

# Envirolink Newsletter August 2016

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Sun 7<sup>th</sup> 9am on: Native Plants Capricornia – FREE OUTING (Meet Northside Plaza)

Whole day trip nth-west R'pton. BYO lunch, chair and personal needs. More info - Neil Hoy 0439 943 281

Wed 10<sup>th</sup> 8.30am-4pm: BMP Grazing – FREE PROPERTY MAPPING WORKSHOP

Frenchville Sports Club, Nth Rockhampton. RSVP 4th Aug and more info, Janeen Whiting 4921 0573

Sat 13<sup>th</sup> 3-5pm: Emu Park Bushcare – WORKING BEE

BYO gloves, sun smart gear. Marine Parade (orange fence). Contact emuparkbushcare@ymail.com

13<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK

Sat 20<sup>th</sup> 9am-2pm: FIGTREE COMMUNITY CREEKCARE AWARENESS DAY – FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

8am-6pm: CQ Uni and FBA - SCIENCE EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

(hands-on professional development in real world science applications)
Cost \$75 + Bus, includes activities and meals. More info and bookings here

22<sup>nd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> KEEP AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL WEEK

Sun 28<sup>th</sup> 11am-4pm: The Hall State School – ENVIRONMENTAL FESTIVAL – FREE EVENT

Murray Street, Wandal Rockhampton.

COMING UP National Biodiversity Month

SEPTEMBER! • 10<sup>th</sup> Sept – Tropical and Sustainable Gardening Expo, Rockhampton

11<sup>th</sup> Sept – Native Stingless Bee Workshop, Cedar Galleries, Calliope

### Where did winter go?

I'm hoping you've all dried your feet after our unseasonably wet weather in July... while I'm sure it was not so pleasant for some, I'm pleased to report all our plantings at Figtree Creek absolutely loved it.

It's been a busy month in the Enviolink office with submitting funding applications and Cooberrie Park trips. Preparations have also been underway for the 1<sup>st</sup> Figtree Community CreekCare Awareness Day on 20<sup>th</sup> August – we are incredibly grateful to our very generous event supporters and especially <u>Livingstone Shire Council</u>.

This month we welcome Helen Hardstone to our wonderful band of Landcare volunteers who are continuing weeding work at the Figtree Creek Rehabilitation site and EnviroArea at Yeppoon State School.

- Alby Wooler
President & Junior Landcare Coordinator



This month we made our first delivery of Landcare stakes to <u>Tanby Garden Center</u>. We're excited to be working in partnership to raise funds for environmental projects on the Capricorn Coast!

## It's coming up...

Stay posted for details on Capricorn Coast Landcare Facebook Page





# RAISE YOUR STAKES IN ENVIRONMENTAL CARE

If you're preparing the garden for spring and looking to put in veggies – pssst....

25 pack hardwood garden stakes for just \$15

ALL proceeds go towards Landcare projects in the Livingstone Shire. You can now purchase stakes at <u>Tanby Garden Centre</u> (7 days a week) and the Envirolink Office (Mon-Fri, 9am-3pm). Thanks for supporting Landcare! ©

#### A 'LIL WORD ON WILDLIFE

Coming up in September is National Biodiversity Month. Now while that is a month away, we thought August the perfect time to highlight just why Biodiversity is so important – here's an excerpt from the National Biodiversity Month link where you can find out even more:

"Biodiversity has been described as the 'web of life', 'the variety of living things' or 'the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, their genes and ecosystems of which they are a part'.

Human beings depend for their sustenance, health, well-being and enjoyment of life on biodiversity. We derive all of our food and many medicines and industrial products from the wild and domesticated components of biological diversity. Biodiversity is the basis for much of our recreation and tourism, and includes the ecosystems which provide us with many services such as clean water."

## **FUN ACTIVITY – A photo essay on Capricornia's Biodiversity.** What you'll need:

- An A3 sheet of paper or manilla folder (coloured if you like colour) or several if you get really busy!
- Pictures of local critters, distribution maps and photos of local habitats (below are some great links to pictures and lists of what's in our region)
- Scissors, glue, tape and pens

<u>Special animals and plants in the Fitroy Basin</u> | <u>Frogs in Central Queensland</u> | <u>A comprehensive list of the wildlife of Capricorn Coast National Park</u> | <u>Birds, plants and butterflies you'll see at Lammermoor Native Gardens</u> | <u>Capricorn Coast Birds</u> | <u>Capricorn Coast Flora</u>

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Wildlife

Be sure to share your photo essays with us on <u>Facebook!</u>



#### NATIVE PLANT OF THE MONTH

## Scarlet fuschia by Malcom W

Graptophyllum excelsum or 'native fuschia' occurs naturally in only certain parts of the eastern coast of Queensland. It is a shrub or small tree that grows to a height of 1.5m to 4m. With its dark shiny green leaves and mass of scarlet red tubular flowers between June and February it is a stunning plant (it produces fruit capsules between December and March).

