

SLCMA Catchment News 2023



Aug/Sep/Oct

Office: 101 Sarina Beach Rd
Sarina, QLD, 4737

Phone: (07) 4956 1388

Website:

www.sarinalandcare.org.au

Email:

admin@sarinalandcare.org.au

Office hours:

Mon/Wed: 9am-4pm

Tue/Thu: 9am-2pm

Fri: 9am-3.30pm

*Please phone ahead to
confirm availability,
just in case we are out
on a project or meeting.*

Staff

Coordinator

Saskia von Fahland

Administration Officer

Helen Dangerfield

Nursery Officer

Susie Tomlinson

Call us for information:

- ◇ Weed management
- ◇ Plant identification
- ◇ Land management
- ◇ Land for Wildlife

Volunteer opportunities:

* SLCMA Community
Volunteer Program,
Wednesday, 9-12 noon.

* Friends of the Sarina
Community Native Gardens—
express your interest to
participate

Native plants available for
purchase \$3.30 each.

SLCMA Executive 22/23

Chair: Lachlan McBride

Vice-chair: Karen May

Treasurer: Susan Andrews

Secretary (acting):

Carol Norris

Executive members:

Kath Redmond



Sarina
Landcare

SLCMA News!

Members and Volunteers are invited to attend our **SLCMA Christmas Party & Annual General Meeting on Saturday 25th November at the Sarina Bowls Club**. The event will kick off at 4.30pm with our Annual General Meeting (AGM), followed by a friendly game of barefoot bowls.

Come along, meet the SLCMA team and;

- ◆ acknowledge our awesome volunteers
- ◆ help celebrate our achievements for the last 12 months
- ◆ catch up with Landcare friends over a platter of nibbles and light refreshments.

SLCMA Strategic plan: The SLCMA Management Committee and staff have been developing a strategic plan to guide the direction and focus of the organisation for the next two years. A copy of the plan will be sent out to our members shortly.

SLCMA safety: We believe first aid training is an important life skill, that can keep ourselves, volunteers, families & friends safe. Hence all staff completed their First Aid course recently.



St Lawrence Wetland Weekend—Fun for everyone!

The SLCMA team had the pleasure of attending the St Lawrence Wetland Weekend on 23-25 June. It is a wonderful local event, set in the heart of St Lawrence which immerses attendees in a diversity of culture, art, music, culinary delights and our impressive local environment — through knowledge sharing, entertainment and activities for all ages.

This year, we once again attended with our Landcare display and range of interactive activities. In addition, we joined Conservation Volunteers Australia, Koinmerburra Aboriginal Corporation and Isaac Regional Council in two community plantings held throughout the event. Sixty-five volunteers planted 380 native tubestock to help improve the native vegetation around the wetlands. It was a great chance to be part of the rehabilitation of the wetlands now and into the future.

Of course, we also had the pleasure of Costa Georgiadis sharing his knowledge and inspiring us to all do our little bit in reducing waste, creating habitats, growing food and plants.

A big congratulations to Isaac Regional Council who recently won Gold in *The Excellence Award Best Festival or Event* in the Mackay Isaac Tourism Awards 2023—well deserved.

So lock-in your calendar, 21-23 June 2024 for the next [St Lawrence Wetlands Weekend](#), you won't be disappointed!



L-R: SLCMA display, making seed bombs, planting event, Lachie & Susie, Costa & SLCMA team

Photos: contributed

Sarina Community Nursery Volunteer Program

Welcome to our new nursery volunteers George, "Watty", Jenny and Anna! It is always nice to see some fresh faces joining us. All our volunteers bring a range of skills with them and are usually eager to share their knowledge and passion of plants, gardening and the local environment and, learn new skills.

