

# DECEMBER 2018 - JANUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER



# NOOSA & DISTRICT LANDCARE



Noosa & District  
**Landcare**



# Landcare Linkup

NEXT LANDCARE LINKUP 2019 MONTHLY  
ECO-CONVERSATIONS



**Thursday 24th January, 5-7pm**  
**Find a Frog in February**  
**with Eva Ford, MRCCC**



Become a Citizen Scientist and learn how to contribute to the knowledge and future of a special fauna group – amphibians.

Frogs have an amazing their life cycle and adaptations to different habitats. They also tell us of things we can't see that may affect our future. To help them we need to know where they live and what they need.

Learn how to identify your local frogs, how to send in a record of frogs you encounter and what you can do to improve conditions for these wonderful animals.

A fabulous event to bring your kids along to, last activity before school goes back...  
Don't forgot to bring your gumboots as we could get wet while searching for frogs!

**BOOK HERE**

ONLINE BOOKING ONLY  
RSVP by Monday 21st January

**Book and pay for Noosa Landcare events by clicking here.**

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



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# General Manager Muses

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## Vines in the City

BY PHIL MORAN

In June 2017, I contacted Shaun Walsh who is CEO of South Bank and Roma Street Parklands with a view to get some Richmond Birdwing vines established in the heart of Brisbane.



Indeed the volunteers had come on a tour to Pomona to have a look at Shaun's property in Cooran and to learn a bit more about the Birdwing butterfly. Some of the volunteers purchased vines for their properties around Brisbane.

Late last month I was doing another planting on the Great Noosa Trail Walk with Shaun and asked how the vines in Roma St were going. Shaun spoke to Tim and they sent me some photos. I was really pleased to see the results...see photo below.

All we need now is to see Richmond Birdwing Butterflies again grace the streets of Brisbane, as I understand they did many years ago.

Shaun spoke to his team from right to left Shaun Walsh (City Parkland Services Manager), Gary Entwistle (Horticultural Curator) Paul Hoffman (Operations Manager) and Scott Woodford (Asset Management co-ordinator), who were all enthusiastic about getting some more vines in the gardens.

They did have a couple, but needed some more.

So, Noosa Landcare donated 20 vines – the ones you can see in the photo with the young fellas.

I felt pretty confident that these guys, and their passionate band of volunteers would look after the vines.





# Planting Mimburi

By Steve Husband

Revegetation planting at the Noosa and District High School property, Mimburi, got underway this year. Fifteen thousand trees will be planted by Noosa and District Landcare Group over two years at three sites, funded by an Australian Government 20 Million Trees Round 3 project. Mimburi, owned by Education Queensland and operated as a working grazing property as well as outdoor education campus, has significant natural and cultural heritage assets. The property is bounded by the Mary River, Belli Creek and Blackfellow Creek.

Our Conservation Services Contracting Crew planted 7500 trees from April to June this year on the first 3.5 hectare site adjacent to the Mary River. Lucas Reid and Kyle Sanderson supervised most of the work over this time.

Late frost in early September – less than minus 5 degrees C – severely damaged planted trees in low-lying areas of the planting site. Planted trees have been recovering since then and in-fill planting is planned for early 2019 across the planted site.

The remaining two unplanted sites will be planted in early 2019.



*Students from Noosa and District High School helped to plant trees on two occasions at Mimburi, assisted one day by the local Federal MHR, Ted O'Brien.*







# Noosa Koala Habitat Project

By Rachel Lyons

Working off the back of the outstanding initiative of Noosa Parks Association, Noosa Council and the Queensland Department of Environment and Science in securing 2400 hectares of Forestry Lease over Yurol and Ringtail Forests, Noosa Landcare is SUPER excited to announce that we will soon be commencing revegetation works on the site.

In the first instance, Noosa Landcare and the Queensland Koala Crusaders are partnering with The Body Shop, The Bodyshop World Biobridge Mission and The Body Shop At Home Australia to commence rehabilitation works on ex-pine forest areas, initially in Ringtail Forest off McKinnon Drive, Tewantin.

At the global level, sales of the 'Hemp Protector Cream' are raising funds for a number of conservation projects, one of which is the Noosa Koala Rehabilitation Project. \$1.77 from each hand cream sale is put towards the World Biobridge Program. Queensland Koala Crusaders and Noosa Landcare have been successful in receiving a £50,000 grant towards the Noosa Koala Habitat Project.

Within Australia, The Bodyshop has launched two products - a koala head wrap/towel and a koala hair band, being sold through The Bodyshop Stores, The Bodyshop Online and Bodyshop At Home Consultants. 50% of the sale price comes straight to the Noosa Koala Rehabilitation Project. As at 1st December, over \$32,000 has already been raised from the sale of the head towel and band for the project, close to half the target sales amount and still a few weeks to go before Christmas. So if you have not already bought presents for your loved ones this Christmas – what better way to fill those Christmas Stockings and support our local Noosa Environment!?

