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### PAPER DAISIES

Paper Daisies are a beautiful flower and also quite fascinating.

Many species, such as Rhodanthe, are "daylight activated". This means they will only open their flowers once they receive a certain amount of sunlight. This helps them to conserve energy.

These beautiful flowers are sometimes called "Everlastings". This is because they retain their colour and shape for a long time, even after being picked and dried.

To dry them, hang them upside down.



Gympie & District  
**Landcare**  
Group

# Presidents Message

## AN EXCITING YEAR AHEAD

It has been another busy and encouraging quarter for Gympie Landcare, and I would like to begin by extending a very warm welcome to all our new members who have joined us recently. It is always heartening to see more people in our community stepping forward to support local environmental stewardship. Whether you are volunteering, learning new skills, or simply passionate about caring for our region's unique landscapes, your involvement strengthens the collective impact we can achieve together.



We are also delighted to share that Gympie Landcare has successfully secured new Skilling Queenslanders for Work funding, enabling us to deliver two additional conservation traineeships over the next 12 months. These traineeships provide meaningful pathways into employment while building valuable skills in conservation and land management. Programs like these continue to play an important role in supporting local jobseekers while delivering real environmental outcomes across our region.

Progress is also continuing steadily on improvements to our nursery infrastructure. These upgrades will help us work more efficiently, support increased plant production, and create a safer and more functional environment for our staff, volunteers, and trainees. We look forward to seeing the long-term benefits of these investments as we continue to grow both plants and people.

Our Environment & Conservation team continues to do outstanding work on the ground, delivering high-quality services to our customers and partners. Their professionalism, dedication, and strong reputation have resulted in increasing demand for our services, which in turn has contributed to the organisation being in a stronger financial position than at this time last year. This is a fantastic achievement and reflects the hard work of the entire Landcare team.

Looking ahead, we are excited to be planning our upcoming Bush Regeneration and Backyard Biodiversity workshops for 2026. These events are always a highlight, providing practical knowledge, inspiration, and opportunities for our community to connect and learn together.



Thank you to our members, volunteers, staff, partners, and supporters for your continued commitment to Landcare. Together, we are making a meaningful difference for our environment and our community.

Regards,

Petra van Beek

President, Gympie Landcare



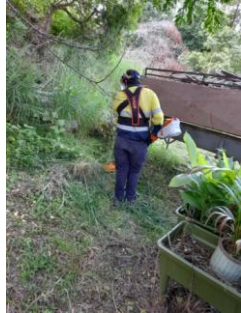
## STRENGTHENING LANDCARE – AN ONGOING ADVENTURE!

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Hi all!

We're pleased to share several improvements made over the past 3–6 months as we continue supporting our staff, trainees and community, and strengthening our facilities for the future.

### **FRRR Grant – Supporting Our Conservation Trainees**



With funding from the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR), we've completed a project equipping our Certificate I and III Conservation and Ecosystem Management trainees with essential, industry-standard field tools.

This investment ensures trainees can safely build practical skills in bush regeneration, weed management and ecological restoration – while strengthening local employment pathways and growing the region's environmental workforce. We're deeply grateful to FRRR for backing both people and place.

### **Building Disaster Resilience with RACQ Foundation Support**

Thanks to the generous support of the RACQ Foundation, we've significantly strengthened our nursery and field operations.

Funding enabled water-wise irrigation upgrades, expansion into protected propagation tunnels, and investment in emergency pumping, power and heat-mitigation equipment. These improvements reduce risk during drought, heatwaves and heavy rainfall – while increasing our capacity to grow native plants, including rare and endangered species, for restoration projects across the region.

By improving our operational resilience, we're also strengthening our community's capacity to respond to climate and disaster challenges.

We are sincerely grateful to the RACQ Foundation for supporting practical, on-ground resilience outcomes for the Gympie region.



### **What's Next?**

Our next focus is improving water sustainability and expanding our propagation areas, thanks to support from the Queensland Government Gambling Community Benefit Fund. This funding will also allow us to replace the cover on one of our propagation tunnels – just in time, after it quite literally started coming apart at the seams over Christmas!

We're also continuing to upgrade signage in our retail nursery to make plant selection easier and more informative for customers. It's a gradual process – but we're making steady progress.