A popular activity for the nursery volunteers is seed collecting and, we have had some very 'fruitful' seed collection trips recently to Louisa Creek, Plane Creek and Freshwater point. We were excited to collect from a variety of species including; Burdekin plum (*Pleiogynium timorense*), Scaly ebony (*Diospyros geminate*), Lolly-bush (*Clerodendrum floribundum*), Coastal jasmine (*Jasminum didymium*), Native olive (*Chionanthus ramiflora*) and Coastal damson (*Terminalia muelleri*). George had his first taste of the Burdekin plum, unfortunately though, I don't think it was quite ripe enough from his reaction ;)

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
Our volunteers enjoying morning tea out & about after seed collecting



Photo: S Tomlinson



Photos: S von Fahland



Top: The 'fruits' of one of our seed collection trips ;)
Middle: It's a team effort collecting seed, thank you to our volunteers!
Bottom: Some fun in the nursery

SLCMA Community Nursery expansion is underway!

We are very excited and grateful to have obtained support from Mackay Regional Council as well as, receive funding through the *Community Bank Sarina Community Grant Program* and *Stronger Communities Program* to enable us to begin works on expanding the SLCMA Community Nursery.

The expansion will allow us to grow more native plants, including a more accessible retail area for the community and of course more space for our ever increasing volunteer team to operate in. As they say, it wont happen overnight, but it will happen ;). As such, the expansion will be done in stages: Stage 1 is underway with the initial site preparations, groundwork and installation of a new security fence, due to be completed by December.

Stage 2 will follow in the new year, with the installation of new (& modifications of existing) benches and irrigation system...Further down the track, *subject to funding*, we will upgrade the soil storage and mixing area, re-install the Wetland Treatment train and expand the undercover area and workbenches for our volunteers & staff.

With funding through the *Stronger Communities Program*, we engaged Diverse Asset Maintenance Services to undertake removal and pruning of vegetation around the new nursery area; with the added bonus of fresh mulch for the Sarina Community Native Gardens. We are looking forward to having Sarina Mini Excavators out soon to undertake other ground and drainage preparations and then thanks to *Community Bank Sarina Community Grant Program* we will have Mackay Fencing install the new security fence.



Photos: S von Fahland



Above: Before & after vegetation removal & pruning



Stump grinding, vegetation removed and pruned and, fresh mulch for the gardens



Volunteers help 'Clean Up Mackay Region' at Freshwater Point

SLCMA joined Mackay Regional Council to help 'Clean up the Mackay Region' on the 18th August, by facilitating a clean up event at Freshwater Point. Thank you to the 8 volunteers who combed the bushland, mangrove edges and boat ramp area and collected 8 bags of rubbish as well as other larger items such as 4 tyres and a boat hatch.

Thank you to Mackay Regional Council and sponsors for providing goodie bags for our volunteers.

Clean Up Mackay Region is part of the *Great Northern Clean Up* initiative that aims to encourage the community to work together to take practical action to reduce rubbish in our environment and make a real difference.

Some practical ways you can make a difference everyday to reduce litter in our environment are:

- 1) **Don't be a part of the problem:** Make sure your trash makes it into the trash every time
- 2) **Create less waste:** Decrease the rubbish that ends up in our environment. Start with bringing reusable bags to the supermarket.
- 3) **Clean up litter in your free time:** Carry some spare bags and gloves in your car, when you are out and about and see rubbish, that is an opportunity to pick it up and dispose of it correctly. It is a powerful way to make sure that less rubbish ends up in our streets and environment.
- 4) **Get your neighbours involved:** Ask the people who live around you to help keep the place clean.
- 5) **Set up local litter cleaning groups:** Enjoy the fresh air, join your friends or meet new people and help clean up your local area.
- 6) **If you see illegal dumping, report it:** Join up with *Snap, Send, Solve*—a free phone app that is a quick, easy, effective way to report concerns to local Council.



Top-Bottom: Edie Weiss & Penny McMahon; Shanara Adamson & Josh Jarrott; Jaylan & James Heaphy; George Ilkowicz



School Activity Day—Caring for our Coasts

We had an awesome fun-filled School Activity Day in August at Salonika Beach, with 120 students from Alligator Creek, Homebush and Swayneville State Schools, learning about:

- ♦ How special our local mangroves are, why and how to protect them.
- ♦ Marine debris, microplastics and their impacts on our marine ecosystems.
- ♦ Coastal native plants and making of native seedbombs for our dunes.

A huge thank you to Morgan Thomas & Kellie Best from Reef Catchments and, Leah Scoble from Conservation Volunteers for helping out on the day and the local schools for coming along and supporting the event.

