

SLCMA Catchment News 2022



January

Office: 101 Sarina Beach Rd
Postal: PO Box 682

Sarina, QLD, 4737

Phone: (07) 4956 1388

Website:
www.sarinalandcare.org.au

Email:
admin@sarinalandcare.org.au

*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,
Friday, 9-11am.

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!

SLCMA Christmas party was attended by our members, volunteers and staff on 8 December 2021, at The Palms restaurant, Sarina Beach. It was a good opportunity to recognise and thank the SLCMA Management Committee and staff for their contributions towards SLCMA, throughout the year. Thank you to all who came along and enjoyed a tasty meal with good company.



Photo: K Thomsett

Happy New Year to our landcare members, volunteers, project partners and supporters! We are looking forward to delivering a range of new and current projects and programs throughout 2022, within the Sarina Catchment. Through these projects we will be able to continue activities such as supporting landholders with land management advice, educational activities volunteers and youth; liaising with local and regional technical groups and project partners to keep up-to-date with local issues and best management practices as well as project development; undertaking community awareness raising events and onground rehabilitation activities. We hope to see you all at some stage throughout the year; whether it be to volunteer in the nursery or gardens, purchase native plants, participate in a local landcare event or pop in to the office with a land management question.

It is a timely reminder for our COVID-safe procedures, to ensure that all visitors and staff stay as safe as possible. Please be aware of the following procedures when visiting the SLCMA Office and SLCMA Community Nursery:

- ♦ Please contact us initially by email or phone, to discuss your landcare enquiry. If we feel an appointment is necessary, we will arrange a time that suits yourself and our staff.
- ♦ Please do NOT visit/attend if you are feeling unwell or have been in contact with someone who has the COVID-19 virus.
- ♦ All visitors must:
 - ♦ Wear a mask
 - ♦ Maintain social distancing (minimum 1.5m spacing)
 - ♦ Utilise hand sanitiser supplied upon entry to the office or nursery

Community members are able to purchase our native plants a number of ways:

- ♦ **'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 only** – Contact our office by phone on 4956 1388 or email your query to nursery@sarinalandcare.org.au
- ♦ **Native Plant sale** – Come along to our native plant sales held 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 in our newsletter, to our members by email and on facebook. So watch this space!



Native Cherry— a local, native, parasitic plant *by Susan Whiteley*

A common, yet interesting native plant we see locally is *Exocarpos latifolius*, known as native cherry. It has intriguing looking fruit which often instigates the question—can they be grown from seed? Our short response is, not really. The longer response is that native cherry is actually a hemiparasitic plant, which requires a host plant to survive. Firstly, the seed can be difficult to germinate. If it does germinate, the seedlings are hard to keep alive, as they require a suitable host plant to be close-by.

As a hemiparasitic, native cherry can still photosynthesise, however it derives water, nutrients and minerals from its host through a 'modified root' called a haustorium. This 'modified root' penetrates the host root, connecting to the host's vascular system through the xylem. Once the native cherry is established it may function without a host. In contrast, a holoparasitic species is an obligate parasite which has lost all chlorophyll and hence cannot photosynthesise. An example of this is the Australian native dodder-laurel vine (*Cassytha sp.*).



Photo: S von Fahland

Leaves and fruit (showing the large fleshy pedicel) of Native cherry

It is possible to determine the likely plant which a hemiparasite is relying on by measuring the plant water potential. Plant water potential is the measure of the demand for water within a plant. This is determined by water supply, the resistance to water movement within the plant, and the demands for transpiration imposed by the environment. Plant water potential is commonly measured with a pressure chamber. This machine allows a freshly cut plant sample to be subjected to an increasing pressure. When water appears on the cut surface, the pressure is recorded. The pressure that is required to force water to the cut surface is equal to the tension of the water column at the time the sample was cut. If this is a low pressure, then the plant is under a relatively low moisture stress (corresponding to a high water potential). A parasitic plant must be at a higher water potential than the host, to draw water from the host. Using the water potential measurement of the parasite and the surrounding possible hosts, it is possible to infer which plant the parasitic is attached to. *However, it must be noted that this process is technical and requires specialised equipment and gas cylinders.*

Native cherry is a small bushy hemiparasitic tree growing 4-8m high. It is found in littoral and riparian rainforests, coastal open forests, woodlands and shrublands, across Queensland, New South Wales, the Northern Territory and Western Australia. The genus, *Exocarpos* is derived from the Greek 'exo' meaning outside and 'carpos' meaning fruit, referring to the hard fruit seated on a fleshy stalk. *Latifolius* is derived from the Latin 'latus' meaning broad and 'folius' meaning leaved, referring to the broad leaves.

