

SLCMA Catchment News 2023



Nov/Dec

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/Field

Team Supervisor

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

SLCMA Executive 23/24

Chair: Lachlan McBride

Vice-chair: vacant

Treasurer: Susan Andrews

Secretary: Karen May

Executive members: vacant



SLCMA News!

Thank you to our members, volunteers staff and landcare friends who gathered on the 25th November at the Sarina Bowls Club for our Annual General Meeting, followed by our Landcare Christmas party.

The AGM was a great opportunity to see what achievements we have made and to thank our volunteers and supporters for their contributions over the past year:

- ◆ Thank you to our outgoing volunteer management committee members: Lachlan McBride, Karen May, Susan Andrews, Carol Norris and Kath Redmond. The management committee have worked together as a team, to guide the strategic direction of the organisation and support SLCMA staff in their daily operations.
- ◆ Thank you to our nursery volunteers who come along every Wednesday to volunteer in the SLCMA Community Nursery, under the guidance of our Nursery Officer Susie Tomlinson. This year we have propagated a great variety of native plant species and enjoyed many seed collecting adventures across the Sarina catchment.
- ◆ Thank you to our project partners and supporters for your ongoing support for the diverse range of projects and programs we deliver together.

To find out more please have a read of our [Annual Report](#) or visit our website: sarinalandcare.org.au

We would like to thank and welcome back to the management committee for 23/24: Lachlan McBride (Chair), Karen May (Secretary) and Susan Andrews (Treasurer)

We would also like to invite and encourage our Landcare members to express interest in the current vacant committee positions of Vice-chair and up to two committee members. It is a great opportunity to work with other committee volunteers, be involved in the community as well as gain (& share) your personal skills and experiences.

The AGM was followed by the **Landcare Christmas party** with nibbles and some friendly games of barefoot bowls. While we didn't see anyone attempt a 'Flipper', there was some friendly competition, laughs and catch-ups amongst landcare friends. Thank you to the locals at the Sarina Bowls Club for showing us how to play bowls and The bowlee for providing some delicious food platters :)



Photos: S von Fahland

Above: Members, volunteers & staff enjoy the AGM & Christmas Party



Landcare Catchment Management Association Inc.

Christmas

CLOSURE DATES

Thank you for all your support over the past year and we look forward to see you in 2024

CLOSED: 23rd Dec - 7th Jan
REOPENING: 8th January 2024



SLCMA Calendar 2024—available now!

Who would like a calendar with local photos, showcasing the beauty and diversity of our catchment? Look no further, the SLCMA Calendar for 2024 is here! Thank you to the photographers who have captured (& shared with us) the seasons, landmarks and wildlife of the Sarina Catchment in stunning images. The calendar is also a useful tool to know when cattle sales and environmental awareness days are being held.

We are grateful that we have once again received support from Mackay Regional Council, Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal PL and Daly Bay, to produce the calendar, thank you. Our members & volunteers are able to receive one free calendar each, please drop in to the office and pick up your copy!



Sarina Community Nursery Volunteer Program

Our nursery is providing plants for the Sarina Koala Habitat Restoration Program. This involves collecting seed from Koala fodder and habitat species, cleaning and sowing seed and then potting on the young plants into tubestock pots. Our volunteers have been helping the Nursery Officer Susie to grow plants ready for this program. They have attended seed collecting expeditions at sites in the Sarina area to top up the nursery seed stock and collect seed from species specific to Koala habitat. Back at the nursery volunteers assist with the task of extracting seed from its fruit or capsule ready for storing or sowing and then potting on the young seedlings into tubestock ready to grow on.



Volunteers enjoy some seed collecting at Freshwater

We would like to thank our awesome volunteers for their contributions this year. We will be holding our final nursery volunteer morning for 2023 on Wednesday 13th December and will celebrate our volunteering with a little bit of nursery work and a long morning tea Christmas party! We will have a short break and recommence in 2024 on January 17th.

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 Farnand



Photos: S. Tomlinson

Native plants—a local, meaningful gift for Christmas!

Have you considered buying native plants as a gift for your loved ones this festive season? Native plants are a wonderful gift for Christmas, as they offer many benefits for the environment, the wildlife, and the recipient. Here are some reasons why you should consider buying native plants as a gift for your loved ones this festive season:

- ♦ Native plants are beautiful and diverse, with many varieties of flowers, fruits, seeds and colours to choose from
- ♦ Native plants support our local wildlife, providing food, shelter and habitat for birds, bees, butterflies, lizards and frogs; thus preserving and restoring the biodiversity and ecosystem health of your environment
- ♦ Native plants are educational and inspirational, sparking curiosity and creativity to observe, explore and experiment with native plants and their interactions with wildlife

So, if you are looking for a gift that is eco-friendly, practical, beautiful, and meaningful, look no further than native plants. They are the perfect way to celebrate Christmas and the natural wonders of your region. You can source native plants at the SLCMA Community Nursery, using this plant order form or call 4956 1388 to organise a visit to the nursery to discuss.

