

Newsletter

ebruary 2021

www.whitsundaylandcare.org.au



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Central QLD Coast **Landcare** Network

A partnership for the natural resource management of catchments in the Central QLD Coast Bioregions.

CATCHMENT COORDINATOR:

Cath Campbell Ph.: 0483 811 229

coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au

PROJECT OFFICER:

Chris Barbeler Ph.: 0488 768 567

project@whitsundaylandcare.or.g.au

CONTACT US FOR INFORMATION:

- Natural Resource Management
- Land management Plans
- Native plants
- · Environmental weeds
- · Volunteer activities

BECOME A VOLUNTEER:

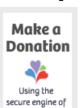
Come seed collecting; learn to identify native plants; how to propagate them; improve your environment; enjoy the outdoors in a fun, social setting.

If you're interested in doing your bit for the environment and socialising with like-minded people, we offer coordinated activities on Tuesday & Thursday mornings and more. Contact us!

WCL Management Committee:

Graham Armstrong, Chair
Jacquie Sheils, Secretary
Glenda Hodgson, Treasurer
Dale Mengel
John Casey
WRC representative- CR. Gary Simpson
One Community position vacant

WCL is a community not-for-profit group, relying on grants & donations. We are a registered charity; donations of



GiueNow.com.au

\$2 or more are tax deductible. To make a donation please contact us or go to



Coming Up in February 2021 COMMUNITY NURSERY OPEN FOR PLANT SALES (CASH ONLY)

9am-12noon Tuesday, Thursday & the 1st Saturday of each monthNext Saturday opening—6th February 2021

Alternate Volunteer Event – 18th February– Dingo Beach Littoral Rainforest restoration & planting. Northern End of the foreshore parkland. 9am– 12pm– See page 2 for detail

WCL 2019-2020-Annual Report is available on our website—www. whitsundaylandcare.org.au

At the Community Nursery & Volunteer Activities in February :

33 Kelsey Creek Rd Proserpine
Tuesday & Thursday 9am—12.30pm.
For enquiries please Ph. 0483 811 229 or email:
coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au

Tuesday	Thursday
2nd February: Nursery Maintenance & propagation activities	4th: Propagation, Seed processing, Potting, Record keeping etc. at the nursery.
9th: Nursery Maintenance & propagation activities	11th: Propagation, Seed processing, Potting, Record keeping etc. at the nursery.
16th: Nursery Maintenance & propagation activities	18th: Propagation, Seed processing, Potting, Record keeping etc. at the nursery. Alternate Activity— Dingo Beach—Littoral Rainforest planting event. See page 2 for details.
23rd: Nursery Maintenance & propagation activities	25th: Propagation, Seed processing, Potting, Record keeping etc. at the nursery.

WCL receives support from the following organizations:











WCL Volunteer Planting Event—Thursday 18th February.

We have a received a QLD Government Community Sustainability grant to undertake littoral rainforest restoration at Nelly Bay, Dingo Beach & Hydeaway Bay. We are planting a total of 500 plants at the 3 site. WCL volunteer completed the planting at Nelly Bay just before Christmas in 2020 and now that the rains have arrived we are focusing on the Dingo Beach site. Initial weed control has been undertaken by our staff and now we are up to the planting.

On Thursday the 18th February we are offering an **volunteer event** (alternative to attending the community nursery) to undertake the planting at our Dingo Beach site. Please park your vehicles at the northernmost car park in the foreshore reserve area on Olive St, Dingo Beach. Chris Barbeler, our Project Officer will meet you in a clearing nearby, get you to sign on and take you into the revegetation site, which is approximately 30m from the carpark.

Where: Dingo Beach Littoral rainforest site

When: Thursday 18th February, 2021

Time: 9am- 12pm.

Morning Tea, water refills and sunscreen will be provided.

Please wear long sleeves, closed in shoes, a hat and bring your water bottle. Don't forget your gloves.



Late Addition— REEF CLEAN—March Volunteer Event.

WCL has been contracted to undertake marine debris monitoring 4 times during the year.