The plant suckers readily so you can expect to see new clumps appearing beside established plants. They tolerate pruning, making it easy to establish a hedge or windbreak once the plant begins suckering. New plants can be propagated from cuttings or by transplanting suckers; and the seeds germinate easily.

To achieve the best show of flowers the plant is best situated in full sun or light shade. The flowers will attract nectar feeding birds to the garden.

A FREE Native fuschia is avaliable for all CCLG members from the Envirolink Office courtesy of Livingstone Community Nursery.

#### PEST CRITTERS THAT COST US - Myrtle Rust by Helen G

Myrtle rust is caused by the fungus Puccinia psidii and is becoming naturalised across Australia. Detected in 2010 on the NSW central coast, it rapidly spread to the eastern states and the Northern Territory, posing a serious threat to the nursery and garden industry, forestry, tea tree oil production, and a wide range of natural ecosystems.

It affects plants in the family 'Myrtaceae', which includes many Australian native species (about 350 by 2016). Susceptible species include gum trees (Eucalyptus), bottlebrush (Callistemon), tea tree and paper bark (Melaleuca) and lilly pilly (Syzyqium, Acmena, Waterhousea). It attacks actively growing leaves, young stems, flowers and fruits, and causes deformed leaves, stunted growth and plant death.

The first signs of infection are tiny brown/grey raised spots, often with red-purple halos that produce masses of distinctive yellow spores. Spores are dispersed by infected plant material, vehicles and equipment,

wind/water/gravity, animals and human clothing which makes it extremely difficult to control and impossible to eradicate from natural settings. A fungicide spray program can effectively reduce the levels of infection in plant nurseries and home gardens, but is not feasible for natural bush land. Many states restrict entry of Myrtaceae plant material. If you suspect myrtle rust, bag or wrap infected materials in plastic prior to disposal and do not move infected plants or cuttings. Find out more here.





@ Figtree Creek (Opposite Yeppoon Central Shopping Centre)



### WEED IT OUT NOW! by Malcom W

Mother-of-millions (Bryophyllum delagoense) is a Madagascan succulent that grows to about a metre and produces orange-red, bell-shaped flowers in dense clusters. The plant certainly lives up to its name, producing numerous leaves each producing small plantlets along its edge. Any one of these can produce roots and form a new plant.

Mother-of-millions can form huge infestations and is poisonous to livestock. Despite it being a restricted invasive plant in Queensland under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*, I have recently seen a number of specimens in gardens and growing on the sand dunes at Farnborough Beach.

It is easy to pull out these plants by hand, but take care to get the whole plant and carefully bag it. If taking the weeds to the council tip, take care not to let the plants go into the recycling area for

turning into mulch. As a bush regeneration contractor in NSW we would deal with large infestations by hand pulling and burning or having them buried at the local tip. Dense mats of seedlings would then appear in the disturbed area and these would have to be sprayed.

#### TOP GARDENING TIP from Malcom W

I don't like plastic bottles, but recently I did put some to good use in the garden. When my wife and I were preparing to go to Europe for a month I gathered some 1.5 litre water bottles to keep our pot plants watered while we were away. All you need to do is put a small hole in the cap using a hammer and nail. Fill the bottle with water and screw the lid on.

Water the soil in the pot thoroughly before installing the bottle. To install the bottle, turn it upside-down and push it into the soil beside the plant you wish to water. I made sure the bottles were stable by inserting a small cane next to the bottle and tying the two together with garden twine.

When we came home on the 16<sup>th</sup> July after four weeks away,

the plants were looking lovely and healthy. Of course they were helped by nearly 400mm of rainfall that same weekend; but the bottles had got them through the preceding period. And of course – when you are ready to dispose of the bottles after use, remember to put them in the recycle bin.





