

# SLCMA Catchment News 2022



## June

**Office:** 101 Sarina Beach Rd  
Sarina, QLD, 4737

**Phone:** (07) 4956 1388

**Website:**  
[www.sarinalandcare.org.au](http://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**  
vacant

**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!

**Friendly reminder that membership renewals** are now due. We value your membership and support and, look forward to your continued involvement in Landcare during 22/23 financial year.

**RENEW  
MEMBERSHIP**

The membership fee remains at \$10 per person annually, with all of the great benefits. You are welcome to pay by internet banking, credit card or cash. Contact us, to workout the best option for you. Thank you to those who have already re-joined :)



Photos: S von Fahland

**SLCMA General Meeting, 10 June 2022** — Thank you to our members that came along to our general meeting recently. Despite the cool temperature we all enjoyed a friendly chat and an opportunity to hear about and celebrate the Reef Assist Program. Thank you to our Project Officer, Susan for giving a presentation about the program and its successes over the last 18 months. It was great to also have some of our Reef Assist team members present at the meeting, they should be proud of what they have achieved. We finished the meeting with some yummy pizza and garlic bread!

**Out & about in the community**—it was great to get out with our SLCMA display at the Sarina 4WD & Outdoor Centre Open Day on 16th May. We had loads of Landcare information to share, fun activities for the kids and a few free native plants to give-away.



## Composting and worm farm workshop

Composting and worm farming were the top discussion amongst the 16 attendees at the recent Composting and worm farm workshop held on 28th May at the SLCMA Office. A big thank you to Mackay Regional Council for their support towards the workshop and to Luke Matthews for sharing his wealth of knowledge and inspiration.

Congratulations to Tim Dalton, the winner of the compost kit, donated by Mackay Regional Council.

Composting and worm farming at home is simple, and good for the environment by reducing the amount of organic waste that goes to landfill and creating a more natural and healthier place to live. Worm farms produce great natural fertiliser for your garden, take up very little space and are easy-to-use. For more information on composting, worm farms and Bokashi Buckets [click here](#).

If you missed out on this workshop, visit the [Mackay Regional Council website](#) for details of future workshops across the region.



Below: Susan, Tim and Luke



Photos: B. Thompson



# Volunteers help clean up the Sarina Catchment

Throughout June, our wonderful volunteers joined SLCMA for a series of community working bees around the Sarina Catchment. During the working bees, volunteers joined in a variety of activities from marine debris collections, site clean-ups and targeted weed control — all to help our natural environment. A big thankyou to Mackay Regional Council for their support for the events.

The first working bee held on 1st June, began with a weeding session at the Plane Creek Revegetation Site. The volunteers worked alongside the SLCMA Revegetation Team to remove weeds and tidy up one of the planting areas. It was a great opportunity to see how the site is continuing to transform into a healthy riparian zone and, also to brush up on plant identification skills.

The second working bee held on 11th June, saw SLCMA join Conservation Volunteers as part of World Ocean's Day, at Sarina Beach. The team of 11 volunteers collected an incredible haul of marine debris and rubbish; including the usual suspects of cans & plastics, to some more unusual ones. With the strangest assortment of table bits, metal and tyres emerging from the mangroves! So much, in fact, that we had to leave a few piles for later collection! *This event was also supported by Conservation Volunteers Australia Revive and Chevron.*

Our next stop was across two days (15th & 19th June) at Grasstree Beach Reserve, where we were joined by 9 volunteers to remove a noxious weed, Bellyache bush (*Jatropha gossypifolia*). One of our volunteers was so keen he joined us on both days! Bellyache bush is a category 3 restricted invasive species and weed of national significance. It produces a toxic substance which leads to symptoms of gastroenteritis and the eventual death of some animals. It was introduced from tropical America as a garden plant, but has since escaped. It is commonly found along riverbanks and roadsides. Luckily it is shallow rooted and can be removed by hand, unless the plant is very large, then we discovered a mattock comes in handy! Over the two sessions we were able to survey over 3,500m<sup>2</sup> and remove a large quantity of plants, ranging in size from 20cm to 2m. We look forward to continue working with the Department of Resources and the community to tackle this weed.

An enormous thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who came along to care for their natural environment.



Photos: L Scoble and S Whiteley



# SLCMA Community Nursery 'Plant of the Month'

This month's 'Plant of the Month' is the **Native buttercup** (*Ranunculus lappaceus*) Family: **Ranunculaceae**

**What is in a name?** *Ranunculus* Latin for 'little frog' as many species are found in wet places with frogs and *lappaceus* from the Latin *lappa* meaning 'bur', meaning bur-bearing.

**Form:** An erect, perennial, hairy herb up to 70cm tall with fibrous roots.

**Leaves:** Radical, 1-8 x 1-8cm blades, ternately or biternately dissected or lobed with dentate, usually acute segments, appressed hairs.

