



Date Claimers!

Tues 5th

7.15pm on: [Capricorn Coast Landcare Group](#) – GENERAL MEETING

Envirolink Centre, Office 3, 78 John St, Yeppoon. *Contact Jo 4939 1002 or envirolink@cqnet.com.au*

Sat 9th

3pm on: [Emu Park Bushcare](#) – WORKING BEE

BYO gloves, sun smart gear. Marine Parade (orange fence). *Contact emuparkbushcare@ymail.com*

Fri 15th

5.30-9pm: [Capricornia Catchments](#) – MEMBERS FORUM

Refreshments, speakers. Athelstane Bowls Club, Rockhampton. *More info, RSVP Janeen 4921 0573.*

Sat 16th

2pm on: Archontophoenix Grove Nature Refuge – OPEN DAY & NATURE WALK

Showcasing Green Army. 64 Vaughans Rd (off Adelaide Pk Rd). *RSVP by 14th to Kylie 0427 676 618.*

Fri 22nd

International [Mother Earth Day](#)

Sat 30th

10-11am: [Birdlife Capricornia](#) – SHOREBIRDS IN CAPRICORNIA INFO SESSION

Nthn hemisphere migratory birds. Emu Park Library. *More info, Allan Briggs abriggs@irock.com.au*

▪ **COMING UP
IN MAY!**

- Sun 1st 8.30am-12.30pm: CCLG Figtree Creek WORKING BEE & BBQ (tree planting & mulching)
- Sun 15th Butterfly Day at Lammermoor Native Gardens

It's April already?

March has certainly been a busy month for everyone – we hope you all enjoyed a well deserved Easter Break!

Our CCLG volunteers have been busy tidying up our Figtree Creek Rehabilitation Site, and I've been visiting schools along the coast rolling out our Junior Landcare Passport Program.

We hope you enjoy this month's Envirolink update and we look forward to seeing you at our first General meeting for 2016 on

Tuesday 5th April at the Envirolink Centre.

- *Alby Wooler*
President



Keppel Coast Girl Guides are proud to be part of the Keppel Coast Junior Landcare Passport Program. Photo courtesy Alison Kearney.

Capricorn Coast Landcare Group and the Envirolink Centre are supported by...





20 BAGS OF RUBBISH REMOVED

Thanks to everyone who joined us on Sunday 20th March for our rescheduled Clean Up Australia Day.

The crew removed 20 bags of rubbish from Figtree Ck area and Merv Anderson Park... with the most interesting find of the day made by Derek Maguire. The shorts were unremarkable save for an unusual label...not quite what we had in mind for 'cleaning up' but then again every bit helps.

For those of you who missed us, we'll also be joining the [Great Northern Clean Up](#) in the second half of this year, so stay posted and keep your gloves ready!

FIGTREE CREEK REHAB SITE IS GETTING A MAKEOVER

This semester our great team of volunteers will be working with Livingstone Shire Council to get on top of weeds and replenish the garden beds at our CCLG Rehab site opposite Yeppoon Central.

Thanks to a grant from [Fitzroy Basin Association](#), we'll be tackling woody weeds, guinea grass and other unwanted that have taken over since Cyclone Marcia, and popping more natives back in the ground. We'll also be undertaking monthly bird surveys as part of the BirdLife Capricornia project. The team will be onsite every Thursday morning, so be sure to drop in if you'd like to lend a hand and be sure to mark your calendars for **Sunday 1st May 8.30am start...**

MULCHING & TREE PLANTING WORKING BEE – BYO gloves and hat, BBQ lunch supplied!



CAP COAST JUNIOR LANDCARE PASSPORT PROGRAM OFF TO A FLYING START

CCLG's Junior Landcare passports, designed through a [Livingstone Shire Council and Keppel Bay Sailing Club Community Grant](#) are catching the eye of young and old alike.

With over 200 local students already signed up and more yet to come, Alby says he couldn't be happier with the level of enthusiasm generated by CCLG's new Passport Program. Whilst out delivering passports to Yeppoon State School students in March, Alby bumped into staff from Yates and Bunnings Rockhampton who wished they were young enough to take part.

