





# Pullen Pullen Catchments Group

## Meetings

Meetings are held at 7pm on the first Wednesday of each month at Pullenvale Environmental Education Centre, 250 Grandview Road, Pullenvale.

## Website

www.pullenpullencatchments.org.au

## Working Bees

Pullenvale Forest Park – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month, 8.30 – 11 am  
Anstead Bushland Reserve – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, 8.30 - 11 am.

Tools, gloves, etc are provided at Working Bees. Just wear sturdy boots, tough clothes and bring water and a hat!

## Committee Members 2015

<b>President:</b>	John Ness	3202 7556	president@pullenpullencatchments.org.au
<b>Vice President:</b>	Richard Ponsonby	3202 9484	members@pullenpullencatchments.org.au
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Kaaren Ness	3202 7556	
<b>Secretary:</b>	Liz Dominguez	3202 7967	<a href="mailto:contactus@pullenpullencatchments.org.au">contactus@pullenpullencatchments.org.au</a>
<b>Committee Members:</b>	Brian Dean	3202 8553	<i>Bushcare Coordinator, Anstead</i>
	Irene Darlington	0409 026 883	wildlife@pullenpullencatchments.org.au
	Ron Tooth	3374 1002 (W)	
	Ray Krafft	3202 6470	
	Lynn Brown	0417 648 050	<i>Bushcare Coordinator, Pullenvale</i>
<b>Website Coordinator:</b>	Nola Dean	3202 8553	contactus@pullenpullencatchments.org.au
<b>Streamlines Editor:</b>	Helen Ogle	3323 7407	editor@pullenpullencatchments.org.au
<b>Creek Catchment Officer</b>	Emma Maltby	3178 9078	<a href="mailto:emma.maltby@brisbane.qld.gov.au">emma.maltby@brisbane.qld.gov.au</a>

## Membership Options

Membership fees are:

- Annual Membership – \$10 per person payable on March 1 each year
- Life Membership – \$100 per person

We are delighted to accept donations.

- Send a cheque payable to PPCG to PO Box 1390, Kenmore, 4069 or
- Transfer the funds electronically to BSB 064 152, Account No.10107038 Ref: your name.



*Dedicated to a better Brisbane*

“The Pullen Pullen Catchments Group acknowledges the support of the Brisbane City Council for costs associated with the website, the printing of Streamlines and with running the working bee mornings in Anstead Bushland Reserve and Pullenvale Forest Park.”

# NEWS

Since the last edition of Streamlines, I've had a 5-week holiday. What a lot was achieved by PPCG in that time! At **Pullenvale Forest Park**, an area near the picnic table where the creek bank was eroding has been weeded and around 100 plants planted to help hold the bank. Council has cut and removed balloon vine. At **Anstead Bushland Reserve**, 40 more plants were planted in the area where information labels have been installed. Make sure you read Brian Dean's amusing account (p.7) of the last working bee when two young helpers very efficiently watered the new plants.

The next Working Bees at Pullenvale Forest Park will be held on June 12, July 10 and August 14 and at Anstead Bushland Reserve on June 26, July 24 and August 28. Coordinators for both groups can be contacted on the numbers on the previous page.

One of the emails waiting when I returned home, was from Myrtle Pasquali who visited Anstead Bushland Reserve recently and wanted to thank PPCG for its work in the area and, especially, the new information signs. I'll let Myrtle thank you in her own words. It's well worth visiting the link to 'Weekend Notes' where Myrtle gives a very detailed account of her visit and very clear instructions on how to get around the Reserve.

*'I recently visited Anstead Bushland Reserve and Sugars Quarry, and just wanted to thank the Pullen Pullen Catchments Group for their work in this area. I live in the city, but love the bush, and am very interested in learning about the various plants I see on bushwalks. The information plaques you erected were excellent and greatly appreciated. I wrote up the walk in 'Weekend Notes', so hopefully more people will get to enjoy this lovely area. Not sure if you are interested, but will include a link to my review just in case – <http://www.weekendnotes.com/anstead-bushland-reserve/>. The only gripe I had was the lack of directional signage to the quarry. There was a map on the information board, but it was in poor condition and we couldn't read it. We found a pamphlet (produced by PPCG. Thank you, Brian!) with a great map, but that was after we had completed our walk, and noticed a box with pamphlets whilst resting at a picnic table. Anyway, I hope you will pass on my thanks to the group. Kind regards, Myrtle Pasquali'*

On a completely different tack – following on from the article on Yellow Crazy Ants in the last issue of Streamlines, I was interested to see the following report in the Courier Mail on Saturday May 21.

## **'WAR ON ANTS**

*The Coalition and Labor have gone head-to-head over their funding plans to tackle an insidious insect, the Yellow Crazy Ant. Labor started strong (sic) with a \$7.5 Million plan to "contain and reduce" the ant described as "a major threat to world heritage areas". But they were outspent on both cash and rhetoric by the Coalition promising a Turnbull Government would "eradicate the invasive tramp ant" in north Queensland with an \$8.8 million package.'*

And from the Weed Spotters Network Queensland May 2016 Bulletin information which may impact on some of us, on new classifications of prohibited matter including invasive plants.