The leaves are dark green, simple, egg-shaped to oblong and 2.5-8cm by 1.2-5cm. They have approximately seven longitudinal veins visible on both surfaces of the leaves. It has dark greyish brown bark with small, soft scales. Short spikes of small, greenish yellow flowers are present in the upper axils (*angle between the leaf stalk and the stem*), occurring in summer to winter. The fruit are red ovoid drupes, 5-9mm long, seated on a large fleshy pedicel (*flower stalk*) that is bright red and edible when ripe. Fruit are produced winter to summer.

The fruit is eaten by the yellow-faced honeyeater and the seed and/or fruit are eaten by the bush bronzewing, white bellied cuckoo-shrike and rose-crowned fruit dove. It is also a larval food plant of the eastern dusk-flat and fiery jewel butterflies and several moth species, *Anisozygia insperata*, *Genduara subnotata* and *Pholodes sinistaria*.

The timber is dark, very hard and close-grained, suitable for small turnery and cabinetry. An infusion of seed and bark was used by Aborigines as a contraceptive. Wounds were treated with bark, leaves or a combination of both. The bark and leaves were burnt to repel mosquitoes. Strength was said to be imparted to babies by holding them over the smoke of burning leaves.

It is a useful and attractive plant and if you are lucky enough to have it as part of the bushland on your property, the best way to encourage them is to protect the ones you do have and allow them to regenerate naturally.

SLCMA delivers the Land for Wildlife program within the Sarina Catchment area of Mackay Regional Council, on behalf of Mackay Regional Council. If you would like to find out more about the Land for Wildlife program and how to become involved, please contact us on 4956 1388 or admin@sarinalandcare.org.au

Information sourced from:

[Atlas of Living Australia website](#). Species page: *Exocarpos latifolius*

Western Australian Herbarium (1998-). [Florabase- the Western Australian Flora](#).

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

PMS Instrument Company. [PMS - Meaning and Importance](#).

Poulin, R. (2011). The many roads to parasitism: a tale of convergence. *Advances in parasitology*, 74, 1- 40.

Smith, D., Barkman, T. J., & dePamphilis, C. W. (2001). Hemiparasitism. In *Encyclopedia of Biodiversity: Second Edition* (pp. 70-78). Elsevier Inc..

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



Revegetation 101...

Ensure you have:

1. Skilled, motivated, energetic Revegetation Officers
2. Helpful, interested, appreciative Landholders
3. Healthy native plants to plant
4. A wonderful, unique site to work on
5. And last but not least....local brogas to supervise!!

Our Revegetation team joined forces with Pioneer Catchment Landcare's Revegetation team recently, to revegetate on a private property near Koumala. The project was supported by Reef Catchments and aims to improve the natural biodiversity of local wetlands and endangered Melaleuca vegetation.



Photos: M Thomas

Coordinated Aerial Feral Pig Control Program Update



Images: M Sant & others

Top to bottom: local wetlands; feral pig controlled; damage to headlands

Over 50 landholders and stakeholders in the Rocky Dam, Carmila and Clairview catchments participated in the annual Aerial Feral Pig Control Program in December 2021.

The *Coordinated Feral Pig Program* began in 2008 in the Rocky Dam Catchment; through a partnership between local landholders, SLCMA, Mackay Regional Council and Reef Catchments; all of whom were keen to see on-ground action and a reduction in pig damage to productive farmland and the natural environment. The program has continued to grow over the years with more landholders participating and increased land area being covered. In 2013 and 2019, landholders in the Carmila and Clairview Catchments, respectively joined in the program.

Since the program has been operating, the aerial shoot has controlled 2030 feral pigs and 53 wild dogs. Landholders across the catchments have seen a drastic improvement in the productivity of farming land as well as improvements in the health of surrounding mangrove and wetland environments.

Landholders contribute financially on annual basis towards the program. This year, we also received funding from *Reef Catchments* for the Rocky Dam Creek Catchment. Together, the funding covers the cost of fly-time, fuel, ferry, bullets and project coordination.