LOCAL YOUTH MAKING A SPLASH AT NORTH KEPPEL

Hats off to local Youth Group [Gen Yadaba](#) who've teamed up with North Keppel Island Environment Education Centre, Marine Parks, and Native Plants Capricornia to give North Keppel Island a helping hand.

The group is currently trialling new coir log plantings to improve plant survival rates and rebuild foredunes at the same time. If you're interested in joining the group or learning more about their work, contact [Capricornia Catchments](#) on 4921 0573.



LIKE WHAT YOU'RE READING?

...then support our work by becoming a PAID UP CCLG MEMBER (membership form at the end of this newsletter).

Got a question or suggestion?

...then email us – envirolink@cqnet.com.au

Raise your green credentials and create warm fuzzies...

'Being a Sponsor lets you achieve good things for your community while you get on with business.'

We invite you to join us.



A 'LIL WORD ON WILDLIFE *from Steph K*

Seeing we've just enjoyed Easter and following on from last month's article on bandicoots we thought we would share a word on bilbies (which have also been called the rabbit-eared bandicoot!).

Queensland's bilby population is restricted to a small area in the west and is the most threatened in Australia. Living in grasslands and mulga scrublands these nocturnal marsupials are grey and white in colour with a long black and white tail. Their long snout has a very well developed sense of smell which helps them to find food and their large ears help them to listen out for predators. These guys are omnivores which means they eat a variety of plants including seeds, bulbs and fruits as well as a variety of insects, worms and small lizards. Their long sticky tongue helps them collect up worms and seeds. With eyes very sensitive to light bilbies only come out at night – even the light of the full moon is enough to keep them in their burrows.



Photo courtesy [Department of EHP](#)

You can help support the bilby every Easter by buying chocolate bilbies instead of traditional chocolate bunnies (because companies that make chocolate bilbies donate a percentage of every sale to the [Save The Bilby Fund](#)).



Photo: [Australian Tropical Rainforest Plants](#).

NATIVE PLANT OF THE MONTH –

Butterfly Bush *by Malcom W*

Pavetta australiensis, commonly known as Pavetta or Butterfly Bush, is a large native shrub that grows to about 4 metres tall. It naturally grows in dry and sub-tropical rainforests in Queensland and northern NSW. It is a highly ornamental plant that thrives in gardens and is happy in full sun or semi-shade. It prefers a well-drained soil.

The leaves are soft and succulent-looking and the shrub has many-flowered inflorescences. The fragrant flowers usually appear between late September and November, depending on rainfall and temperature.

This shrub can be grown from cuttings and will grow very quickly if well-watered; yet it is hardy once established and requires little water. As the common name suggests, the shrub attracts butterflies which feed on the nectar in the flowers. The fruit, which is a globular berry, also attracts fruit eating animals to the garden. This plant makes an excellent screening plant and pruning will maintain its bushy appearance and prevent it becoming straggly.

FREE Butterfly bushes are available for all CCLG members from the Envirolink Office courtesy of Livingstone Community Nursery.

PEST CRITTERS THAT COST US – Wild Dogs *by Louise B*

Wild dogs are a class 2 declared animal under Queensland Legislation and can include dingoes, hybrid dingoes and domestic dogs that have escaped or been deliberately released that are now living as wild animals.

The impact of wild dogs can be devastating: predation on small native animals threatens biodiversity, attacks on livestock causes economic loss for landholders and there is also the risk of attacks or spread of disease to domestic animals and humans. The economic cost runs into the millions with one estimate by AgForce to be as high as \$67 million per year for Queensland based on production loss, spread of disease and control.

While landholders are ultimately responsible for the control of wild dogs, local councils and State Government may provide support in the way of advice, trap hire and coordinated baiting programs.

From July 1 this year, a new strategic framework *The Queensland Weed and Pest Animal Strategy* is set to be implemented under the new *Biosecurity Act 2014*. If you have an interest in feral animal control or believe you will be affected by the new strategy, you are encouraged to be a part of the consultation process by providing feedback **before 26 April 2016**. Visit www.qld.gov.au/weedandpeststrategy or call the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on 13 25 23.

