

SLCMA Catchment News 2024



June

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Sarina, QLD, 4737

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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

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](#) 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!

Sarina Landcare has had a busy month of events and workshops...

We enjoyed the opportunity recently to join in a **Celebration of Community, commemorating 19 years since Community Bank Sarina Bendigo Bank** opened its doors! *Did you know that over this time, they have invested over \$3.8 million into our Sarina and Mackay region? Amazing!* A huge thank you to Community Bank Sarina for their generous donation of \$500 towards SLCMA.



Saskia, Susie and Lachlan with Shane Webcke (2nd from left) at the Community Bank Sarina Bendigo Bank celebration. Photo: contributed

Weed Warrior Working Bee— A big thank you to the Grasstree Beach Progress Association and local residents who donned their gloves and put on their Weed Warrior hats to help remove 400kg of garden escapees from our local bushland on 15th June. The main weeds removed were agave and mother-in-law's tongue, which had spread from dumped garden waste. We are looking forward to continue working with the Grasstree Beach community to help protect their unique natural environment. This event was supported by Mackay Regional Council Natural Environment Program.



Photo: S von Fahland

Weed warriors in action

St Lawrence Wetlands Weekend, 21-23 June.

The SLCMA team had a massive weekend at the St Lawrence Wetlands Weekend, providing and helping to plant over 200 native plants into the wetlands over two planting events as well as running the SLCMA stall with landcare information and educational activities for the whole family.

Throughout the weekend the team connected with the local community and discussed a wide range of topics with landholders and visitors. We also had the pleasure of having Costa Georgiadis help out with the planting. We are happy and proud of what the team accomplished and the amazing connections we all had with the local community.

We would like to thank Isaac Regional Council, Conservation Volunteers Australia and the Koinmerburra Aboriginal Corporation for collaborating with us, for this amazing event.



Photos: R.Fraser



Top: Collaborating with partners, Middle: SLCMA display, Bottom: Community planting

Welcome our new SLCMA Field Officer

We have a new field team officer, Adrian Brooks.

Adrian is a local landholder and Land for Wildlife member, who saw the opportunity to come and work for Sarina Landcare. He is coming out of 25 years working as an excavator operator and is excited to join the team. Adrian has spent many hours exploring the local area and his amazing property. In his spare time Adrian, can be found tinkering and driving classic cars and, propagating the plethora of native plants on his property. With his years of self taught experience looking after his own property we think Adrian will be a great addition to the team. Adrian very much appreciates the opportunity to learn more about the local environment and native plants.



Photo: R.Fraser

SLCMA 'Plant of the Month'

This month's 'Plant of the Month' is: *Morinda citrifolia* (Cheesefruit or Noni)

Family: Rubiaceae

What is in a name? Morinda is a word formed from the Latin morus (mulberry) and indicus (Indian), because of the similarity of its fruit to *Morus indica*, a synonym of *Morus alba*, the white mulberry; citrifolia indicates that its leaves are like those of citrus.

Form: Large shrub or a medium tree, varying in height between 3m to 12m.

Leaves: Simple leaves are oval-shaped, up to about 30cm long, dark green, shiny and deeply veined.

Flower: All year round, but mainly in summer and autumn. The white flowers are small, occurring in the leaf axils in clusters.

Fruit: Fleshy fruit, up to 7cm in length. Begins green, turns yellow/white with a pungent odour when ripe (*which explains why it is often called cheese fruit or vomit fruit*). It's smell as it ripens attracts fruit bats, who aid in the dispersal of the seeds.

Habitat: Beach forest just above high tide mark, also found in monsoon forest.

Distribution: There are about 80 species of *Morinda*, seven of which are found in tropical Australia. *Morinda citrifolia* is a native of South East Asia and northern Australia, but has been extensively spread by man throughout India and on to many of the Pacific Islands, and even on some islands in the West Indies.

