



Capricorn Coast
Landcare
Group

EnviroLink Newsletter: August 2017

Date Claimers

- 6th Aug** **Birdlife Capricornia: August survey Birds in Capricornia** More info email abriggs@irock.com.au
- 13th** **Emu Park Bush Care Group: Monthly working bee** | southern end Marine Parade | 3-5pm | BYO water bottle, gloves | Contact: Julianne jweekers@yahoo.com.au
- 13th** **FLOW Centre: National Science Week Augmented Reality Sandbox** | 10am – 12pm | bookings 4999 2800
- 15th** **Rural Minds – A Mental Health Awareness Workshop** free to attend | 10am – 2:30pm | Yeppoon Town Hall | Contact: Luke Smith 0429 878 766
- 7, 11, 14, 18, 21, 25** **Greening Australia: 3000 Trees in 3 weeks at Mt Etna** volunteers needed | See flyer inside | Contact: Bethlea Bell bbell@greeningaustralia.org.au or 0439 745 366
- 16th** **Transition Capricorn Coast August Monthly Meeting** | Waru Gardens | 6.30pm | BYO drink, chair | Contact: George Meacham 0477 568 405
- 22nd** **Cap Coast Landcare Group: Committee meeting** | all members welcome | 7pm | EnviroLink Office, John Street, Yeppoon | 4939 1002
- 25th** **Native Plants Capricornia: August meeting** | 7pm | Guest speaker Alistair Melzer (koala research) | Frenchville State School Activity Centre | Contact: Neil Hoy 0439 943 281



Rest in Peace Alby

Alby passed away peacefully on 9 July after a short battle with cancer. He fought bravely as he had done before and was actively involved in doing what he loved right up until three weeks prior (how many of us would gratefully accept this kind of passing for ourselves when our time is up?)

On the morning that Janice drove him to hospital, we stood in his kitchen and helped him pack and sort things out - he said he wouldn't need to take much as he'd be home the next day. We knew that he was dealing with a lot more pain than he let on, but it was still a shock that his time was so suddenly up. Yet at 86 years, Alby would be the first to say that he'd lived a 'bloody good' and richly-blessed life! RIP dear friend.

The Landcare Team

Native Plant of the Month

Thespesia populnea



Thespesia populnea (Tulip Tree) is a small tree or leafy shrub in the Malvaceae family. It is also known by the common names Indian Tulip Tree, Pacific Rosewood or Portia Tree. It occurs in many Pacific countries, and is found in NT, WA & Qld in this country. It has large solitary pale-yellow flowers that are very showy and appear from summer to winter. The fruit is a capsule that turns from green to yellow, and then brown, anytime from winter to summer.

The Tulip Tree reaches a height of 6 to 10 metres, and favours coastal environments. It will grow in a wide range of soils, and can be propagated from seed or cuttings. The wood was used by the early Tamil people to make instruments, and is used these days to make furniture, as it is easy to carve.

For more information: Plants of Capricornia (Melzer & Plumb) p 175.

FREE *Thespesia populnea* are available to Landcare members from the Envirolink Office courtesy of Livingstone Community Nursery.

A word on birds by Allan Briggs

Many of the birds in the honeyeater family will start to breed at this time of year. Species such as the Little and Noisy Friarbirds, Blue-faced Honeyeater, Dusky Honeyeater and Brown Honeyeater will be looking for nesting places and the unusually warm weather will encourage that, although conditions are so dry there will not be a lot of food for hungry chicks. Keep an eye out for nesting behaviour and add a comment to your survey spreadsheet if you do see breeding occur.



One thing to be careful of is that we are coming up to Magpie nesting season so beware of swooping Magpies in your yard.

The photo shows two hungry chicks in a Grey-shrike Thrush nest, another species that will nest at this time of year. For more information or help with identification contact Allan – abriggs@irock.com.au

Weed it out!

By Malcolm Wells

Cestrum

Green cestrum (*Cestrum parqui*) is a perennial shrub up to 3m high. It has one or more stems emerging from each crown and produces greenish-yellow flowers and purplish-black berries. Seeds are usually dispersed by birds and water, and this garden escapee has become a weed of roadsides, creeks and neglected sites in central and south-east Queensland.



Seedlings will not readily establish where there is good competition from other plants, but grow vigorously if neglected. The extensive, shallow root system can produce many new plants from suckers after root disturbance. Green cestrum is poisonous to animals including cattle, sheep, horses, pigs and poultry, and the roots, seeds, stems and leaves are all toxic. Green Cestrum is a native of Chile, and I am told the poison in the plant was once used in blow darts by native tribesmen.

Green cestrum prefers higher rainfall areas and is quite tolerant of frost. It is long-lived, producing new growth in spring. Seeds remain dormant in the soil for many years. Smaller plants can be destroyed by digging out the plants completely, but take care to remove all the yellow roots or regrowth will occur. It is preferable to burn the roots. Foliar spray, even with an approved chemical, is not advised as it is too random, and not guaranteed to totally kill the plant. It can be treated by the cut stump method, but take care to cut below the lignotuber, as described in the article on lignotubers.