The total feral animals controlled in this year's initial shoot was:

Rocky Dam Catchment: 97 feral pigs

Carmila Catchment: 12 feral pigs

Clairview Catchment: 71 feral pigs

Thankyou to the landholders, project partners and stakeholders who continue to support the project. The ongoing involvement and financial commitment of the landholders is essential for the program's success and to ensure ongoing sustained pressure on the feral pig populations across the catchments.

Also a big thank you to Mark Sant who continues to share his experience and local knowledge of the area, volunteering his time in the lead up, during and after the control events as well as his precision shooting skills; Andrew Jenkinson (Stockair Heliworks) for his ongoing support to the program.

Aurizon Community Giving Grant—Successful

We are excited and thankful to receive funding through the Aurizon Community Giving Fund Grant for project works and community engagement at the Sarina Inlet Trail, Sarina Beach. The project will help us, over the next 12 months, to reduce weed invasion and enhance the biodiversity of the native coastal vegetation along the trail as well as provide an opportunity to engage with the community to raise awareness about the importance of the site within the coastal environment.

SLCMA Community Nursery 'Plant of the Month'

This month's 'Plant of the Month' is **Ivory mahogany** (*Dysoxylum gaudichaudianum*)
Family Meliaceae

What is in a name? *Dysoxylum* from Greek *dysosmos* meaning stinking and *xylon* meaning wood refers to the onion like smell of some species *gaudichaudianum* after French botanist Charles Gaudichaud-Beaupre (1789-1854).

Form: Medium tree with long drooping leaves

Leaves: Compound, pinnate, 20 x 6cm, oblong to sickle shaped, unequal at base with elongated tip

Flowers: White to cream flowers, outside of petals hairy, occur February to April

Fruit: Brown, yellow or orange oval capsules covered in finely hairy; October to March

Habitat: Rainforest and along streams from sea-level to 300m altitude.

Distribution: Northern and eastern QLD

Notes: Fast growing, attracts birds. Produces useful general purpose timber.

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.

Information sourced from:

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

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



Photos: C Peterson

Above: Fruit

Below: Tree bearing fruit



Sarina Community Nursery Volunteer Program

Our SLCMA volunteers celebrated Christmas at the end of last year in true nursery volunteer style...with a Christmas morning tea celebration. There were smiles and stories shared, good food enjoyed and a smidgen of stealing with our Christmas gift exchange game ;) We would like to thank all of our volunteers for their contributions throughout 2021.

2022 looks like another interesting, somewhat challenging year ahead, given the current COVID situation in our community. After much discussion with our staff and management committee and reviewing the current health advice; we decided to recommence our volunteer mornings as planned, on the 19th January 2022. For those who decide to join us, please be advised of the following COVID-safe procedures are in place for all staff and volunteers:

- ♦ **Do not attend if you feel unwell**, have COVID-like symptoms or have been in contact with a known COVID positive person
- ♦ Wear a mask during the volunteer morning
- ♦ Practice social distancing of 1.5m, where possible
- ♦ Utilise hand washing facility (or hand sanitiser) upon entry and regularly throughout the morning.
- ♦ Limit the number of people and time spent upstairs in the office by:
 - ♦ Enjoying morning tea under house or in yard (*all morning tea facilities will be set up downstairs*)
 - ♦ You are welcome to bring your own cup if you prefer
 - ♦ Access upstairs is available to use the bathroom or for a landcare query (*note, if Landcare queries/discussions can be dealt with outdoors even better*)

If any volunteers feel uncomfortable at the thought of attending, we understand. Your absence will be missed and we look forward to seeing you when things calm down a little. We encourage all our volunteers to keep in contact with us via phone, email or through our private volunteer facebook page.

We will continue to monitor the situation and should the government direction change, we will adjust our processes accordingly. Our aim is to continue to provide an inclusive, fun, safe, volunteer landcare experience for our SLCMA volunteers.

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.



Photos: S von Fahland



Some Christmas fun with our volunteers



Friends of the Sarina Community Native Gardens

For those interested, the **Friends of the Gardens** held in the Sarina Community Native Gardens commenced on Friday 21st January. Please note we have changed the day and time for this volunteer morning to **every Friday, 9am-11am.**

Masks are optional for this outdoor activity, however please have your mask with you at all times, should you need to use it, where social distancing can not be maintained. 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.



