



# Media Release

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2012

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Gecko's next guest speaker night on Wednesday the 22 August at 6:30pm will enlighten members and guests on the problematic issue of camphor laurels from local 'Earthman,' John Palmer.

With a Bachelor of Agricultural Science and Order of Australia for his services to the environment as well as living in the base of a tree for many months, there is no denying this man knows his foliage.

John Palmer will talk about how camphor laurels are an invasive pest to the local Gold Coast environment and about what needs to be done to manage these trees, which grow rapidly to over 20 metres in height.

Camphor laurels are attractive but destructive; these large evergreens have been declared a weed in all parts of Queensland, as they can grow massive root systems that crack drains and compete with native trees for water and nutrients.

Introduced to Australia in 1822, camphor laurels are originally a species from the far East that grows along watercourses or in rainforest conditions.

**These trees have featured widely in the local media in recent times with debate raging over whether to love them or remove them. You are invited to come along to find out many compelling reasons why camphor laurels are unwelcome in Australia.**

Join us Wednesday 22 August, upstairs at Gecko House, 139 Duringan St, Currumbin for drinks and snacks from 6:30pm, followed by John's talk from 7 to 8pm. BYO questions.

*Gecko presents a free guest speaker night on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month on topical environmental issues. For catering purposes and to prevent waste, RSVP by 3pm on the day before the event to [speakers@gecko.org.au](mailto:speakers@gecko.org.au) or call 5534 1412. For more information, visit <http://gecko.org.au/guest-speaker>*

*A gold coin donation is requested per glass of wine and nibbles. Alternatively, Gecko encourages the contribution of vegetarian/organic/environmentally-thoughtful food options at all of its events.*

## ENDS

For further information contact;

Lois Levy – President of Gecko – Gold Coast and Hinterland Environmental Council

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