Not too sure what native plants your loved one would like? Other gift options include a landcare membership or gift voucher. Happy gifting! 🎁🌿🌳

We are hiring!

We are hiring! We are seeking an enthusiastic, motivated, experienced Field Officer to join our team. Our field 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](https://www.sarinalandcare.org.au) for more details and send your resume to: coordinator@sarinalandcare.org.au



Photo: C. Woods

Sarina Community Native Gardens

There are many plants in flower, fruiting and seeding right now in the Sarina Community Native Gardens. It is such a delight to walk through and take it all in. Delicate intricate blooms, large bold vibrant coloured flowers, a variety of textures and hues. Splendid flushes of new foliage growth, tinges of blushing pinks and golden glows or the bare-naked starkness of tree trunks shed of leaves in preparation for the spring burst to come.

- * Cordylines attractively adorned with ruby red berries.
- * The peanut tree with curious capsules containing tasty nutty treats ready for the taking.
- * Clusters of papery lime green seeds pods light up the sticky hop bush like miniature luminous lanterns.
- * Golden hibiscus flowers delight with sweet raspberry jam drop centers, bees devouring the alluring treats.
- * Honey eaters feast on sweet nectar of reddish pink Grevillea flowers.

So much to enjoy! Visitors are welcome walk around the gardens with a self-guided tour or if you would like to organize a group guided walk, contact us 4956 1388 or admin@sarinalandcare.org.au

Sarina Inlet Trail—revegetation in progress

We are delighted to be able to continue revegetation works along the Sarina Inlet Trail, after our successful grant application through Aurizon Community Giving Fund. The project builds on previous rehabilitation activities to enhance the biodiversity and resilience of the native vegetation and habitat along the Sarina Inlet Trail.

Ongoing works including controlling lantana, guinea grass and Singapore daisy are underway and will be followed by planting of 100 native plants when weather conditions are more favourable. Watch this space, as we will be organising a guided tour of the trail for interested community members, before the project finishes in July 2024.

The Sarina Inlet Trail was built in 2005 by our Sarina Green Corps team at the time and in partnership with the Sarina Beach Progress Association and Sarina Shire Council. The 400m walking trail provides locals and visitors a leisurely walk through a variety of coastal vegetation types, between Sarina and Johnson's Beaches.

Fox, what fox? Community meet & greet and surveys, a success!

Our community meet & greet was held on 17th September 2023 at Bucasia beach. It was well attended with approximately 40 attendees (*adults & kids*) enjoying the informative session about foxes and their impacts on local wildlife and what is being done in the region to monitor and control them.

The highlight of course was meeting Rocky & Cooper, Conservation Detection Dogs and handler Tom Garrett (SQ Landscapes) and seeing Rocky in action as he demonstrated his searching skills.

Attendees also enjoyed chatting with Saskia von Fahland (SLCMA), Maria Ferraro (Mackay Regional Council Pest Management Officer), representatives from Mackay and District Turtlewatch and Dan Burndred (QLD Parks and Wildlife Service) while checking out the regional pest trailer and munching on a sausage sizzle. Thank you to our guest speakers who shared their knowledge with us.

The event was followed by two days of fox surveys with the conservation detection dogs, at Cape Palmerston National Park. Targeted areas were surveyed in the Park, where known hot spots and fox activity had previously been detected. During the survey, two active dens were located and fumigated and one den attempt was detected.

This event has received funding support from the Queensland Government's Community Sustainability Action grant program.



Above: Community meet & greet
Below: fox prints at Cape Palmerston



Homeschooling group- tour Brewers Reserve walking track

On Wednesday the 22nd of November, SLCMA, alongside staff from Reef Catchments took a group of homeschool students for a walk along our beautiful Brewers Reserve walking track (aka Plane Creek Revegetation Site). The day was a wonderful chance to engage with a new group of people and highlight the beautiful native species that we have the privilege of experiencing in our area, and some of the projects that NRM groups are working on. The walk discussed many of our iconic riparian species, such as the Leichhardt tree (*Nauclea orientalis*), Peach cedar (*Tremma orientalis*) and the Ivory mahogany (*Dysoxylum gaudichaudianum*). We also spoke about the history of the site, highlighting the effects of the restoration works that occurred at the site, which enabled the successful establishment of healthy riparian strip surrounding the Brewers Reserve walking track at Plane Creek.



