



**Trading Hours: Wednesday - Friday 8.30am - 3.30pm**

**Saturdays 8.30 – 3pm**

**350 Old Maryborough Rd, Araluen, QLD 4570**

## **Gympie Landcare Newsletter July/August 2022**

### **From the President**

It's been a hugely busy time for Gympie & District Landcare in recent months. Among the highlights, we've conducted a successful Marine Debris Clean-up Project on the Mary, and at Rainbow Beach – it certainly made me personally resolve to always take a rubbish bag for collection each time I go to the beach.

You may have noticed an increase in our social media activity in recent months – please keep an eye out for the regular nursery posts that we hope will give you inspiration for your gardens and farms. Esther and team have some suggestions below as well!

### **Welcome**

Introducing Michelle Fletcher who was appointed as the Operations Manager for GDLG as of 4 July 2022.

Hi, I come to GDLG with a depth of operational management experience across corporate, government, high level (Olympic) sports management, and not for profit organisations.

I live in the Wolvi region and have been there since 2007 on a small acreage lot. I volunteer for our local fire brigade and am heavily involved with my sport at local and State level.



I look forward to working with the Management Committee, staff, and volunteers of GDLG through its next stage of

development.

I hope to meet many of you through your volunteering hours on site and some of our external activities.

Regards  
Michelle Fletcher

**Ella Borchert**

### **Biological Services Coordinator**

I grew up in Gympie attending St Patricks College before heading off to complete a Bachelor of Applied Science with majors in conservation management and Wildlife management at the University of Queensland in Gatton.

I have always had a passion for nature and a love of learning how and why things work. I always knew I wanted to work with wildlife.

I took a break from my studies and travelled to Nhulunbuy NT driving dump trucks constructing tailings dams at a bauxite mine and soon started working as the company's environmental adviser this role then extended into workplace health and safety. With this role I had the opportunity to travel and work throughout Western Queensland, I fell in love with the country out there and after engaging environmental contractors to undertake work on one of our sites decided it was time to head back and complete my degree and soon after I was lucky enough to land a job in Roma Western Qld working as a fauna spotter and graduate ecologist. Assisting in several field studies including:

- Bio-condition assessments
- Fauna identification and survey
- Threatened species habitat assessment
- Biodiversity assessments
- Targeted species survey
- Threatened flora surveys
- Protected plants flora surveys

I also took on the role of coordinator for the wildlife carers group providing training and support to members and delivering educational talks to local schools and community groups regularly to increase community awareness.

In 2017 I started a family, and I couldn't think of a better place to raise my children than the Gympie area, so we packed up and moved back to the region where I have been a stay-at-home mum raising my two little boys.

I am currently studying for my master's in primary education, throughout my career I have had great enjoyment from educating and inspiring others to the natural wonders.

I am excited to be working with Landcare as biological services coordinator and can't wait to see where this role takes me. Working with amazing like-minded people equally as passionate as I am about the environment.

## What's New in Biological Services

In June, Ella joined our team and is our new Biological Services Coordinator. Ella is currently learning about all things in the worm world, and she plays an integral part of overseeing the composting worm project.

It is estimated that 5 million tons of food end up in landfill in Australia each year. This waste releases methane and greenhouse gases that is more potent than carbon dioxide.

Having your own worm farm reduces household waste and produces worm castings and liquid which improves soil quality and food for your plants. Castings hold moisture in the soil for plants and are rich in beneficial microbes. You can add a small pinch of castings to germinate seeds, a small handful for established plants as well as making non-aerated and aerated worm tea. Drop into Gympie Landcare and pickup our worm casting brochures for application rates and tea instructions.

Composting worms are a type of earthworm, that feed on organic material and food scraps and they make fantastic pets and kids just love them.

We stock a limited supply of composting worms on the shelf, but they can be preordered, and set aside for purchase. They come in a handy 5 litre bucket consisting of 1000 worms for \$45.00 or 500 worms for \$25.00. The 500-worm bucket needs to be preordered and is suitable for very small worm farms or for households that produce little waste.

