

**November 2020**



## **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

## Messmate Park Bushcare News & Next Meeting



Thank you to all our helpers who have recently helped us out with caring for Messmate Park. Unfortunately, we postponed the October tree planting as conditions then were too hot and dry. Our morning was not completely wasted as our visitors were first timers to the park, so we were able to show off our magnificent trees. Old Man Messmate plus a huge River Gum on Tinana Creek were the star attractions.

The paths do make access to all areas much easier. The northern easement is gradually being cleared by our eager workers – Jenny, Dave, Peter and Meg.

Our November meeting will be Saturday 21st November 2020 at 8.30am. Cat's Claw creeper is on our to do list so please come with secateurs and favourite tools, gloves, sturdy shoes, hat and water. Aeroguard and sunscreen are also highly recommended.

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



## Free Beekeeping Sessions Resumed

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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.



## Nursery Special – Silver Spurflower/White Plectranthus (*Plectranthus argentatus*)

An attractive, low growing, spreading, herbaceous plant with fleshy leaves that are covered in soft silver white hairs that make the plant look and feel soft. Pale blue/white flowers appear on a tall spike in Summer.

This plant clumps to about a metre in both height and width. Also grows well from cuttings or a broken stem so can benefit from a hard prune every so often to encourage a compact shape.

Very tough and drought tolerant once established, being found naturally on rocky outcrops. Prefers shade but will tolerate partial shade and some sun. A great plant as a background for borders or in pots under the veranda.



**50mm Tubestock – Buy 1, get 1 Free!** (*Single tubestock priced at \$2.70 each*)

## The Buzz from Junior Landcare

Recently the wonderful and extremely knowledgeable Vic from Valley Bees came to teach our Junior Landcare Superheroes all about bees! The kids were buzzing with excitement!

We learnt about the life cycle of a bee as well as the various different types of bees that make up a hive (such as the queen, drones and worker bees).

Did you know that depending on the bee's "job" will depend on the amount of time it takes to reach maturity? Amazing!

We were also able to inspect a real-life functioning hive, to show the children what they needed to start up a hive and also how to be safe around the bees and the hives.

The kids all had a fantastic afternoon and many are super excited to begin working on setting up their own hives at home. The best part of all was that we all got to try some beautiful local fresh macadamia honey, kindly brought along by Vic.



## Bio-Control News – November 2020



I cannot believe that it was 5 years ago since I began my career in Bio-control. It has been a huge learning curve over the years, but it has also been a lot of fun along the way.

Our Jewel beetles are back in the swing of things now that the weather has warmed up and it was exciting to find one Cat's claw leaf in our tunnel house containing 14 pupal disks!

After 3 years experimenting rearing the Leaf tying moth, generation 9 emerge early this month. Each moth was individually caught and placed into small containers then released into their brand-new free-range enclosure.

Our local scrub turkey, Mr Fastidious, has been busy building his nest next to the Nursery. Eggs are usually laid from September to March with an average clutch holding up to 24 eggs. When the young hatch, they dig themselves out of the nesting mound and care for themselves.



Yvonne Hennell - *Biocontrol Manager*

## Environmental Conservation News – November 2020

Our Environmental Conservation Crew (formerly known as CLS) have been keeping busy in the region with a number of projects currently underway.



These include works at Rainbow Beach, where we have completed revegetation and remedial works on the former sand mine site, along with planting of native coastal groundcovers and trees to improve the local vegetation.



The team has also been working to treat Chinese Elm that was dominating the banks of the Mary River and replacing these trees with native species. We have also been continuing maintenance of numerous revegetation projects along the Mary River.



Weed management projects have been numerous throughout the Gympie Region, with threatened species recovery and resilience projects focusing on invasive weeds, such as Cat's Claw Creeper. We currently have a number of sites along Amamoor Creek where we are undertaking Cat's Claw control.

## Member Meeting & Christmas Lunch – Saturday 5th December 2020, 11am to 1pm

We cannot believe that another year is drawing to a close already and with that also comes our final member meeting of the year!

The Committee hopes you can join us for the quarterly Member's meeting Saturday 5th December 2020 at 11am, at our Gympie Landcare office, located at 5 Groves Road, Araluen QLD 4570.

This will be your opportunity to keep up to date with what is happening at Landcare and share your thoughts with the Committee and other Members. As this is the last member meeting for the year, we will be closing the meeting with a Christmas lunch and would love it if everyone could bring a plate to share on the day. Gympie Landcare will provide hot and cold meats, bread and condiments, but side dishes will be appreciated.