Graham Armstrong will be leading the event

Conway Beach—Thursday 4th. From 8 am

Wilsons Beach—Sunday 7th . From 10am.

Interested helpers can come along just for an hour or for the whole process (estimated 5hrs) All help appreciated.

Please wear long sleeves, closed in shoes, a hat

Please contact Graham Armstrong – 0416 658 047 for more details. If you would like to participate.

Getting to Know Our Whitsunday Wildlife & Plants

Steve Pearson is a local dedicated nature photographer. Steve is a retired QP&WS ranger who spent a large part of his career at Eungella and in the Whitsundays. Assisted by his wife Alison. Steve has accumulated a comprehensive photographic reference of plants and also, the less understood and under-appreciated elements of our region's ecology such as invertebrates and fungi. To view more of his photos go to - steveandalison1@flickr

This month's feature plant flowering in our patch at present is the Psychotria bush, Psychotria

fitzalanii of family Rubiaceae. It is a local native but is endemic to Queensland and occurs naturally in NEQ and CEQ. Psychotria fitzalanii grows in monsoon forest, vine thickets and the drier types of rain forest with an altitudinal range from sea level to 1000 m. There is no definite flowering season and usually flowers after rain periods and fruits as a shrub. The ones in our patch are 2-3 m tall but in ideal conditions and with limited competition can grow into a small tree.

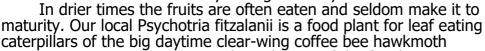
The leaf blades vary quite a bit depending on how

good the soil and water supply is for it, some leaves are 10cm long by 3 cm or so wide.

Psychotria fitzalanii flowering is a bunch of little white flowers on the end of the

branch growing tip as in the photos -the inflorescence is called a terminal panicle. It is a slow growth plant, shallow roots, a little plant competing in big forest, and its

fruits are small, about 5mm long when developed and slow growing, really relying heavily on a good rainy season.



Cephonodes sp. of the family Sphingidae.

An amazing big moth with clear wings that is mostly a day time flyer, buzzing like a humming bird as it hovers while it sucks nectar from flowers but it also flies at night, mainly to lay its eggs in peace safe from daytime predators. If we had humming birds here I

reckon the coffee bee hawkmoth would be called the humming bird moth. Our local Cephonodes hawkmoth is a

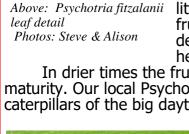
little over 3 cm long, that is more than half the size of the Helena bee hummingbird Mellisuga helenae, a native to Cuba, the

smallest humming bird only 5cm long. The Cephonodes moth is bigger than Bumble Bees and because its caterpillars also love feasting on leaves of plantation coffee trees it is considered a pest to coffee growers who are the ones responsible for having named it the coffee bee hawkmoth. It is active like a big bumble bee, flying fast, wings beating so guickly they hum. As they hover and suck nectar from flowers like a humming bird with its long tongue, really buzzing about as though it is high on caffeine all day. I wonder is there some

sort of Caffeine in psychotria. At night it does land briefly to lays its eggs on the host plants. The caterpillars grow quite large so love a lot of plant leaves and can strip the leaves of a Psychotria fitzalanii bush. Imagine if the Cephonodes hawkmoth breed up, big numbers of leaf eating grubs could do lots of eating, especially in a coffee plantation where there are lots and lots of leaves.

Continued over page







Above: & Below Coffee Bee Hawkmoth Photo: Steve &Alison Pearson





Above: Psychotria fitzalanii Photos: Steve & Alison Pearson



Above: Psychotria fitzalanii flower panicle. Below: Flower Detail Photos: Steve & Alison Pearson



Continued:

The leaves are important to plants as they are the part of the plant that performs photosynthesis to help the plant grow and flower and reproduce, no leaves - no plant growth or fruit growth, a natural bonsai system.

Being a grand dad I like making fun for the grand kids and other kids -hoping to get them interested in nature, so I call the Cephonodes moth grubs Dacshundapillars, because they are



long caterpillars that raise their head end if disturbed making them look just like a long sausage dog (Dacshund) grub (caterpillar), a fun part of nature to remember.