**Flower:** Golden flowers, 1.5-4cm in diameter with the outer of the sepals hairy. Early spring to summer.

**Fruit:** Brown, lenticular, obovate-cuneate achenes, 1.7-3.5mm long. Lateral surfaces smooth or dimpled, slender arched beak, receptacle with hairy achene zone but otherwise smooth.

**Habitat:** Common in wetlands.

**Distribution:** Queensland, New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia.

**Notes:** Common in damp areas, roadsides, drainage ditches etc.

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. 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.



Flower of *Ranunculus lappaceus*

Photo: S von Fahland



Susie & Tony in front of gardens at Sarina 4WD

## Sarina 4WD & Outdoor Centre—native gardens

A big thank you to Sarina 4WD & Outdoor Centre for entrusting our Nursery Officer, Susie and Revegetation Team — to give their gardens a facelift, using native plants from the SLCMA Community Nursery.

The gardens were prepped and re-planted at the end of 2021 and include a variety of native plants of with different shapes, sizes and colours including Cats whiskers, Lomandra, Winter apple, Paroo lilly, Sims wattle & Native rosella. The plants have settled in nicely, complete with an array of flowers. Be sure to check them out on your next visit to Sarina 4WD & Outdoor Centre :)

## Sarina Community Nursery Volunteer Program

The nursery volunteers and Susie have given the nursery treatment train a much needed clean up and what a job it was! The water plants were very root bound and required dividing and repotting before going back into the treatment train. It now looks fresh and lush. Thank you to our nursery volunteers for continuing to support us. Wednesday is always a productive, fun day of weeding, seed cleaning and sowing, potting on and of course a good old chin wag accompanied with a refreshing morning tea.

**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



Volunteers having some fun in the nursery :)

## Friends of the Sarina Community Native Gardens

The gardens are looking lovely at the moment. Still some weeding and trimming to do....there's always something. Our awesome volunteers have been helping with these tasks and their assistance is greatly appreciated and noticed around the gardens. Cooler temps have us chasing the sun and time spent in the garden is the perfect way to warm up your body.

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

Photo: S von Fahland



Susie & Henry planting wetland plants into the sediment basin

## Land for Wildlife program

As the financial year approaches, we want to let you know that we have spots available in our Land for Wildlife Program! So, why would you want to join?!



The Land for Wildlife (LfW) program is a free, voluntary program that aims to support, encourage, and recognise landholders who integrate wildlife conservation with their land management activities. By protecting the natural biodiversity of your land, you can provide a wide variety of habitats for native wildlife. The retention of habitat for native wildlife can play a major role in sustainable land management. It can provide a natural means of pest control, help with erosion and salinity management, and provide shade and shelter for livestock. Whilst National Parks and other reserves protect natural areas, they only cover four percent of Queensland. Hence, why private properties have an important role in the landscape.

The Land for Wildlife program has no legislative requirements, does not change the legal status of your property, will not change how you manage your property and you can opt out whenever you like. It is purely to help landholders learn about how to care for and protect the native plants, animals and ecosystems on their own property, and receive advice and support in managing threats such as weeds and pest animals.

There are some eligibility requirements for the program which include: the property must be located in the Mackay Regional Council area, is larger than 1 hectare, has some areas of intact, native vegetation present and the landholder is genuinely interested protecting or enhancing the natural biodiversity of the property.

The Land for Wildlife Program, offers landholders a variety of **FREE** benefits including:

- A property visit from our Project Officer, including habitat assessment and discussion of property goals.
- Plant identification and advice (both native and exotic plants), threatened species, ecosystems, and their management.
- Personalised Land Management Plan to provide further information targeted at your specific property goals.
- **20 free native plants annually**
- Opportunity for property re-visit, as needed. This is handy if you would like follow-up advice or to discuss changes to your property overtime.
- Receive quarterly newsletter and invitations to workshops, field days and opportunities to meet other like-minded landholders.
- A Land for Wildlife sign for your property to acknowledge your efforts in wildlife conservation.

**There are only a few spaces available each year, so get in quick!**

If you are interested, please complete and return the [Expression of Interest Form](#) (found on our website [www.sarinalandcare.org.au](http://www.sarinalandcare.org.au)) to [admin@sarinalandcare.org.au](mailto:admin@sarinalandcare.org.au), or call the SLCMA Office on 4956 1388. *The Land for Wildlife Program is supported by Mackay Regional Council Natural Environment Levy.*

## Pangola dieback

Recently pangola (*Digitaria eriantha*) pasture dieback has been spotted in the area. This phenomenon is not restricted to pangola, rather it can occur in most tropical and sub-tropical sown grasses and can spread to some native grasses. It can occur across a range of soil types and landscapes. Dieback events have been noted in tropical pastures for almost 100 years.

Pasture dieback is a condition which causes uneven growth and premature death of grass pastures which would not otherwise be affected. The symptoms of dieback are similar across grass species with affected plants:

- Yellowing and/or reddening of leaves (starting with the oldest leaves)
- Stunted in height and seed head size
- Reduced root system

Dieback usually occurs in patches, with a decreased grass density. These patches are subsequently colonised by broadleaf weeds, legumes and occasionally annual grasses. Eventually whole paddocks can become affected.

