

SLCMA Catchment News 2024



April

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

Project Officer

Rodney Fraser

**Nursery Officer/
Field Supervisor**

Susie Tomlinson

Field Team Leader

Helen Lynch

Field Team

Nate Farnham

Chantelle Woods

Dominique Jooste

Call us for information:

◇ Weed management

◇ Plant identification

◇ Land management

◇ Land for Wildlife

Volunteer opportunities:

SLCMA Community

Volunteer Program,

Wednesday, 9-12 noon.

Native plants available for

purchase \$3.30 each. Visit

[website](http://www.sarinalandcare.org.au) for latest plant order

form.

SLCMA Executive 23/24

Chair: Lachlan McBride

Vice-chair: vacant

Treasurer: Susan Andrews

Secretary:

Karen May

Executive

members:

Kath De Vita



Sarina
Landcare

SLCMA News!

Going Bats about Bats ~ Microbat Hotel Workshop

What a great morning of learning, building and socialising! We were excited to present the Microbat Hotel workshop to attendees on 26th April.

We had a wonderful turn out for this workshop with all the attendees enjoying some great discussions and building their own microbat hotel to take home; all while learning about the benefits of these amazing creatures. The hotels are one way we can support the local microbat populations, which are under threat due to a variety of reasons, with the main one being habitat loss.

A few things you can do to help support bats are:

- Build and install a microbat hotel
- Improve the visibility of barbed wire fencing such as run old electric fencing tape along the top strand
- Replace top and bottom barbed strands with plain wire
- Remove cocos palms which are harmful for bats
- Protect roosting sites, as tree hollows can take 100 years to develop.
- Plant more native bat food plants
- Use wildlife friendly fruit tree netting to deter bats

For further information about bats and how to protect them, feel free to contact us or check out these handy websites:



Workshop participants displaying their microbat habitat pipes

- Bat conservation & Rescue QLD, www.bats.org.au
- Australian Bat Society, www.ausbats.org.au
- Wildlife Friendly Fencing, www.wildlifefriendlyfencing.org

This workshop was proudly brought to you through the Land for Wildlife Program, funded by Mackay Regional Council.

Keep an eye out for more workshops coming soon.



Collaboration with the Yuwi Rangers

Our Reef Assist team enjoyed working along side the Yuwi Aboriginal Corporation Ranger team recently, on a local project which aims to reinstate important riparian vegetation, once established to help stabilise the creekbank.

A big thank you to the Yuwi Rangers for assisting with the planting. The collaboration between the two teams was a great opportunity to share knowledge and connect to country. These projects not only help our teams to learn from each other while providing extra hands for some of the larger projects but also help local landholders protect and enhance the natural values of their property such as soil health, biodiversity and wildlife connectivity.

If you would like to connect with the Yuwi rangers you can email: admin@yuwi.com.au

Yuwi Rangers & SLCMA RAP team planting onsite



Photo: H. Lynch

SLCMA 'Plant of the Month'

This month's 'Plant of the Month' is: Native *Wedelia*
Apowollastonia spilanthoides Syn. *Wedelia spilanthoides*

Family: **Asteraceae**

What is in a name? *Wedelia* was named in honor of German botanist and physician Georg Wolfgang Wedel (1645–1721). *Wollastonia* is named after botanist William Wollaston (1766–1828). Botanist Anthony Edward Orchard renamed to the Australian *Wollastonia* species to *Apowollastonia*.

Form: Erect or prostrate often rooting at the nodes, usually forming a dense groundcover.

Leaves: Opposite, narrow usually less than 1cm wide with toothed margins.

Flower: Flowers in the warmer months with yellow (daisy like) ray florets and yellow disk florets in the centre, the receptacle is more or less flat.

Fruit: Very small to 1.2mm, dark grey black compressed oval shaped.

Habitat: Naturally growing on coastal rockfaces, sand dunes or in woodlands, can tolerate salty winds.

Distribution: Grows from Central NSW to Northern Queensland.

Notes: This is a great native alternative to the weedy Singapore Daisy. Another species with a similar appearance is *Acmella grandiflora*, the difference is the receptacle is cone shaped and there are no rigid hairs on the stem.

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.

