

**March 2020**



## **Junior Landcare News – March 2020**



Over the last few weeks our Junior Landcare Superheroes have made an amazing effort towards creating their very own Food Garden. Despite a few very rainy and wet sessions, we have had a fantastic turnout and the children have come up with some fantastic ideas!

The children have learnt about the basis of Permaculture Principles and planning our garden position so as to work with the natural elements that it may be exposed to, as well as soils and what we need to do to keep our soil healthy.



We have made a “Worm Lasagne” as our garden bed base, which is rich in natural nutrients and has ensured that our garden has a nice and healthy soil base.

We have also learnt about Companion Planting and how different plants complement each other when planted together.

Our next few sessions will be looking at maintaining this health by creating a worm farm and compost system, as well as looking at what types of bugs we might find in our garden and how they affect our plants.

Our garden is happily growing week by week and we cannot wait to see the finished product! Keep up the fantastic work Junior Landcarers!

## **Messmate Park Bushcare News & Next Meeting**

You are invited to join the Messmate park bushcarers group every 3rd Saturday of the month from 8:30 – 11 am. Bring a chair, hat, water, and sunscreen.

Our January visit was a washout so this month we had lots of weeding and clearing of paths to enable us access to the park. Recovery of the trees and understorey is remarkable after all that lovely rain.

To our dismay, new seedlings of *Dioscorea bulbifera* have spread – so our attention will be focused on trying to eliminate these plants and to find mature vines before seeds set. Ric Sizer discovered these vines around March last year – these exotic yams have the potential to become a serious invasive weed.



Ground cover plants in bloom – purple flower Brunoniella australis, Spade flower Hybanthus stellaroides.

Please come to Messmate Park for our next bushcare get together on **Saturday 21st March 8.30am.**

You will need a hat, water, shoes and sunscreen. Bring your favourite tools for gardening.  
Contact Sandra Lalor  
0412137187

## PO Box Account Cancelled



We would just like to advise our valued members and associated organisations that our PO Box has now been cancelled and we will receive mail directly to our street address at 5 Groves Road, Araluen, QLD, 4570. Our PO Box account will have a redirection for a period of three months, however, we encourage you to use our new address and to update our postal address for your records.

## Permaculture Principle 12 – Creatively Use & Respond To Change

As the saying goes ‘the only thing we can be certain of is change’ and when it comes to any system that will ring true. Change is an opportunity to grow and more often than not change creates opportunities for new things.

We cannot always control change but how we think about it is something we can control. For example, without a caterpillar, we will never have a beautiful butterfly. The butterfly goes through many changes before it floats past us on a beautiful summer day. What would happen if the caterpillar was afraid of change? There would be no next generation of butterflies. Looking at change from a Permaculture point of view we believe that in most instances the problem is the solution. For instance, say you and your family grow and eat a lot of vegetables thus creating a lot of vegetable scraps or waste (the problem). The simple solution would be to simply throw your vegetable scraps in the bin, which creates an additional problem at our waste dumps. But a creative solution would be to create compost (the solution) which can be used in the vegetable patch again or feed your composting worms (the solution) which in turn gives you castings and worm juice which can be used to nourish the soil in which you grow your vegetables.



One way of dealing with change would be to use Permaculture principle 1, that of observe and interact. Allow the change to take you on a journey of discovering solutions. When we moved to our Farm we build a very basic chicken coop for our chooks. It was not long before a Goanna started making the rounds. Observing the Goanna, we soon realised a simple bit of corrugated iron around the pen would suffice to keep the Goanna out as they are unable to climb up on the slippery tin. We were just settling into our farm life when the carpet pythons appeared. The first knee jerk reaction was to have the snakes relocated but that soon gave rise to a mice and rat problem on the farm.

So, lesson 1, understand your predators. Lesson 2 was to understand the relationship between all things. Thus, a creative solution would be to snake-proof the pen so that the snakes can remain to predate on the mice and rats. Change is constant and happens all around us; change of seasons,

rain patterns etc. The answer to it all is, plan for what you can predict and seek creative solutions for the other unforeseen changes and use change to your advantage by reframing the way you look at change, see it as an opportunity, not an inconvenience.