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### **New Nursery Team Members**

You'll notice some new faces next time you visit!

Charlie has recently graduated from our Certificate I in Conservation and Land Management and has now joined the nursery team – a wonderful example of our training pathway in action.

We're also excited to welcome Olivia, who is working across both the nursery and our Environment and Conservation team. With previous experience in a native nursery, she brings valuable knowledge and fresh perspective to our work.

Be sure to say hello when you're next in!

We're incredibly proud of the progress being made across our training, nursery and on-ground programs. Every improvement and change — whether it's new equipment, stronger infrastructure, clearer signage or new team members — helps us better support our community and care for the landscapes we all value. Thank you for being part of the journey with us.



Warm regards,

Alex van Beek

Co General Manager interim nursery manager, Gympie Landcare



## MEET CHARLIE

As Alex mentioned, we now have Charlie working in the nursery.

Let's get to know a little bit about her 😊.

### 1. Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I'm a Gympie local with a passion for protecting, respecting and restoring our environment.

### 2. Tell us a little bit about your role at Gympie & District Landcare Group.

I'm a nursery assistant, which means I'm a bit of an all-rounder, working both with plants and people.

### 3. What's your favourite part about working with Gympie & District Landcare Group?

Having the valuable opportunity to work in and for the natural ecosystems in our local area.

### 4. Apart from Gympie & District Landcare Group, what other interests or hobbies do you enjoy?

I have a little family of pets, including a dog, three cats, two fish tanks and a frog. Most of my free time is spent with them.

### 5. What's an essential item you can't do without during a Landcare workday?

My Mangroves to Mountains book. Never know when you'll find a plant that you need help identifying.

### 6. What's your go-to piece of advice for someone looking to get involved in environmental conservation?

Be the change you want to see. Any step you can take to be more environmentally conscious is a step in the right direction.



## NURSERY – FIND A FROG IN FEBRUARY



This last month was Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee's (MRCCC's) annual Find a Frog in February. This is a citizen science program which raises awareness of our local frogs, their habitat needs, the threats they face and the actions we can all take to ensure their well-being long into the future.

During the month of February, we found quite a few frogs throughout the nursery including the Magnificent Tree Frog, Rocket Frog, Green Tree Frog, Stony Creek Frog and Sedge frogs.

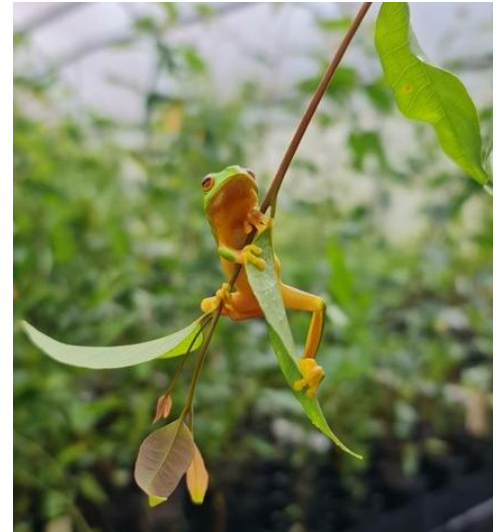
In order to keep protecting these awesome animals it is important to plant out what would be their natural habitat.

River Matt Rush (*Lomandra hystrix*) and Knobby Club Rush (*Isolepis nodosa*) are nice sedges that can be planted along the water line of creeks and dams to help keep frogs protected from predators, especially cane toads.

Here's a couple of fun facts about frogs 🐸

**Unique Eating Habits:** Frogs use their eyes to push food down their throats. If they eat something toxic, they can vomit their entire stomach out to clean it.

**Frog Calls:** Frog calls are fascinating with each one different to the next, sometimes dramatically. At other times the difference might be just a slight inflection at the start or end of the call. Some calls are very loud, while others are barely noticeable above the sound of running water.



## APANANTHE PHILIPPINENSIS



Over the last couple of months our field crew have managed to collect Apananthe Philippinensis (*Native Elm*) fruit for propagation in the nursery, and the seed has done amazing in the prop house. We look forward to hopefully seeing it in the retail nursery and planted back out in the field.

This ornamental bushtucker is a food tree for many species, including the [common aeroplane](#) and [rounded six-line blue](#) butterflies, Australian King Parrot, Figbird, Pied Currawong, Lorikeets, and many more.

