

SLCMA Catchment News 2021



November/December

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*Office opening
hours:*

9am-3.30pm weekdays.

*Other times by
appointment, please
call 4956 1388 :)*

Staff

Administration Officer

Kristy Thomsett

Coordinator

Saskia von Fahland

Nursery Officer

Susie Tomlinson

Project Officer

Susan Whiteley

Call us for information:

- ◆ Weed management
- ◆ Plant identification
- ◆ Land management
- ◆ FREE property visits
- ◆ Land for Wildlife

Volunteer opportunities:

- * SLCMA Community Volunteer Program, Wednesday, 9-12 noon.
- * Friends of the Sarina Community Native Gardens, Monday, 9-12noon.

Native plants available for purchase \$3.30 each.

SLCMA Executive 21/22

Chair: Lachlan McBride

Vice-chair: Karen May

Treasurer: Kevin Plumb

Secretary: Shirley Sidey

Executive members:

Rod McFadzen

SLCMA News!

We are grateful that we have once again secured funding to produce a Landcare Calendar for 2022. Thank you to Mackay Regional Council, Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal PL and Dalrymple Bay Infrastructure for their support for the calendar.

The calendar showcases local Landcare projects, sights from the Sarina Catchment as well as listing local cattle sale and environmental awareness dates throughout the year.

Our members & volunteers are able to receive one free calendar each, if you haven't received your copy, please contact us.

Thank you to Complete Tree Management for their kind donation of mulch, for the Sarina Community Native Gardens. Mulch is a great help for us in the maintenance of the gardens—to hold back weeds and retain moisture in the dry times.

Thank you to local, native bee expert Alan Ladewig for keeping an eye on our native bees. In 2019, during a native bee workshop we discovered that the original black plastic hive the bees were in had serious heat issues, which was indicated by the large empty brood mass and thick insulation of stores around the brood. We consequently re-homed our hive into a timber OATH box. Thankfully over the last 2.5 years, the hive pulled through, so much that Alan helped to add the second box recently...phew, we love our native bees!



We are hiring! We are seeking an enthusiastic, motivated Revegetation Officer to join our team. Our revegetation team work on a range of rehabilitation projects throughout the catchment including beaches and creekbanks to private and community sites. If you are interested, please visit our [website](http://www.sarinalandcare.org.au) for more details and submit your Expressions of interest by sending your resume & cover letter to coordinator@sarinalandcare.org.au by **10 January 2022**.

We would like to wish all of our members, volunteers, project partners and supporters a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!

From the SLCMA team



Christmas

CLOSURE DATES

Thank you for all your support over the past year and we look forward to see you in 2022

CLOSED: 23rd Dec - 9th Jan

REOPENING: 10th January 2022



Celebrating 20+ years of Landcare in Sarina

On the 16th of October 2021, SLCMA celebrated our 20th birthday with a **Community Fun Day** in the Sarina Community Native Gardens. It was a family, fun-filled event complete with free jumping castle and face painting, rock painting, scavenger hunt and lucky door prizes.

These activities were complemented by a variety of displays and stalls for everyone to enjoy including:

- ♦ Waste, water & pest education (Mackay Regional Council & Mackay Regional Pest Management Group)
- ♦ Native bees (Sian Lawson)
- ♦ Native bonsai (Pioneer Bonsai)
- ♦ Wildlife carers (Australian Wildlife Rescue Service)
- ♦ SLCMA Landcare display including a native plant sale.

Thank you to Sarina Scouts for putting on a sausage sizzle, the smell of sausages & onions cooking on the BBQ was irresistible for most, and raised over \$200 for their club.

The formal component of the event, was an opportunity for Mackay Regional Council Mayor Greg Williamson to welcome attendees and celebrate our partnership with Council as well as our achievements over the last 20 years. We then presented a 'Certificate of Appreciation' to our project partners and supporters. The grand finale involved a commemorative tree planting in the gardens with the SLCMA Management Committee and Mr Williamson.

