

**March 2021**



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

We had another wonderful morning recently and it was lovely to see some new faces come along and join us.

Banana bush and Bellbird Vine were surrounded by various weeds, including molasses grass and hamill grass, which we have been working hard on trying to tackle.

Many of these beautiful plants are found throughout Messmate park, just waiting to be discovered!

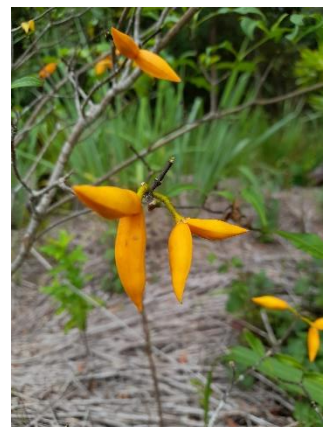
Weeding surely does have an extra element of fun when you find such a diversity of plant life, so please feel free to come along and join us.

If you would like to join the Messmate Park Bushcare Group, our next meeting will be **Saturday 20th March 2021 at 8:00am**. 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 3rd April 2021 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)
- *Rhodospaera 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 – Native Brown Gardenia (*Atractocarpus fitzalanii*)

Lovely large shrub/small tree to 5mt x 2-3mt wide, with a large glossy dark green leaves that make great shade. Highly fragrant flowers in spring followed by large yellow-brown edible fruit which are ready to eat when it's soft.

Makes a great feature plant in a tropical and also ideal for container and patio planting where you can enjoy the beautiful scent.

Prefers a partly shaded position in the garden.



### 50mm Tubestock – Buy 1, get 1 Free!

*Single tubestock priced at \$3.50 ea*

## Welcome to Our New Trainees

We are pleased to announce that we have recently partnered with [Five Bridges](#), in order to assist local Indigenous youth and disadvantaged jobseekers gain life skills and employability skills under the Queensland Government's 'Skilling Queenslanders for Work' initiative. Five Bridges is an established not-for-profit organisation, born from a passion to assist local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in a hands on, feet to the ground manner that will see our local communities flourish.



This program has given us the capacity to employ four brand new trainees, who are now studying and completing a Certificate I in Conservation and Land Management over a 22 week period. It is the ideal outcome of this program that these trainees will then have gained the knowledge and experience required to be able to successfully gain further employment and be able to perform in a permanent role within the environment and conservation industry.

About our new trainees and why they have decided to take up this fantastic opportunity:

Chloe Butterfield – “I wanted to work at Landcare because I am interested in native plants and the cultural significance behind them. I am also interested in learning about the different uses for native plants, such as for food and medicinal uses.”

Keal Kutija – “I am very happy that I got this traineeship because I believe that if I can do this qualification, then anyone can! I hope that this helps me gain some work experience. I would love to work with disadvantaged youth in the future to show them that anything is possible.”

Max Williams – “I wanted to work with Landcare because I am very interested in learning more about plants and natural environments. I would like to one day become a Parks and Wildlife Ranger, so this qualification will assist me in learning about the environment and building my career for the future.”

Hunter Austin – “I wanted to work for Landcare so that I can learn more about native plants of Australia and how to care for them in the correct way. I am also interested in learning about the control methods for invasive plant species in our region.”

Applications for Round 2 of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work Initiative will be opening again in mid-2021. Any new traineeships that become available under this program will be advertised on our website and [Facebook page](#).

## **Introduction to Food Forest Gardening 2-Day Workshop – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2021, 9am to 4pm**

Come along and join us for this weekend workshop where you will immerse yourself in the world of creating and maintaining a Forest Garden.



You will gain knowledge on the establishment, as well as the ongoing maintenance of a successful orchard ecosystem. We will demystify the necessary art everybody should know about the workings of their Forest Garden, as well as design, soil biology, and health management.

This is a 2-day introduction to the concept and techniques of forest gardening, involving theory and practice from visioning to harvesting.

The 2-day course will cover:

- Benefits of forest gardening;
- Ecological principles;
- Site selection and design;
- Integration of permaculture principles and design process;
- Architecture;
- Succession;
- The Underground Economy;
- Species selection; and
- Site preparation, establishment and maintenance; harvesting.

We will also look at some easy preparations that you can make, which will help boost the overall health of your system.

Edible forest gardening is the art and science of putting plants together in woodland-like patterns that forge mutually beneficial relationships, creating a garden ecosystem that is more than the sum of its parts. You can grow fruits, nuts, vegetables, herbs, mushrooms, other useful plants, and animals in a way that mimics natural ecosystems. You can create a beautiful, diverse, high-yield garden. If designed with care and deep understanding of ecosystem function, you can also design a garden that is largely self-maintaining.