Mel Marx | Secretary | Permaculture Teacher & Designer

## **Bugs to Identify in the Nursery**

With the arrival of summer rain and humidity, nature has turned on more than just plant growth – Bugs are aplenty too!

In a nursery full of young juicy plants, it is no surprise to find these larvae enjoying this buffet. But rather than taking to them with chemicals just to keep plants looking immaculate, we're taking the time to appreciate the beauty in these small critters and maybe even learn a bit about them.

### Catopsilia pyranthe

Also known as the Mottled Emigrant, Senna species are the main host to the larvae. Native to Australia.



### Poneridia semipullata

Also known as the Fig-Leaf Beetle, the Fig species are the host to this larvae, thus are often found in swarms on the older leaves of this species while the adult beetle eat the younger leaves. Native to Australia.



## Danaus chrysippus

Also known as the Plain Tiger the larvae of this butterfly can be commonly found on Asclepias species. Native to Australia.



## Graphium Sarpedon

Also known as Bluebottle or Blue Triangle, the larvae of this butterfly can be commonly found on Lauraceae species. Native to Australia.



## March Nursery Specials

This month our nursery is holding a special deal on all maxi pot plants!

Buy 9 pot plants and get the 10th one free! Or, if you buy the equivalent cost of tubestock, you will also received a free maxipot.

Come and visit our nursery today to take advantage of our March special!

## CLS News

With the recent heavy rains our field crew are back into full swing! We've been busy working on multiple Council projects including the River Trail, Deep Creek rehabilitation, and Webb Park and Messmate Park revegetation projects. All of our Council projects included community involvement elements and we will be holding different events throughout the year to get the community involved. So far we've held two different school planting days with Cooloola Christian College and Widgee State School where we saw the kids getting their hands dirty and loving the outdoor activities.

It's been a while since we've seen a Cat's Claw Creeper vine at this size, but on Wednesday 3 March our field crew were





working up at Upper Kandanga when they came across this whopper of a vine weighing in at 30kgs! DID YOU KNOW? We started rearing biocontrol agents in 2008 when a leafy moth was released for Cats Claw Creeper control. The Cats Claw Creeper work is currently focused on two other species: a Tingid bug and a Jewel Beetle. We also rear beetles to assist with Madeira vine control. Both these vines have been classified as Weeds of National Significance (WoNS).

Gympie property owners are eligible for a subsidy for our bugs as well! To find out more about our bio-control services, please visit our website.

## Welcome to Our New CLS Manager

The Gympie Landcare crew would like to welcome our new CLS Manager, Tom Brook to our team!

Tom is a motivated environmental scientist with particular interest in ecological assessments and environmental conservation and management. Tom has a strong interest in ecological conservation, particularly on how the modification or urbanisation of natural ecosystems affects its functioning. Tom's education and research background has largely focused on how urban infrastructure has impacted the composition and distribution of fauna, both in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and he is keen to implement his knowledge and skills within the Gympie Landcare CLS team.



As in any new role, there is a transitional period which can sometimes be overwhelming for anyone. However, after only a couple of weeks in the job Tom has met with many of our stakeholders and has a firm grasp on the organisational practices of the CLS team and is well on his way to implementing better policies, procedures, and customer service experiences.

Next time you're in our nursery, feel free to introduce yourself if you see him floating around! If you are looking for a professional ecologist to assess your property, we can provide reports through our CLS services and Tom will be more than happy to assist you.

## Member Meetings for 2020

Our members' meetings for the year will kick-off with the 2020 annual general meeting to be held on 19 April 2020.

The management committee then invites members to a further two members' meetings throughout the year. The first being in August and the 2nd in December.

The December meeting will culminate in the end of year member Christmas lunch where we can celebrate what has been achieved for the year.



Our member meetings give members an opportunity to stay abreast of what is happening in our organisation and affords the Committee the opportunity to tap into the collective wisdom of its members

Please ensure you submit your RSVP and any agenda items in writing to [admin@gympielandcare.org.au](mailto:admin@gympielandcare.org.au) as per the RSVP dates below.

