

Newsletter

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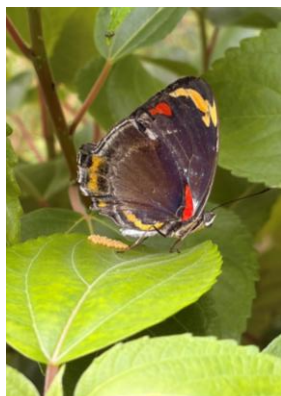
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JEZEBEL BUTTERFLY – FUN FACTS



This beautiful butterfly derives its name, “Jezebel,” from a Phoenician princess of the 9th century.

The vibrant red, yellow, and black colors on the underside of their wings serve as **aposematic (warning) coloration**. Predators quickly learn to avoid them.

To avoid being eaten by wasps, birds, and other predators, Jezebel caterpillars form a chrysalis that resembles bird droppings.

Presidents Message



AGM HIGHLIGHTS

As another busy quarter draws to a close, I would like to warmly welcome the new members who have recently become part of the Gympie Landcare community. It is inspiring to see so many people sharing a commitment to the health and future of our local environment. From volunteering and learning new skills to simply championing the work we do, your involvement helps build a stronger, more connected community and increases the positive impact we can make together.

Our Annual General Meeting was held last month, and it was a wonderful opportunity to look back on what we have achieved together over the past year. For those who were unable to attend, I have included a few highlights from my President's Report below.

I am pleased to report that Gympie Landcare recorded a profit this year, placing the organisation in a sound financial position and providing a stronger foundation for future sustainability and development.

We would like to welcome two new additions to our Management Committee — Peter Scott and Amy Taylor — who will bring valuable expertise, fresh ideas, and additional capacity to the organisation.

Our E&C team has expanded with staff levels now at approximately 15 full-time equivalent positions. Additional contracts have been secured, and it has been especially encouraging to see some experienced Bush Regenerators being developed into future supervisory roles through mentoring, leadership opportunities, and practical experience.

The nursery redevelopment project continues to progress steadily and according to plan. A major highlight this year has been the development of a new Nursery staffing structure providing internal pathways toward future supervision and leadership responsibilities through ongoing mentoring and training support.

Our volunteer program has also become more structured and strategic over the past year and continues to remain a vital part of Gympie Landcare's community connection and organisational capacity.

Behind the scenes, our office and administration staff have worked incredibly hard to streamline operations and strengthen our financial systems. A significant achievement this year was the transition to MYOB, which is proving far more suitable for the scale and needs of our organisation and is improving financial oversight and operational efficiency.

Priorities for the coming year include:

- *Finalising the nursery transformation and continuing to grow plant sales.*
- *Further developing E&C client relationships and securing new contracts to diversify and strengthen our long-term work pipeline.*
- *Expanding our Community Education Program.*
- *Continuing to develop leadership pathways and mentoring opportunities within our teams.*

Finally, on behalf of the management committee, I would like to thank 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



BEHIND THE SCENES: BUILDING A MORE WATER-WISE NURSERY

As water becomes an increasingly valuable resource, the team at Gympie Landcare are committed to ensuring that every drop we use in the nursery is used as effectively as possible. And in line with this, there's been plenty going on behind the scenes to make this happen.

One of our major focuses has been improving how we capture and reuse irrigation water. We've installed industry-standard drainage systems throughout the middle and lower nursery areas, allowing excess water to flow back into our irrigation dam rather than being lost. This is working very well, and we've now turned our attention to the upper propagation and retail area, where existing drainage will be repaired and upgraded bit by bit to further improve water recovery across the site.

We've also added a water transfer pump so we can now utilise the water in our bottom dam, by pumping it to the dam we irrigate from. This is a big win as it will allow us to stretch our irrigation substantially further in periods of no rain.



To ensure we're getting the most out of every litre, we've been working closely with the Greenlife Industry Extension Officer to review our irrigation practices. This includes catch-can testing and other assessments to help us understand exactly how water is being applied and where improvements can be made.