## **'BIOSECURITY ACT 2014: PROHIBITED MATTER**

*On 1 July 2016, the familiar categories of Class 1, 2 and 3 declared pest plants will be replaced by two new classifications covering all biosecurity matter, including invasive plants:*

- Prohibited matter and
- Restricted matter (Categories 2, 3, 4, and/or 5)

### **What is prohibited matter?**

*Prohibited matter includes diseases, exotic fish, insect pests, pest animals and invasive plants that are **not yet** found in Queensland. There will be 29 species/species groups of invasive plants listed as prohibited matter in Queensland from 1 July 2016. If these species were to enter Queensland, they would significantly impact our health, way of life, the economy and the environment.*

### **Reporting prohibited matter**

*It will be the responsibility of all Queenslanders, as well as visitors from interstate and overseas, to be aware and take steps to prevent prohibited matter from entering our state. You will be expected to know about the prohibited matter that you may come across as part of your environment, business or hobby. The Act requires that all sightings of prohibited plants are to be reported to Biosecurity Queensland within 24 hours. If you think you have found a prohibited invasive plant in your region, please contact Biosecurity Queensland on **13 25 23** or contact the Queensland Herbarium on **(07) 3896 9323**.'*



# Where Eagles Glide – Angela and Chris’s Story

Amanda Maggs

One of life's most satisfying experiences is that of discovery and life-long learning about the Australian Bush. For Angela and Chris Ellis, their much loved property on Grandview Rd, Pullenvale has not only been an escape from the hustle and bustle of the city, but has provided the opportunity to become keen observers of (and listeners to) the natural world, and to take action to transform their property into an bountiful and connected wildlife corridor.

Situated at the top of Little Ugly Creek catchment (which is actually a stunningly beautiful creek) and surrounded by Moggill Conservation Reserve, Angela and Chris’s property is home to abundant wildlife. A pair of wedge-tail eagles regularly glide over the ridgelines, perhaps nesting in the neighbouring Upper Brookfield valley. Squirrel gliders are heard on occasion - they emit a piercing “Mighty Mouse” squeal when they are angry or feeling threatened. Goanna, wallaby, brush-tailed possum and feral fox have been captured on camera, and various snake species – pythons, small-eyed, red-belly black, brown, whip and brown tree snakes have been sighted.

When Angela and Chris first moved to their property in April 2009, they not only encountered Lantana (*Lantana camara*), but also a sea of shoulder-high pasture grasses, Balloon Cotton Bush (*Gomphocarpus physocarpus*) and a seedbank of pasture weeds in the soil, a legacy of past cattle grazing and pineapple farming. Combined with the property’s steep slopes, erodible soils and rocky escarpments, at first glance the task ahead appeared insurmountable. It was at this point that Angela and Chris decided to join Council’s Wildlife Conservation Partnerships Program, better known as Land for Wildlife (LfW).

With advice and support from their Land for Wildlife Officer, Tony Mlynarik, Angela and Chris set about prioritising tasks and formulating a plan to improve the habitat value of their property. A key outcome from this experience was a plan that was well structured and that had a logical order to what needed to be done. This involved dividing the property into manageable segments and setting goals that were feasible, practical and achievable. Early on, it was decided that tree-planting was not practical or needed. The surrounding conservation reserves provided an abundant source of native seed and the genesis for excellent natural regeneration.

Angela and Chris tapped into the resources available through the LfW program, borrowing tools and equipment and receiving financial help through Council’s Community Conservation Assistance funding. Angela feels the property-specific advice from their Land for Wildlife Officer was especially helpful – learning to identify native plants and understanding best practice in bush restoration techniques appropriate to their property.

When it came to tackling the exotic grasses and pasture weeds, Angela and Chris brush cut and slashed the grass, timing their work before the grass seeded. Over time, this revealed naturally regenerating native grasses and pioneer species which were identified, tagged and pegged out. With patience, a gradual replacement from exotic to native grasses took place. Removing the Lantana was done in stages using a combination of the lantana splatter gun and a brush knife with the application of glyphosate. These techniques were chosen to efficiently treat the large dense thickets of lantana while minimising the use of herbicides and retaining the existing native groundcover.

Their burgeoning interest in wildlife inspired Angela and Chris to centre their bush restoration efforts on removing barriers that hinder wildlife movement. The old barb-wire fencing was taken down, as it was known to cause entanglement, injury and death to wildlife on the move. Fox trapping was undertaken, through Council’s Pest Management program, to reduce the impact of feral fox predation on native wildlife. And of course there was the enormous challenge of removing an ocean of Lantana that was all but impassable to native wildlife adapted to open eucalypt woodland.

As they progressed, Angela and Chris’s vision expanded beyond their own property boundaries, and they began to think about the continuity and connectedness of the forest to improve wildlife movement through neighbouring properties and the surrounding conservation reserves. Gaining a landscape-scale perspective on where they lived and through which the local wildlife moved through led Angela and Chris to start a conversation and then an ongoing collaboration with their estate neighbours to tackle the weeds along Little Ugly Creek.