#### A WORD ON BIRDS from Allan B

The next Birds in Capricornia survey is due next Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August but of course you can do it anytime over the weekend that is convenient.

Some of our birds are starting to build nests and in a few weeks' time there will be chicks to feed and protect. A busy time for many birds so keep an eye out for birds that are visiting the same location regularly and have a look to see if there is a nest there.

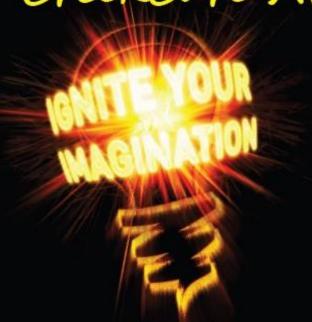
Many honeyeaters start breeding at this time of year such as Blue-faced Honeyeater, Lewin's Honeyeater, Noisy and

Little Friarbird, Brown Honeyeater and Dusky Honeyeater. The Blue-faced honeyeater will often build a nest in the top of a palm tree deep in the fronds making it difficult to see. In the photo below the bird is sitting on the nest. Another bird that is nesting at this time of year is the Striated Pardalote which will often dig a tunnel in a soft sandy bank and excavate a nest chamber to lay its eggs. Lots of activity so keep an eye out for breeding birds. Contact Allan Briggs at <a href="mailto:BirdLife Capricornia">BirdLife Capricornia</a> abriggs@irock.com.au if you'd like to take part in monthly surveys!

# Figtree Community

Saturday 20th August | 9am - 2pm

# CreekCare Awareness Day



Face Painting Music **BBQ** Lunch Info Displays Free fun for all ages Give Aways



For more information head to Capricorn Coast Landcare

## And activities running all day long...

- → Butter-ye-flies → Buggin'a'bug → Flappin' about birds
- → Tackle tha water bandits → What's up yer creek? → Getting seedy

- → Plastic Bites → Knowin'ya'natives → Get the geo-flow lowdown

# WHERE? Figtree Creek

(Opposite Yeppoon Central Shopping Centre)

## Proudly supported by....





























Science is not just for Einstein's! University students, School Teachers, Youth Group Leaders and Community Educators are invited to attend hands-on professional development training in real world science applications.

CQ University Australia and Fitzroy Basin Association partner to demonstrate using science in real world applications.

Saturday 20th August 2016 (part of Science Week) When

Where Quoin Island (transport provided)

Time 8am - 6pm

#### **Sessions include:**

- Field Science
- Science Technology
- Healthy Waterways
- Harbour Heroes
- Turtles
- Science Education EXPERIENCE Science speed dating & information happy hour

Cost \$75 (includes all activities, lunch, morning and afternoon tea)

a bus will depart from CQU Rockhampton Campus Rus

for an additional cost of \$20

Register http://seegladstone.eventbrite.com.au

contact Lyndal Hansen | lyndal@amarna.com.au | 49781389 More

# Sponsorship opportunity

Sponsorship will be offered to four participants, to build the capacity of regional community members involved in agriculture production and the protection of natural resources to attend the National Landcare Conference in Melbourne on the 21st - 23rd September. The sponsorship is available through the Regional Landcare Facilitator to support the development of skilled and capable community members within the region.

### What will be covered?

Full attendance to the Conference, including a field trip and the award dinner. Travel and accommodation costs up to \$500.

More information on the National Landcare Conference can be found at www.nationallandcareconference.org.au

Kate Wilson - Regional Landcare Facilitator

P: 07 4999 2842 M: 0419 160 537

E: Kate.Wilson@fba.org.au



## **Capricorn Coast Landcare Group Inc.**

ABN: 48 170 539 519



Landcare – a partnership between the environment and sustainable production

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## THANKYOU TO OUR BUSINESS SPONSORS!!!





Life...Let us help you Live it!

Shop25, Keppel Bay Plaza, Yeppoon



Yeppoon Community **Markets** 

Every Saturday 6am-10am Yeppoon Showgrounds



178 Kinka Beach Road, Tanby Q 4703 Open Mon-Sun Ph 07 4939 7200

### Will your business be the next to feature here?

Call us on 4939 1002 to find out how ©

### **FREE FIREWOOD!**

Pick Up only – central Yeppoon.

Call Kathryn on 0438 134 375 to arrange.

Capricorn Coast Landcare Group and the Envirolink Centre are supported by...