We also have 5 litre buckets of fresh worm castings for \$15.00 and casting refills for only \$10.00. 2 litre worm liquid is \$3.00 and when you buy 1 bottle you will receive 1 free.

Soon we will be selling composting worm farms in the retail nursery and hosting worm workshops, so watch this space.

We are excited to be attending the Little Kids Day Out at the Pavilion, Gympie Showgrounds on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 2022. This is a free annual community event and this year the theme is "Young Engineers." We will be attending, showing the kids how to build mini worm farms amongst other things, so if you have young kids, bring them along to this great event.







# LITTLE KIDS *day out*

## FREE EVENT

3 SEPTEMBER 2022

9am - 2pm Gympie Show Pavilion & Grounds

Connecting local schools, early learning centres, sporting clubs, creative arts studios, organisations, businesses and support service with families with young children. FREE performances, information booths, art experiences, activities & parent info bags. Food vendors, donation sausage sizzle or BYO a picnic and drink bottle.



Event theme based on the picture book 'Young Engineers' by Andrew King.  
'Young engineers have all sorts of ideas. They dream and they draw, they design and create.'



Event held in combination with Child Protection Week Celebrations



This project received funding assistance from the Gympie Regional Council Community Development Grants Program  
**CONTACT** [littlekidsdayout.org.au](http://littlekidsdayout.org.au) | [littlekidsdayout@gmail.com](mailto:littlekidsdayout@gmail.com) | phone 0418 157 280

# Backyard Biodiversity

## Creating Urban Habitat – Every Space Counts

Feeling disheartened by the latest State of the Environment report? Every five years, the Australian government releases a **comprehensive assessment of the state of our environment**. The report lets us know how healthy — or sick — our animals, forests, rivers, oceans, climate, communities, and cities really are. Unfortunately, the just released 2021 report is not good. While there are many concerns, one of the main issues is the decline in our ecosystems' biodiversity. For example:

Australia has lost more mammal species than any other continent and this trend continues. The number of new species listed or listed in a higher category of threat has grown by 8% since 2016 and will increase substantially in coming years because of the 2019–20 bushfires.

Nationally, land clearing remains high. Extensive areas were cleared in Queensland and New South Wales over the last five years. Clearing native vegetation is a major cause of habitat loss and fragmentation and has been implicated in the national listing of most Australia's threatened species.

Australia now has more foreign plant species than native.

The list goes on.

Rather than feel disheartened though, let's take this news as a call to action. Protecting and restoring our biodiversity is something every person can contribute to. Your backyard, balcony or selection of pot plants may seem inconsequential, but combined with everyone else's, they create an urban habitat we can harness to help improve our region's biodiversity. Picture an aerial view of your neighbourhood and you begin to see how all our yards and balconies combine to create one large habitat. What you do in your space has a very real impact on the biodiversity of our beautiful region.

So, what can you do? To increase the biodiversity in your space, here are some ideas:

### **Plant mostly locally native plants, with a variety in layers.**

Native plants are great for native birds, bees, and pollination, and you'll be able to relax come summertime instead of running around with a hose.

Depending on your space consider native trees to mid-layer flowering shrubs (including *Grevillea* sp.). clumping grasses, herbs, forbs, and groundcovers.



The layers of established vegetation will provide nectar and shelter for birds such as honeyeaters, as well as habitat for insects, skinks, and lizards. Mulching with a chunky wood mulch and leaf litter will provide additional habitat opportunities. Our wonderful nursery staff can help you with the right choices for your space.

Retain or install fallen logs, sticks, leaf litter, and rocks.

These provide habitat for native bees, insects, **lizards**, and small marsupials, as well as a refuge from cats and dogs. For example, large, old logs with borer holes make for excellent habitat piece for native bees, as well as providing fantastic habitats for lizards and skinks. A pile of rocks or a fancy gabion wall will also be a great space to encourage lizards and insects. Alternatively place some terracotta pipes around the garden.