These events don't happen by themselves, hence we would like to extend our appreciation and thanks to the following:

- ♦ Community bank Sarina Bendigo Bank, Mackay Regional Council, Bunnings, Stephen Andrews MP & Michelle Landry MP for their support for the event.
- ♦ SLCMA Volunteers for their much appreciated help on the day
- ♦ Stallholders: Fran's pots, Veronica from Sorella Trading Co. environmentally friendly cleaning products and Marlene's hand made goods.
- ♦ SLCMA staff for going above and beyond to help things run smoothly

Lastly, a big thank you to the Community for your support— for coming along, joining helping to celebrate 20+ years of landcare in Sarina.

A Slice of History

On the 16 October 2001,

Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association Inc. (SLCMA)

was formed through the amalgamation of:

Sarina and District Landcare Group Inc.

(Incorporated February 1996)

And

Sarina Integrated Catchment Management Association Inc.

(Incorporated May 1998)



Friends of the Sarina Community Native Gardens *by Susie Tomlinson*

Weeding and removing unwanted young trees that sprout up around the gardens has been keeping us busy. We welcomed a new volunteer, Zac from Sarina State High School who joined us in the gardens for work experience. Zac gained hands-on experience weeding, mulching and planting. Thank you to those that have been able to lend a hand in the gardens during this hot and busy time of the year. We look forward to more garden adventures in 2022.

If you are interested in learning about native plants and would like to lend a hand in the Sarina Community Native Gardens, feel free to join our *Friends of the gardens* volunteer program. We will advise of our schedule for 2022, in the new year, feel free to contact us to find out more.

Below: Some of the treasures you will find in the Sarina Community Native Gardens



Composting and worm farming - be part of the solution

On the 27th November, 25 community members joined us for a **free Composting and worm farming workshop** with local permaculturist, Luke Matthews. The morning workshop empowered participants with the knowledge and inspiration to set-up and utilise composting and worm farming at home; as a way to reduce the amount of organic waste that goes into landfill and create a more natural, healthier place to live. *Thank you to Mackay Regional Council for their sponsorship and support for the event, including providing a lucky door prize of a worm farm.*

Did you know... when organic material such as food scraps and green waste is put in landfill, it is compacted and covered which removes the oxygen and causes it to break down in an anaerobic way. Eventually this releases methane, a greenhouse gas that is about 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

Landfill gas comprises 35-55% methane and 30-44% carbon dioxide. The implications for global warming and climate change are enormous. Within the first 20 years of emission, methane's greenhouse effect is far worse—somewhere between 84 and 100 times more potent than carbon dioxide. And when it comes to moving the needle on greenhouse gas emissions, what really counts is what happens over the next 10 – 20 years. *Composting your food scraps and green waste in a compost bin can eliminate many of these problems.*

What you can do... is send as little as possible to landfills. Replacing as much as possible with reusable products includes everything from food and drink packaging, to hygiene products, to clothing, either more sustainable or plastic free, which will help protect the environment, benefit communities and support a circular economy. The 3 R's play an important role in this; **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.** This means reducing what you 'use' where possible, reusing as much as you can, send what's left to recycling, and compost what you cannot, then finally the small part of waste left goes to landfill. It's about making a conscious effort to make better choices.

Photos: B Thompson



Top photos: Luke sharing his wisdom about composting & worm farms;
Bottom photo: Lucky Door Prize Winner of the worm farm, Georgia with Luke and Saskia

Sarina Community Nursery Volunteer Program by Susie Tomlinson

We have had another fabulous seed collecting outing with our volunteers. Last trip we planned to visit Mick Ready Beach but ran out of time, so this was our first stop. Once again, we collected an abundance of seed. *Acacia leptocarpa* (North coast wattle), *Euroschinus falcata* (Ribbonwood) and *Gahnia aspera* (saw sedge) were some of our treasures found. We ended the trip with morning tea on the Grasstree Beach esplanade. Our newest volunteer Caitlyn, who loves cleaning seed, and Sarina High School student Zac, also participated. Welcome and thanks for joining us. Consequently, back at the nursery we have been cleaning and sowing seed, along with some potting on and weeding.

Our SLCMA Volunteer Program finished up for the year on the 15th December and in true nursery volunteer style there were smiles and stories shared, good food enjoyed and a smidgen of stealing with our Christmas gift exchange game ;)



Susie & volunteers on the search for seed



Photos: S von Fahland

We would like to thank all of our volunteers for their contributions throughout the year, we look forward to continuing the good work in 2022, with our volunteer mornings starting back on 19 January.

