

SLCMA Catchment News 2022



April/May

Office: 101 Sarina Beach Rd
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

Farewell Kristy

After four fun years with us, it is time for our lovely Administration Officer, Kristy Thomsett's next adventure. We would like to thank Kristy for being part of the Sarina Landcare team and for sharing her knowledge, skills, time and support with us. Kristy has played a big part in a range of activities including:

- Ensuring our volunteers have a hot cuppa & morning tea to enjoy every week
- Successfully applying for funding for our annual SLCMA Calendar, marquee, printing of the SLCMA brochure and solar panels for the SLCMA Community Nursery
- Assisting with the promotion and organizing of our many field days and workshops
- Organising our 20th birthday 'Community Fun Day' celebration
- Supporting our staff and volunteer management committee

.....just to name a few things.....

We would like to thank Kristy for being the friendly voice on the phone (*or in person*) for our member, volunteer, landholder and community member enquiries. Kristy is finishing up at the end of May, so if you catch her before she goes, be sure to say hooray. Although she has promised to stop in now and then to catch up!



Photos: contributed

Thank you Kristy for being part of the SLCMA team and all that you have done for SLCMA :)

Help us clean up your local environment

In June, we have four working bees planned in the Sarina Catchment area.

These working bees will involve a variety of activities, from weeding and rubbish clean up at Plane Creek and Sarina Beach and, removal of the bellyache bush at Grasstree Beach.

Plane Creek: Wednesday 1st June, 9am- 12pm

Sarina Beach: Saturday 11th June, 8.30- 10.30am

Grasstree Beach: Wednesday 15th June, 9- 11am and, Sunday 19th June, 1- 3pm.

To register your attendance, please contact us by phone 4956 1388 or email admin@sarinalandcare.org.au

Please wear closed in shoes, a long sleeve shirt, long pants and a broad brimmed hat and bring a water bottle. We will provide gloves and light refreshments.

For more information see the [flyer](#) on our website. We look forward to having your help in cleaning up our natural environment.

These events are proudly supported by Mackay Regional Council.

Volunteers collecting marine debris, Sarina Inlet



Photo: M Thomas

Reflecting and celebrating the Reef Assist program

Sadly, our wonderful Reef Assist Program, funded by the Queensland Government via Reef Catchments is coming to an end. As part of this program we have been able to employ Revegetation Officers equating to two full time positions, over the last 18 months, who have been hard at work across our catchment, revegetating and maintaining our wonderful natural environment.

Onground activities have been undertaken at Louisa Creek Reserve, Sarina Inlet Trail, Plane Creek Revegetation Site, Carmila Beach, Carmila and Plane Creeks and in the Sarina Community Native Gardens. In addition, ten very lucky landholders were treated to land management advice on improving and maintaining their property and given a helping start from our Revegetation team ranging in works from weed control to revegetation.

The team cleared large stretches of weeds, some of which were easier to remove than others. The more difficult weeds comprised Cat's Claw Creeper and Madeira vine. Throughout the project the team planted almost 1,000 native plants, and worked to keep them alive through the drier months while suppressing weed growth in the wetter months.

The Reef Assist Program provided training opportunities for staff such as First Aid, Chainsaw Operators and Certificate 3 in Land Conservation and also provided the opportunity for SLCMA to support our project partners to rehabilitate priority areas within the Sarina Catchment.

Plane Creek



A huge thank you to our wonderful team members over the course of this project including Alana Campbell, Justine Dauwerse, Darrin Fuller, Vynka von Fahland, Bradley Hunter, Peter Perry and Breanna Watters.

Louisa Creek



Below is a selection of photos from our sites, showing the progression of works from the beginning of the program.

Sarina Inlet Trail



Carmila Beach



Carmila Creek



SLCMA Community Nursery 'Plant of the Month'

This month's 'Plant of the Month' is the **ivory mahogany** (*Dysoxylum gaudichaudianum*) Family: **Sapindaceae**

What is in a name? *Dysoxylum* from 'dys-' bad and '-xylon' wood, referring to the unpleasant smell of the wood of some species and *gaudichaudianum* after the French botanist Charles Gaudichaud-Beaupre.

Form: A tree to 36m tall, which may be buttressed.

Leaves: Long drooping compound leaves, with seven to 26 leaflets, 8-30 x 3.5-10cm. Smooth upper and smooth or hairy underside.

Flower: An axillary panicle of small creamy white flowers, 12 to 14mm long, flowering February to April.

Fruit: Mustard yellow, brown yellow or orange brown capsule, 2.5cm long by 3-3.5cm wide, velvety hairy, usually with five valves. The ripe fruit often has an unpleasant smell. The capsule contains up to 10 brown, dark orange or red brown seed, 10mm long, with an orange aril. October to March.

Habitat: Found in riparian rainforest, across tropical Queensland from sea level to 700m above sea level.