Propagation of Native Elm is uncommon as the fruits are not always viable and birds often eat them before they mature.



[kingpar\\_art\\_3517\\_big.jpg \(1984x1329\)](#)

Apananthe Philippinensis is a slow-growing, hardy tree that can grow 25 to 35 metres high, often along streams and alluvial flats. Its sturdy wood is suitable for both construction and furniture and was used to make axe handles by early settlers. Flowering occurs from September to November with fruits maturing from February to June.



## CELEBRATING OUR LATEST CONSERVATION & ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT GRADUATES

Gympie & District Landcare Group is proud to celebrate the successful completion of our latest Certificate I in Conservation and Ecosystem Management traineeship, delivered through the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, proudly funded by the Queensland Government.

Over the course of the program, participants completed six nationally recognised units designed to build strong foundations for work in the environmental and land management sectors. These included working safely in the workplace, recognising plants and fauna, maintaining a safe and organised workplace, supporting ecological restoration, and understanding biosecurity practices such as inspecting and cleaning machinery and equipment.

Alongside these core units, trainees also had opportunities to undertake additional industry training including; First Aid, White Card Construction Safety Training, Agricultural Chemical Distribution (AC/DC), and Chainsaw Operation. These practical qualifications help equip participants with the skills and confidence needed to enter a range of environmental, horticultural and land management roles.

A key part of the traineeship is the extensive hands-on work experience, with trainees spending significant time working in the Gympie Landcare native plant nursery. Here they gained practical skills in propagating native plants, potting and re-potting, fertilising, irrigation management, plant care, and nursery maintenance. Trainees also participated in environmental restoration activities which included planting native species, weed management, and helping restore degraded areas.

Through this work they developed knowledge of Australian native plant species, how they grow, and how they contribute to healthy ecosystems.

The trainees' learning was further enriched through flora and fauna identification, field trips and visits to local biosphere areas of significance.

This program isn't just about plants though; it's also about creating pathways. For some participants, it represents a first step back into study or employment. For others, it provides a launchpad into further training, traineeships, or careers in conservation, landscaping, nursery work and land management. To support this transition, the program also included sessions on interpersonal and workplace skills, mini-workshops on work readiness and effective job searching, and an industry career and networking day where trainees had the opportunity to connect with potential employers.

We congratulate all graduates for their commitment and achievements and look forward to seeing the positive impact they will continue to make in our local environment and community.





## WEED TO WATCH – SINGAPORE DAISY

If you've spent any time in the natural areas on the coast, chances are you've seen Singapore Daisy (*Sphagneticola trilobata*) on sand dunes or in wetland areas like creeks and even drain outlets.

It usually looks quite lush and has bright yellow flowers, and you could be mistaken for thinking it would be a nice groundcover for your garden. In other areas of the world, it's perfectly suited for this.

However, the conditions in South East Queensland allow it to thrive a little too much. It easily outcompetes not just native groundcovers, but also young trees and shrubs by forming a dense, smothering mat of plant matter. This is bad news for our native animals who need endemic plants for food and habitat, and for our environment at large as it prevents natural regeneration and succession.

Unfortunately, it's been spreading. Closer to home; here in Gympie and surrounds, you may be dismayed to notice it appearing in your backyard. It can spread via seed, as well as cuttings from pruning or mowing. One small piece of stem is enough.



If we work together by keeping an eye on our own properties and treating declared weeds as they appear (**before** they become a problem), our native plants and animals will thank us, and we can keep control of our gardens and pastures and even reduce the risk of erosion in some places.

If you've found Singapore Daisy in your garden, you have a general biosecurity obligation to prevent the spread, which is handled quite easily.

With shallow roots, it can be hand weeded and then burned, or alternatively, placed in black plastic bags and sealed, left in the sun for a few days, and then thrown into your general waste bin.

Please don't attempt to compost the waste or dispose of it with your other green waste – this will almost certainly spread it. For chemical control of larger infestations, please see the QLD Government fact sheet on Singapore Daisy.

[Singapore daisy – fact sheet - Invasive plants \(weeds\) – fact sheets - Publications | Queensland Government](#)

It may not feel like much, but controlling weeds makes a huge difference to our environment and your help with this is important for our future.

Your actions matter!