Information sourced from: https://www.mackay.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/266885/Apowollastonia_spilanthoides.pdf, <https://www.jcu.edu.au/discover-nature-at-jcu/plants/plants-by-scientific-name2/apowollastonia-syn.-wedelia-spilanthoides>



Photos: R. Fraser

Sarina Community Nursery Volunteer Program

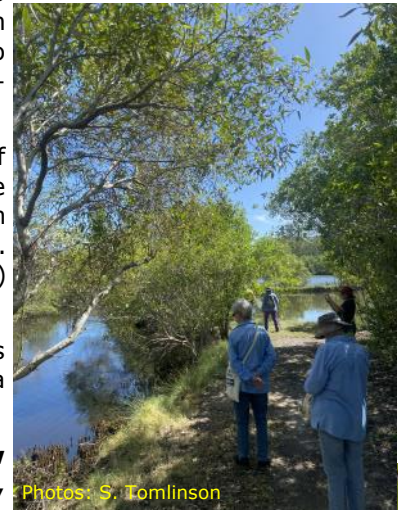
Susie and Rodney joined our Nursery volunteers on an inspiring journey to Wetland Walkabout in Mackay, recently. We extend our gratitude to Leah from Conservation Volunteers Australia for hosting us and providing the chance to explore this stunning setting, while undertake seed collecting and plant identification activities.

Our time at Wetland Walkabout was very enjoyable, highlighted by sightings of majestic Brolga strolling amongst the ponds and admiring the Weeping cabbage tree palm forest (*Livistona decora*). During our trek, we gathered seeds from Foambark (*Jagera pseudorhus*) and Mangrove boobiala (*Myoporum accumiatum*). We also collected some spores of the Mangrove fern (*Arostichum speciosum*) which we are very excited to propagate.

A friendly reminder, that we have designated the last Wednesday of the month as a seed collection and plant identification field trip. Volunteers will be notified via email regarding the location, meeting place and other details.

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. The SLCMA Community Volunteer Program is proudly supported by Mackay Regional

SLCMA Volunteers join CVA at Wetland Walkabout, Mackay



Photos: S. Tomlinson



SLCMA Community Nursery — expansion update

Susie, our volunteers and the whole SLCMA team, are very excited to see the nursery expansion coming to fruition! This excitement reflects our enthusiasm to help propagate more native plants for local revegetation initiatives and gardens, to enhance our environment as well as community aesthetics.

Progress is evident with the groundwork and fencing now complete. The latest efforts towards the expansion was aimed at creating more bench space. This has been done through upcycling and re-using materials as well as some creativity and innovation. Thank you to ATCO for donating old steel desk frames, which we have been able to modify with the addition of mesh tops and feet on the legs to create eight new benches. *Thank you to local business Iron & Bark for making these modifications.*

Field Officers Chantelle and Dom, alongside Susie and Saskia, spent some time re-arranging the nursery, meticulously shifting plants, benches and re-instating a temporary irrigation system; ready for converting seven existing double benches into fourteen single ones. *Thanks to the handy work of local business OJ&R Group.*

We are now looking forward to our next stage of the expansion; that is to install a new, more efficient irrigation system within the existing and new outside areas. Susie has been working in the background with Barry Naylor, Nursery Industry Expert and Michael from Dowdens' Plumbing to design the new irrigation system. A big thank you to both, for their invaluable expertise and advice.

Thank you also to the generous sponsorship from Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal P/L, towards this next stage. The support from local businesses and organisations has been instrumental, fostering a sense of community and shared purpose for the SLCMA Community Nursery. Watch this space, as the expansion continues :)



Photo: S Tomlinson

Above: Existing double benches

Right: The team re-arranging plants and benches

Below: The existing benches being modified



Photo: S von Fahland



Photo: S von Fahland



Photo: S Tomlinson

Above: The new benches in place



Photo: S von Fahland



Photo: S Tomlinson



Photo: S von Fahland



Yuwi Ranger Team in collaboration with Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association & Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group & Qld Parks and Wildlife Service

Hi SLCMA members. On Tuesday 30th April we were happy to have team members of SLCMA and Pioneer Catchments & Landcare Group, as well as QPWS join us in a working bee in a major project of ours to thin out a parts of the ecosystem by removing smaller growth from the Diversity (midden) boardwalk area at Cape Hillsborough in preparation for a cultural burn of the area planned for a later date when conditions are right. The purpose of a burn such as this, is that by thinning the ecosystem, we want to ensure fuel reduction so that only the underbrush is burnt for the protection of the canopy, and having a minimal impact on the environment and promote new growth. In this way we can play a role in sustainable land management and preserving biodiversity and preventing wildfires, doing our bit in looking after country.