About Your Host: Michael Wardle

My name is Michael and I began my permaculture journey about 25 years ago when I picked up a copy of Permaculture One and the Introduction to Permaculture by Bill Mollison.



I have applied the design principles and ethics of permaculture to my personal life and am now enjoying the wonderful opportunities of being able to apply them to my workplace and my community.

I enjoy learning about the many different facets of permaculture and design. Through my learning, I have also come to love teaching.

I finally jumped in after reading and applying what I had learned and have since done 4 PDC's followed by my Permaculture Teacher Trainer with Rosemary Morrow and Nick Ritar. I completed the Advanced Permaculture Design Principle workshop with David Holmgren, Advanced Permaculture Design with Dan Palmer and the Forest Garden Design Intensive with Dave Jacke as well as the REX10 online with Darren Doherty plus many more. I aspire to be as inspirational and effective as my teachers.

I continue to do other courses to advance my knowledge and to increase the value which I may provide in both my teaching, projects and consultations.

To find out more about Michael and Savour Soil Permaculture, [please click here.](#)

Session Times:

Saturday 5th June 2021, 9:00am – 4:00pm; AND

Sunday 6th June 2021, 9:00am – 4:00pm

Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

Prices:

\$220 – Members\*

\$250 – Non Members

How to Register:

Please phone our office on (07) 5483 8866

## Junior Landcare Super Seed Savers!

Our Junior Landcare Superheroes have been having a great time so far in 2021 and learning all about SEEDS!

We have been lucky enough to work with Jane Little, an amazing [Kitchen Garden Doctor](#), who has been teaching us all about the importance of seeds for continued sustainability.

So far we have looked at and analyzed a range of different fruit and vegetable seeds and the kids were amazed at just how many different shapes and sizes and styles that a seed can be.



We have also learnt about how to collect seeds and store them safely, and we are now working on creating our very own Seed Library for our Junior Landcare garden.

We are now learning about how to grow plants from seed and our last session consisted of us making some wicking beds from re-purposed milk bottles. This activity has provided the children with little self-watering seed-starter pots, while also promoting recycling and re-using of everyday household objects.

## Junior Landcare Partnering with The Gympie Hobbit House

Beginning in May 2021, our Junior Landcare children will be working on creating a very special Butterfly Habitat Garden, as an addition to the already established and increasingly well-known Hobbit House gardens.

Created to hide an ugly hill on a private rear street frontage, the Gympie Hobbit House is a work in progress, which we cannot wait to be a part of!



The aim of this project is to educate children on the habitat and food needs of local butterflies, whilst ensuring a continued appreciation and sustainable environment for butterflies in the middle of an urban centre.

Butterflies play an important role in pollination, helping fruits, vegetables and flowers to produce new seeds. A garden with butterflies will also attract native bees and birds to your garden and assist with increasing biodiversity.

If butterfly populations diminish, the impact is gradually felt higher up and can eventually affect the entire ecosystem.

**We would like to acknowledge and say a very big thank you to the following Gympie businesses that have agreed to sponsor this project. Without their support, this fantastic community project would not have been made possible.**

- The team at **Gympie Landscape Supplies**
- The team at **M1 Safety and Workwear**
- The team at **Trademark Signs Gympie**



## Bio-Control News – March 2021

It has been an exciting week for the biocontrol crew, where we released our first five boxes of cut cats claw creeper vine loaded with Leaf tying moth caterpillars. It has taken 3 ½ years to reach this stage, producing well over 3000 moths with only having two caterpillars to start this new project.



It was my pleasure to finally speak to Lyn Browne who founded the Biological control facility in Gympie some twenty years ago. A sign was erected at Gympie Landcare, in honor of Lyn's hard work and successful achievement in getting Councils support in biocontrol insects.

Yvonne Hennell - *Biocontrol Manager*



## Invasive Species Alert – Water Lettuce

Water Lettuce is a free-floating aquatic weed that forms in dense mats covering water.

Image courtesy of Gympie Regional Council

This weed is especially harmful to our ecosystem and waterways as it can restrict water flow, increase water loss through evapotranspiration and can suffocate other plants by restricting light and oxygen.

This weed also creates the ideal environment for mosquito breeding grounds.

### ***Where is this weed commonly found?***

As a result of flooding and illegal release into the environment, Water Lettuce can be found throughout most of eastern Queensland. This plant thrives in stationary and slow-moving streams such as rivers, ponds, dams, gullies and irrigation canals.