Provide predator-free water sources for birds and other wildlife.

Install multiple water bowls for birds to access and position them high out of the reach of predators. Install one for smaller birds and one for larger, locating them separately to prevent issues between smaller and larger birds. Put some water out in a plant pot saucer with stones and sticks in it so butterflies, bees and lizards can drink safely. Water should be clean and fresh, and adjacent to shelter to allow birds to slip in and out unseen.

Provide nesting sites and opportunities/hollows for birds, possums, and bats.

Unless you are lucky to have old trees in your garden, it is unlikely they have developed hollows required by birds, possums, and bats. Consider installing a nesting box or two. Gympie Landcare has a good range of affordable nesting boxes for birds, possums, and bats.

### **Limit the use of chemicals around the garden.**

Insects form a critical foundation to our environment's health and numbers of insect populations are falling drastically. By limiting our use of pesticides and other chemicals, we help to rebuild those populations.

### **Be a responsible pet owner. Always keep cats inside and your dog contained at night.**

Yes, it's true. Even your beloved Tiddles is a killer and cats are such great hunters they can catch throughout the day as well as at night. Recent research shows that domestic cats are killing an estimated 230 million native Australian birds, reptiles, and mammals every year.

Many of our native species are active at night, including koalas, gliders, and possums. So, make sure they can travel safely by not only keeping Tiddles in 24/7, but contain Fido at night as well.

There are of course many other things we can do. For more inspiration, just google "backyard biodiversity" and pick the things you can do with your space, whether that's a pot on a balcony or five acres of garden.



# Celebrating Prickly Paperbark

## Melaleuca styphelioides



Its leaves may be a bit prickly to handle but the tree makes up for it in flaky, flapping, buzzing-ness! This tree will literally hum with life when it's in flower as every bee, butterfly & nectar eating bird will visit for breakfast, lunch & dinner. It also has really cool bark that flakes off in big papery sheets, the prickly leaves can be crushed & sniffed to relieve a cold or steeped as a tea. It's also very tough & drought tolerant when established. H: 8-10m W: 6-8m the wide bushy canopy makes it a great shade tree often planted as street trees & in parks. Abundant white flowers appear in spring/summer.

## AUGUST SPECIAL BUYS



### Herbs Herbs Herbs

After a wet winter our little herb plants can't wait to be planted & stretch their roots out. Ready to explode in spring & add yumminess to your cooking. We have Oregano, Rosemary, Thyme, Caraway, Basil & others

only \$2.50 each  
or  
**BUY 2 GET 1 FREE**



**BUY 1 GET 1 FREE**

### Black She Oak

~ *Allocasuarina littoralis*

~ the sale continues on these trees until our current tube stock runs out .....yes they need to go in the ground asap!

