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Next LANDCARE LINKUP 2018 Monthly Eco-conversations:

- Thursday 16 August, 5-7pm: **'WHAT IS NOOSA COUNCIL UP TO?'** [Book here.](#)
- Thursday 20 September, 5-7pm: **'PINBARREN ROCKS!'** [Book here.](#)

These monthly events are free for Noosa Landcare Members and Bushlandcare Program volunteers and \$10 for general entry.

Scroll down for more local events.

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Welcome to our August - September 2018 E-news

From project to project, the crew excelled

by Danielle Gilmartin, Skilling Queenslanders for Work Administration Trainee

In the very stark timeframe of the past four and a half months, Noosa & District Landcare's (NDLG) Skilling Queenslanders for Work (SQW) trainees have cleared no less than 28,000m² of local environmental weeds, planted over 12,000 native tree, shrub and sedge species, and collected seeds from over 20 environmentally-vital endemic species.

Working hard under the leadership of supervisor Allissa George, unanimously agreed to be one of their favourite parts of the traineeship, the small crew have impressed many with their dedication to their assigned projects, from Noosa North Shore and its bright sands to Elanda Point, and its muddy tracks.

In our final week, I interviewed some of the trainees and asked what they most enjoyed learning during their traineeship, and what was the most satisfying and enduring part of the work for them.

- Monique, who has a passion for animals: "I enjoyed our work at Noosa North Shore the most, and the plantings we did there, as well as learning botanical names of our local species."
- Georgie, the youngest member of the crew: "Definitely cutting and swabbing woody weeds. You always get to see the results right away."
- Paul (or 'Woolies', as we know him): "My favourite thing was watching seeds I had sown in the nursery sprouting."
- Ali, whose long-time devotion to conservation work and study shone through in the team: "I enjoyed working with tools and machinery, like the brush cutters."
- Josh, who is continuing on at NDLG as a Certificate 3 trainee: "Learning about all the cool things you can do with nature and the satisfying feeling you get once you complete a planting or maintenance day."

- Jazzy, another Certificate 3 trainee: "My favourite part was learning about all of the native plants and their names, as well as Liss' warmth and expertise."
- Liss, the crew supervisor: "Our planting at Noosa Tip (since renamed "Reviva" - see Georgie and Ali's article below for details!). Being able to participate in the entire process from concepts and planning to the actual planting job, was great for the team."

It was noted that after months of bush regeneration work, the whole team expressed sadness knowing they'll never be able to go on a bushwalk ever again without seeing more weeds than they have time to deal with. Fortunately, with their contribution of over 8,000 seedling stock, the local area won't have to wait long to get some more familiar species in the soil.

During their time with NDLG, the trainees have worked with and learned from many field experts, such as NDLG's own Rae O'Flynn and Paul Ryan on Catchment Crawls with Waterwatch, as well as the Sunshine Beach Community Group, famed for their morning tea spreads. During Friday's study sessions, the trainees learned valuable lessons in mindfulness from kinesiologist Angela Burke, gained immediately useful information about edible weeds from Amina, and were introduced to local Indigenous (Kabi-Kabi) history surrounding objects found on sites by Noosa & District Landcare Chairman, Luke Barrowcliffe. There was contrast between projects, with a variety of skills required. From project to project, the SQW team excelled.

They volunteered their time at the Noosa Festival of Water in June, educating the public about the importance and purpose of native species within our rare and beautiful local biosphere, such as to reduce erosion and preserve habitat for local wildlife.

The future is bright for us as trainee alumni of Noosa Landcare. We can't wait to see where the knowledge and experience we have gained here will take us.

Thanks Noosa Landcare!



Coming up in August and September

With Noosa Landcare:

5-7pm, 16 August: What is Noosa Council Up To? Come along for an overview from five representatives of Council's Environment Team.

Reviva-lution!

by Georgia Bielby and Alison Goodall, Skilling Queenslanders for Work Trainees

Everyone was on a tight schedule leading up to the re-opening of Doonan's well-known and much-loved tip shop. Along with its new name, Reviva, manager Lucy Yule has brought fresh

Bring along your questions! For information and to book, [click here](#).

5-7pm, 20 September: Pinbarren Rocks!

With Alexander Slade, Geoscientist with Qld Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. Join Alex who is keen to share his knowledge about the unique Pinbarren region and its ancient and beautiful landscape. For information and to book, [click here](#).

And beyond:

20-26 August: Keep Australia Beautiful Week.

19 August—2 September: Sunshine Coast Wildflower Festival.

1-2 & 15-16 September: Subtropical Forests Ecology Course. You don't need to be an expert to come to this course! An absorbing four-day course to gain a deeper understanding of our local ecology and how to restore our landscape.