Uncleared area (on the left) as against cleared area (below)



Group photo of our great team

Come and join the Land for Wildlife program

As the new 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!



Photos: S von Fahnestock

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.



Sarina Community Native Gardens



Photos: S Tomlinson

It is nice to see the wet weather continuing to nurture our gardens keeping them lush and vibrant. As the summer's heat and humidity fade and the mornings become a little cooler, we are inclined to be more eager to immerse ourselves into the tasks that await and spend a little more time enjoying the fruits of our labours amongst the foliage and flowers.

The Sarina Community Native Gardens are a great resource for anyone interested in local plants and all are welcome to visit. The gardens are always open to the community and many of the plants are labelled to assist with identification. Visitors are welcome to walk around the gardens on a self-guided tour or if you would like to organise a group guided walk, contact us 4956 1388 or admin@sarinalandcare.org.au

A different view of the gardens, moonrise amongst the gumtrees :)



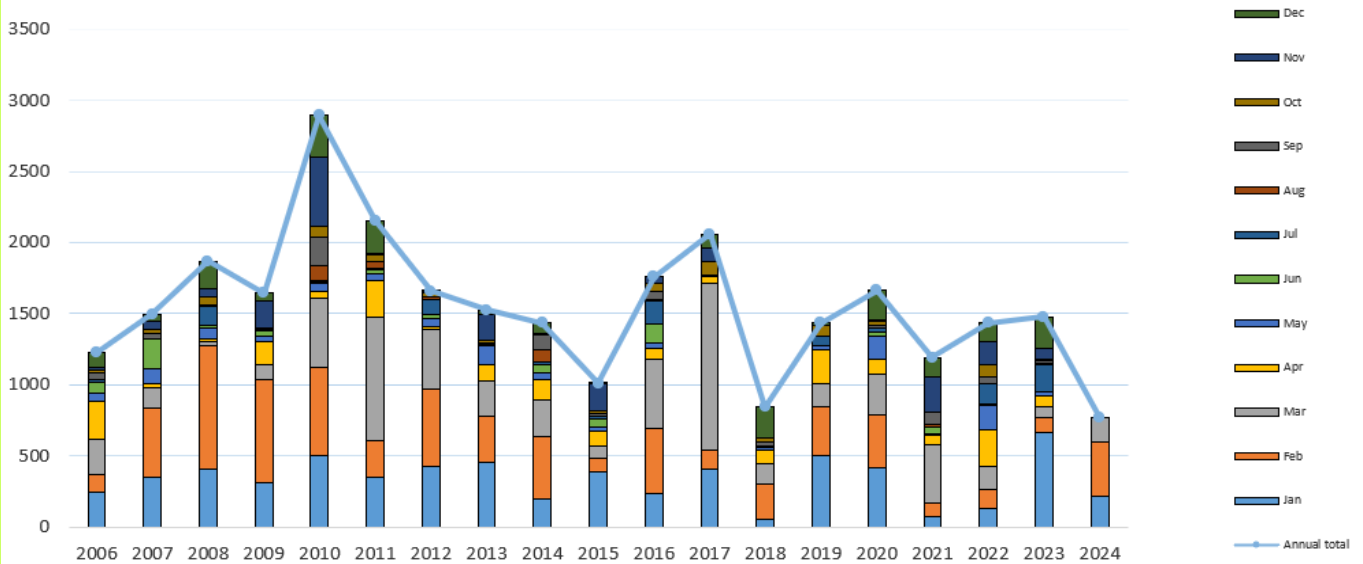
Address: 101 Sarina Beach Rd, Sarina QLD 4737
Phone: (07) 4956 1388
Website: www.sarinalandcare.org.au
Email: admin@sarinalandcare.org.au

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 -2024 (inc annual total)



Please consider donating your Containers for Change to SLCMA. 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!

Q- Why did the emu cross the road?
 A- To prove he wasn't a chicken!

Q- Where do Australian animals go for vacation?
 A- Koala Lumpur

Q- What's a kangaroo's favourite music genre?
 A- Hip-hop

Q—Which Australian animal can jump higher than a tree?
 A—All of them because a tree can't jump



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