



Capricorn Coast
Landcare
Group

Envirolink Newsletter

February 2017

Date Claimers

2nd

WORLD WETLANDS DAY

2nd

Transitions Capricorn Coast – public meeting, 7pm at Community Centre (78 John street, Yeppoon - upstairs Rooms A&B). Presenting information on the global community transitions initiative and discussing how it might enrich our own community connections. Contact George Meacham 0477 568 405

3rd

Native Plants Capricornia – AGM & monthly meeting. 7pm Frenchville State School Activity Cnt. Guest speaker: Denis Kitchen 'Bush Tucker – throwing some light on the topic'. Contact Neil Hoy 0439 943 281

13th

CCLG Committee Meeting - 10am. Envirolink office, CDC, 78 John Street, Yeppoon.

23rd

Cane Toad Challenge – Central Qld Project Launch. Greening Australia FLOW Visitors Centre, 4pm. Contact: BreeAnna Wykes 0409 365 972 or email: Breeanna.Wykes@greeningaustralia.org.au See flyer inside.

27th

Banning lightweight plastic shopping bags in Queensland - submissions due by 27 Feb! Have your say on reducing plastic pollution. Do the online survey [HERE](https://www.getinvolved.qld.gov.au/gi/consultation/3154/view.html) or write a submission. Full details at <https://www.getinvolved.qld.gov.au/gi/consultation/3154/view.html>

February

FLOW Visitor Centre: open Tuesday – Thursday from 10am – 3pm. February theme is 'Wetlands for Disaster Risk Reduction'. A wide range of teaching resources and kits are available. Email: flow@fba.org.au

**COMING UP
IN March**

5th

Clean up Australia Day – Cap Coast Landcare (see flyer inside)

25th

Earth Hour

2017

Happy New Year to you all!

It's now official, 2016 was the hottest on record. World temperatures have hit new highs for three consecutive years. In Australia, 2016 was the fourth hottest on record. Yet we are still opening new coal mines and increasing emissions, the Great Barrier Reef is perilously bleached, and we're putting out the welcome mat for Adani – it seems to be business as usual.



I am often amazed that there are still climate change deniers who agitate and quote all kinds of pseudo experts in order to disprove it. I look at it this way: when I had cancer I didn't seek out a podiatrist to treat it. I went to cancer specialists; those who had been studying the subject in depth for decades. I felt totally confident they knew what they were talking about, and that they would do everything in their power to help me beat it. In the same way, I ask, why anyone would rationally discount 99% of the world's leading scientists, including climate and atmospheric specialists, who have made this subject their life's work? It makes no sense and is very dangerous.

The long term temperature trend is upward and indicators are that it is caused by humans. But no matter who or what has caused it, I say we should be putting aside differences of opinion and old ways of thinking, and doing something about beating it! Like many of you, I've got grandchildren and I don't want to pass on a broken planet. It's the reason I've been involved with Landcare for 40 years. We are custodians of this Earth and it behoves us to find ways to nurture and improve our environment that benefits all living things. I hope 2017 is a good year, in all ways, for us all!

~ Alby Wooler

President & Junior Landcare

Clean up Australia Day



Yeppoon event



**Be part of the litter solution! Come along and help
clean up Fig Tree Creek and surrounds
... mangroves, pathways, parks, our urban streets...**

Meet: Landcare Rehabilitation Site, Park Street, Yeppoon – opp. Central Shopping Centre

Time: 8:30am – 11:00am

BYO: water bottle, hat, sunscreen, sun-smart clothing, gloves, closed shoes, chair

Contact: Janet at Envirolink 4939 1002 or email: envirolink@cqnet.com.au

Cleanup bags, cold drinks and morning tea will be provided

This event is supported by Fitzroy Basin Association Inc. through funding from the Australian Government.





NATIVE PLANT OF THE MONTH

Timonius timon - by Malcolm Wells

Timonius timon is a shrub or small tree that can reach a height of 8 metres. It occurs naturally from the northern coast of Australia, from the Kimberleys in WA, along the northern coast and as far south as Brisbane down the Queensland coast.