If you would like to volunteer in your local community and meet new people while learning about local native plants and their propagation, come along to the SLCMA Community Volunteer morning, every Wednesday, 9am to 12noon. For more details contact SLCMA on 4956 1388. SLCMA Community Volunteer Program is proudly supported by Mackay Regional Council, Natural Environment Levy.

Healthy Soils Symposium

SLCMA joined Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group and Whitsunday Catchment Landcare in a joint Landcare display at the Annual Healthy Soils Symposium on the 25th and 26th of November. It was also a great opportunity for landcare staff to be inspired by soil experts and fellow soil enthusiasts.

The 2021 Healthy Soils Symposium broadened attendees ability to read the land's geology and deepen their knowledge of the microbial world underfoot. Soil experts provided an insight below the surface to understand the chemistry of healthy soil and provided solutions to improve soil health and fertility. The event was live streamed and is available to watch on Reef Catchments' YouTube Channel: [2021 Healthy Soils Symposium](#)

The event was supported by Reef Catchments Ltd, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.



SLCMA Community Nursery 'Plant of the Month'

This month's 'Plant of the Month' is the **River she-oak** (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*) Family: **Casuarinaceae**

What is in a name? *Casuarina* derived from the Latin *casuarius*, meaning cassowary, referring to the resemblance of the branches to the plumage of the cassowary; *cunninghamiana* named after the Australian explorer, Alan Cunningham.

Form: A tall, sparse, spreading tree to 30m high. Bark: dark grey, fissured.

Leaves: Reduced to whorls of 8 to 10 tiny, sharp leaf-teeth at the nodes of slender branchlets, which have the appearance of foliage.

Flower: Separate male and female trees; male flowers are short, reddish-brown, cylindrical, terminal spikes, 3-4cm long; female flowers are red, globular spikes on mature wood. Flowering December to March.

Fruit: Woody, globular, grey cone, with many sharply pointed valves, 0.7-1.4 x 0.4-0.6cm.

Habitat: Largely restricted to stream and river banks.

Distribution: Queensland, Northern Territory and New South Wales.

Notes: Propagate from seed. A fast growing tree ideal for many situations including controlling soil erosion. Wood is dark red with attractive graining. Dried bark is often used as a base for growing orchids.

The "Plant of the Month" is currently available from the SLCMA Community Nursery. Landcare members are eligible to receive 1 free "Plant of the Month", throughout that month. *Note, these will be available for members throughout January 2022.* This and other native plant species are also available for purchase at \$3.30 each. All plants are grown from locally sourced seed in the SLCMA Community Nursery by SLCMA staff and the SLCMA Volunteer team.



Photo: S von Fahland
Female flowers of River she-oak

Information sourced from:

Melzer R. and Plumb J., (2007) *Plants of Capricornia*, Capricorn Conservation Council, Rockhampton.

Stanley T.D. and Ross E.M., (1995) *Flora of south-eastern Queensland*, vol. 1, Department of Primary Industries, Brisbane.

Townsend, K., (1994) *Across the Top: Gardening with Australian Plants in the tropics*, Society for Growing Plants, Townsville Branch Inc., Aitkenvale.

How to access our native plants..

Susie our Nursery Officer, has been working hard (with our volunteers) growing and arranging the native plants in the SLCMA Community Nursery, to allow for a great variety of native plants to be available for the community to access.

If you would like to have a look at and/or purchase our native plants, here is how you can do it:



Photo: S Tomlinson

- ♦ **'Click & Collect' Plant Order Form** – The latest plant order form is available from our website www.sarinalandcare.org.au and is also emailed to our members, when it is updated. Submit your plant order form anytime and we will put the plant order together for you.
- ♦ **By appointment** – Contact our office by phone on 4956 1388 or email your query to nursery@sarinalandcare.org.au, to organise a time to come into the nursery and look at the plants available.
- ♦ **Native Plant sale** – Come along to our native plant sales held on weekends throughout the year. During the sale you may pick up your pre-ordered plants or, select from the native plants we have available. Our plant sales will be advertised throughout the year in our newsletter, to our members by email and on facebook. So watch this space!