9 September: Along the Bird Trails of Cooloola excursion with Cooloola Nature.

From wetlands to rainforest to wallum, experience the diversity of birding that coastal bird trails offer! Limited to 12 participants.

7-8 September: The Noosa Country Show.

3-9 September: National Landcare Week.

7 September: National Threatened Species Day.

ideas to upcycle once-useless materials as a means of reducing waste in the Noosa area.

To enhance the atmosphere of the shop, the most recent Skilling Queenslanders for Work (SQW) group with Noosa Landcare was called out to design and construct a feature garden that would showcase some of Noosa's native plant species.

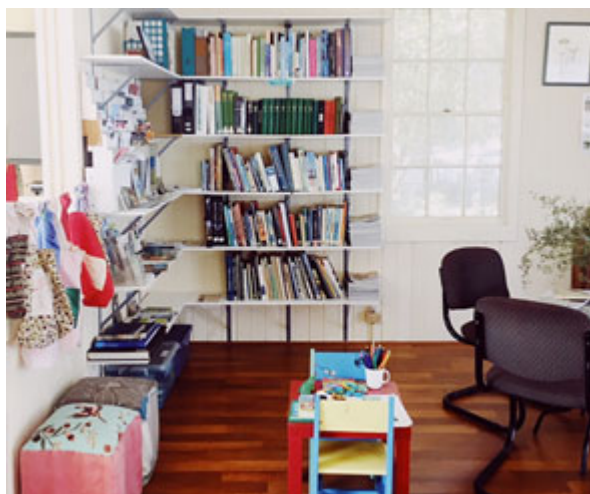
After some consideration, the SQW team came to an agreement on shrubby species such as *Banksia oblongifolia* (Dwarf Banksia), *Westringia spp.* (Native Rosemary), *Austromyrtus dulcis* (Midyim), and *Dianella congesta* (Beach Flax Lily) that would fill the area with a unique array of flora.

After finding out late the day before of possible underground electricity services, the team had to improvise by using mulch to cover the plants' root balls instead of digging and planting fully into the ground. Along with a little help from Charlie and the workers at the tip, the mulching was finished in no time, and in turn, so was the planting.

On the day of the grand opening, the SQW team prepared signs to provide information to the public about the native plants.

It was a great experience to be involved in this project, right throughout the process, and to be able to see the fruits of our labour.

Photo: Jazzy, Liss, Ali from the SQW team.



Noosa Landcare's Shopfront

by Margie Cosgrave, Administration Assistant



A riddle, wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma

If you're a Noosa & District Landcare (NDLG) [Retail Nursery](#) regular and have visited in the last few months, you may have lost your bearings for a second! The indoor space (Resource Centre, above) has had a bit of a makeover.

For years the Resource Centre and Retail Nursery has had a multiple personality: NDLG's 'shop front', as well as Administration hub for NDLG (the officey part).

Our key Administration staff - Kim Maddison and Trish Bignall - have now moved over to our depot at the Rural Futures Centre on the other side of Pomona, where the NDLG management staff and field crew are based. (See our earlier [article](#).)

When you visit us here now, hopefully you'll step into a more flowing public space, Resource Centre inside through to the Retail Nursery outside.

What can you see, do or purchase?

For sale:

- Approximately 100+ local native plant species, mainly tubestock plus some advanced pots
- Other supplies - tree guards, stakes, gloves, secateurs, weed mats, fertiliser tablets, pruning saws, hats, gloves)
- Books and CDs

For free:

- A wide range of information on local wildlife, environmental services, programs and events
- Plant identification – bring in your mysterious plant sample (preferably with fruit/seed/flowers) and we can identify it for you
- Book loans – we have a small library of environment-related books available for loan

Other things:

- Wander through the lovely Showcase Garden next door to see an established local native garden, just for the pleasure of it or to help you decide on plants for your garden
- Ask us for plant selection and weed management advice

by Phil Moran, General Manager

Apologies to Winston Churchill ...

For many years I have been intrigued by holes in my hillside near Cooran in the Mary valley. The holes are quite deep, in amongst phyllite in very dry, rocky country. Indeed, my place has been described as a "dry, hungry ridge"!

The holes are fairly common and a very long way from my dam, further still to the creek (Coles Creek, which flows into the Mary River). They often have a white material near the top of the hole, like kaolin, a clay-like substance. My interest (obsession?) was sparked. I wanted to find out what made these, and who lived here? It was not until I was out looking around in very heavy rain that I saw two long feelers sticking up out of the now completely saturated hole. They quickly disappeared back down the hole.