For more information: [Dept Agriculture & Fisheries](#)

TOP REGENERATION TIP - lignotubers By Malcolm Wells



A lot of Australian woody plants have developed strategies to help them survive frequent fires. Acacias have a hard seed coat that requires heat to break dormancy. Banksias and Hakeas have woody fruits and cones to protect seeds during a fire. Eucalypts, and some Proteaceae species, have a swelling at the base of the stem called a lignotuber.

Lignotubers contain dormant buds that will start to shoot if the top growth is destroyed. These buds then produce suckers that develop into stems. Mallees are eucalypts with multiple stems produced from a lignotuber. This lignotuber also contains

stores of starch that can support a period of growth in the absence of photosynthesis.

Whilst the lignotuber is a great survival technique for our native plants, it can be a pest when it occurs on a woody weed. For instance, Green Cestrum, featured in the weed of the month, has a lignotuber. As seen in the photo to the left which I took on one of my old sites, the plant can re-grow if cut above the lignotuber, even if the cut stump has been poisoned. The plant just shuts down when it is cut, and produces new shoots later.

When killing large woody weeds, always check to see if it has a lignotuber before cutting and poisoning it. [More information here](#)



FLOW Visitors Centre is hosting a National Science Week launch on Sunday, August 13.

The launch will unveil our latest featured interactive activity, an Augmented Reality Sandbox! Learn about topography and contour line generation!! The Augmented Reality Sandbox allows the user to replicate geographic, geologic and hydrologic concepts through the shaping of real sand!

FLOW educators will demonstrate how the use of this scientific technology applies to our everyday world here in the Fitzroy Basin! Contact FLOW too book your spot now! Email: flow@fba.org.au Phone 4999 2800



Landcare news

CCLG Executive Committee Meeting Tuesday, 22 September – 7pm At Envirolink Centre, 3/78 John Street, Yeppoon.

Welcome to our new Landcare members.
Thanks for signing up!

Christine Davids, Rod Trevis, Colleen Fagan,
Emma Warry, Rob Blyde.

National Tree Day & Alby's Memorial Picnic & Planting Day was held on Saturday, 29 July. Thanks to the 100 enthusiastic folk who helped plant 110 trees at Fig Tree Creek and enjoyed being in the great outdoors. ☺



3000 trees in 3 weeks at Mt Etna!



Volunteers supporting major revegetation project

We have 3000 seedlings to go before we've finished planting for our Semi-evergreen vine thicket revegetation project at Mt Etna. We hope to plant these over 3 weeks in August before the really hot, dry weather of Spring and Summer begins. If you can spare a morning or an hour or two we'd really love your help!

When:

Monday 7th August, Friday 11th August,
Monday 14th August, Friday 18th August,
Monday 21st August, Friday 25th August.

There is also likely to be some follow-up watering on Friday 1st September, Friday 8th September and Friday 15th September if we haven't had rain.

Where: Rossmoya Road, The Caves (turn off the Bruce Hwy in to The Caves township, follow Rossmoya Road, past the Hotel and the school on the right, for a few minutes. The planting site is on the left, with the majestic Mt Etna in the background.

Time: 7:30am – around 12:30, with morning tea provided.

BYO: hat, drinking water, sun smart clothing and sunscreen.

You will learn about how to plant, water and fertilise local species and contribute to an important revegetation project, extending existing flora and providing new habitat for fauna. A local plant expert is usually on hand to provide advice on the day.



RSVP: by the day before each event if possible.

To RSVP and for further information please contact:

Bethlea Bell at Greening Australia

P: 4999 2835 M: 0439 745 366

bbell@greeningaustralia.org.au

This event is supported by Greening Australia through funding from the Australian Government.



Australian Government

 **Greening Australia**



Capricorn Coast Landcare Group Inc.

ABN: 48 170 539 519



Landcare – a partnership between the environment and sustainable production

General meetings are advised in advance and held at the Envirolink Centre, 3 / 78 John Street, Yeppoon. All memberships are due for renewal at the October AGM (one (1) vote per membership).

Your email will be automatically added to our Envirolink Newsletter and CCLG membership mailing lists.

Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive them.

New member

Renew / Update details

MEMBER CONTACT DETAILS		
Name:		
Address:		
City:	State:	Post Code:
Home Phone:	Work Phone:	Mobile:
Email:		
SIGNATURE		
<i>I support the goals, values and activities of Capricorn Coast Landcare Group Inc.</i>		
Signature of applicant:		Date:

PAYMENT METHOD		
<input type="checkbox"/> Single Membership is \$5.00 GST included.	<input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership is \$10.00 GST included	
<input type="checkbox"/> Group Membership is \$22.00 GST included.	<input type="checkbox"/> Business Membership is \$55.00 GST included	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cash	<input type="checkbox"/> Cheque	<input type="checkbox"/> EFT
Electronic Transfer Reference Number :		
Bank details for on-line payments: BSB 064 712 A/C 10018138 Account Name: Capricorn Coast Landcare Group Inc. * Reference deposit with your first initial & surname.		

Please return to:

Capricorn Coast Landcare Group Inc.

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