Photo: S Tomlinson



Photo: N Farnham

Field Officer, Chantelle controlling lantana and guinea grass at Sarina Inlet Trail

Build your own frog hotel—re-use workshop—Book Now!

Looking for something fun and creative to do these school holidays...where you and your family can use your brilliant imaginations while at the same time, divert items from landfill and help our local environment.

Look no further, join us for this great workshop and make your own frog hotel (or resort)...

The workshop cost is \$15 per frog hotel and includes all materials and one annual landcare membership. Participants will get to take their frog hotel home with them which includes native plants grown in the SLCMA Community Nursery.

When: Friday 19th January 2024, 9.00am—11.00am

Where: SLCMA Office, 101 Beach Rd, Sarina

Cost: \$15 per frog hotel—*small family groups welcome to work together on one frog hotel.*

RSVP: Registration and payment is essential by 15th January 2024. Please register and pay via Eventbrite ([click here](#)) or, call us 4956 1388 or email: admin@sarinalandcare.org.au



Photo: S von Fahland

Give your frogs a home, sign up now as there are limited spaces available and spots fill quickly.

Thank you to Mackay Regional Council for the opportunity to work together and, deliver these workshops to our local Sarina community.

Healthy horses, healthy land workshops— a success!

Two Healthy Horse Healthy Land workshops were held at Bloomsbury and Sarina on the 26th and 28th of October, respectively. The workshops were presented by Stuart Myers, acclaimed author, and joint creator with his wife Jane, of Equiculture and the Equicentral System. We were fortunate to have the opportunity to host the workshops within the region, as part of Stuart Myer's Australian Tour.

A massive thank you to Stuart, for his thought provoking and practical workshop and for, inspiring the 33 participants who attend the Sarina workshop, to start re-thinking how they approach managing horses on their properties – for the health benefit of both horse and land.



Photo: S von Fahland

The workshops were a collaborative approach between SLCMA, Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group (PCL) and Whitsunday Catchment Landcare (WCL). Thanks to Farmacist who helped with sponsoring of our event along with support from Reef Catchments through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program. If you would like to find out more, check out www.equiculture.net which is full of information and contact information for Stuart and Jane Myers.

VegCat Training

SLCMA Officers attended a two-day VegCat training session on 7th and 8th of November in Nebo, organised by Reef Catchments. The theory component was completed at Nebo Hall and the practical session at Homevale National Park.

VegCat is a tool for doing a rapid asset assessment of vegetation and records vegetation rating before and after rehabilitation works such as weed control or revegetation has been undertaken. It is part of the State Wide Indicator Framework (SWIF) which is used by the QLD State Government to measure and monitor impact of revegetation works.



Photo: S Tomlinson

VegCat transect line, Mt Adder

The method used in VegCat is to run a 50m transect line with three 10m x 10m quadrants along the length. Each quadrant is assessed for native perennial grasses, shrubs, and canopy as well as weed species present, bare ground, leaf litter and disturbance by animals. A whole of transect assessment is also completed. The data is run through the program and delivers a health assessment number for the land. The beauty of the monitoring method is its simplicity and ease. The data provided by the tool will be instrumental in reporting and can be used in long- or short-term projects, giving an accurate assessment of success as well as areas which may require improvement.

A big thank you to Penny Scott from Penny Scott Consulting who ran the training. She was knowledgeable and passionate and kept us all engaged with the program, illustrating the potential uses of VegCat and other similar assessment tools. Also, thank you to Reef Catchments who provided the training, accommodation and meals.

SLCMA 'Plant of the Month'

This month's 'Plant of the Month' is the **Grevillea banksia**, **Banks Grevillea** (white flowered variety)

Family: Proteaceae

Name: *Grevillea* after the Right Honourable Charles Francis Greville, parliamentarian and established Royal Horticultural Society in 1804. *G. banksia* after botanist Sire Joseph Banks.

Form & height: Slender tree to 9m.

Leaves: Alternate, deeply lobed, green above, dense layer of pale to rust coloured silky hairs below.

Flowers: White-cream colour flowers

Fruit: Woody, follicles, tipped with persistent style.

Distribution: QLD

Notes: Coastal dunes, headlands; sandy and stony soils. Nectar eaten by rainbow lorikeet and a variety of honeyeaters.