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://sOMEMAGNETICISLANDPLANTS.COM.AU/plants/noni>



Photos: R Fraser

Immature fruit



Leaves



Form

Sarina Community Nursery Volunteer Program



Photos: contributed

Costa Georgiadis having a look at the nursery expansion with Susie and Rodney

Our dedicated nursery volunteers have been highly productive this past month, assisting with essential tasks such as washing pots, weeding tubestock, cleaning and sowing seeds, potting on seedlings, and labeling tubestock. Their hard work and commitment are greatly appreciated!

Our nursery recently had the pleasure of hosting two distinguished visitors. Costa Georgiadis visited on his way back from the St. Lawrence Wetlands Weekend. We were delighted to showcase our expanded nursery facilities and discuss the improvements we've implemented for more effective operations. It was a valuable opportunity to share our progress with someone deeply committed to environmental stewardship.

Additionally, Barry Naylor, the Principal Extension Officer from Greenlife Industry Australia, has been instrumental in guiding us through our expansion journey. He recently visited to observe our progress firsthand. We are immensely grateful for Barry's time and expertise, which have been invaluable in helping us expand and improve our nursery operations.

Due to the rain, our planned seed collecting and plant identification field trip in June was cancelled. Here's hoping for clear skies on July 31st for our next scheduled outing! The last Wednesday of the month is a designated 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 Council, Natural Environment Levy.



Left: Nursery volunteers having fun with our plants during a volunteer morning

Right: Barry Naylor visiting the SLCMA Community Nursery



Exciting news: Join us in restoring koala habitats in Sarina!

We are excited to be working alongside Reef Catchments and local landholders on the Sarina Koala Habitat Restoration Project, funded by the Australian Government Saving Koalas Fund. This ambitious initiative aims to enhance the connectivity of existing koala habitats, restore degraded areas, reintroduce lost habitats, and reduce fire risks in key areas around Sarina.

Our field team have already planted over 1,500 koala food and habitat plants on private properties throughout the Sarina region. These plants were nurtured in our very own Community Nursery. Additionally, we have conducted targeted weed control across approximately 20 hectares. Local businesses have also played a crucial role in our progress; for instance, Xtream (Extream Green Clearing & Maintenance's) Green's remote-controlled mulcher has been invaluable for weed control and site preparation.



Weed control and planting on local properties

Are you a Sarina property owner passionate about making a difference? Would you like koala habitat planted on your property at no cost to you?

To get involved, please look for the Reef Catchments team at the Sarina Show, email: sandy.whittington@reefcatchments.com or, scan the QR code to complete an Expression of interest form.



Building Frog Sauna's to help control Chytrid fungus

A fungus called chytrid is sweeping across the globe, killing amphibians. In Australia, the fungus has driven some frog species to extinction, and is a major threat to the few remaining populations of many other frog species. Macquarie University researchers have used heat to develop a simple and effective way to help endangered frogs avoid the catastrophic impact of a pandemic sweeping multiple species; offering a lifeline for rapidly declining frog populations such as the green and golden bell frog (*Litoria aurea*) which has disappeared from more than 90 per cent of its native range in Australia since the disease arrived from the Korean Peninsula in 1978.

Why build a frog sauna? The chytrid fungus can't tolerate high temperatures, so if we give frogs a place they can stay warm – even for a few hours a day – they can survive and recover. A frog sauna for this purpose. It's a brick-filled greenhouse that is warmed by sunlight. It has proven to be effective in areas like Sydney that are just a bit too cold for the frogs to survive chytrid. And, it is likely that a frog sauna could also be effective in our local area, particularly in the cooler months.

Instructions:

1. Find a suitable site to place frog sauna: Think sunny, frog friendly, and with access to moist earth or water. For example, the edge of a garden pond, patch of grassy vegetation or next to a purpose built 'frog hotel'. FROGS WILL USE THE SAUNA MOST OFTEN IF THE GROUND BENEATH IT IS MOIST.
2. Paint bricks black and allow to dry completely.
3. Assemble bottom of greenhouse frame. Secure frame to something heavy or with tent pegs.
4. Build brick pile.
5. Build the rest of the greenhouse frame, drop over the covering, and secure with velcro and fabric ties. Zip up opening.

