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Nursery

Biocontrol

Seqwater

Autumn 2024



Thanks to all our sponsors





What's news at MRL?

Community Space Launch Day "The Seed Pod"

Our new building has a name! Thanks to Karen Palmer - the winner of our naming competition, for a wonderful and very fitting name. It was unveiled at our Annual Open Day on Saturday 13th April 2024. We look forward to many events hosted in our "Seed Pod"!

The Seed Pod has been supported by: Stockland Aura Community Grant, Ergon-Energex Community Fund, RACQ Foundation, RACQ Local Giving program, Gambling Community Benefit Fund & a QCF Regional Grant.

Shout out to our amazing volunteers

A huge thank you to all our amazing volunteers that have joined us this year. We've smashed our plant production goals and our garden beds are looking well loved once again.

Thanks to ECOllaboration and Qld TAFE students for their continued partnerships with us.



Nursery Manager Suzanne Wilson, with the current team of TAFE students

Mother's Day Specials

Spoil Mum on Sunday 12th May 2024

Last minute purchases recommended

Saturday 11th May - nursery open 9am to 1pm.

- We have a selection of **PAPER DAISIES** in 140mm pots available for sale - just **\$10 each**
For home garden use only.
- If your mum loves plants, be sure to check out our selection of larger sized pots - suitable for both indoor and outdoor.

Large 300mm pots priced from \$40 each



Projects Underway....



Saving Koalas Grant, Sunshine Coast Council

A total of 3500 koala friendly plants will be grown by MRL and distributed to landholders in our catchment area. This project supports the Sunshine Coast Council's efforts to increase the habitat of our furry friends. A community planting will be held in Spring 2024. We will release details in the coming months.



Walk on the Wildside update

The first Tree Planting at this new community space will be held with volunteers on Wednesday 15th May. Please let the nursery know if you would be interested in participating - 9am to 11am. We are looking forward to our official Launch day, scheduled for August 2024. *This project is supported by a Department of Environment & Science, Community Sustainability Action Grant.*



Field Events and Workshops

Our regular monthly nursery events have been very popular. Saturday 20th April, saw Marc Russell join us in hosting a Eucalypt ID Field Workshop at Ewen Maddock Dam. Designed at teaching others about how to ID plants in their local environment - these days help us to give others an understanding and appreciation of the importance of trees in our ecosystem. Our next one is coming up on May 18th. *These are supported by the Sunshine Coast Council Grants' Program.*



On Saturday 23 March 2024 residents of Landsborough involved in the Addlington Creekcure Group met for a weed ID and control workshop.



Weed identification methods and techniques were discussed and some specimens of the more common weeds around Landsborough were on show. Weed control options were then explained and discussed, with demonstrations using the weed specimens participants had collected.

Addlington Creekcure wheelie bin stickers were distributed for landholders to put on their own wheelie bins to promote the program. Project officer Peter is able to drop more off to landholders that couldn't attend on the day. Please contact him on catchmentofficer@mrwl.org.au to make arrangements.



The event finished with tea, coffee and cakes from Buck's Bakery, along with a healthy discussion before the rain started and then set in.

Thanks to all involved for an enjoyable and informative morning.

Family Fun Open Day 2024



We had a wonderful turn out to our Annual Open Day on Saturday 13th April. Thank you to all that came along.



Our FREE family friendly events were a huge hit with the kids - just check out some of the amazing creatures they made! Our treasure hunt was also a favourite. If you missed out, our **Bug Day Out is coming up on Saturday 8th June!**

This day was supported by the Sunshine Coast Council Grants' Program



Creating a wildlife friendly garden

Our first Gardens for Wildlife workshop held on Saturday 16th March was a great success. Attendees came together to discuss challenges they faced in gardening for wildlife, and to share solutions. Participants were shown a selection of specific plants suitable for a range of situations.

Join now and get the GfW sign, 5 free plants and access to the GfW information booklet. Cost is \$33 for MRL members.

Proudly supported by the Sunshine Coast Council Grants' Program

The Seed Pod : Now available for hire

Our newly completed community hub "The Seed Pod" has already proved to be a great space for a variety of workshops and functions. Our 'official' launch day was Saturday 13th April.