Distribution: From Cape York to the Mary River in south east Queensland, New Guinea, Malesia, the Pacific Islands, and Christmas Island.

Notes: The fruit is eaten by the figbird and metallic starling.



Photo: C Peterson

The **"Plant of the Month"** is currently available from the SLCMA Community Nursery. *Ivory Mahogany fruit* Landcare members are eligible to receive 1 free "Plant of the Month", throughout that month. 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.

Sarina Community Nursery Volunteer Program

The nursery is full to the brim with healthy tube stock ready for revegetation projects, landholders and gardeners to get growing in the ground. Our volunteers have been lending a hand sowing seeds, potting on seedlings and weeding tube stock. They also ventured out with us for a couple of seed collecting trips at Plane Creek revegetation site and the Carmila Beach site. We were able to collect a good variety of seed from both sites which will now be cleaned and sown back at the nursery.

If you would like to volunteer in your local community and meet new people while learning 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.

Photo: S von Fahland



L-R) Volunteers enjoying the search for native seed at Carmila Beach and helping out in the SLCMA Community Nursery

Photos: S Tomlinson

Friends of the Sarina Community Native Gardens



Photo: S von Fahland

It is an awesome time of year for gardens. They thrive with the heat, humidity and rain. Unfortunately, so do the weeds! Never fear, our volunteers are here! Its great to have some help in the gardens pulling weeds and keeping the gardens looking great. They have been doing an amazing job. The revegetation team members have also spent some time in the gardens assisting with weed control, mulching and planting.

For those interested, the **Friends of the Gardens** held in the Sarina Community Native Gardens commenced on Friday 21st January. Our volunteer meet **every Friday, 9am-11am**. Please contact us, if you would like to volunteer or find out more about the program.



Photo: S Tomlinson

Nesting boxes and wildlife cameras

Thanks to our wonderful Land for Wildlife participants, and proudly supported by the Mackay Regional Council, we have the opportunity to host our annual Land for Wildlife workshop. This year, we will be focussing on our friendly wildlife visitors, with a talk on how to spot them and a workshop on how to encourage them to stay for a while.



Many of our Australian wildlife species rely on tree hollows for roost and nest sites (17% of bird species, 42% of mammals and 28% of reptiles). This includes possums, sugar gliders, parrots, microbats, phascogales and owls. Natural tree hollows can take upwards of 100 years to form, and with land clearing, urbanisation and other human impacts such as fire, means that hollows are not as readily available as they once were. To help protect wildlife which require tree hollows, we can install artificial tree hollows such as nesting boxes!

The workshop will start at 12.30pm on Friday the 1st July 2022 with the presentation, light refreshments and a practical session to make your very own nesting box. Please note the workshop will need to be pre-booked and there will be a small cost for materials, charged per nesting box. We encourage small family groups to come work together to build a box. Limited spaces are available.

Nesting boxes can be made of various different materials, such as plywood, hard wood, PVC piping or recycled plastic. They can be sourced pre-made, in a flat pack or constructed yourself to specific designs. Each design is tailored to a specific type of animal as each show a preference for box size, entry size and shape.

If you would like to make your own nesting box, but can't make our workshop, contact the SLCMA office for a range of information, including designs for different animals to make your own, a range of websites where you can source flat packed or pre-made options and some curated information on where to position your new nesting box.

We hope to see you there, to learn how to support our Australian wildlife!



Weed Feature: Water mimosa (*Neptunia oleracea* or *Neptunia plena*)

Water mimosa (*Neptunia oleracea* or *Neptunia plena*) are category 2, 3, 4 and 5 restricted invasive plants under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. The Act requires that all sightings of water mimosa plants must be reported to Biosecurity Queensland within 24 hours of the sighting. The species are native to Mexico, Central America and northern parts of South America, however *N. plena* also grows in tropical Asia, where it is farmed as a water vegetable. The plants grow in scattered locations across Queensland and have been spotted in the Mackay region.

Water mimosa is an aquatic plant, that will fix and release nitrogen into water. An increase in nitrogen in the water may lead to an increase in algal blooms, the growth of other weeds and affect water quality. The species grows on land in damp soil or on water as thick floating mats. It is commonly found in and around wetlands, freshwater pools, swamps and canals. Water mimosa floats on the water, while attached to the bank at the water's edge. The stems grow up to 1.5m in length, out over the water surface, forming a spongy, fibrous covering. The leaves are formed of leaflets with 8 to 20 pairs. The leaflets are sensitive to the touch and will close quickly, leading to the common name of water mimosa. The flowers are yellow, ball-shaped, 7- 16 mm in length and 0.5- 1mm wide. With flowering occurring from early summer. The seeds are brown and oval, 4- 5.1mm by 2.7- 3.5mm with 4 to 8 per legume. When found on land, water mimosa has smaller leaves and flowers and no spongy floating tissue.