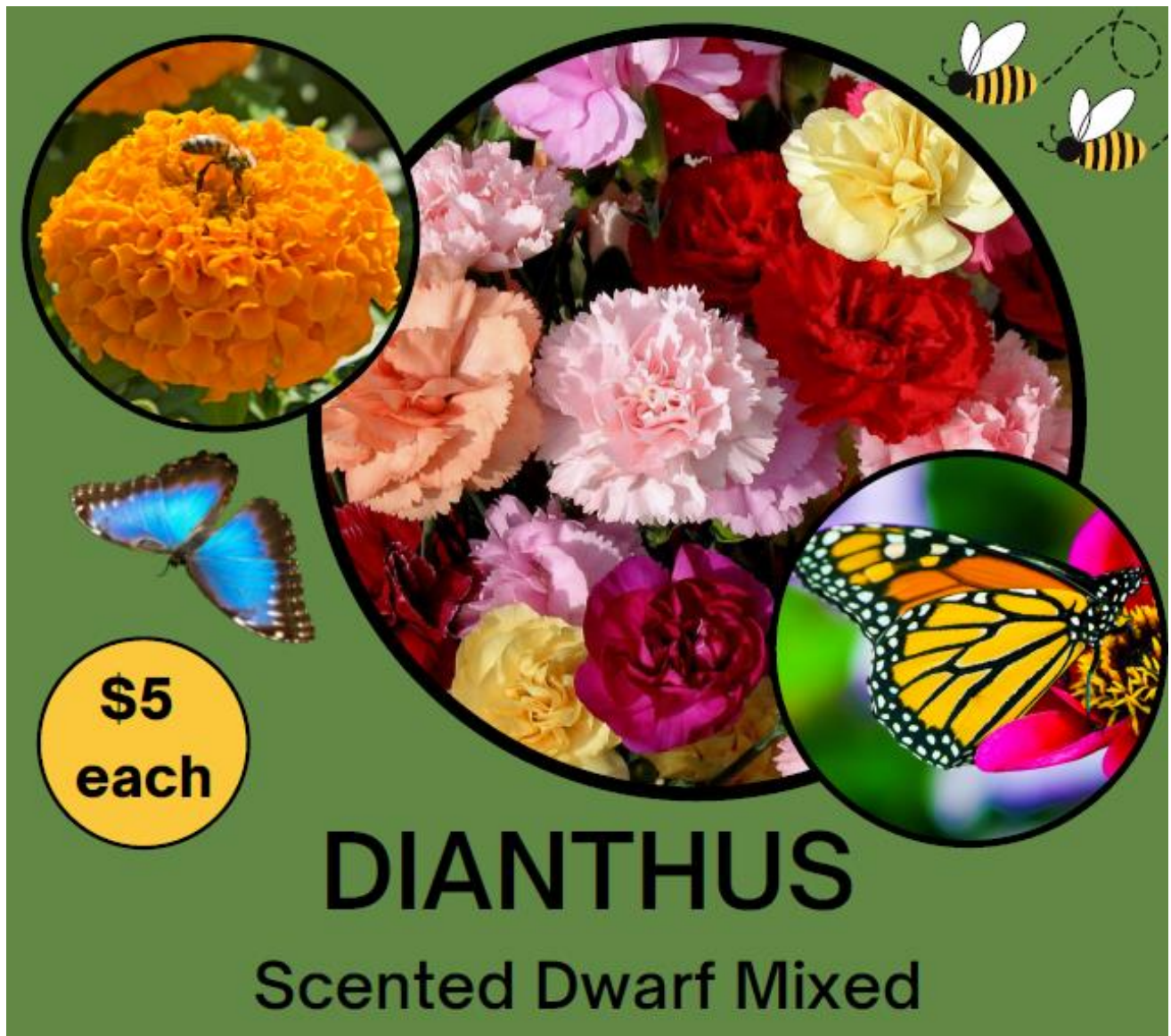


### Native Frangipani

~ *Hymenosporum flavum*

Lots of tube stock bursting to be planted in time for Spring. A hardy adaptable tree with highly scented flowers that doesn't get too big 8-15mt. The bees love them and so will you!

**BUY 2 GET 1 FREE**



**\$5  
each**

# DIANTHUS

## Scented Dwarf Mixed

A non-native flowering plant with silver foliage & multi-colored long lasting scented flowers throughout Spring & Summer. This compact plant is useful as a bedding plant, cut flowers or in pots & borders, also a useful nectar plant for bees & butterflies

They will bring brightness to any corner of the garden, use as a companion plant in the veg garden or plant on-masse for a stunning display.

## Nursery

Our propagation house is full to overflowing in preparation for spring and beyond. The wet and cold winter months have been a little frustrating regarding growth but every time it warms up even a small amount, we see a boost in germination and growth. We are looking forward to a wet spring perfect for planting.





*Fontainea rostrata*, commonly known as “Deep Creek Fontainea”, is a rainforest tree or shrub endemic to the Gympie region. It is listed as "vulnerable" under the Commonwealth [Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999](#).<sup>[2]</sup>

We take a great deal of pleasure growing any rare or endangered plants and have a few of these rare and vulnerable local species coming along in the nursery. These will be planted back into their natural environment as part of one of our revegetation projects.