What began as a daunting prospect has unfolded as an inspiring success story in bush restoration and wildlife habitat creation. From 2008 to 2015, Angela and Chris removed 95% of the Lantana, transitioning from the big hurdle of that initial weed removal into what is now a maintenance stage for weed control on their property.

Their efforts have revealed regenerating hoop pine forest and vine rainforest in the gullies and along the creek, where large cycads, epiphytes and ferns grow. And they have freed up the open eucalypt woodland on the surrounding slopes and granite cliffs. These areas support an interesting mix of Spotted Gum (*Corymbia citriodora*), Grey Ironbark (*E. siderophloia*), Small-fruited Grey Gum (*E. propinqua*), White Mahogany (*E. acmenoides*), Pink Bloodwood (*Corymbia intermedia*), Brush Box (*Lophostemon confertus*), Rock Fig (*Ficus coronata*), the uncommon Lloyd's Olive (*Notelaea lloydii*), Prickly Vine (*Caesalpinia*), *Hoya australis*, and Blood Vine (*Austrosteenisia blackii*).

When asked what they most enjoyed about where they live, Angela replied that it is the simple pleasures of relaxing in the peace and quiet, watching the wallabies grazing nearby to the house and listening and becoming attuned to the many bird calls and sounds of wildlife around them.



Two images of the little bit of paradise that Angela and Chris have created





# Dyschoriste – One of Our Most Invasive Weeds

Bryan Hacker

Several times over the past few weeks I have asked MCCG members whether they are familiar with the weed dyschoriste and the answer has been “What’s dyschoriste?” In fact, it is one of the more invasive ground-cover weeds in our Catchment, is spreading fast and is extremely difficult to control. As recently as 2007 there was a Council directive to report where this plant has been seen, but now it is everywhere! Detailed information is available at <http://weeds.brisbane.qld.gov.au/weeds/dyschoriste>.

Dyschoriste (*Dyschoriste depressa*) is an herbaceous but long-lived plant of South African origin which in Brisbane was first recorded in 2000, in Anzac Park, Toowong. Stems grow to a height of 60 cm, and bear opposite leaves up to 6 cm long. Flowers are small, pale, and clustered in upper leaf axils and are followed by fruit which release numerous seeds. It is now frequently to be found along creeks and moderately shady areas but also tolerates full sun and can withstand frequent mowing in grassed areas. New plants can establish from seeds but also from fragments of plants. Much of the rapid spread of this species is attributed to it being carried on machinery.

Small infestations can be hand weeded, taking care to retrieve all material and bag it for disposal in council rubbish bins. Glyphosate has been listed for chemical control but it will kill nearby species too. Dicamba (which does not kill grasses) has also been recommended. In all probability, though, seed will be left behind and re-infestations will occur.



Dyschoriste plant



Leaves and flowers of dyschoriste

Photos by Sheldon Navie






## Recycling Quiz

How much do we know about recycling our own rubbish? Try the quiz below based on information from the Brisbane City Council’s publication ‘Brisbane’s Best Recycling Guide for Households’ which contains much more detailed information. Answers next issue.

Statement	True	False
1. If I put just one wrong thing in my recycling bin, I’ll spoil a whole truck load of recycling.		
2. It doesn’t matter what I put in my recycling bin because it all ends up in landfill.		
3. Brisbane has ample space to bury our waste, so I don’t need to recycle.		
4. The triangular symbol is a recycling symbol.		
5. Anything that is recyclable can go in my yellow-lidded bin.		
6. Plastic bags can be recycled at many local supermarkets but I can’t put them in my recycling bin at home.		
7. I have to wash and clean out every container before I put it in my recycling bin.		



## Scrambling Lily or Wombat Berry?

Common name	Scrambling Lily	Wombat berry
Scientific name	<i>Geitonoplesium cymosum</i>	<i>Eustrephus latifolius</i>
Family	Hemerocallidaceae a lily family	Asparagaceae the asparagus family
Origin	Eastern Australia, the Philippines, Indonesia, New Guinea, Pacific Islands	Malaysia, Pacific Islands, eastern Australia
Habitat	Rainforests, drier forests, woodlands	Sclerophyll forests, woodlands, heathlands, shrublands, gallery forests, rainforests
Habit	Scrambling vine	Scrambling vine
Leaves	Variable in shape, usually narrow-lanceolate to linear, usually 2–10 cm long by 3–25 mm wide Both surfaces of leaves glossy Midvein prominent and raised on upper surface	Variable in shape, elliptic to linear, 3-10 cm long by 3-35 mm wide  Underside paler than upper All leaf veins equally distinct
Flowers	In clusters at the end of branches, mauve to white, margins of 'petals' not fringed  	In clusters, mostly in axil between leaf and stem, pink, mauve, white, margins of 3 'petals' fringed  
Fruit	Black, globose, 1–2 cm in diameter, numerous black seeds  	Yellow-orange, globose, 1-2 cm diameter, numerous black seeds set in a white aril   

Information compiled by Helen Ogle from several sources, especially Wikipedia!