We aim to commence project works on the ground in March 2019, with a goal to undertake infill planting to re-establish Eucalypts within regrowth over 70ha this financial year.

Stay tuned for our next newsletter where we will announce the contributions of a local business who is also contributing significant funds towards this project!!







# Backyard Birds

By Rae O'Flynn

Having purchased a new toy some time ago I have been practicing viewing various different parts of my environment through the lens of the camera. Of course, after my family the world outside is what counts so I thought I would share. This is for all the would-be nature photographers out there!

Pale Headed Rosella, *Platycercus adscitus*.

As all amateur photographers, and most professionals I am sure, would be aware the art of taking the perfect bird shot is indeed an art form, one that requires skill, patience and organisation. Sitting on my back deck I look up to see not one, but a pair (male and female) of Pale Headed Rosellas in my garden feeding on the *Dianella caerulea* berries. Perfectly placed, on an old fallen tree stump, I thought excellent photo opportunity....

What follows is the transcript of events of the next 13 minutes and 15 seconds!

Where is my camera?

Found on the coffee table under the newspapers and discarded tea towel. (5 min)

Birds are still feeding...

Check settings, completely wrong!

Change settings (2 min).

Birds still there...

Race quietly upstairs for a closer vantage point. (1min)

Birds are ignoring me...

Camera up.....no SD card

Race quietly downstairs to find SD card, found on computer desk under notes from last night. (4min)

Race quietly upstairs for a closer vantage point. (45 secs)

Birds still feeding, patiently...

SD card 'locked'! (30 secs)

Birds feeding and snickering to each other.

Camera up, focus....shot taken!

Result.....

Hmmm.... Perhaps more practice is needed!



Next month we'll look at small forest birds. What could possibly go wrong?  
For those who want to actually see it and get some info, follow this link!

<http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/species/Platycercus-adscitus>





# Skilling Queensland's for Work

By Allissa George

It's that time of the year when we say goodbye to another group of Skilling Queenslanders for work trainees. It has been a busy 20 weeks full of fun and exciting opportunities for the team who have learnt an amazing array of native plants as well as many of SEQs environmental weeds that are finding their way into our bushland areas.

The team's favorite project has been the Noosa Northshore campgrounds where they planted over 1000 native trees to stabilise the dunes and provide shade and habitat for wildlife as well as removing over 10,000m<sup>2</sup> of environmental weeds. The team have learnt the techniques needed to work in a bush regeneration team including herbicide applications to support this work.

Whilst definitely not the trainees' favorite site, Elanda point gave the crew realistic expectations of the conditions that bush regenerators work in and the sense of accomplishment when realising how many plants could be planted when we work hard as a group. The team planted over 11,000 native trees in the first 7 weeks of the traineeship. Over the 20 weeks the team have made a huge contribution to the nursery in seed collection and propagation.



We have enjoyed learning the botanical names of the plants we have worked with and the games such as 'plant head', 'who am I' and 'I went for a walk in the forest' that helped us to learn them. Whilst public speaking can be overwhelming the trainees are now confident to speak in front of an audience through the informative talks they have given to the group on a variety of weeds and natives. Whilst it will be sad to say goodbye to the SQW team we wish them the best in their future work endeavors and hope to cross paths in the future.







# Native Orchids in Bloom

By Steve Husband

Next time you wander through the bush keep your eyes open for indigenous orchid species. Orchids are a vast family of plants adapted to many habitats and conditions. Some are epiphytes and grow on trees and branches. Some are leafless and appear only as a stem with flowers.

I've chosen three examples of indigenous orchids you might stumble across.

Two species of cymbidiums occur in the Noosa and Fraser Coast areas, usually as epiphytes on trees and rocks but occasionally as clumps on the ground. Both species have spectacular flowers that appear in late spring/early summer. Wallabies will often eat the flowers if they can get them. Cymbidiums are easy to spot and identify.

*Cymbidium madidum*, (Northern Cymbidium or Forest Cymbidium), occurs mostly in eucalypt forest. The flowers appear in long pendulous spikes and are yellow-brown in colour.

*Cymbidium suave*, (Spider Orchid), also has long spikes of numerous flowers, smaller than *C. madidum* and a beautiful yellow-green colour. The orchid bulb is roughly striped and elongated.

*Sarcochilus* is a large genus of which several epiphytic species occur in Australia. The photo below shows a small *Sarcochilus* spp. flowering on a planted *Acronychia acidula* tree. Each tiny flower is about 2cm in size. This genus often has long pale roots which grip the tree above and below the orchid plant. You will often only notice the orchid after seeing the roots and following them back to the plant. *Sarcochilus* often occur high in the upper branches and rain forest canopy.