DID YOU KNOW? Australian dingoes are losing genetic purity due to widespread breeding with wild dogs.

WEED IT OUT NOW! *by Malcom W*

Native to the tropical Americas, **Snakeweed** was introduced as a garden plant but has spread and become a serious weed in Queensland. The scientific name of this weed is *Stachytarpheta spp* and there are four common forms in Queensland; only two are normally found in our area.

Dark blue snakeweed (*Stachytarpheta urticifolia*) is most common in the wetter coastal areas of Queensland, and seldom found inland. It has a smooth stem and soft leaves with a lumpy or rough surface. The leaves have strongly toothed edges and pointed tips. Flowers are dark blue to purple.

Light blue snakeweed (*Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*), is hardier and grows in sandy soils. It has smooth stems. The leaves are very different to other snakeweeds, making it difficult to recognize until flowering. The leaves are leathery with a waxy smooth surface, rounded tip and the edges are finely toothed. The flowers are pale blue to blue.



Photo courtesy of Malcom Wells.

Snakeweeds are all clumping perennial plants, with rather tough, branched stems and woody roots. The name comes from the distinctive 'snake skin' appearance of the flower spike, which develops as the flowers dry and drop off, and the seeds develop beneath the 'scale'. They usually pull out easily by hand; if they prove a bit stubborn just loosen the soil around the roots with a trowel. If plants are not in seed they can just be thrown down to act as mulch, or placed on a compost heap. If they contain seed carefully cut off and bag the seed heads, or bag the whole plant for careful disposal.

TOP GARDENING TIP

from Malcom W

When treating weeds, the first thing many people think of is spraying. I prefer to save this option as a last resort, as there is always the danger of drift affecting the plants you want to keep.

Naturally, after good rain weeds take off and go to seed quickly. If you can deal with them straight away most pull out pretty easily, but **reducing weed seed in the soil is what will save you time and effort down the track.**

Always try to cut off and bag any seed heads first, rather than just throwing them down.

This may seem tedious but it saves a lot of work in the long run because you are reducing the seed bank in the soil. Some weeds, such as Fireweed (*Senecio madagascariensis*) will need to be bagged even if only at the flowering stage; as they will go to seed even after being pulled out. With the seed heads removed, the rest of the plant can be safely placed in a compost heap, removed to the green waste depot or even spread on the ground as mulch.

The most important words to remember are 'Follow Up'. You will need to keep going back to remove new weed growth and especially the seed heads until the weed seed bank in the soil is depleted.

Invasive weeds cost Queensland an estimated \$66 million a year, and you have a chance to have a say on the future management of both weeds and pest animals in the State. You can have your say by visiting www.qld.gov.au/weedandpeststrategy or calling the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on 13 25 23 to provide a written submission. Closing date is 26th April 2016. Feedback will help inform the Queensland Weed and Pest Animal Strategy 2016-20.



Guinea grass is a prolific seeder and quickly takes over after good rain.
Photo courtesy of Malcom Wells.



Capricorn Coast Landcare Group Inc.

ABN: 48 170 539 519



Landcare – a partnership between the environment and sustainable production

MEMBERSHIP FORM

General meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of every second month at 7.30 pm at the Envirolink Centre, 3 / 78 John Street, Yeppoon. All memberships are due for renewal at the October AGM (one (1) vote per membership).

Your email will be automatically added to our Envirolink Newsletter and CCLG membership mailing lists.
Please tick the box if you do not wish to receive them.

New member

Renew / Update details

MEMBER CONTACT DETAILS			
Name:			
Address:			
City:	State:	Post Code:	
Home Phone:	Work Phone:	Signature	Mobile:
Email: <i>I support the goals, values and activities of Capricorn Coast Landcare Group Inc.</i>			
Signature of applicant:			Date:

Payment Method			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Membership is \$5.00 GST included.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Family Membership is \$5.00 GST included
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cash	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cheque
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	EFT
Electronic Transfer Reference Number :			
Bank details for on-line payments:			
BSB 064 712 A/C 10018138 Account Name: Capricorn Coast Landcare Group Inc.			
* Reference deposit with your first initial & surname.			

Please return to:

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