We look forward to sharing our native plants with you soon :)

Native plant sale—a success!

Our last native plant sale for 2021 was held at the SLCMA Community Nursery, on Saturday 27th of November. We are very pleased with the response we had and plan to hold more native plant sales in the new year.

It is so wonderful to have the community support, knowing that plants from our region are going back into the local landscape; whether that be for urban or rural gardens, rehabilitating creekbanks and local bushland or creating wildlife corridors; it is great to see local plants being put back into our local environment.



Photo: S von Fahland

Community members making the most of the native plants displayed at our Native plant sale

Reef Assist Program highlights

Over the last 12 months, SLCMA has worked in partnership with Whitsunday Catchment Landcare, Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group and Reef Catchments to deliver the Reef Assist Program. For SLCMA, the program supported the employment of 2.5 full-time staff to deliver rehabilitation activities at project sites across the Sarina catchment including:

- ♦ **Louisa Creek Reserve**—building on previous rehabilitation activities including weed control, mulching & planting to improve the health and biodiversity of the reserve.
- ♦ **Sarina Inlet Trail**—undertaking targeted weed control specifically Singapore daisy (*Sphagneticola trilobata*), Guinea grass (*Megathyrsus maximus*) and Lantana (*Lantana camara*) along the trail, to encourage native regeneration of native plants with some complimentary revegetation
- ♦ **Carmila Beach**—restore sections of vegetation along the foreshore which is classes as critically endangered *Littoral rainforest and coastal vine thickets of Eastern Australia*. Activities included targeted control of garden escapees such as Periwinkle (*Littorina littorea*), Mother-of-millions (*Bryophyllum delagoense*) and revegetate to fill in the gaps in existing vegetation.
- ♦ **Carmila Creek & Plane Creek**— Two areas of private land targeting the control of Cats Claw Creeper (*Dolichandra anuis-cati*) with the aim to reduce its spread along the creek lines.
- ♦ **Plane Creek Revegetation Site**— Conduct targeted weed control including Madeira vine (*Anredera cordifolia*) a Weed of National Significance and other weeds such as Dutchman's pipe (*Aristolochia macrophylla*), Hymenachne (*Hymenachne amplexicaulis*), Goosefoot (*Syngonium podophyllum*) and Singapore daisy (*Sphagneticola trilobata*), Revegetate sections of the site to reduce weed invasion and improve the health of the site.
- ♦ **Sarina Community Native Gardens**—Assist in the design, maintenance and upgrade of the native gardens as an opportunity to demonstrate the use of native plants in garden situations.

The full-time, two person Reef Assist team were able to access training and upskilling in Certificate 3 in Conservation and Land Management, Chainsaw—felling trees, first aid as well as gain practical experience in the field including water quality monitoring, plant identification, native seed collection and propagation.

The Reef Assist Program included a Landholder Support component, which provided land management advice and assistance to ten landholders to assist in the rehabilitation of natural areas. Through an expression of interest and prioritization process, ten landholders received a free property visit, land management plan, project plan, two days of assistance from our Reef Assist team and access to native plants for revegetation. The team enjoyed the opportunity to assist and in some cases work alongside, the landholders in their bid to restore natural areas on their property. The team were able to put their skills to the test with a variety of tasks including lantana control within bushland and coastal dunes, revegetation to improve vegetation connectivity and help stabilize creekbanks.

The Reef Assist Program has been a great initiative, providing environmental and social benefits within the Sarina Catchment community. Through the program we have been able to create employment and training, re-invigorate project partnerships, deliver onground outcomes, rehabilitate important environmental sites and give local landholders a helping hand. A big thank you to the Reef Assist team for their hard work and dedication in often harsh conditions and for being a part of "Landcare in the Sarina Catchment".