If you find indigenous orchids please leave them undisturbed. Never remove them. And if you find one fallen on the ground it's best to try to re-home it immediately nearby in a suitable spot.



# SEED COLLECTION

*What's coming into  
seed this Summer?*



**SYZYGIUM  
SMITHII**



**SYZYGIUM  
AUSTRALE**



**SYZYGIUM  
FRANCISII**

Lillipilli species fruit all year round in a variety of colours and sizes. Fruit should be collected when ripe from the tree or ground. Take a cutting of a stem with some leaves attached so we can ID the species from both fruit and leaves.

## THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN COLLECTING SEED

*by Jasmine Connors*

When collecting native seed keep in mind that this is also food for our native wildlife. Only collect a maximum 20% of available ripe seed or fruit.

Take a sample of leaf, stem and flowers so we can clearly identify which species it is.

Please drop off to either of our Landcare locations in Pomona. (See last page for the addresses)





# PLANT OF THE MONTH

## LEPTOSPERMUM POLYGALIFOLIUM

### WILD MAY/TANTOON



By Jo Nicholls

The beautiful Wild May or Tantoon (*Leptospermum polygalifolium*) is a medium sized shrub that profusely flowers in late spring and summer. The flowers are white and a favourite to many native bees. It is a nice addition to any garden and will also work as a hedge quite well. The flower, fruit and foliage can be useful as cut stems as well for casual arrangements to the home or garden.

The plant is located within heath and dry eucalypt forests and along streams and rivers all along the east coast of Australia from Cape York to south coast of NSW. This species is a great bank stabiliser and will lay flat when a river is in flood. While this species can tolerate regular watering it is hardy and adaptable and will grow in sandy soils, sandstone, basalt soil and rock. The new growth can have a reddish hue

Many native species of birds are attracted to *L. polygalifolium* including Crimson Rosellas who will happily nibble away at the fruits of these shrubs. The attractiveness of this species to wildlife makes it a significant addition to any property.



# WEED OF THE MONTH

## CINNAMOMUM CAMPHORA CAMPHOR LAUREL



By Jo Nicholls

This evergreen shade tree was introduced to Australia from Asia in 1822. It has been dispersed by people as an ornamental tree and further by birds and wildlife spreading seed. Distribution of this species extends along east coast of Australia from the Atherton Tablelands in North Queensland to Victoria. Camphor laurel trees grow up to 20m tall with glossy leaves and have a distinct scent of camphor. They produce masses of small white flowers with spherical green to black fruit about 10mm in diameter. Flowers throughout Spring and produces over 100 000 seed per/yr. These seeds are viable for up to 3 years and will germinate within 4 to 20 weeks.

Camphor laurel is a restricted invasive plant under the Biosecurity Act 2014.

This species is extremely destructive and aggressively replaces native vegetation, particularly rainforest species along water courses. Camphor laurel will invade areas of disturbed riparian systems and invade pastures. Koala habitat is also dramatically affected with the replacement of Blue gum species. Therefore it is evident the long term consequences of this invasive species is the loss of native wildlife habitat which supports many endemic flora and fauna species.

They have a massive root system which can block drains and also crack through hard engineered surfaces like road surfaces and cemented driveways. Due to their invasive mechanisms, control of Camphor Laurel can take a significant amount of energy and time.

Most effective control of young seedlings is removal by hand pulling or grubbing. It is crucial with this method to be diligent and go back to the site with 3 months to repeat treatment until all are eliminated.

Other methods of eradication is by herbicide control with the use of foliar sprays for young trees up to 3m. Basal bark spray for trees up to 6m and methods of cut stump and stem injection for taller trees over 6m.





# Local Events

**9th December 2018** Peregrine Beach Cleanup. Surfrider Sunshine Coast Branch 9am-11am - [Click here for details](#)

**4 and 6 December** Nature by Nature Presented by Wildlings Forest School - Caloundra, Maleny & Maroochydore Libraries

**13th January 2019** Peregrine Beach Cleanup. Surfrider Sunshine Coast Branch 9am-11am - [Click here for details](#)

**21st January 2019** Cold-blooded encounters: Up close and personal 3 - 4:30pm, Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve, Maleny

**24th January 2019** Find a Frog in February Noosa & District Landcare Link-Up Workshop Series - [Click here for details](#)



## Rural Futures Centre

65 Pavilion Street, Pomona QLD 4568

## Retail Nursery

Station St, Pomona QLD 4568 (*Opposite the Pub*)

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**RICHMOND  
BIRDWIND  
BUTTERFLY VINE  
PARARISTOLOCHIA  
PRAEVENOSA**

For sale at our retail  
nursery in Pomona.