You may also notice changes to our nursery layout. We're progressively standardising our benches to one metre wide. This has a dual benefit, maximising both propagation space and irrigation water, allowing us to expand our growing for our members, community and natural environment.

Looking ahead, we'd like to install flow meters throughout the nursery so we can better understand where and how much water we're using; and adapting guttering so that we capture every drop of rainwater coming off structures. Longer term, we're also exploring the conversion of our retail benches to bottom-up watering systems, which can significantly reduce water use while keeping plants healthy and thriving (and will ensure our customers no longer get wet when the sprinklers unexpectedly start up!).



This kind of work is often unseen, yet it is work that is incredibly important as these improvements are helping us build a more sustainable nursery, reduce water waste, and ensure we're making the best use of our resources, thereby ensuring the longevity of the Gympie Landcare nursery for years to come.

Warm regards,

Alex van Beek

Co General Manager; Interim Nursery Manager, Gympie Landcare



Installing drainage



CELEBRATING 17 YEARS OF CONTRIBUTION – MEET TONY

Tony started working for Gympie Landcare as our Nursery Manager way back in 2009. While he retired on the 3rd of July 2019, Tony has stayed on with us in the nursery as a valued volunteer, lending us a helping hand now for over 17 years!

Since retiring Tony has certainly kept himself busy. He enjoys travelling and particularly loves going on cruises. He has been to numerous places and doesn't have any plans of slowing down yet 😊.

He also loves gardening and working on his block. His plan is to turn it into a rain forest.

As busy as he is, we are truly fortunate that he continues to volunteer here in the Nursery, which everyone loves. He's a wealth of knowledge, helpful, easy to talk to and great for a good laugh.

We especially appreciate his generosity in mentoring and advising our nursery lead Jera, as she builds her skills and knowledge in the nursery industry.

We all appreciate you Tony. And in recognition and appreciation of all his dedication and contributions to us over the years, it was our pleasure to give him life membership to Gympie Landcare.



Tony hard at work 😊

Thank you for everything Tony – you deserve it – you're a true legend !!!



Pictured: Alex, Tony and Jera



WINTER COLOUR IN THE NURSERY

The chill is starting to settle in here at Landcare, but with the cooler weather comes one of the most exciting times in the nursery – winter flowering season! Many of our favourite native species are beginning to burst into bloom, bringing colour to the garden and an important food source for local wildlife.

Having plants that flower throughout the year is incredibly important for supporting biodiversity, especially for pollinators like bees, who rely on nectar and pollen to survive.

One beautiful winter performer is *Hardenbergia violacea*, a stunning sprawling groundcover that produces masses of purple flowers through the colder months.

Another winter favourite is *Acacia fimbriata*, a true classic that lights up the bush with bright golden blooms, adding warmth and colour to winter gardens.

For year-round flowering, *Grevillea 'Canberra Gem'* is hard to beat. This hardy and vibrant grevillea provides a continuous source of nectar for birds and insects while adding colour to the landscape across all seasons.



Picture taken by Jera – *Acacia fimbriata*

Next time you're planning your garden, consider including a mix of species that flower at different times of the year – your local wildlife will thank you for it!



PREPARING FOR THE NEXT PLANTING SEASON

While winter can feel like a quieter time in the garden, things are still very busy behind the scenes here at the nursery. We're already well into planning for the 2026/2027 planting season, which means lots and lots of propagating!

Even though many plants naturally slow down during the colder months, nursery work never really stops. Winter is a great time for planning ahead, collecting seed, processing seed, and getting propagation underway for the season to come.

One of the handiest tools we use through winter is our heating mats. While the air outside might be chilly, the heating mats keep the soil nice and warm, creating the perfect conditions for seeds to germinate and young roots to develop. The extra warmth really helps improve germination rates and gives seedlings a strong start during the colder months.

By keeping temperatures consistent, we're able to continue propagating through winter instead of waiting around for spring. It helps us stay on track with production and makes sure we've got plenty of healthy plants ready to go when the busy planting season kicks off.



