



## Fraser Coast Regional Council's **Community Environment Program News** *by Tina Raveneau— February 2012*

Most CEP groups enjoyed a rest break over the Christmas period, and are returning to their regular working bee program in the next few weeks. I have been busy compiling data and preparing the CEP Annual Report to be presented to Councillors and the Executive, and it has highlighted the wonderful achievements of our tireless volunteers. Some vital statistics for 2011 include:

**Volunteer hours spent on CEP Projects = 9275**  
**Labour dollar value @ \$25/hr = \$231 885**  
**Total Plants Distributed by Propagators Nursery = 4809**  
**Approximate plant retail value = \$12 000**

These are impressive and show just how much we have contributed to our community, not to mention the environmental outcomes of the various CEP projects.

### **CEP Christmas BBQ**

Woo-Koo Park was the venue for the 2011 CEP Christmas BBQ, attended by 40 CEP volunteers from Poona, Maaroom, Burrum Heads, River Heads, Hervey Bay and Maryborough. Councillor Sue Brooks (pictured below left, with Tina) joined us for a lovely lunch and an opportunity to meet with volunteers from around the region.



## Propagators' Nursery

The Propagators meet every Thursday and spend 3-4 hours busily propagating local provenance seeds, potting up seedlings and tubestock, and carrying out general maintenance in the nursery. Plants produced are used at CEP sites across the region, as well as provided free-of-charge to community groups, schools and Land for Wildlife members. We also provide plants for various Council projects, including foreshore revegetation, offset plantings, and landscaping.

The group was awarded \$500 in last year's Mayoral Environmental Awards (kindly sponsored by Bendigo Bank), and have purchased a laptop computer to assist with managing stock and supplies in the nursery. This has been a huge help in not only organising but also reporting on the nursery's outputs. Special thanks must go to Zahra Dato, who has set up and maintains the database, as well as patiently teaching us all how to use it!

The igloo is now in operation for germinating seeds, and a Community Solutions work crew have kindly paved around the shed making the area much safer and tidier. The crew also erected a small garden shed for storing tools and garden materials, making the whole operation much more professional.

Extra hands are always needed at the Nursery and new volunteers are welcome!





### **Fraser Lions Club Tree Plant**

The Lions Club has assisted Council with two tree-planting days in recent months. In October 2011 volunteers from the Club planted over 600 trees along Maria Creek at Howard.

On Sunday 12 February, a group of 10 volunteers from Fraser Lions planted 200 trees along Pulgul Creek, behind Sugarcoast Village, Hervey Bay. Both plantings returned vegetation to bare and eroding banks, and will improve biodiversity along both creeks. Thanks very much to the Club for its help and support.



FCRC's Community Environment Program (CEP) provides opportunities for Fraser Coast residents to actively participate in "on-ground" maintenance and management activities on Council's reserves.

There are many dedicated and hard-working volunteers currently involved in the CEP. The time and effort they contribute to important natural areas is making a huge difference in protecting and restoring some of our precious ecosystems.

To volunteer, contact Tina on 4197 4644.



**PHOTOS ABOVE:** Occasionally you come across a plant that “jumps out at you” although you have been past that spot a hundred times and you wonder why you hadn’t seen it before.

So it was with this specimen of gum tree, later identified as *Eucalyptus bancrofti*, found on the roadside on the road to Maaroom. Maybe it was a particularly good year for flowering but that is what caught our eye. The blooms are big, fragrant and copious. The buds too are big and the globular fruit has protruding valves.

The tree is quite sprawling, maybe giving rise to its common name - Tumbledown Gum and we observed the bark was peeling to reveal a beautifully smooth and coloured trunk. It reminded me of the snow gums.

This small tree, growing to about 20 metres, occurs in swampy wallum areas and is fairly uncommon. 🌿

Reference; <http://www.noosanativeplants.com.au/plants/203/eucalyptus-bancrofti>



**PHOTOS LEFT:** You don’t need to be too observant to see *Philydrum languginosum*—Woolly Frogmouth flowering prolifically along our roadside in damp spots. It is a fleshy herb to about a metre tall, its stem covered in white woolly hairs and the yellow flowers are borne all up the spike. It flowers for most of the year although most abundantly in the warmer months.

I would hazard a guess it is one of our more successful natives adapting easily to man made ponds, ditches and road verges. 🌿

*Observations by Peter, Bill and Jenny.  
Written by Jenny Watts*