Tips:

- ◆ Double check greenhouse frames and covers are secure so they do not fly away in high winds.
- ◆ Ensure there is a bit of a gap somewhere along the cover and the ground so the frogs can get in and out. A small gap is best to maintain heat and humidity inside (~2 cm max). Can use a stick, rock, or simply lift the cover slightly.
- ◆ Shelters have the best impact in autumn and winter when chytrid thrives. The hot temps of summer will keep chytrid at bay but the shelters could be seasonally repurposed as a garden, seeded with free froggy fertilizer ;)
- ◆ Alternatively, remove cover and store in summer to prolong the life of the greenhouse.

For more information: <https://lighthouse.mq.edu.au/article/june-2024/hot-spot-saunas-a-new-lifeline-for-endangered-frog-populations>

Photos taken and article modified from: Anthony Waddle & Rick Shine, How to Build a Frog Sauna.



Photos: R. Fraser

Sarina Community Native Gardens

The Sarina Community Native Gardens are a great resource for anyone interested in local native 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





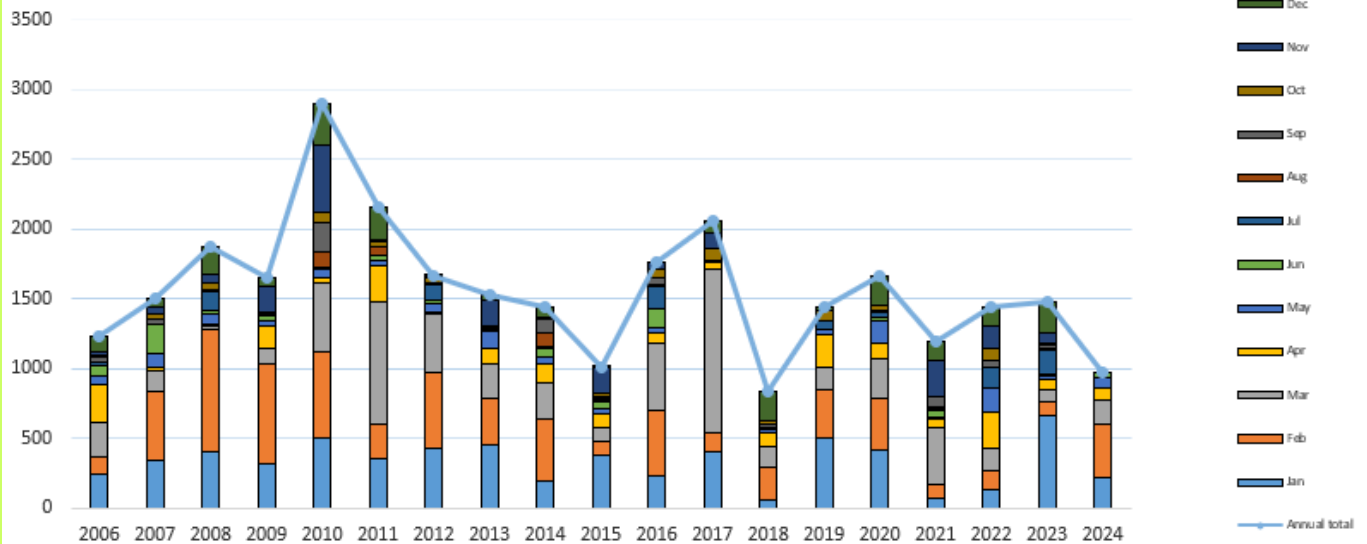
Address: 101 Sarina Beach Rd, Sarina QLD 4737
Phone: (07) 4956 1388
Website: www.sarinalandcare.org.au
Email: admin@sarinalandcare.org.au

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- How do you grow a flower that glows in the dark?
A- With a light bulb

Q- What did the flower tell the other flower after she told a joke?
A- I was just pollen your leg!

Q- Where do flowers go when they need to recharge after a long day?
A- The power plant



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