am

TBC

More information: admin@pioneercatchment.org.au | 07 4944 1979

PCL Membership is Changing

To join as a member head to: [Memberships](#)
(pioneercatchment.org.au)



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.