### ***How do I identify this weed?***

Like the name suggests, this weed looks like a small floating head of lettuce. The light green fan shaped leaves are spongy to the touch and feature parallel veins and fine hairs.

### ***How can I manage this weed?***

Early detection is key to managing this invasive weed; physical removal is most effective for small infestations. However, successful removal of this weed is best performed before the weed flowers and seeds. If the infestation is quite large, then an integrated method for control is recommended. This includes a combination of physical removal, biological control that utilises weevils and herbicidal control.

Please be vigilant in checking water bodies on your property for the presence of Water Lettuce. Please call council on 1300 307 800 if you require water weed management advice.



## 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](mailto:admin-assistant@gympielandcare.org.au) and we will provide one for you to pick up from our office.

## We Can Assist With Your Biosecurity Obligations as a Landholder!

Did you know that ALL Queenslanders have a 'general biosecurity obligation' (GBO) under Queensland's Biosecurity Act 2014?

This means that everyone is responsible for managing biosecurity risks that are under their control and that they should reasonably be expected to know about.

Under the GBO, individuals and organisations whose activities pose a biosecurity risk must:

- take all reasonable and practical steps to prevent or minimise each biosecurity risk
- minimise the likelihood of causing a 'biosecurity event', and limit the consequences if such an event is caused
- prevent or minimise the harmful effects a risk could have, and not do anything that might make any harmful effects worse.



### What are 'biosecurity risks' and 'biosecurity events'?

A biosecurity risk is the risk that exists when you deal with:

- any pest, disease or contaminant
- something that could carry a pest, disease or contaminant (eg. animals, plants, soil, machinery, etc.)

A biosecurity event is an event that:

- has, or may have, a significant harmful effect on human health, social amenity, the economy, or the environment and
- is caused by a pest, disease or contaminant.

### How we can assist:

Gympie & District Landcare Group's Environmental Conservation Team offer contract services which can assist you in meeting your biosecurity obligations.

With the high prevalence of local weeds in our region, such as Giant Rat's Tail Grass and Cat's Claw Creeper, it is extremely important to treat these species before an infestation develops.

Our team are committed to providing the best environmental outcomes to the community through a range of specialist land care services.



These services include:-

- Environmental Property Consultancies – including vegetation surveys and land management advice.
- Pest Management & Environmental Works Plans
- Bushland Regeneration including advice on species selection, the supply of native tube stock, labour, watering, and maintenance.
- Riparian Restoration
- Native Timber Establishment, Environmental & Carbon offsets & Maintenance
- Revegetation
- Vegetation Maintenance
- Weed Removal utilising a quick spray unit, knapsack spot spraying and tree spears for woody weeds.

**For more information about accessing these services, please contact our office on (07) 5483 8866.**



## Open Garden – Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th March 2021, 9am to 4pm

**Location: 18 Hawk Lane, Pomona, QLD**

The property is 6.5 acres of gently sloping north-facing land, located in the Noosa Hinterland. The land is bordered on the northern side by Six Mile Creek, which runs between Pomona and Cooran. The gardens and property have been developed since 2002.



**The main focus of the garden/property is habitat creation for native birds, frogs, reptiles, small marsupials and insects**

We have planted thousands of native and endemic plants to help support these animals, as well as importing rocks, logs and mulch to create the habitat which supports abundant wildlife. We have installed over 70 habitat ponds and 12 bird baths across the property, which have greatly increased the biodiversity throughout the property.

**Organic home food production also makes up a major element of the garden/property.**

We grow 100+ species of edible plants ranging from vegetables, herbs and permaculture plants, through to Australian bush foods and exotic fruit and nut trees.

The garden also contains plenty of exotic plants, including: clumping bamboo, trees, shrubs, herbs and ground covers.

**Garden Tours:** Will be run on both days by Sean Morrow at 9:30am and 1:30pm

**Plant Sales:** A variety of plants, including edibles, will be available for purchase on both days, starting at \$3

**Entry Fee:** \$2 per person

Cash only transactions available for entry and plant purchases. Amari Flavours and the Permaculture Noosa sausage sizzle will accept both cash and card transactions for food purchases.

**Food options available for purchase on both days:**

- Permaculture Noosa members will be running a sausage sizzle both days
- Amari Flavours (Latin Fusion food van) will be running on both days

**Contact:** Sean Morrow on 0411 312 284 for any inquiries



**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.

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

## 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!*

### **OPENING HOURS:**

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