Photos: D Fuller



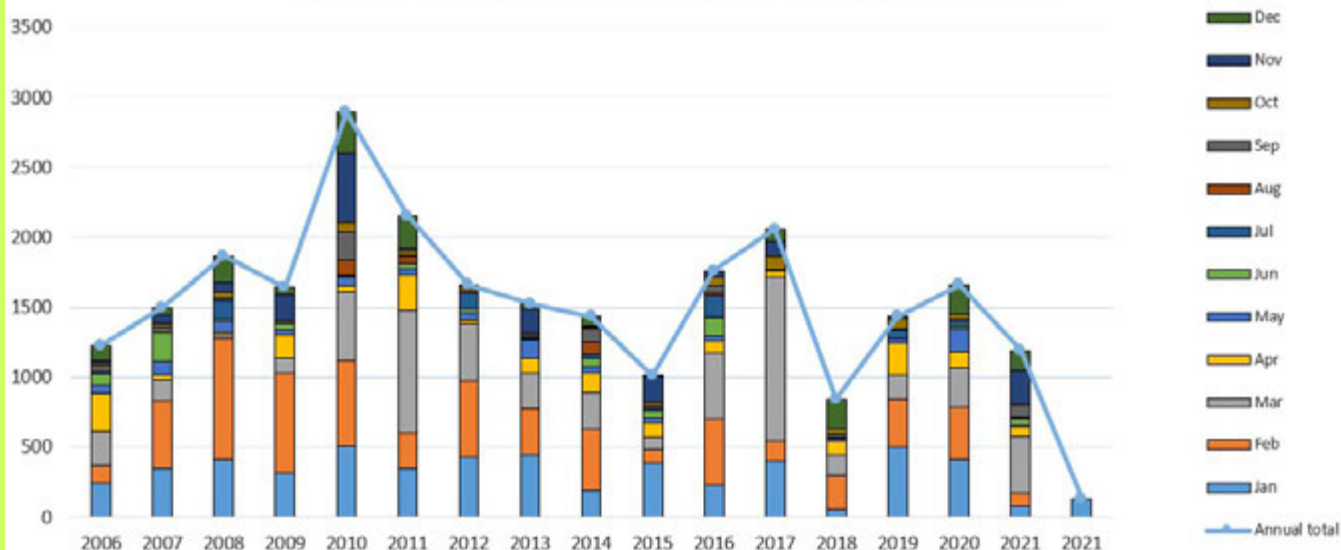
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www.sarinalandcare.org.au
 Email:
admin@sarinalandcare.org.au

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 -2022 (inc annual total)



Did you know? We are fortunate to have koalas in the Sarina catchment. They can be found in woodlands and open forests around the Clarke-Connors Range an extending to the coastal areas around St Lawrence, Clairview and Sarina. The major threats to our local koala populations are:

- * Habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation
- * Natural disasters such as bushfires
- * Climate change—increased intensity of extreme weather conditions.
- * Vehicle collisions
- * Predation

The extensive vegetation within the Clarke-Connors Range provides a good refuge for local populations; however habitat fragmentation to the east and west is impacting koala movement and population health. The Mackay Regional Koala Working Group are working together to build their knowledge of local koala populations and to support our community to protect koalas and their habitat.

Just for fun :)

- Q. Why are koala's so sleepy?
 A. Because they are so tired of being so cute all day!
- Q. What did the Aussie grape say when the koala stood on it?
 A. Nothing, it just let out a little wine!
- Q. What do you call a koala without any clothes?
 A. A koala bare!
- Q. Why isn't the koala a bear?
 A. He doesn't have the right koalifications.



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



Find us on facebook



SLCMA is proudly supported by:



A big thankyou to those who have donated their container refunds to SLCMA, so far we have raised **\$545.60**. Your donation will help us to continue helping the local community and carryout various landcare projects and community education programs.

When you are returning your containers, write our identifier '**C10002138**' on a piece of paper and place it IN the bag with your eligible returned containers. See below for a page of coupons with our ID number— to get you started :)



Please [Containers for Change website](https://www.containersforchange.com.au) to find a drop off point that is close to you!

Alternatively, you can drop them into the Landcare Office at 101 Beach Road, Sarina.



- ⇒ Eligible containers and the ID number should be placed in an opaque bag and put inside the drop bins.
- ⇒ Containers must be empty and the caps removed.
- ⇒ Most aluminium, glass, plastic, steel and liquid paper-board beverage containers between 150ml and 3 litres are eligible for a refund (such as soft drinks, water bottles and small flavoured milk)
- ⇒ Containers must also have held a beverage included in the scheme and display the refund mark.

We appreciate your donation through the Container refund scheme, our identification code is:



C10002138



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