Above: Cats Claw Creeper control; Keeping water up to the plants throughout the dry; Mulching sites to retain moisture and prevent weed growth; African tulip tree control during chainsaw—tree felling training

Below: Planting to complement natural regeneration of native plants; chipping garden trimmings; whippersnipping; Lantana control





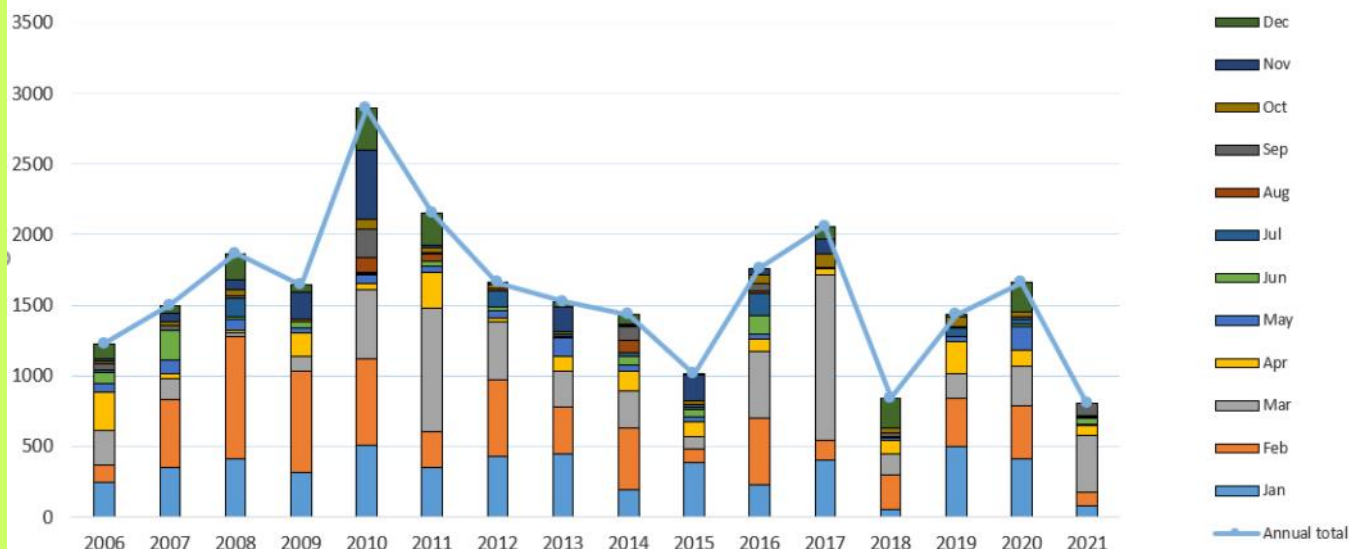
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What SLCMA Membership does for you !

A membership with SLCMA has many rewards:

- ◇ Easy access to Natural Resource Management information and extension
- ◇ Monthly newsletter, meeting minutes, progress and project reports
- ◇ A vote on issues in your catchment
- ◇ A say in the types of projects applied for
- ◇ Up to 10 free local native seedlings/year from the SLCMA Community Nursery
- ◇ Invitations to Natural Resource Management field days and workshops
- ◇ Copy of the SLCMA Annual Report

Monthly rainfall for SLCMA Office, 2006 -2021 (inc annual total)



Just for fun!

What do you get if you cross a Christmas tree with an iPad? A pineapple

What's the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the ordinary alphabet?
The Christmas alphabet has No-el

What did Adam say to his wife on Christmas?
It's finally Christmas, Eve!

What's the absolute best Christmas present?
A broken drum—you can't beat it!



A partnership for the natural resource management of catchments in the Central Queensland Coast Bioregion: Pioneer, Sarina & Whitsunday Catchments.

COVID-safety — To ensure that all visitors, volunteers and staff stay as safe as possible. Please be aware of the following procedures when visiting the SLCMA Office and SLCMA Community Nursery.

- ◆ Please do NOT visit/attend if you are feeling unwell, have recently travelled to known hotspots or have been in contact with someone who has COVID-19.
- ◆ All visitors must:
 - ◆ Check-in using the QLD government check-in app, if you are unable to check in, please advise and we will check you in as a guest.
 - ◆ Maintain social distancing (minimum 1.5m spacing); Indoor: 1 person per 2m²
 - ◆ Utilise hand sanitiser supplied upon entry to the office or nursery



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SLCMA is proudly supported by:



Community Bank
Sarina