Please submit your RSVP and any agenda items in writing to [admin@gympielandcare.org.au](mailto:admin@gympielandcare.org.au) by Friday 27th November 2020. It is imperative that you RSVP to ensure we cater for enough members.

We look forward to seeing you and celebrating the year's accomplishments.

## Position Vacant – Propagation Coordinator

We have an exciting opportunity for a full-time Propagation Coordinator in our native nursery!

Please see the attached position description for further information about this role and how to apply.

ARE YOU AWESOME?

WE'RE HIRING!

## 2020 Blockie's Landcaring Course Wrap-Up

After a few false starts, with many date changes due to the COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent restrictions on gatherings, we finally got to start on the 2020 Blockie's Course. To say that we started as a very mixed group of about 30 individuals, with varied interests in our various sized blocks, would be a pretty true statement.

I have to admit that I didn't really know what to expect from this Course. Even though I have bought loads from the Nursery over the years, I have never actually been to a Landcare Course before. I had no idea if it was going to be any good or not...



The basic outlay of each week was available at the point of enrolment. We covered Permaculture, Bio Dynamics, Soil Testing, Small Crop Grazing, Pollinator's and Insects (we will never look at a Microbat the same), Rural Fire Safety, Invasive Species and Soil Health and Regeneration. We were even lucky enough to spend a day with Stuart Andrews at Tarwyn Park, Kybong. I have to say that just listing what we did is not enough to give an accurate description of what we all got out of each and every day.

This is not a Course where you sit around and get two pieces of information for the entire day. This is a course where you get to do a lot of "Doing" and loads of information comes at you all day long!

I don't think anyone got to the end of the day thinking any day was a waste of time – in fact, I think we all drove out each day thinking hard on how we could implement all that we learnt.

All of the speakers knew their subjects, brought tonnes of passion and could answer all our questions. All the modules were right on target for those with a Block that have a desire to improve their part of the Planet.

It didn't take long for us to all start finding common ground and each adding our own knowledge to the conversation, from our own experiences and the depth of that knowledge was, at times, limitless – Donald I am naming you here!!!

Some of us were very new to our Blocks, some have been working on our Blocks for years but no matter where we are in our journey – there was one thing in common. We all have a drive for improving/restoring/sharing (with the Wildlife) our Blocks. We all, now, with a good depth of knowledge, have a much clearer understanding of where we are heading.

Myself personally.....I am a bit of a greenie and have spent years researching and presenting about Climate Change. I have been building rainforest for 12 years on my Block and I thought I had a pretty good plan in place with a very long term goal (100 years) and whilst I am sticking with my idea, I am now – with all this extra information rattling around in my head – going to "up the ante". I can see that by doing this Course I have a deeper understanding of just how big a difference I can make to my part of Mother Earth and that difference is truly huge all without spending \$1,000's or moving in the D9 Bulldozers.



I think many of us would agree that equally important was that we came out of this Course as firm friends. In fact, we are even continuing our time together..... We are now organising our own farm visits amongst ourselves. We have a FB page to stay in touch. We are looking at doing Working Bee's at each others places. We as a collective are going to draw on our individual skills and help each other out.

Would I recommend this Course to anyone with a Block, if they are not sure what to do or where to start? Yes, I most sincerely would. You will get so much out of this – I can not over-sell this enough.

When the 2021 Blockies Course comes up – do yourself a favour and sign up!

*Written by Naomi Wilson – 2020 Course Attendee*  
*Edited by Rhiaan Ashton – Education & Events Coordinator*



## Recent Event – Birds In Our Lives Workshop

A small group recently had an interesting day with Kelvin and Amelia Nielsen of Cooloola Nature, learning all about birds and their role in the environment.

Kelvin versed his keen audience in recognising birds and their calls, giving some helpful advice about attracting not only the larger birds but also the small ones to our properties.

He pointed out that planting thickets, thorny- and dense bushes and grasses for birds to have safe habitat is one of the most important things of all. Having a ratio of at least 3 times more melaleuca and species other than grevillea, which tend to attract the larger honey eating birds and push out the small ones, is extremely important.

It was a day full of useful information and everyone is welcome to join Kelvin on a half- or preferably full day bird walk in several areas around Gympie and the Cooloola Coast.

More details about Birding in Cooloola can be found at Kelvin and Amelia's website – [www.birdingcooloola.org.au](http://www.birdingcooloola.org.au)



## 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.

## 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.

## 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](http://www.containersforchange.com.au)

**OPENING HOURS:**

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



Gympie & District  
**Landcare**  
Group