Silky white flowers occur from May to November, but mainly in spring. They are fragrant and are either solitary or in small clusters. *Timonius timon* will grow in a wide range of soils, and makes an attractive shade tree.

The fruit is eaten by the Blossom Bat, the smallest of the fruit bat family. The nectar is food for Dusky Honeyeater, and the plant provides food for the larvae of the Hercules and Emperor moths.

Aborigines used to make a concentrated drink from the wood to treat sore eyes, and an infusion from the inner bark to combat colds, flu and fever.

A FREE *Timonius timon* is available for all CCLG members from the Envirolink Office courtesy of Livingstone Community Nursery.

The fascinating world of MINI BEASTS

Stick insects – spectacularly unique by Janet Schipke

Stick insects belong to the Phasmatidae family (Phasmids) and are exclusively herbivores, feeding on fresh plant leaves from Eucalyptus and Acacia species, and even pandanus. Phasmids are related to Mantids (praying mantis), grasshoppers, crickets, and cockroaches – none of these groups have a larval stage in their reproductive cycle.

Their unique resemblance to sticks and leaves gives them exceptional camouflage skills, which even includes a swaying motion indicative of branches and leaves moving in the wind. This makes it difficult for predatory birds, bats, rodents and small reptiles to hunt them. Only males of the species can typically fly; the females have larger bodies but are either wingless or have reduced hind wings, and tend to use a gliding action.

Stick insects range from 30 – 300mm in length. The females of many Phasmids do not need a male to produce eggs (parthenogenesis). When this is the case, the eggs will all be female. If a male has fertilised the eggs, the young will be both male and female.

Females either disperse eggs from high foliage where they scatter on the ground, or stick them to leaves. In an interesting adaptations' twist, ants carry the eggs of the Spiny Leaf Insect underground to their nests where they feed on a special knob on the top of the egg but leave the case intact. Once there, the eggs will remain underground for 2-3 seasons before nymphs - which incidentally look like and mimic ants - finally emerge. They quickly depart their host ant nest and climb nearby trees in search of food. Nature sure is amazing!

Stick insects are slow, clumsy creatures and rarely take to the wing to escape; rather they lie motionless on the ground. This state of catalepsy can last for hours. Some species can reach plague proportions and defoliate plants and stands of trees quite quickly.



Source: Creative Commons - www.ozanimals.com/Ctenomorpho-chronus-1.jpg



WEED IT OUT! by Malcolm Wells

Spotted Spurge

Chamaesyce maculata is an annual herbaceous plant with creeping to semi-upright stems. It is a native of North America, and a weed found in gardens, footpaths, lawns, parks, roadsides, disturbed sites and waste areas. The hairy stems are reddish and contain a milky sap. Leaves are green and often have a purplish or reddish-brown spot at their centre.

The plant has several common names including caustic weed, milk purslane, milk spurge, prostrate spotted spurge, prostrate spurge, red caustic-creeper and spotted parsley. Spotted Spurge can have prostrate stems that form a dense mat, or semi-upright stems that can grow to 30 cm long.

This plant can easily be pulled by hand if the soil is soft, or dug out by trowel or knife if the soil is hard. However, the plant has a long tap root, and will re-grow from any root left behind, so cutting near ground level and dabbing cut stem with herbicide might be advisable.

Small flowers appear in spring and summer, borne on the stalks between the pairs of leaves. It is good to remove the plant before these appear, so that seed does not have time to set. There are several *Chamaesyce* species, some of which are native. *Chamaesyce dallachyana* and *Chamaesyce drummondii*, which both occur here, can be distinguished from the weed. These two have green or reddish hairless stems, and their leaves are not spotted.

For more information: <http://weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au/weeds/spotted-spurge>



TOP GARDENING TIP

Non-natives in the garden

By Malcolm Wells

I'm sure this is a topic that has been covered before, but it is worth re-visiting. As an ex-bush regenerator I try to plant only native plants in the garden. I have seen first-hand the problems that garden escapees can cause in the bush. I saw this problem again on a recent visit to Eden, on the NSW south coast.

