

Arcadia Coastcare Weeding Group

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On Magnetic Island, Arcadia Coastcare Weeding Group operates fortnightly for one hour and meets throughout the year, excluding exceptionally hot days. There are six key locations for weeding in Arcadia, including the rare vine thicket, Geoffrey Bay foreshore, the road to the old jetty, Alma Creek, a strip of National Park in front of Alma Den, and along the National Park boundary at the back of the bay.

Weeding has been one of several priorities for Arcadia Coastcare for many years, with the Weeding Group formalising in 2018 under the co-ordination provided by Selina Hale. There are currently 17 active members, and most sessions attract between 8-12 participants.

The group focuses on weeding and revegetation in public spaces and collaborates with the Townsville City Council and National Parks as required. Four years ago the rare vine thicket was smothered in *Merremia quinquefolia* (Snake Vine). Over a period of 1-2 years the group has managed to remove the weedy vine although regular monitoring of infestations is required as well as management of *Antigonon leptopus* (Mexican Creeper).

This year a new audit of plants in the vine thicket was undertaken by local botanists, Jeanette Kemp and Rigel Jensen and the thicket was found to contain 58 native species, compared to 39 recorded in 1993.

The group has also worked with the council on revegetation of the eastern end of Geoffrey Bay, where plantings of *Casuarina equisetifolia*, *Canavalia rosea* and *Thuarea involuta* in 2020 and 2021 are helping with soil erosion and vehicle management.

For the past two years the strip of National Park in front of Alma Den has also been a focus of revegetation with the assistance of Reef Assist, under the guidance of Gary Davies. Plantings in this strip include *Tephrosia sp. Picnic Bay* and *Larsenaikia ochreatea*.

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