I am not sure if Psychotria fitzalanii has great importance, a small bush in a big forest, but is another of our local plants, part of the great diversity here and is also a host food plant for the caterpillars of a local moth which is part of the greater food chain of our special Whitsundays area.

It could be that the combination of species growing together here does not occur anywhere else on planet earth.

Psychotria fitzalanii is another of our local plants with Fitzalan as part of its name and I find it amazing that in our Whitsundays tourist focus there is no botanical garden with fitzalan plants and a little of the history for botanical interested tourists. A professor in Townsville Uni has researched quite a lot of local history and Eugene Fitzalan was included.

I finally found a reference to his work on the name Eugene Fitzalan (1830-1911), an Irish born plant collector and gardener who came to Australia in about 1849. He was appointed as a botanical collector on the schooner Spitfire's expedition in 1860 to investigate the estuary of the Burdekin River and later collected for Ferdinand von Mueller.

In 1861 he was a pioneer settler in the newly established township of Bowen, from where he made collecting expeditions to Mount Dryander, Mount Elliot (Townsville), Cairns, the Daintree River and Cooktown. Between these trips he

established and managed a seed and plant nursery business in Bowen.





Above: "Cephonodes "Dacshundapillar" Photo: Steve & Alison Pearson

In 1886 he moved to Cairns, where he was active in the initial development of the Cairns Botanic Gardens. He collected Psychotria fitzalanii at Port Molle, on Pelican Island, while on the Burdekin expedition, and it was described by George Bentham in volume 3 of Flora Australiensis in 1867. It had earlier been collected by Banks and Solander in 1770 at the Endeavour River. So the Psychotria bush, Psychotria fitzalanii of family Rubiaceae is a local native but is endemic to Queensland and occurs naturally only in NEQ and CEQ.

We have it here as part of the diversity of life here in the special Whitsundays, maybe some bird will find a ripe fruit and drop the seed in your patch and increase the diversity in your special habitat, hope you have a great 2021.

Right: Psychotria fitzalanii flower detail Photo: Steve &Alison Pearson



Getting to Know Our Whitsunday Wildlife & Plants

Steve Pearson is a local dedicated nature photographer. Steve is a retired QP&WS ranger who spent a large part of his career at Eungella and in the Whitsundays. Assisted by his wife Alison, Steve has accumulated a comprehensive photographic reference of plants and also, the less understood and under-appreciated elements of our region's ecology such as invertebrates and fungi. To view more of his photos go to – steveandalison1@flickr

While checking out the Psychotria bush with its flowers I noticed movement on the stem of the flower panicle and looked closer to see it was a small salticidae jumping spider. It was the one I had seen and photographed from time to time and sent to the specialists for ID, but each time was told it is unknown, except for the ones I send in, so here is another special Whitsunday endemic spider.

When I found it on the Psychotria bush in the rockshelf last week, I sent photos of this one again to specialists but, same as every time before, was told it is still unnamed and they can not even agree on which genus it belongs too- 3 different ones have

Nobody has described it, so it is unnamed and only known from our patch. Have you been out and about checking out how special our Whitsundays or your local patch is? What is out there

waiting for you to find?

Quite a few times I have seen our little hairy Halloween face jumper spiders roaming the rock shelf area on the ground among leaf litter- hunting, climbing the bare rock face, climbing stems of small shrubs in the rock shelf area and now this latest one was on the terminal panicle twig of the Psychotria bush near the flowers. Possibly chasing insects attracted to the flowers.

A close look at this hairy little jumping spider from all angles might provide a discovery -an unusual face like pattern on its rear end, like eyes looking behind. To me this wee little spider appears

to have a spooky Halloween face on its butt.

Imagine some predator sneaking up behind it and jumping up only to be confronted with a Halloween face. I find it interesting how so many insects and spiders have patterns that look like faces, often the main feature is the eyes, as if it is their self protective way of saying - I am watching you - I know you are there.