Water mimosa grows from seed and stem sections that break free from the parent plant. In addition, floating sections of dense inter-woven stems can be dislodged by water movement and re-establish further downstream. The species has been subject to sale and distribution through communities and gardeners, as it is an Asian vegetable. Once established water mimosa will restrict water flow, increase water loss, reduce water quality, create habitat for mosquitoes, reduce fish activity, kill native water plants and fish and replace native wetland plants. In addition, it may impede recreational water activities.

Water mimosa flower



All suspected sightings of water mimosa must be reported to Biosecurity Queensland (13 25 23), which will work with the relevant person to control the plant. Anyone finding suspected plants should immediately take steps to minimise the risk of water mimosa spreading. In most cases the best management approach combines herbicide, mechanical and biological control methods with land management changes. It is essential to choose control methods that suit the specific plant and the particular situation. Herbicides suggested for use with water mimosa comprise metsulfuron-methyl, glyphosate, glyphosate formulations registered for use in aquatic situations, amitrole and ammonium thiocyanate. It must be noted that limited use is permitted near potable water sources or supply areas and wetting agents that are not approved for use in aquatic situations cannot be used.

See the [Water mimosa DAF fact sheet](#) for recommended control methods including permitted herbicides.



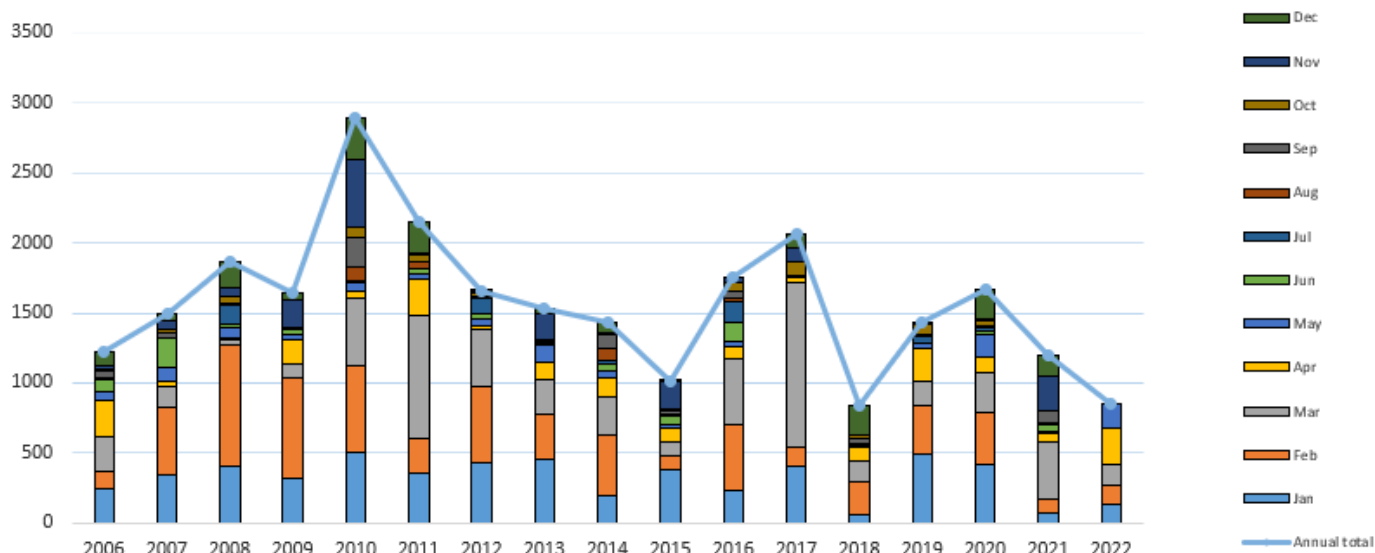
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What SLCMA Membership does for you !

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 -2022 (inc annual total)



Just for fun!

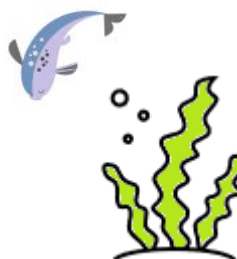
Q. Did you hear about the race between the sand and the sea?
A. They tied.

Q. What did the beach say to the tide when it came in?
A. Long time no sea!

Q. What did the ocean say to the lifeguard?
A. Nothing, it just waved.

Q. Why did the jellyfish blush?
A. Because the sea weed.

Q. What's the difference between a piano and a fish?
A. You can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish!



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

General Meeting (& BBQ) —all welcome!



On Friday 10th of June we have our General Meeting at 4.30pm, at the SLCMA Office. This is an opportunity to showcase and celebrate the Reef Assist Program and will include a presentation on the wonderful work completed by the team, over the last 18mths.

As part of the event we will be having a BBQ. Please RSVP by Wednesday 8th June, for catering purposes along with any dietary requirements.



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 **\$588.90**. 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:



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