It is a beautiful area, like Yeppoon and Keppel Bay. I was dismayed to see *Agapanthus* in almost every garden, and in Council plantings around town. There is a lookout over twofold Bay where the local council have placed a great sign (see page 5), warning about the dangers of exotic plants in gardens and their ability to escape and take over formerly pristine bushland. Unfortunately, as I walked back to the car I noticed how the walkway was lined with a council planting of *Agapanthus*. I could only wonder why they hadn't chosen *Dianella*, or some similar native.

There are some good books available, some from councils that offer you attractive native alternatives to popular exotic plants. If people insist on having plants such as *Agapanthus*, I always suggest they remove dead flower heads to prevent the plants going to seed and becoming a nuisance.

an unintended 'garden'

What you see here at Eden is no longer an authentic Australian landscape. It is an unintended 'garden', a mongrel landscape where exotic coastal garden plants are running wild amongst the native vegetation. Its equivalent can be seen on the fringes of most coastal towns.

the impact of invasive species

After land clearing, the main cause of the mass extinction that blights our times is invasions by exotic species of plants and animals. These environmental weeds shown here are taking the resources — light, moisture, nutrients, pollinators — that would otherwise be available for natives. Some of them modify the environment so drastically that it can no longer support the native species. All of them are quite capable of establishing and continuing to spread with no human assistance.



making a difference

Choosing our garden plants is not like choosing a colour to paint the house. It is a big and long-term responsibility. We could easily let loose a 'vegetable cane toad', that will modify the landscape far beyond our garden and our own lifespan. It might well be our most enduring legacy. Please choose your garden plants carefully and reject the potentially invasive ones. There is plenty of good information available to identify 'garden thugs'. Contact your local Shire Council.

If you already have environmental weeds established, remove and destroy them. Never dump garden waste into bushland. If you see that your garden plants are beginning to 'overflow' the property, remove them.

The exotic plants you may be able to see established around here include:



'Australians urgently need to adopt a new gardening ethos. We must accept that gardening within a kilometre or so of bushland entails an ecological responsibility. Weedy species should not be grown. New garden plants should be treated less like exciting new products to brighten our lives and more like wild organisms harbouring the drive to escape.'

— TIM LOW, FERAL FUTURE, 1999

Photo source: Malcolm Wells

TRANSITIONS CAPRICORN COAST

Information evening



Your opportunity to find out about an exciting **NEW** community network initiative being established on the Capricorn Coast

Transition Network is a global movement of communities coming together to reimagine and rebuild our world. TRANSITIONS CAPRICORN COAST is about reclaiming local economy, sparking entrepreneurship, reskilling ourselves and weaving webs of connection and support. In doing so, the aim is to tackle problems of climate change, social inequality and economic decline, creating solutions at a local level.

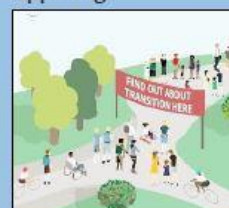
Rooms A & B, Community Development Centre, 78 John Street, Yeppoon

Thursday, 2 February 2017 at 7pm

Bring your questions, ideas and passion for our lifestyle and community and let's get transition happening!

For more information about this meeting please contact George on 0477 568 405

 Find us on Facebook – Transitions Capricorn Coast
www.transitionnetwork.org





Central Qld Project Launch

FLOW Visitors Centre, 80 East St, Rockhampton

Thursday 23rd February 2017, 4:00pm

Cane toad baits that really work!

How to be involved in your “backyard”



Light refreshments provided

RSVP / further info: BreeAnna Wykes Breeanna.Wykes@greeningaustralia.org.au M: 0409 365 972
Bethlea Bell bbell@greeningaustralia.org.au P: 4999 2835 M: 0439 745 366

This project is supported by Fitzroy Basin Association Inc. through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme and supports the research of University of Queensland's Institute for Molecular Bioscience.





Capricorn Coast Landcare Group Inc.

ABN: 48 170 539 519



Landcare – a partnership between the environment and sustainable production

General meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of every second month at 7.30 pm 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.
PO Box 727, YEPPOON, QLD, 4703

Phone: (07) 4939 1002

Fax: (07) 4939 1668

Email: envirolink@cqnet.com.au

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