This reminds me of one of the times I was in the highlands of PNG, back in 1983. I was on Mt Bosavi and stayed with a fellow that had cleared that airstrip in the jungle and then developed the Mougulu Mission with school and hospital etc. Tom was chatting about one of his friends that supervised a work team clearing landing strips for MAF small airplanes. He said his friend had an experience that whenever he had to go away for awhile he used to

put a glass eye on a post and tell the workers there was an eye on them and they kept working unsupervised but eventually one of the workers was smart enough to come up with a scheme on getting a break, he went round to the back of the glass eye and snuck up behind it and put his hat over it, the hero of

all the other workers, now able to have a break.

Anyhow, this local Salticidae spider with no species name or genus is only little and almost nothing is known about it except it is here and possibly nowhere else on planet earth, just in our Psychotria patch of rockshelf rainforest.

While I am here I will try to look after our patch, its home !!! So do I call it the psychotria patch spider or Halloween face spider or SALTY SID, short for Salticidae?

Anyhow no one is likely to be bitten by it, but as usual, if anybody does come across one and gets bitten it will be a real shallow bite -so if there is pain, an ice pack may be used to relieve the pain of shallow bites. If there is evidence of an allergic reaction, medical attention should be sought.

I hope you can have your own patch and have many happy and safe explorations.



Above: "Hairy Halloween Jumper spider Photo: Steve & Alison Pearson



Above: "Hairy Halloween:" Jumper Spider with it Halloween face on the rear Photo: Steve & Alison Pearson



Above: "Hairy Halloween Jumper spider

Photo: Steve & Alison Pearson

Pest Hall of Fame-

Scientific name- Sphagneticola trilobata Common Name- Singapore daisy

Native to tropical America, Singapore daisy is a vigorous ground cover that spreads rapidly and out-competes native plants. In Queensland, it also invades lawns, irrigated areas, and areas around drains.

Singapore daisy is a restricted invasive plant under the Biosecurity Act 2014. Restricted invasive plants

- It must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment without a permit.
- The Act requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with invasive plants and animals under their control. This is called a general biosecurity obligation (GBO).
- At a local level, each local government must have a biosecurity plan that covers invasive plants and animals in its area. This plan may include actions to be taken on certain species. Some of these actions may be required under local laws. Contact your local government for more information.

Description: Vigorous ground cover or low-climbing plant. Leaves are lush, glossy green, usually 3-lobed, 4-18cm long, 1.5-8cm wide, in pairs along stem.

Flowers are yellow to orange-yellow, daisy-like, 2cm wide, on short stalks above leaves. Seeds are elongated, brown, 4-5mm long.

Habitat: Found in gardens, parks, bushland, disturbed areas, along roadsides and footpaths.

Distribution: Found in South East Queensland and coastal areas of northern and Central Queensland.

Life cycle: Flowers year-round, mostly from spring to autumn.

Impacts: Environmental. Spreads rapidly and smothers seedlings, ferns and shrubs. Invades environmental areas.

How it is spread: Spreads mainly by cuttings from slashing and pruning.

Prevention: Don't plant it and remove what you have in your garden. As Singapore daisy likes to establish in disturbed areas, pre plan revegetation of the area you are clearing. Take extra care when mowing or slashing around areas where Singapore daisy is planted so small fragments are not spread to other locations.

Controls:

Physical control. Hand-pull and dig up runners. Smother with black plastic & "cook for at least a week. Dispose of waste carefully, as smallest cutting can regrow. Repeat hand pulling/ smothering will need to be done as it regrows from the nodes.

Herbicide control: Herbicides are effective. There are no herbicide products specifically registered for the control of Singapore daisy in Queensland. However, a permit held by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries allows people generally to use some

herbicide products to control Singapore daisy as an environmental weed in various situations . **Situation:** Native pastures, rights-of-way, commercial and industrial areas, home gardens.

Herbicide: Metsulfuron-methyl

Rate: 600 g/L (e.g. Nufarm Associate) 10 g per 100 L water plus wetting agent

Registration Status: APVMA PER11463 (permit expires 30/06/2023)

Comments: Spray thoroughly to wet all foliage, but not to cause run-off Minimise contact with desirable species Only use products registered for Singapore daisy.

Biological control: No known biological control agents.