Other rare/endangered species we grow here include *Cadellia pentastylis* (Ooline) and *Planchonella eerwah* (Shiny-leaved Coondoo)



Left: Some Eucalypt species coming along nicely.

Right: Habitat boxes, bird feeders, vertical planter boxes and much more, all made right here at Gympie Landcare.



Did you know we are now selling our very own “home-made” potting soils and seed raising mixes?

## Plant of The Month

### *Dianella brevipedunculata*

commonly known as the **blue flax-lily**, **blueberry lily** or **paroo lily** is a perennial herb found across the Eastern states of Australia. It's an herbaceous strappy perennial plant to a metre high, with dark green blade-like leaves to 70 cm long. Blue flowers in spring and summer.

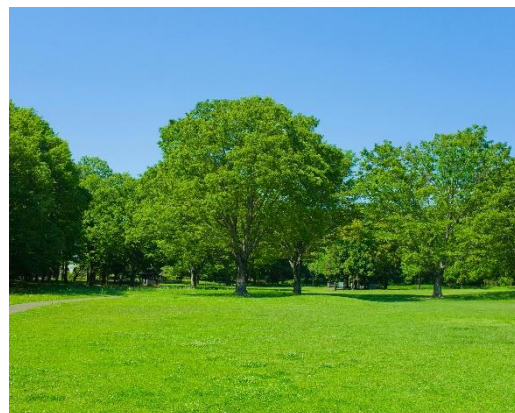


## Do you Have Land to Spare?

### We are Seeking Support with Space.

Due to ever expanding plant contracts, we are seeking some flat ground to rent in order to grow and hold contracted plants.

- Approximately 100 m2.
- Full sun area
- Access to water (Bore, Dam or Mains)
- Secure area.
- We will build and supply all infrastructure and materials and remove it when we leave.
- We would require access 7 days a week.



If you think you are able to help, please contact Andrew (Nursery Manager) to discuss.

**Email:** [nursery-manager@gympielandcare.org.au](mailto:nursery-manager@gympielandcare.org.au)

**Ph:** (07) 5483 8866

## Marine Litter Debris Clean Up

### Working towards a brighter future for our marine and aquatic life

Gympie & District Landcare recently held a very successful Marine Litter Debris Clean Up Project on the Mary River and our Eastern beaches from Rainbow Beach to Inskip Point. Thanks to our supporting partner Burnett Mary Regional Group we were able to carry out important flood recovery work in removing some of the rubbish that has landed in our waterways as a result of major flooding events in 2022 in the Gympie region.

We put a call out to our community, and we would like to thank all of our volunteers for their involvement in grabbing a bag and collecting rubbish with us. We were able to remove over 6572 items and make an impact on over 26 kms of beaches and sites on The Mary River.

Project sites included Rainbow Beach, Inskip Point, Cooloola Cove Inlet and waterways by boat, as well as several Mary River Sites from Traveston and Kandanga right up to Curra. The largest items removed included a full-sized fridge and large gas bottles, not to mention many tyres washed up on the banks of the Mary.

Gympie Landcare set out with a target to remove a ton of rubbish, ending up with a total of 1152 kgs removed to landfill, a





fantastic result. Every piece of rubbish was recorded on data sheets that will be used by Tangaroa Blue in their ongoing work in reducing waste and protecting marine life in our oceans.

The most common item of rubbish present on the beaches were the small pieces of polystyrene. Over 1700 small pieces were removed from Rainbow Beach to Inskip Point. There is still more to remove and will be for quite some time, so these clean ups are of vital importance to remove this rubbish and protect our marine and aquatic life.

Soft plastics were most common on the banks of the Mary River as well as bottles and cans having a large presence, both here and at Inskip Point.