### Summary Meeting Dates

Annual General Meeting – 19 April 2020 @ 9 am. RSVP by Tuesday 14 April 2020

Members Meeting – Saturday, 8 August 2020 @ 9 am. RSVP by Friday 31 July 2020

Members Meeting – Saturday, 5 December 2020 @ 11 am. RSVP by Friday 27 November 2020

### Recent Event - Creative Cat's Claw Basket Weaving!

We recently held our very first Cat's Claw Basket Weaving workshop on a property out at Pie Creek.

We began the day with a walk along the creek learning all about the Cat's Claw Creeper vine, with special thanks to our Bio-Control Manager, Yvonne.



Yvonne told us some really interesting facts and information relating to what we can do to try and control this invasive vine.

We were now ready to roll up our sleeves and collect our various pieces of vine that we would be using to make our baskets. Our group managed to collect two whole wheelbarrows of Cat's Claw vine in less than one hour's time.

It was then time for the fun and creative part – the basket weaving! Our lovely presenter Tani showed us various examples of all the different shapes and styles of baskets that you can create, before thoroughly explaining the process to us all.

The weaving was a little difficult to begin with but it didn't take long before our hands started to get into the rhythm of things. Slowly but surely our baskets started coming together, with some very creative shapes and features beginning to appear among the group.



**The end result – some absolutely beautiful baskets and a great day had by all!**



**Recent Event - Keeping our town tidy for Clean Up Australia Day**  
**Sunday 1st March 2020 saw some of our Junior Landcare families participate in national Clean Up Australia Day!**

We were fortunate enough to also be joined by a few families from the local Nashville Scouts group.

Our group did an amazing job at keeping the streets of Gympie tidy, by cleaning up a large area around the corner of Tin Can Bay Rd and Crescent Rd.

We found a few interesting and unusual items, including car parts, pieces of household toys and some kind of timber contraption that somebody had dumped in the bush.



It was concerning to discover that the majority of rubbish that everyone picked up consisted of plastic pieces and plastic wrappers. Coming in a close second was cigarette butts, followed by bottle tops/lids and cans equalling third place. These types of rubbish are lightweight and therefore easily end up in our local waterways and river systems.

We would like to say a huge thank you to everybody who participated in this great day, including Councillor Glen Hartwig who came along and rolled up his sleeves for a good cause.

**Geology of the Gympie Region – Workshop – 21st March 2020, 9am – 1pm**



This workshop will look at the basic geological history of the local area and how it relates to the soil and rock types we have around the region now.

We will use geological maps to look at where you live and see exactly what you have on your place and what you drive past daily but might not have noticed!

We'll also leave you with a list of interesting geological things to go and visit on a self-drive tour around the region that you can do in your own time.

The content of this workshop will be beginner friendly. Your presenter will be bringing rocks from around the region for you to get your hands on and perhaps be able to recognise again if you see them out and about.

We will allow plenty of time for locally focused questions and discussion at the end of this presentation.



### **About Your presenters: Rockhoundz**

Jaimie has experience in soil science and pasture research with CSIRO in Canberra and ant, fire and tissue culture research with DPI here in Gympie.

Jaimie also knows enough geology to find some great specimens and is really good with a geology pick and hammer.

In the past he's used geology and soil science to help him with his ecology projects with CSIRO and Queensland Primary Industries.



“There are lots of geology specimens on the market. Most of them are about 30mm in size – that's about the size of a 20c coin. Our rocks are big – about 75mm – which makes them much easier to use to identify the crystals they are made up of. Much easier to identify layers or inclusions and see weathering or fracture patterns. Much easier to teach with – and harder to get lost in a pocket or a pencil case.”

Geology is now a core part of the Australian National Science Curriculum. For too long we've seen teachers preparing and presenting really rockin' geology lessons in classrooms without access to decent size specimens to demonstrate with.

Earth science is big and exciting and really, really interesting – but most geology specimens are tiny pebbles that you just can't get excited about. Our rocks are different.