 $Further\ information: \ \underline{https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/land-management/health-pests-weeds-diseases/weeds-diseases/invasive-plants/restricted/singapore-daisy$









Above: Singapore Daisy– flowers, habits & leaves

Photos: Christine Peterson

Getting to Know Our Whitsunday Wildlife & Plants- Look what the rain brought out.

Selenocosmia crassipes (syn. Phlogius crassipes) also known as the Queensland whistling tarantula or unfairly named bird-eating Spider. The tarantula group make a fine hissing sound- hence their common name— whistling spiders. The bird eating spider name is incorrectly applied as it is a reference to the South American Bird spider- its young are fluffy like a bird chick. The QLD variety rarely eats birds. Two groups occur in the warmer parts of Austrália, although not found in the south east from Gladstone.

Australia has seven described species but a number are still to be named. Spiders with a thick first leg occur in east coastal Queensland and near Darwin belong to the genera Phlogius (originally called Selenocosmia but that genus occur only from New Guinea to the north and east and Coremiocnemis. These spiders are found in rainforests and gullies or other sheltered cooler spots in open forests. Some to make "nests" by silk-lining existing holes and expanding them slightly.

The second group (Selenotholus) have the first legs only as thick as the back legs or thinner, as in Selenotypus plumipes. These spiders have not been found in rainforest but flourish in the dry open

forests and deserts. The spiders make open burrows up to 2 metres long but about 1 metre deep. Tarantulas can be quite aggressive if mishandled. Their bite is quickly fatal to dogs and cats, but only one report of serious illness from a bite to a human has occurred.

Identification

They are large to very large grey or brown spiders that are very hairy with two finger-like spinnerets at the end of the body. Thick hair pads on their legs and "feet" allow these spiders to easily climb glass or smooth plastic walls.

Unlike the tarantulas of other countries, they are rather drab coloured.

Conservation

Up to 10,000 tarantulas are estimated to be taken from the wild each year (presumably both legally and illegally) and mostly from Queensland. Clearly, this rate of "harvest" is unsustainable and alternatives need to be sought to preserve these spiders in their natural habitats. In some cases, collectors are using their spiders for "captive breeding" and at least for the fast-growing bigger species, Phlogius crassipes, that is the best solution.

Further studies on Australian tarantula species continue but are crippled by limited interest in supporting that kind of research, which when published may in fact endanger them.

The one below was photographed locally—but we won't say where. So if you see them don't harm them, maybe report your sighting to the QLD Museum.

Source: https://www.gm.gld.gov.au/Find+out+about/Animals+of+Oueensland/Spiders/ Primitive+Spiders+Infraorder+Mygalomorphae/Tarantula+or+Whistling+Spiders





Above: QLD Whistling spider—probably a female escaping the rain. Photo: Leigh Donkers

INTERESTING WEB SITES:

Native Animals, Insects, Birds:

www.whitsundaylandcare.org.au

http://www.wildlife.org.au/magazine/

http://www.aussiebee.com.au

www.birdsinbackyards.net

www.australianmuseum.net.au/reptiles

http://birdlife.org.au/locations/birdlife-mackay/activities-

Native plants:

http://ausgrass2.myspecies.info/content/oplismenus https://www.anbg.gov.au/cpbr/cd-keys/rfk/

https://www.eucalyptaustralia.org.au/

http://sgaptownsville.org.au/

www.facebook.com.au/sgapmackay

Wetlands

http://wetlandinfo.ehp.qld.gov.au/wetlands/ecology/ components/flora/mangroves/mangrove-moreton.html

Feral Animals: feralflyer@invasiveanimals.com https://alumni.ug.edu.au/cane-toad-baits

Feral plants:

www.weeds.org.au

www.environment.gov.au Biodiversity Invasive species > weeds

WCL Community Nursery- Always

Needs Seeds

The WCL Nursery is very keen to source endemic seed so please keep an eye on your flowering native trees, shrubs & grasses for the volunteer nursery. Some of the species we need

Abutilon auritum Abutilon albescens Acacia aulacocarpa Acacia leptocarpa Acacia leptostachya Acacia simsii Alphitonia excelsa Alphitonia petriei Antidesma parviflorum