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.



White flowering variety of *Grevillea banksii*

SLCMA Community Expansion update

Woo hoo! We have the nursery expansion to lock up stage!

Thank you to our Nursery Officer, Susie Tomlinson for leading the expansion project and collaborating with technical experts and contractors to get it to this stage before the end of the year.

Many thanks to:

- ♦ Barry Naylor, Principal Extension Officer, Greenlife Industry Australia for his technical advice
- ♦ Sarina Mini Excavators— levelling & preparing the ground for the new nursery area (supported by Stronger Communities Programme)
- ♦ Mackay Fencing—installing the new security fence (supported by Community Bank Sarina, Community Grant Program)

But wait, there is more to do to make this area usable ;) Stage 2 will kick off in the new year, with the modification of the nursery benches to create new benches and, as funds become available the upgrading and extending the irrigation system to a more efficient, effective system.

Beyond this, subject to future funding, our wish list includes upgrading the soil storage and mixing area, re-installing the Wetland Treatment Train, expand the undercover area and workbenches for our volunteers & staff.



Sarina Mini Excavators undertaking ground preparations



Mackay Fencing installing the new security fence

Photos: S Tomlinson



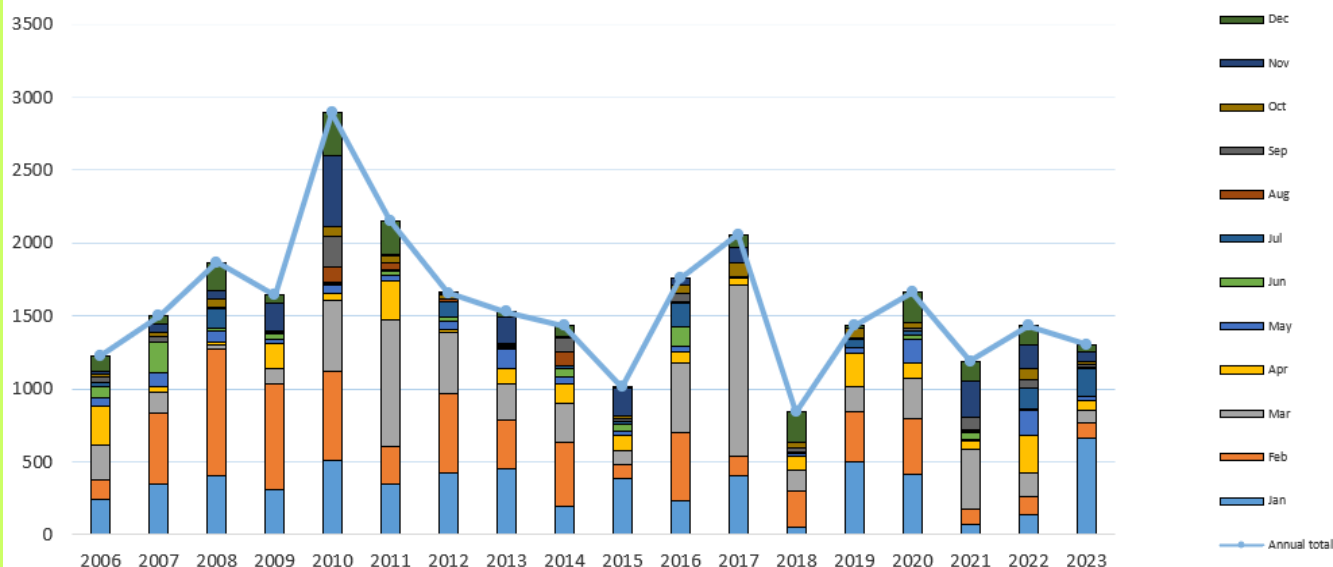
Address: 101 Sarina Beach Rd, Sarina QLD 4737
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Email:
admin@sarinalandcare.org.au

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)



Please consider donating your containers for change to SLCMA this festive season. It is a great way to help the environment and the community. You can reduce waste, save energy, and contribute to local environment projects and programs.



SLCMA's Scheme ID
C10002138



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

Just for fun!

What is a Christmas trees favourite candy? *Orna-mints*
 What do you call an elf wearing earmuffs? *Anything you like, he cant hear you.*
 What do you get when you cross a Christmas tree with an apple? *A pineapple.*
 What do snowmen eat for breakfast? *Snowflakes*
 Knock knock!
 Who's there?
 Donut.
 Donut who?
 Donut open this present until Christmas.



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