Ok, it looked like a crayfish ... but I have only ever seen crayfish in creeks and dams, not on a dry, hungry ridge. So what gives? Continued attempts to get a good photo failed, however I did get an average shot which I sent to the Queensland Museum. What a great service the Museum offers for interested (obsessed) people like me! By this time I had asked around, and learnt of a rather interesting crayfish called the Inland Yabby. I wondered if this was it.

The reply came back from the Museum: *"It seems that nothing much has been specifically done on *Cherax punctatus*, and indeed there may be some identity issues with that species (as indicated in the link). The [link here](#) gives some general information. I attach a number of papers, some of which mention *C. punctatus* that will give some general idea of the formal state of knowledge."*

Ok, good, progress. I am lucky to work in natural resource management, and so dug a bit deeper with colleagues, one of whom is Paul Donatiu from Healthy Land & Water, who happens to have a mate who is with the [Australian Crayfish Project](#) (ACP).

When there was a deluge I was finally able to get a good photo and short video. I sent the photo to Paul, who sent it to Rob McCormick from ACP.

And woo hoo, I finally had a win. "Yes, that's a *Cherax punctatus*. A cryptic species so photos are rare." What a fascinating animal, one I have been privileged to meet. And they happen to live

- Order plants – we have an ordering system for when you need larger numbers of plants than are available in the Retail Nursery, or to give you certainty of supply
- Ask us about [Noosa Landcare services](#)
- Become an NDLG Member (or do so [here](#))
- If you're new to the area and interested to connect with local environmental knowledge and services, we can point you in helpful directions.

We look forward to seeing you! View our opening hours [here](#).

on a Nature Refuge, so their habitat is secure too!

But wait, there is more! I sent the photo to Dr Ian Gynther from Environment & Heritage Protection, a friend and colleague. Ian likes interesting stuff, so was happy to have a look. Ian's trained eye picked up something that I did not. I thought the photo was good, as it showed the 'hairs' under the body of the crayfish. Not so! Read below from Ian ...

"In my haste last week, I didn't notice the extra detail in your wonderful photo of the delightful crayfish. Check out the critters I've pointed out with red arrows in the attached version of one of your photos. These are commensal flatworms that live on the cray. They go by the genus name of Temnocephala. When the cray is out of the water, the flatworms just appear like amorphous blobs and are hardly noticeable. When the cray is submerged, the flatworms extend their long, thin tentacles from the head end and look a bit like a Hydra.

Cool, eh? I've never fully understood the true nature of the commensal relationship, ie what each party gets out of the hitchhiking arrangement."

Native Plant of the Month

Homalanthus populifolius

(previously called *Homalanthus nutans*)

(Family: *Euphorbiaceae*)

Bleeding Heart

This spectacular and very useful rainforest pioneer plant is a large shrub or small tree 5-10m which occurs naturally from north-east Qld down to far southern NSW, Lord Howe Island and Melanesia, indicating its adaptability. It is fast-growing, hardy in sun or shade with ample moisture, and is frost-sensitive when small.

The heart-shaped **leaves** are 6-20mm long, peltate (stalk attached to the underside, near the centre), soft green above, grey/green below and change colour through the red/orange range. The tiny, green/yellow **flowers** appear in terminal racemes in September to December. Two-lobed, 6-9mm long, bluish/white fruit capsules follow, ripening December to March. The **fruit** attracts Brown Pigeons and Bowerbirds, among others.

Propagation: Very easy from cuttings or fresh seed.

Uses: The Indigenous people and Chinese miners used freshly-crushed leaves to stop bleeding. In Samoa, the bark is made into a concoction to treat hepatitis. Ants defend the nectar.

We currently have *Homalanthus populifolius* in stock. (NB: may still be appear as *Homalanthus nutans*.) [Click here](#) for our nursery opening hours and new Native Plant Guide!



Weed of the Month

Cirsium vulgare (Family: Asteraceae) Scotch Thistle, Spear Thistle

An annual herbaceous native of Europe, north-west Africa and parts of Asia, Scotch Thistle is naturalised in south-eastern Qld, and south-eastern parts of NSW, ACT, Victoria and Tasmania. It is a more serious environmental weed down south than in Qld, but worth keeping on top of.

The young plant at first bears a basal rosette of **leaves**, then grows up to 120cm tall. The **stems** are upright, many-branched and spiny, covered in white woolly hairs. The older leaves are up to 45cm long and 10cm wide, deeply lobed, with margins covered in spines.

The dramatic-looking purple **flower** heads, 3-5cm wide and 3-6cm long, are enclosed in numerous spiny bracts. The flattened **seeds**, up to 4mm long and 1.5mm wide, are topped with a ring of whitish, feathery bristles.

Control: hand removal of small plants; for non-chemical and non-chemical control of more serious infestations, [click here](#).



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