CERT I TRAINEE UPDATE

A quick update on our Skilling Queenslanders for Work Certificate I in Conservation & Ecosystem Management trainees: they are now well past the halfway mark of their traineeship and continue to make excellent progress.

Alongside their studies and nursery work, they have recently begun gaining valuable hands-on experience in environmental restoration on the Mary Valley Rail Trail, supporting the MVRT team in this impressive community project. This has allowed them to successfully be able to engage with the environment around them, and add to their repertoire of skills and knowledge, particularly in revegetation and weed management.

Some of the things they have done in the nursery include; learning seed collection and processing; propagation; potting and weeding and mulching and planting our nursery garden beds. They have also completed plant identification, weed control and brush cutting.

With their help the nursery is really coming along, and we look forward to watching their contribution grow and flower.

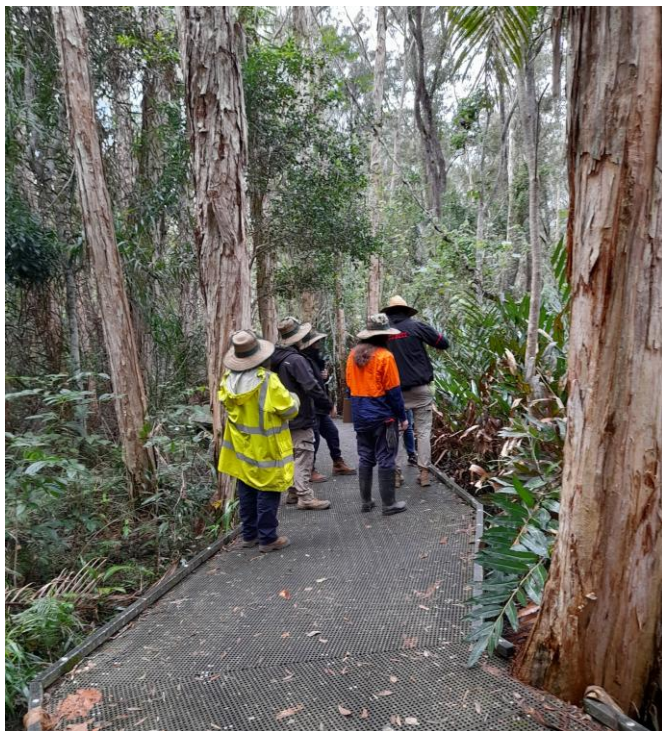
Additionally, they have been on several excursions including the Maroochydore Wetlands Sanctuary. Not only did they all have a good time, but they learnt a lot about wetland ecosystems and what they need to stay healthy and diverse.

Below are two photos of our trainees at the beautiful Maroochydore Wetlands Sanctuary.



Future excursions will include the Woodworks Museum and Toolara State Forest.

Recruitment for our next intake will commence in July, so if you, or someone you know, may be interested in pursuing a career in conservation and ecosystem management, keep an eye on our Facebook page for further details.





EUCALYPT IDENTIFICATION

It's easy to think that Eucalypt identification is, and will always be, beyond us! There are over **900** species of eucalypts, some differing by only the tiniest of features. Thankfully, we have some local experts and exceptional resources that help to make this task infinitely easier.

In April of this year, our team was privileged to attend a workshop by Marc Russell. If you don't know Marc, he has an absolute wealth of knowledge on our local plants, and you'll often find him talking at various workshops throughout the year.

This time around, he provided us with the resource *Eucalypts of the Sunshine Coast*, marked up with recent genus and species name changes and the most important identifying features meticulously underlined.

Marc was kind enough to invite us to his property for a tour and Eucalypt ID exercise which was an invaluable learning experience for our team. Using the resource booklet, we learned the distinguishing features of each locally occurring eucalypt and how to use the key to accurately identify them.

FUN FACT: Did you know that the word 'gum' refers only to those eucalypts with bark that is, for the most part, smooth? Aside from gum trees, there are also half-barks, ironbarks, fibrous-barks, and bloodwoods, none of which are considered 'gum trees'.