Archontophoenix alexandrae Alexander Palm Allocasuarina torulosa Black she-oak

Allocasuarina luehmannii

Aphananthe philippinensis

Aidia racemosa Archer Cherry Veiny Whitewood Atalaya rigida Breynia oblongifolia Coffee Bush Cajanus reticulatus Native Pigeon Pea Freshwater mangrove Carallia brachiata

Casuarina cunninghamiana River oak Chionanthus ramiflorus Native Olive Cordia dichotoma

Cordia subcordata

Corymbia clarksoniana Corymbia intermedia Pink Bloodwood Corymbia tessellaris Morton Bav Ash Corymbia erythrophloia Red Bloodwwod Cryptocarya hypospodia Large leafed Laurel

Cupaniopsis anacardioides Diospyros compacta Diospyros geminata Diospyros hebecarpa

Dysoxylum gaudichaudianum

Elaeocarpus grandis Eucalyptus crebra Eucalyptus platyphylla Eucalyptus exserta Eucalyptus tereticornis Euroschinus falcatus Ficus racemosa

Hymenosporum flavum Indigofera pratensis Ixora timorense

Ganophyllum falcatum

Blue Quandang Narrow-leafed Ironbark

QLD Peppermint QLD Blue Gum Ribbonwood Cluster fig Native frangipani

Sea Trumpet

Tuckeroo

Scaly Ash

Lagerstroemia archeriana Lophostemon confertus Lophostemon grandiflorus Lysiphyllum hookeri Macaranga tanarius Melaleuca dealbata Melaleuca leucadendra Melaleuca viminalis Melicope ellervana Memecylon pauciflorum var. pauciflorum

Micromelum minutum Omphalea celata Pandanus sp.

Petalostigma pubescens Planchonia careya

Ptychosperma elegans

Phyllanthus novae-hollandiae Sterculia quadrifida Peanut Tree River cherry

Syzygium australe Tabernaemontana orientalis

Tim Tam Tree Timonius timon Trema tomentosa var. aspera Peach-leafed Poison

Bush

Brush Box

Macaranga

Blue Tea Tree

Nthn Swamp Mahogany

Weeping Bottle Brush

Corkwood, Euodia

Native Lime Berry

Cocky Apple

Solitaire palm

Hookers Bauhinia

Trema orientalis

Vachellia bidwillii (WAS Acacia bidwillii) Corkwood Vitex trifolia Vitex

Guidelines for seed collecting:

- Only collect seed from your own property or with written permission
- Source plants must have grown from seed from the Whitsunday Region
- Collect ripe, mature seed & no more than 10% of the seed from any one plant
- Collect from several parts of the plant, mainly the middle & upper branches
- Use paper bags (not plastic) to store the seed & keep them in a cool place
- Label the bag with the species, location, date and your name. Not sure of your plant identification? Include a stem with some leaves & /or take a photo.

You can drop seed off at the nursery on Tuesday or Thursday mornings, or at Reef Catchments Office 45 Main St Proserpine, or call 0483 811 229.

You can make a tax deductable donation to the Whitsunday Catchment Landcare Fund at any time.

Just go to http://www.givenow.com.au/whitsundaycatchmentlandcare All donors will receive a receipt from Givenow at the time of the do-

> If you would like to receive this e-newsletter please email coordinator@whitsundaylandcare.org.au with your request.

secure engine of GiveNow.com.au

Disclaimer: Information in this newsletter is offered as a guide only and while every care is taken to ensure its accuracy, Whitsunday Catchment Landcare does not invite reliance upon it, nor accept responsibility for any loss or damage caused by actions based on it.

Thank You Everyone!

Thank you to so many of you who have generously and kindly donated your container refunds to WCL. To date January 2020 to Dec. 2020) we have had \$ 175.50 donated. Your contributions are allocated to the WCL Public Fund which allows WCL to take on various projects for the ongoing education of our members and the wider community. Please find below our Containers for Change ID number to conveniently cut off and include in your bags. Anything Environmental who manage the local container exchange have moved to a QR Code—please find the new WCL ID below. Thank You again!