This event was supported by Mackay Regional Council Natural Environment Program which also covered the transport costs for the schools to attend, which is a great help—thank you!

Local school students having fun, learning about mangroves, marine debris and native coastal plants

Photos: contributed



Frog hotels are on the rise in Sarina !

Fourteen new frog hotels have been installed in Sarina area, thanks to a successful **'Build your own frog hotel' workshop** on the 9th September. Sixteen participants harnessed their creative energy and re-used second hand materials such as plumbing pipes, buckets, pots, cisterns and other materials to create supplementary frog habitats, providing cool, moist shelter.....from single and family hotel rooms to 5 star resorts!

Why frog hotels? While frogs are most commonly associated with water, it's important to realise that this is not where most of them live. While ponds and water sources are breeding sites, frog hotels are places for frogs to shelter, sleep and, in cooler weather, bunker down. In many areas of Australia, homeowners are regularly faced with green-tree frogs (and friends) hiding out and seeking shelter in laundries, fence posts, bathrooms, door jambs and, the classic croaker location in Queensland and Northern Territory - toilets. Frog hotels are a perfect opportunity to provide your frog families some extra habitat, so they don't start making their way indoors.

Will it work for all frogs? Like an exclusive nightclub, frog hotels are only suitable for tree frogs (*Litoria* species). These arboreal amphibians have sticky toe pads that cling to the slippery surfaces which enable them to climb into the Frog Hotel. For example, the Motorbike Frog (*Litoria moorei*) is a tree frog and is one of many found around Australia.

If you would like to learn about how to create a frog hotel, feel free to contact us for more information (or come along to our next workshop). For inspiration, check out the [Frog Hotels & Ponds Australia facebook page](#).

:~:

A big thank you to Bruce Thompson from Mackay Regional Council for supporting and assisting with the event. Bruce was able to source a range of materials to be re-used for the event. One of the items to be re-used evoked a touching story about a reunion of a treasured terracotta pot that was missing for about 20 years...

The terracotta pot, had made its way to the Incredible Tip Shop and was purchased for the frog hotel workshop. It was later discovered that its underside was engraved *Robbie Maguire, Walkerston Cemetery*. Understandably we put the pot aside, not able to re-use it for the workshop.

After some investigating, Bruce made an important connection and the terracotta pot was returned to Mrs Maguire — the mother of Robby Maguire, who passed away in a car accident at a young age. The pot was stolen not too long after it was placed on Robbie's grave. It was Robbie's father who engraved the words on his pot and he too has since passed away. The terracotta pot was returned to Mrs Maguire, who understandably was overcome with emotion when she learned about the pot.

(This story has been shared with permission from Mrs Maguire).



Some action shots from the workshop, showing the frog hotels and resorts, in progress as well as finished products. Lots of fun was had by all and we hear there has even been some frog hotel bookings!

Sarina Koala Project

Support for landholders is available within priority areas in Sarina, to undertake onground activities such as weed control and revegetation. See below for more information or contact sandy.whittington@reefcatchments.com

Want to help our local Koalas?



Here's how

Sarina Habitat Restoration

Do you have koalas or want to attract them to your property? We can help with weed control, reducing fire risk and planting suitable trees on your land. For more information and to register your interest, scan the QR code or email: sandy.whittington@reefcatchments.com

Image courtesy Charley Geddes

This project received funding from the Australian Government's Saving Koalas Fund.



Land for Wildlife Program

Calling all current LfW landholders – If it has been a while since we have visited your property and you would like to organise a revisit, please let us know. We are

more than happy to catch up and discuss your progress or goals and provide advice to help you integrate nature conservation with other land management uses such as grazing or residential use; whether that be managing threats such as weeds and pest animals or, learning about native plants, animals or ecosystems on your property. Give us a call as we are here to provide support.



Would you like to join the Land for Wildlife program? 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 within the landscape.

The program offers a variety benefits including a property visit, plant identification and advice, personalised land management plan, 20 free native plants annually, quarterly newsletter and invitation to field days and workshop.