### **Session Time:**

Saturday 21st March 2020, 9.00am – 1.00pm

**Where:** Gympie & District Landcare Group Conference Room – 5 Groves Road, Araluen QLD 4570

### **How to Register:**

To find out pricing and how to register for our Geology of the Gympie Region Workshop, please contact the Gympie Landcare Office.



## Reforestation Methods Workshop – 4th April 2020, 9:00am – 1:00pm

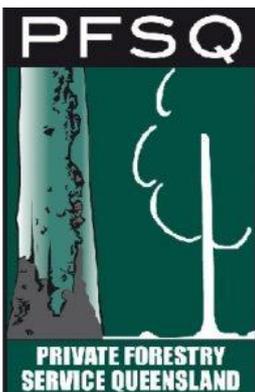
Join us on a trip to Benworth Farm at Anderleigh, to discover where PFSQ have established farm forestry plantings with local species for both timber production and for environmental outcomes.



This project combines commercial and non-commercial species in strategic plantings associated with riparian areas and on land that was not suited to Macadamia nut production.

This workshop will cover the following three important aspects of reforestation, at an entry level:

- Planning a reforestation project – including:
  - appropriate species selection with a focus on local regional ecosystems
  - optimising the success and the environmental outcomes of reforestation by taking broader landscape features and attributes into consideration (i.e. drainage characteristics, linkages with remnant vegetation, fire management, soil changes)
  - understanding and mitigating risks to successful reforestation (drought, flood, soil compaction, browsing, lack of maintenance)
- Design and layout of reforestation projects –
  - practical design solutions for easy and safe maintenance
  - planting density
  - species layout
  - access for maintenance and fire management
- Site preparation and establishment methods –
  - Operational timelines
  - Weed control
  - Cultivation techniques
  - Planting methods
  - Maintenance



### About Your presenters: Private Forestry Service Queensland Inc.

Private Forestry Service Queensland Inc. (PFSQ) is a not-for-profit, community group implementing professional forest establishment and management work across Queensland, from our home base in Gympie.

Amongst a broad range of forestry work, PFSQ have successfully established and maintained revegetation and koala offset projects for the Sunshine Coast Regional Council, Healthy Land and Water, Cherish the Environment Foundation, Subdivisions (QLD) Pty Ltd., Ergon Energy and SEQ Water.

The group consists of 6 qualified professional foresters, an administration team and a skilled field crew.

PFSQ's forest management system is certified to the Australian Standard for Sustainable Forest Management (AS 4708-2013), an internationally endorsed standard (PEFC) managed under the Responsible Wood Certification Scheme. AS 4708-2013 defines nine criteria and forty requirements relating to the quality assurance, environmental, economic, social and cultural values that must be considered throughout all forms of forest establishment and management.

**Please be advised that unfortunately there are no toilet facilities available for use at this property.**

**Session Time:** Saturday 4th April 2020, 9.00am – 1.00pm.

**Bus leaves Gympie Landcare at 8:15am sharp**

**Where:** Benworth Farm, Anderleigh

**How to Register:** To find out pricing and how to register for our Reforestation Methods Workshop, please contact the Gympie Landcare Office.



## **Mushroom Farm Workshop – 18th April 2020, 9:00am – 1:00pm**

**Come along and learn how to establish, maintain and care for your very own mushroom farm.**

This session will look at various aspects of establishing a mushroom farming, including:

- What mushrooms are you growing?
- Which are the most profitable?
- What does a mushroom farm look like?
- How much is it going to cost me?
- What kind of set up will I need?
- How many mushrooms can I really grow?
- Can I sell my mushrooms?

We will then have a more in depth look at the “how to” process, including:

- How to set up and grow your mushroom farm
- Mushroom Farm maintenance
- The “Lab”
- The Prep Areas
- The grow room
- On-selling or getting your mushrooms to market
- A very basic social media marketing introduction
- Business model
- Practical Demonstration of starting your Mushroom Farm



### **About Your presenter: Dominique Bode – North Node Education**

My name is Dominique and I was born in Townsville and bred in far north Queensland on a sheep and cattle property. This is the foundation of who I am and unquestionably where all my greatest of memories can be found.