We would like to thank Cooloola Coast Care, Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee, Rotary Club, Rainbow Beach Surf Life Saving Club and Gympie Regional Council for their support of the project.

Gympie Landcare intend to work with other local like-minded organisations to make this clean up an annual event. Thanks for the outstanding community spirit, Gympie!!!



## Some facts you might find of interest in this space:

- plastic waste entering the ocean is estimated to be at approx. 15.6 million tonnes per annum
- impacts of marine debris include ingestion by birds, fish and other sea creatures getting caught up in nets
- recently a study found microplastics in human blood
- plastics break up, not down
- Brisbane flooding created 2 months' worth of landfill in 3 days which doesn't include what is washing up in rivers and beaches





## Brisbane Intrepid Landcare Wilderness Retreat

Escape Brisbane for a weekend wilderness retreat on the banks of the tranquil Lake Cootharaba.

Connect, engage and network with industry professionals and volunteers to learn how you can be supported and contribute to community-led environment initiatives. Chill out, take in the surrounds and explore the Great Sandy National Park.

Proudly sponsored by the Bulimba Creek Environment Fund.

If you have any questions, please email [brisbaneintrepidlandcare@gmail.com](mailto:brisbaneintrepidlandcare@gmail.com)



**Who:** Young people (aged 18-35 years) with an interest in the environment needing support and/or wants to become more involved. **When:** Friday 26th to Sunday 28th August, 2022

**Where:** Boreen Point Campground, Boreen Point, Qld

Ticket price includes – Most meals (except pub dinner 2nd night), equipment hire (including kayaks), campsite, stationary for workshop activities, and vehicles (if carpooling).

# Noosa Landcare

## Composting for producers and home growers

**When:** 9:00 AM, 20 Aug 2022

**Where:** Rural Futures Centre, 65 Pavilion Street, Pomona

Soil educator and agronomist Alan Coates is back to share with us how compost can be used on your farm for improved soil health and productivity and the simple steps to making good quality compost.

Light refreshments provided. Please let us know if you have any dietary requirements.

Wear comfy enclosed shoes and bring along a hat for the compost demonstration.



HANDS ON PRACTICAL GUIDE TO  
COMPOSTING FOR PRODUCERS  
AND HOME GARDENERS

JOIN US AND LEARN HOW  
TO TURN WASTE INTO  
GARDEN GOLD!

The morning will outline the benefits of composting to pastures, fruit and nut trees and vegetables, the fundamentals to creating good quality compost and demonstrate simple ways to build compost on your farm.

**Saturday 20th of August  
9AM-12NOON**

**Rural Futures Centre,  
65 Pavilion Street, Pomona**

REGISTRATION ESSENTIAL

*Proudly supported by:*



For more information please contact Ilana  
projects4@noosalandcare.org  
Ph: (07) 5485 2155

## Volunteer with Landcare

Our volunteers bring a wealth of knowledge and experience with them and we love how they use their skills to support Landcare. We accept volunteers from all walks of life, you don't need to be on a work agreement, but we are happy to discuss them. Interested in volunteering? Find out more by contacting the office on 5483 8866 or visiting the nursery.

## Valley Bees Group

Interested in learning about caring for bees, bee food, and hives? [Valley Bees Group](#) meets at Gympie Landcare on the 1st Saturday of every month at 9am.

[350 Old Maryborough Road, Gympie.](#)

Just Park your car at the office on Groves Road and enter through the side gate.

Please wear light coloured clothing, closed shoes, a hat & a veil if you have one. Please bring a plate to share at morning tea.

[Click here](#) to download a free handy guide to bees and find out more information about Valley Bees Workshops.



## Gympie Community Gardens

Community gardens help people learn how to grow, harvest and prepare healthy food. Members share their knowledge and skills with the whole community in a fun, sociable and friendly environment.

We would like to encourage everyone interested in helping at the [Gympie Community Garden](#) to come down for a working bee, a cuppa, and a harvest swap. Children are most welcome.

[Click here](#) to find out more.