Available to hire for nominal fees - enquiries can be submitted via our website >>(The Seed Pod) or via email to projects@mrwl.org.au





Butterfly season

What a fantastic season it has been for Butterflies! Thanks to support from Qld Government Engaging Science Grant and the Sunshine Coast Council ELP Program, we have been able to celebrate with you by:

- hosting an event in Sunshine Coast Big Butterfly Count
- helping North Arm School create a butterfly garden
- sharing a gardening & butterfly presentation with a big group of keen butterfly enthusiasts at the Noosa Landcare Linkup event in March (thanks Jessica)!

Although the rain was great for plant growth, and therefore caterpillars...and therefore butterflies...it was not ideal for our beetle bioagents - who seem to have gone into a state of hibernation! But can you blame them? I know I'd rather stay in bed on a rainy day. Unfortunately, this has impacted the biocontrol facility and the number of our bugs 'out in the field eating weeds' this Summer was drastically reduced.



Native Butterfly Host Plants for the North Arm Primary School



Froglet Inn



Thanks to Council for their support



Another great frog hotel



Hands on for all ages



Jim with his freshly made frog hotel

A hopping success...

A Frog-tastic time was had by all at our February frog hotel workshop. Thanks to all those who came along!

Participants got to build their own frog hotel, from predominately recycled materials, which they then named very creatively! Designed to attract a range of frogs into suburban backyards, these hotels can provide substitute homes for our amphibian friends by replicating their natural habitats. Such a fun, easy and great way to help support our wildlife.

Thanks to the Sunshine Coast Council Grants' Program for supporting this project. We hope there's some very happy frogs out there, enjoying their new hotels.



Bug Club Activities:

This Summer our Citizen Science Bug Club teamed up with Entomologist, Dr Kit Prendergast, to study the flowers and pollinators of the Mooloolah River National Park.

Appropriately named the **I Want to Believe... UFO Identification Team** - we were on a mission to identify the pollinators present in the park.

We met once a month for 6 months to conduct our study.

Thank you for everyone who came and helped count flowers and identify flying objects (bees and other pollinators of the Wallum) with us!

We found lot of other cool creatures too...including a possibly undescribed rainbow stick insect!

The results of the study are currently being compiled and will be presented at the next

BUG DAY OUT...coming June 8th!

Other fun Summer activities included:

- several **Mothlight and UV Adventure Nights**
- a **Butterfly Count** as part of the Sunshine Coast Big Butterfly Count

All Bug Club activities this year have been supported by a Queensland Government Engaging Science Grant.



MRL is proud to continue to support the citizen science project: The Sunshine Coast Big Butterfly Count. This Summer's Sunshine Coast Big Butterfly Count was a joint initiative of Mooloolah River Landcare, Forest Heart Nursery, ECOllaboration, Barung Landcare, The Sunshine Coast Environment Council, Coolum Community Native Nursery and the Sunshine Coast Council.





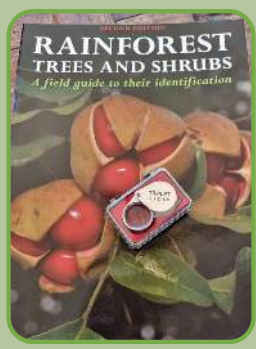
Trees4Resilience

MRL recently supported the ECOcollaboration Koala Habitat Community Planting Day held on Saturday 23rd March by providing a range of suitable trees.

ECOcollaboration's Schultz road Koala Conservation project is part of their Kirby's Environmental Reserve project which aims to restore 2ha of core koala habitat through weed control and planting projects. We value collaborating with other conservation groups to achieve beneficial outcomes for our local environment.



What's On



Marc Russell: Rainforest Plant ID

Saturday 18th May 9am - 3pm

Join us for a day of learning with Marc Russell and the amazing Bill McDonald. Bring along your copy of Rainforest Trees & Shrubs book and a hand lens. Morning tea & lunch provided.

Tickets available via humanitix



How to make your property Flood Ready

Saturday 25th May 10am - 4pm

Come learn how to prepare for extreme weather events from an environmental perspective.

This FREE community event is supported by the Sunshine Coast Council.

Lunch & refreshments will be provided.



Help make a change



Celebrating?

Consider donating your 10c cans and eligible bottles to MRL...When returning your containers, donate the proceeds to MRL through our Containers for Change member number C10571833 or drop them off next time you are at the nursery.

Volunteering

Perhaps you'd like to join our team as a volunteer for various activities and events run throughout the year. Nursery work is one example of where volunteers can lend a helping hand. Contact nursery@mrwl.org.au or projects@mrwl.org.au for details.