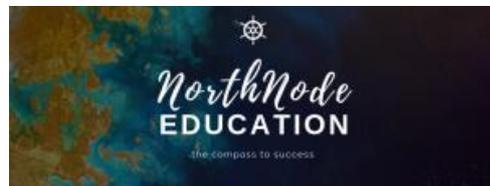
I have been a teacher for 18 years with breaks for motherhood, community projects, volunteering, adult learning and further study of many forms, including a master's degree.



I have worked in all educational sectors, alongside getting my hands dirty in work environments outside of education. This includes my love of gardens, Bonsai and staying connected to my outback heritage, with a family legacy of primary producers, water boring and windmills.

I am a believer that the only skill we should be trying to master is that of 'life-long learning'. I am also a lover of human connection, unpacking relationships in professional and personal arenas, and I have a big passion of guiding and mentoring in all age's shapes and abilities.

North Node Education is born from the belief that through supporting our passions and abilities, we will be guided to our authentic purpose.



### **Session Time:**

Saturday 18th April 2020, 9.00am – 1.00pm

**Where:** Gympie & District Landcare Group Conference Room – 5 Groves Rd, Araluen QLD 4570

### **How to Register:**

To find out pricing and how to register for our Mushroom Farm Workshop, please contact the Gympie Landcare Office.



### **Library Books Available for Loan to Members**

Did you know that we have a comprehensive range of library books that are available for loan?

Members of Gympie & District Landcare Group Inc. have full access to our library, so come in and enjoy a few hours in our library or take a book on loan for 2 weeks.

(maximum of 3 books at any given time).

Please note that our library is located in the Nursery Retail Area. Our full list of available library books and a copy of our Library Lending Policy can be found on our website.

### **75% Discount to Landholders!**



Get your orders in now for February!

Our Bio-Control facility are offering a 75% subsidy to Gympie landholders for insects to control Cat's Claw Creeper and Madeira Vine!

Madeira Vine and Cat's Claw Creeper are an invasive species and have become an environmental weed smothering understory vegetation and killing mature trees.

Physical and chemical control is not always possible.

Biological controls form part of an integrated approach to pest management and are a cost-effective way to reduce the vigour of wide-spread infestations.

In the long term it is hoped that additional Bio-Control organisms will be found that will damage the tubers.

To find out more about this subsidy and how to get your orders in for February, please contact our office today on 5483 8866.

For more information about the damage these vines can cause, please contact our nursery on 5483 8866.

## Free Bee Keeping Sessions

The Valley Bees group hold free beekeeping sessions at Gympie Landcare on the first Saturday of every month.

Come along and learn how to work with bees on your own property.

Oh, and don't forget to bring a plate to share for morning tea!



Sessions start at 9am, however, from June to August 2019, sessions will start at 10.00am.

For more information and how to RSVP, please contact Vic Finney on 0429 826 461 or via email to vicfinney43@gmail.com\_

## Conference Room 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, kitchen facilities, and free WIFI on request.



The venue can seat up to 40 people configured in cinema style.

### Occasional use

Hourly (minimum 2 hours) – **\$20.00**

Half day (4 hours) – **\$50.00**

Full day (8 hours) – **\$90.00**

Costs for regular use of our venue by clubs or groups will be determined on request.

Please contact our office for a copy of the booking form and terms and conditions and return it to our office to secure your booking.

## Volunteer Position – Groundskeeper/Landscaper

We're looking for a bright and bubbly dedicated volunteer that is looking to join our organisation on an on-going basis as our groundskeeper/landscaper.

### Our Organisation

Gympie and District Landcare Group (GDLG) is a community-based organisation that has been active for 30 years serving the local landowners.

The Group is an incorporated association and a registered charity.

Each year members elect an Executive (Management Committee) that sets strategic direction, manages organisation risks, fine tunes policies and ensures that the organisation is operating effectively whilst staying true to its vision and purpose.

Members and volunteers are integrally involved in the group's activities: operating a local native plant nursery; raising Bio-Control insects for invasive plant species control and other purposes; providing land care services, fostering local land caring activities; and community education.