If you are interested, please complete and return the [Expression of Interest Form](#) (found on our website www.sarinalandcare.org.au) to 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.*

National Tree Day—Louisa Creek Reserve

On 3rd August, SLCMA staff worked alongside staff from Mackay Regional Council (MRC), Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal PL (DBCT PL) and Dalrymple Bay Infrastructure (DBI) to participate in National Tree Day. Together we planted 150 native coastal plants, contributing to the long term rehabilitation of the reserve.

Initial site preparations were undertaken by the SLCMA Reef Assist team and Mackay Regional Council team and included removal of guinea grass & guava; blanket mulching the site and pre-drilling of holes ready for planting.



The planting event ran smoothly with all tubestock planted, guarded and watered within a short space of time. Everyone enjoyed seeing how previous National Tree day plantings were growing and contributing to the health of the site. Thank you to DBCTPL, MRC and the Queensland Government's Reef Assist Program for supporting the event.

L: The awesome planting team

Top: Thanks to Erin Furmage (DBCTPL) for her continued support for the event.

Bottom: Pam Martin (MRC) & Saskia von Fahland (SLCMA)





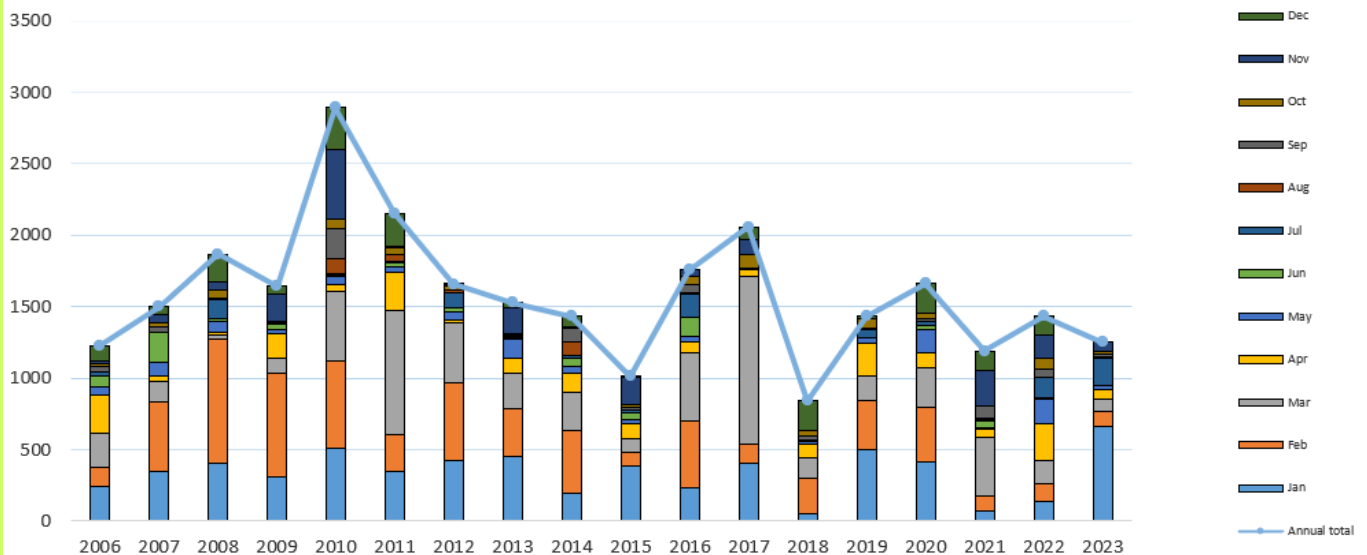
Address: 101 Sarina Beach Rd, Sarina QLD 4737
Phone: (07) 4956 1388
Website: www.sarinalandcare.org.au
Email: admin@sarinalandcare.org.au

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 -2023 (inc annual total)



Just for fun!

What did the llama say when he got kicked out of the zoo?
 "Alpaca my bags!"

If you're English in the kitchen and English in the living room, what are you in the bathroom?
 "European"

Why are fish so intelligent?
 "Because they're always in schools."

How does the moon cut his hair?
 "Eclipse it!"

What does bread do on holiday?
 "Loaf around!"

What sound does a nut make when it sneezes?
 "Ca-shew!"



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



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