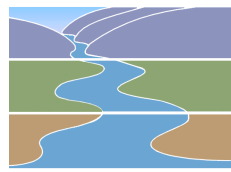




Photo: Lainie Peltohaka



**Pine Rivers
Catchment
Association**

INFO-FLOW Newsletter

SPRING 2017 EDITION

PRCA Catchment Coordinator's Corner

Sonya Schmidtchen

Welcome to our Spring edition! The rains are finally here! It's been a while since we have seen this kind of flow in the Pine Rivers Catchment, and it is welcomed. We have a number of events to offer you over Spring. On Sunday the 5th of November, PRCA, joined by Lawnton Scouts and their canoes, will be cleaning up the Pine River at Murrumba Downs. Also, if you are into nature and would like to learn more about our local birdlife, come and join our gurus on the South Pine River every second Wednesday morning of the month.

If you are keen to learn more about local plants that are built for our local environment and have the capacity to withstand dry spells and downpours, then get yourself along to one of the many, many Bushcare groups in the local area, or pop into Kumbartcho Sanctuary and check out the local native plant nursery. MBRC are also offering workshops which might suit you. Check out MBRC website for details. Below: Lees Crossing, North Pine River.



KEY SUPPORTERS OF PRCA:



PRCA would not be able to operate without the assistance of our members. Please encourage your friends and families to assist our work by becoming a member. Contact the Catchment Coordinator (Sonya) or Admin. Support Officer (Trudi) to talk about taking up membership:

<http://www.prca.org.au>

Catchment Coordinator

Phone (07) 3325 1577

Fax (07) 3325 1588

Mobile 0438 199 102 or

email catchmentcoordinator@prca.org.au

You can visit us at 15 Bunya Court, Eatons Hill or find us on Facebook!

A Plea From Vanda (for the koalas)

Koala Action Inc. is extremely concerned (as are many other wildlife and/or environmental groups) about the rate of land clearing and fragmentation of bushland, which has more than tripled following the weakening of regulations and enforcement by the Newman Government in 2012. Statistics confirm that an area the size of the MCG is cleared every three minutes in Queensland alone...

Deforestation and land clearing is a major threat to biodiversity and to Queensland's faunal emblem, the koala—now on the brink of extinction in many areas of the Moreton Bay region. Land clearing also impacts on the health of our river systems and the productivity of our landscapes. In addition, when millions of tonnes of greenhouse gases are released into the atmosphere as a consequence of trees being bulldozed, climate change is exacerbated.

All of us can chose to be part of the problem or be part of the solution. First, stopping the bulldozers would immediately protect the homes of native wildlife and save millions of tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions. Then restoring Australia's previously cleared land and rehabilitating secondary bushland habitat will increase its carrying capacity and help that land better support native wildlife.

This is a wonderful opportunity for the residents and businesses of Queensland – as well as local, state and federal governments – to put together a range of forward-looking solutions to wildlife conservation, land protection and regional development.

All of us can chose to be part of the problem or be part of the solution; all that is required is for each and every one of us to write to, email or telephone our local councillors (as well as our state and federal government representatives) to ask them to do the following:

- Use whatever existing powers that are available to stop the worst land clearing;
- Bring in new laws as soon as possible to end deforestation and excessive land clearing;
- Develop a binding national climate plan, including all state and territory governments, that ensures measurable reductions in land clearing;
- Invest in nationally consistent monitoring programme and reporting of land clearing across the country.

This makes sense to me and I am sure will make sense to those of us on the ground volunteering to ensure that our native fauna and flora continue gracing us with their presence.

See www.koalaactioninc.org for more information on how to help our koalas in their time of need.

Thanks from Vanda
(aka Wanda) Grabowski
President/Secretary
Koala Action Inc.



New Community Eco Adventure Walks around Sandgate

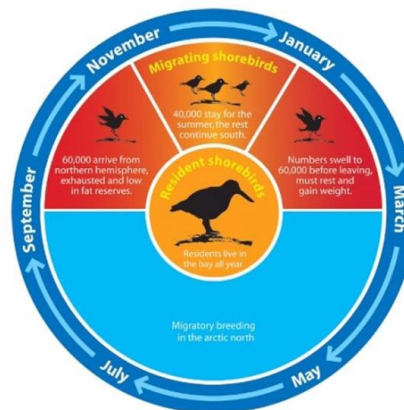
Ian Smith has been working alongside '*Keep Sandgate Beautiful*' once a month to assist in the coordination of an Eco Adventure walk (Sandgate Aboriginal History) for the community.

These new tours are conducted along the waterfront of Dowse Lagoon and around the mangroves near the mainland entrance of the old Hornibrook Bridge. If you would like more information on the tours, please see the *Keep Sandgate Beautiful* website (www.ksba.org.au) or visit their Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/KSBAINC/>).