There are three possible causes of dieback: environmental conditions, management practices or pathogenic organisms. Currently, research has indicated that pathogens are the most likely cause, with environmental conditions and management practices amplifying the issue through interaction with the pathogen. These main factors include:

- Higher than average annual rainfall over consecutive years
- Long term conservative stocking rates
- Deferred grazing practices e.g. spelling paddocks over the summer growing season
- Leaving paddocks un-grazed for long periods of time
- Application of fertiliser in combination with conservative stocking, leading to a long term high pasture yield.

Multiple techniques are in trial to restore affected pastures, such as burning, fertilising, cultivating, spraying pesticides or biological formulations and changing grazing management. Currently, the advice is to cultivate and re-seed with legumes or forages to improve productivity until the trials inform the best practise. This is due to the fact that legumes are unaffected by the conditions causing the pasture dieback.

For more information see the [Department of Agriculture and Fisheries dieback information sheets, Meat & Livestock Australia](#) or [factsheets on our website](#).

If you are affected by pasture dieback, you are encouraged to contact the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries team specialising in dieback on phone 13 25 23; to help the team understand the factors involved in dieback and receive available assistance.



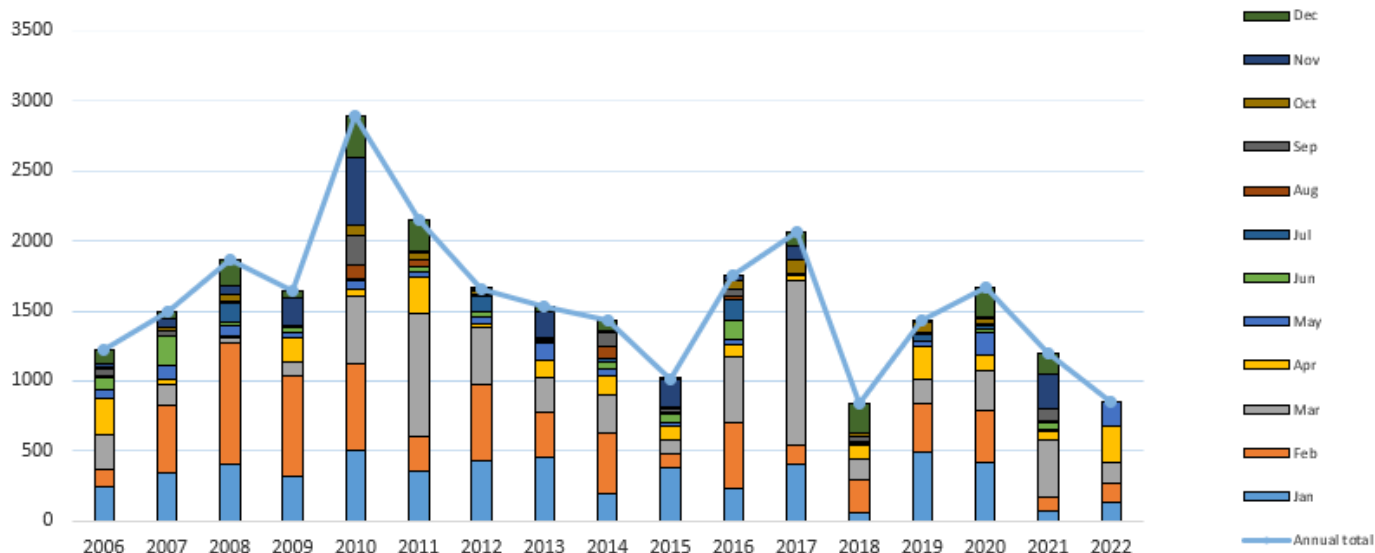
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## What SLCMA Membership does for you !

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!

A man is about to go to bed with his wife when there's a knock at the door. He rolls over and looks at his clock, and it's 2:30 in the morning. "I'm not getting out of bed at this time," he thinks and rolls over. Then a louder knock follows. "Aren't you going to answer that?" says his wife.

So he drags himself out of bed and goes downstairs. He opens the door and there is a man standing on the porch. It didn't take the homeowner long to realize the man was drunk.

"Hi there," slurs the stranger. "Can you give me a push?" "No, go away! It's two in the morning. I was in bed," says the man and he slams the door. He goes back up to bed and tells his wife what happened. She says: "That wasn't very nice of you. Remember that night we broke down in the pouring rain on the way to pick the kids up from class and you had to knock on that man's house to get us started again? What would have happened if he'd told us to get lost?"

"But the guy was drunk," says the husband. "It doesn't matter," says the wife. "He needs our help and you should help him."

So the husband gets out of bed again, gets dressed, and goes downstairs. He opens the front door, and not being able to see the stranger anywhere he shouts, "Hey, do you still want a push?" And he hears a voice cry out, "Yeah, please."

So, still being unable to see the stranger he shouts: "Where are you?" And the drunk replies, "Over here, on the swing."



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



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**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:



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