## Position

This is a volunteer position with flexible working days. We're looking for someone that can volunteer 1-2 days per week with set days each week (however, we are flexible when needed).

## Responsibilities

- Mow the lawns, prune bushes and trees, edge the walkways and give the grounds a manicured look;
- Disposal of dead foliage and rubbish
- Use hand tools such as shovels, rakes, pruning saws, hedge or brush trimmers, or axes
- Care for established lawns by mulching, aerating, weeding, drubbing, trimming and edging around garden beds, walks and walls
- Plant seeds, bulbs, foliage, flowering plants, grass, ground covers, trees or shrubs and apply mulch for protection as required
- Decorating garden beds and themed areas
- Take on special landscaping or planting projects such as our 'Botanical Garden' walk and front reception gardens
- Collaborate with management and the volunteer team to make sure the grounds and the building are always properly cared for
- Perform regular maintenance and minor repairs on the lawn care equipment and tools
- Assist the volunteer team with other tasks when required such as potting seeds for production



## Skills

There are no technical skills required for this volunteer position, however, common sense is required when using tools or equipment. You will also be inducted prior to using any electric or fuelled equipment or tools prior to commencing tasks.

## Physical Demands

This volunteer position requires a reasonable level of fitness. You may be required to lift items of up to 20kgs, push wheelbarrows etc and must be in good physical shape.

## Interested?

If you're interested in becoming part of a friendly and active team of volunteers and would like to contribute to our organisation and the environment, then this position is for you! We've love to hear from you, so please get in contact with us by calling 07 5483 8866.

## Nursery Volunteers Needed

We are looking for dedicated people who would like to get their hands dirty and help out in our nursery on an on-going basis.

### Position Title

Nursery Volunteer



### Our Organisation

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Members and volunteers are integrally involved in the group's activities: operating a local native plant nursery; raising Bio-Control insects for invasive plant species control and other purposes; providing land care services, fostering local land caring activities; and community education.

### Position

This is a volunteer position with flexible working days. We're looking for someone that can volunteer 1-2 days per week with set days each week (however, we are flexible when needed).

### Skills

There are no technical skills required for this volunteer position, however, the below skills are highly desirable:

- Carpentry skills
- Plumbing or irrigation skills
- Other occasional trade skills – electrical, welding, etc
- IT skills – POS, databases, spreadsheets, documents
- Horticulture training/experience
- Sales/retail experience
- NRM knowledge
- Biosecurity knowledge
- Plant identification skills
- Project/planning skills
- Stock monitoring (plants and retail/nursery supplies) skills/experience
- Agricultural skills

### Physical Demands

This volunteer position requires a reasonable level of fitness. You may be required to lift items of up to 20kgs, push wheelbarrows etc and must be in good physical shape.

If you're interested in becoming part of a friendly and active team of volunteers and would like to contribute to our organisation and the environment, then this position is for you!

We'd love to hear from you, so please get in contact with us by calling 07 5483 8866.

## 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?



By using your tag every time, you shop, you’re actually fundraising for 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](mailto:admin-assistant@gympielandcare.org.au) and we will provide one for you to pick up from our office.

## 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!



## Containers for Change – Landcare is Now a Registered Depot

### Gympie Landcare is now a registered depot for the Containers for Change Scheme.

As a state, we’re great at many things. However, when it comes to recycling, Queensland can do a lot better. In fact, we have one of the lowest recycling rates in Australia, at around 44%.

Each year, approximately three billion beverage containers are generated in our state alone and are the second most littered item.

So, to help us all improve our recycling efforts and keep our beautiful environment litter-free, bring your containers down and start recycling today!

### 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 a multi-use bag and stick your label on the front.

### Please note:

We do not give cash for container exchanges as we are an ‘Express Depot’.



Your refund will be deposited into your selected bank account when you create your own code at the kiosk for recycling.

Labels are sourced from the 'Return It' kiosk with instructions on how to process your refund. If you'd like to donate your refund to Gympie Landcare, all you need to do is provide our code:  
C10161523