

February 2021



Messmate Park Bushcare News & Next Meeting

Thank you to Sandra Ross and the Gympie Regional Gallery for organising such an enjoyable walk and talk on Friday 15th January. We had a fantastic day last Friday sharing Messmate Park with all the folks who came to enjoy the event. Fortunately the park lived up to its special reputation with a sighting of a platypus, plus Meg's keen eye spotted a koala.



The first stop was the old Messmate tree, estimated to be around 100 years old and featured in the exhibition – the Ways of Seeing : Gympie Messmate Park at Gympie Art gallery. This tree is the parent tree for all the other messmates after fire.

Over the last few visits to the park we noticed that the Nodding Orchids (*Geodorum densiflorum*) were popping up. On the day, our visitors spotted a flowering orchid and many other nodding orchids were close to flowering. Maybe the recent rains had prompted this late flowering?

Seeing koalas in the park was so rewarding and is one of things that inspires us to continue our bushcare work. The fake koala is a work of natural art kindly provided by the park itself.

If you would like to join the Messmate Park Bushcare Group, our next meeting will be **Saturday 20th February 2021 at 8am**. An earlier start as it will be hot.



Please bring weeding tools secateurs, and lots of water. Hat, sunscreen and sturdy shoes are a must.

Directions: Messmate Park – follow Tin Can Bay Road, turn onto Priddy Road and the park is on Tinana Creek.

For more information, please contact Sandra Lalor on 0412 137 187

Free Beekeeping Sessions with Valley Bees

The Valley Bees group hold free beekeeping sessions at Gympie Landcare on the first Saturday of every month. Come along, enjoy the fun and learn how to work with bees on your own property.

The next Bee Keeping session will be held on Saturday 6th December 2020 at 9am.

Please note that parking for these sessions is available in our office carpark or roadside only. Access is available through the side gate of the office car park.

For all enquiries please contact the Valley Bees group directly on 0479 131 208.



Support our Organisation by Donating Native Seeds



One way that you can support our Organisation is by donating native seeds to our nursery, however it is extremely important when collecting and donating seeds to know both what you are collecting and that you are collecting it legally. Severe penalties can be imposed for collecting and removing seeds from certain areas, such as National Parks and State Forest areas.

The Basics You Need to Know:

- When collecting any kind of native seed on public land, please ensure that you are aware of any regulations that may be in place, or any permits that may be required.
- When collecting any kind of native seed on private property, please ensure that you have the permission of the landholder for collecting seeds.
- The only seeds that we will accept are those of Australian Native plant species.
- We need to know exactly what the seed is – therefore we require a sample (or very clear photograph) of the branch/stem, the leaf and even the flower if possible. If you are unable to provide this information we will unfortunately be unable to accept your donation.
- We also need to know exactly where the seed was collected from and whether it was from the ground or off the tree.

Another extremely important thing to remember when collecting native seeds is to only remove no more than 20% of the available seed or fruit from the plant.

This assists our ecosystems in two ways:

1. by providing a natural food source for our local wildlife such as birds, bats and possums, and
2. by allowing our native plants to undergo their natural regeneration process, thus assisting with the local survival of the species.

Please remember that if you are unsure about anything regarding seed collection, please speak to our friendly nursery before collecting any seeds. Our nursery can be contacted on (07) 5483 8866.

Seed we are currently seeking include:

- *Acmena smithii* (Lilly Pilly)
- *Alphitonia excelsa* (Red Ash / Soap Tree)
- *Backhousia myrtifolia* (Grey Myrtle)
- *Backhousia citriodora* (Lemon Myrtle)
- *Brachychiton australis* (Broad-leaved bottle tree)
- *Citrus australis* (Australian Round Lime)
- *Elaeocarpus grandis* (Blue Quandong)
- *Elaeocarpus reticulatis* (Blueberry Ash)
- *Eucalyptus crebra* (Narrow-leaved ironbark)
- *Glochidion ferdinandi* (Cheese Tree)
- *Mallotus philippensis* (Kamala Tree)
- *Petalostigma pubescens* (Quinine Bush)
- *Petalostigma triloculare* (Long-leaved bitter bark)
- *Pittosporum undulatum* (Mock orange)
- *Rhodosphaera rhodanthema* (Deep Yellow Wood)
- *Stenocarpus sinuatus* (Firewheel Tree)
- *Sterculia quadrifida* (Peanut Tree / Red-fruited Kurrajong)
- *Syzygium oleosum* (Blue Lilly Pilly)
- *Toechima tenax* (Brush Teak)
- *Toona ciliata* (Red Cedar / Mountain Cedar)
- *Tristaniopsis laurina* (Water Gum / Kanooka)
- *Westringia fruticosa* (Coastal Native Rosemary)

Nursery Special – Soapbush Wattle (*Acacia holosericea*)

A fast-growing spreading shrub native to tropical Australia, growing to 3 m by 4 m in size.

Bears yellow rod-shaped flowers and masses of twisted pods are a feature of the plant even after the seed has fallen. This is a spectacular foliage plant for mild areas and may also be used as a feature plant or for screening!



Responds to sunny, reasonably well drained positions in most soils. . Prune regularly to maintain rounded shape.

50mm Tubestock – Buy 1, get 1 Free!

Single tubestock priced at \$2.90 ea

Cover Cropping & Small Grazing Management Workshop – Saturday 6th March 2021, 9am to 1pm

Are you happy with the state of your paddocks?