Photos courtesy of *Keep Sandgate Beautiful Assoc Inc.* via Facebook [accessed 10th October, 2017].

A year in the life of Moreton Bay shorebirds



graphic source: www.ehp.qld.gov.au



Jan Sked visits Gold's Scrub

Jan Sked visited Gold Scrub this September. Nearly 40 years ago she visited Gold Scrub to record a plant list. She became involved with The Men of the Trees program which instigated plantings in the area adjacent the Lowland Hoop Pine Rainforest remnant. She acknowledged the work carried out by Carole Bristow during the last 19 years in removing the Cats Claw from the remnant. Pictured below, from left: Janet Mangan (volunteer), Jan Sked and Carole Bristow (restoration co-ordinator).

Photograph and information courtesy of Janet Mangan,
via email, 6 September 2017.



KUMBARTCHO / PINE RIVERS COMMUNITY NURSERY

TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
9.00 AM - 3.00 PM

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
8.00 AM - 12 NOON

CONTACTING THE NURSERY:

Phone: 07 3264 3953

communitynurserypr@bigpond.com

Prices start from \$2.00* incl. GST for tubestock

* EFTPOS unavailable, sorry
ATMs are situated nearby

* discounts available for larger quantities

COME & VISIT THE KUMBARTCHO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE!

Perfect for keeping under-school aged children (and older visitors!) occupied, there are books, puzzles, displays, craft activities, etc., all based around local environmental themes (including *weeds* and *water*!)

Staffed by trained volunteers, the centre (beside the Nursery) is open Tues. - Fri. 10.00 AM - 2.00 PM
Kids' playground, BBQ facilities, toilets, drinks avail. See www.kumbartcho.org.au for more information

A Quick Cats Claw Update:

Moreton Bay Regional Council's Community Grants program has funded the treatment of Cats Claw (*Macfadyena unguis-cati*) on Mount Samson Road at Closeburn and Mount Samson.

The ten-day program employed a contractor to cut the Cats Claw from the trunks of trees. A follow-up chemical treatment will take place during the summer of 2018 when the Cats Claw is growing actively. This first sweep along this section of road has saved hundreds of native trees.

Contact the Catchment Office if you have any concerns about this environmental weed*.



Photos, information and hard work courtesy of Janet Mangan,
September 2017.

*Native to tropical America, cat's claw creeper is an aggressive climber that was once used as an ornamental plant in Queensland gardens. In the wild, cat's claw creeper can smother native vegetation and change soil chemistry ... Cat's claw creeper is a restricted invasive plant under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* — see <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/land-management/health-pests-weeds-diseases/weeds-diseases/invasive-plants/restricted/cats-claw-creeper> * Source: Flower and leaf/claw photos (above) © Qld Government.

Ira Buckby Road West Reserve — Update from volunteers Rita and Darryl Larsen

'The aim of Ira Buckby Road West Bushcare (IBW) is to restore the upper sections of One Mile Creek, Cashmere by means of assisted natural regeneration supplemented with in-fill planting. One Mile Creek, which has its headwaters in Clear Mountain Conservation Park, flows through acreage and residential properties. This creek, along with a corridor of adjoining land, is protected by a series of reserves including Ira Buckby Road West Reserve, where work is currently focused.' Rita began weeding this section alone in 2014, but it soon became apparent that solo hand-weeding wasn't effective; the main channel and lower banks were completely choked by large clumps of pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*) along with giant devil's fig (*Solanum chrysotrichum*), pigeon grass (*Sefara sphacelate*) and Crofton weed (*Ageratina andenophora*) along with a variety of other woody weeds, exotic grasses, vines and climbers (pictured below left).

In 2015, two major floods provided the opportunity to begin restoration works as the weeds had been temporarily flattened and access and visibility in the area were much improved. Soon after, Darryl joined 'the team' and a wider range of regeneration techniques involving herbicide application were implemented. Within 3 - 4 months of treating and removing most of the weeds, there was a dramatic resurgence of native groundcover species...the regeneration has taken a severe battering from floods in 2016 and 2017, but always seems to come back stronger than ever. There is now a native forest establishing, providing good quality habitat and shade along the creek.'

Right: Bushcare members surveying lush native regrowth and establishing canopy trees. *Below:* A myriad of weeds dominating the landscape before the Bushcare team began working their magic.



Source: MBRC Environment Newsletter, courtesy of Rita Larsen via email, 14 August 2017.

Learning from Nature Workshop — Reduce Your Costs & Grow More

(\$25 incl. refreshments & materials) Using Free Ecological Services on your property

Are you a food grower, gardener or farmer who is interested in reducing your input costs whilst improving your crops resilience and productivity? Learn how working with nature can help improve the sustainability of your growing practices and protect natural ecosystems.

Your experienced presenter - Dr Wendy Seabrook, an agro-ecologist - will walk you through the processes via in-classroom training and a hands-on field excursion to Millen Farm.