Are you unsure about how to make positive change in a cost effective manner?

Then come along to our farm in Glastonbury for this informative field workshop!

We will discuss how and why we are using our livestock to make progressive improvements to our soil's ability – to hold more water, grow more grass and ultimately grow more livestock... in our case cows!



This is the perfect workshop for you if you have been wondering where and how to start your farming venture.

This half-day workshop will consist of a detailed learning discussion, followed by practical demonstration.

Good hats, sturdy boots/shoes & small water bottle are strongly advised as you will be required to walk around the property.

Cold drinking water will also be available at the property.

Session Time:

Saturday 6th March 2021, 9.00am – 1.00pm.

Light morning tea will be provided.

Location:

Glastonbury Creek – full address will be provided upon booking.

Prices:

\$80 – Members*

\$100 – Non Members

How to Register:

Please phone our office to book on (07) 5483 8866.

Junior Landcare Resumes for 2021

Our Junior Landcare Program is resuming Thursday 4th February 2021. Sessions are held from 3:30pm to 5:30pm each Thursday after school and there is currently a limited number of spaces available for new students.

For more information about our Junior Landcare Program, please contact our Education Coordinator on (07) 5483 8866.



Bio-Control News – February 2021



After a year and a half of waiting for the rain to fall to improve conditions for release of the Jewel beetles, we finally got to visit the South Burnett Region and catch up with Ian Crosthwaite who was a long-time committee member of the Kingaroy Landcare Group.

During our visit, Ian showed us around Durong, Boondooma and Brooklands where we released a whopping 4,000 beetles throughout these three areas.

We were excited to find jewel beetle larvae and adults along Middle Creek at Brooklands. It meant that insects that

were released a few years ago had survived the ongoing drought and continued to breed.



We will be looking forward to another trip closer to the end of the year to monitor all the release sites and to see how our insects are going.

Yvonne Hennell - *Biocontrol Manager*

Environmental Conservation News – February 2021

The recent rain and hot humid weather has contributed to much weed growth in the region and this has been keeping our Environmental Conservation Crew very busy lately.

We have been continuing to undertake a large range of weed management projects along the Mary River, as well as at Amamoor Creek and Kandanga Creek.

The main species we have been targeting through these projects have been Cats Claw Creeper and Madeira Vine.

Thomas Brook - *Environmental Conservation Manager*



Fundraising for Gympie Landcare – Drakes Key Tags

Did you know that when you shop at Drakes in the old “IGA complex” and show them one of our Gympie & District Landcare Group key tags, 1% of your total bill is donated towards our organisation?



If you do not have a Drakes key tag currently, please contact our office on (07)5483 8866 or email admin-assistant@gympielandcare.org.au and we will provide one for you to pick up from our office.

Conference Room Now Available for Hire

The Community and Gympie Landcare members are welcome to hire our Conference Room facility. Our meeting room includes air-conditioning, tables, chairs, a projector, screen, whiteboard and kitchen facilities. The venue can seat 30 people configured in cinema style.



Occasional use – *prices effective 1st July 2020*

1 Hour (minimum 2 hours) – **\$25.00**

Half day (4 hours) – **\$55.00**

Full day (8 hours) – **\$95.00**

Costs for regular use of our venue by clubs or groups will be determined on request. Please contact our office on (07) 5483 8866 to obtain a copy of our Terms & Conditions, as well as a Booking Form.

Find Us on Facebook!

Here at Gympie & District Landcare Group Incorporated, we recognise that social media is becoming one of the most effective sources of communication and a fantastic way to get our name out there and increase our exposure!

Not only is it a means for communication, but it creates an additional platform to keep our community aware of upcoming events and provides further opportunity to provide the community with helpful tips in relation to land care.

We would love to see our Facebook follower base increase and encourage all of our members to “follow us” on Facebook.

If you have a Facebook account, go to our Facebook page and hit the “like” button to follow our posts.

Don't forget to like and share our posts on our page to assist us in gaining further exposure in our local area!



Our Containers for Change Drop-Off Depot is Now Open



Did you know that by returning your containers at the Gympie Landcare Nursery, our organisation receives a 1.5 cent donation for EVERY container that you return – and this doesn't even come off your refund!

We use these funds to support our Junior Landcare Program, aimed at inspiring and educating young people in the Gympie region to practice sustainable regenerative land management practices and environmental sustainability.

How Does It Work?

Bring in your recycled containers and pop them into the designated purple bins. All funds from the containers in the bins are donated to Gympie Landcare.

If you would like to claim your own change for the containers, you must use and fill your own multi-use plastic bag, before printing and sticking your label on the front and placing in the cage-bin provided.

Please note: We do not give cash for container exchanges as we are an 'Express Depot'. Return-It Queensland will deposit all funds directly to the bank account that you have nominated upon creating your Containers for Change account. For all enquiries relating directly to containers or refund amounts, please contact Return-It directly on (07) 3390 1377.

Labels are sourced from the 'Return It' kiosk – we have instructions available if you need any help.

If you would like to donate the funds from your entire bag of containers to Gympie Landcare, all you need to do is provide our code for the sticker: C10161523

Did you know that when you donate your container funds to our organisation, we receive a total of 11.5 cents per eligible container!

For more information on the Containers for Change scheme, please visit www.containersforchange.com.au

OPENING HOURS:

Tuesday – Friday: 8.30am – 3.30pm / Saturdays 9:00am to 1:00pm / Closed Public Holidays