The course will be held over two weekends at Samford Village on **2 & 9 December 2017, 9am- 4pm**. For more information, please see the *Learning from Nature* website, www.learningfromnature.com.au

Please register on Eventbrite at the following address: <https://learning-from-nature-series-samford-valley.eventbrite.com.au/>

Source: Karen Toms, Eastern Area Manager – Coastal Catchments Team, Healthy Land and Water, via email, 12 October 2017. Enquiries to Karen on M: 0448 069 226 or email karen.t@hlw.org.au



Land for Wildlife Fungi Workshop

Thursday 23 November 2017, 9.00am - 12.00pm,
Bellthorpe Community Hall, Corner Bellthorpe West Road and Keir Road, Bellthorpe

What are fungi, what purpose do they serve in our environment and can they talk to trees?

The Fungi Workshop draws on themes discussed in the *Land for Wildlife Note Series 1—The Value of Fungi*. This workshop will delve into the hidden world of fungi, explore the complex nature of fungi and the significant role they play in almost every ecosystem. An informative presentation will be given by Dr Fran Guard, followed by morning tea and a walk exploring fungi and signs of its workings in Bellthorpe Environmental Park.

RSVP: Friday 9 November 2017 for catering purposes—please send your name, number of attendees and contact number to esmailbox@moretonbay.qld.gov.au or call 3205 0555 to book, referencing the ‘Voluntary Conservation Programs - Fungi Workshop’.



Photo (above) taken at Kumbartcho Sanctuary, 12 July 2017, by Lainie Peltohaka.

Voluntary Conservation Programs End of Year Workshop

Saturday 2 December 2017, 7.30am - 8.30am,
Samford District Bowls Club Hall, 2116 Mt Samson Road, Samford

First, take a guided walk through Samford Eco-corridor along Samford Creek (carpark adjacent to Samford District Bowls Club).

From 8.30am - 11.00am - **Please join your Conservation Officers** for an end of year workshop to commend the conservation work achieved by *Bushcare*, *Land for Wildlife*, *Backyards for Wildlife* and *Voluntary Conservation Agreement* participants this year.

The event will include an informative talk on the Richmond Birdwing Conservation Network (RBCN), presented by Matt Cecil.

RSVP: Friday 17 November 2017 for catering purposes—to esmailbox@moretonbay.qld.gov.au or call 3205 0555 to book, referencing the ‘Voluntary Conservation Programs End of Year Workshop’.

Source: Voluntary Conservation Programs Update, October 2017 [accessed 18 October 2017].



Community Catchment Event Calendar

WHEN	WHAT AND WHERE
<p>Sunday 5th November 2017</p> <p>8:00am - 11:00am</p> 	<p>Acacia Park Clean-up with PRCA and partners</p> <p>Join Lawnton Scouts and others on the north side of the North Pine River to remove rubbish and help the local wildlife by cleaning up their habitat. Bring sunscreen, hat, and water, and wear closed-in shoes (gloves and bins provided).</p> <p>Contact Sonya on 0438 199 102 for further information, and find more detail / event 'RSVP' (optional but appreciated) on Facebook.</p>
<p>Wednesday of every week</p> <p>7:20am</p>	<p>South Pine River Warriors (Bushcare Group)</p> <p>Meet at Sargents Reserve, Eatons Hill.</p> <p>(Check MBRC website for contact details).</p> 
<p>Second Wednesday of every month at 7:00am</p> <p>(Next: 8th November 2017)</p>	<p>Birding on South Pine River (Birdwatching Group)</p> <p>Meet at Kumbartcho Car Park 15 Bunya Pine Court, Eatons Hill.</p>  
<p>Second Sunday of each month from 2:00pm.</p> <p>(Next: 12th November 2017)</p>	<p>Samford Eco-Corridor (Bushcare Group)</p> <p>Call 0404 169 826 or email samfordecocorridor@gmail.com for further information.</p> 
<p>Second Tuesday of every month</p> <p>(Next: 14th November 2017)</p> <p>3:00pm</p>	<p>PRCA Committee Meeting</p> <p>15 Bunya Pine Crt, Eatons Hill.</p> <p>Members and Guests welcome. Contact Trudi on 3325 1577 (for info on other events also).</p> 
<p>Various days (check website for details)</p>	<p>Bush Regeneration activities - refer to website www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/bushcare/</p>
<p>Thursday 23rd November 2017, 9:00am - 12:00pm</p>	<p>Land for Wildlife Fungi Workshop</p> <p>Bellthorpe Community Hall, Corner Bellthorpe West Road and Keir Road, Bellthorpe</p>
<p>Saturday 2nd December 2017 and Saturday 9th December 2017.</p>	<p>Learning from Nature Workshop(s) & Voluntary Conservation Programs End of Year Workshop</p> <p>See previous pages (6 and 7) of this newsletter for details.</p>

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