

# SLCMA Catchment News 2024



May

**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 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!

**National Volunteer Week** was celebrated during the week starting 20th May 2024. This year's theme is 'something for everyone', highlighting that there is a place for everyone in the world of volunteering. Landcare has always been a place for all, Everyone Everywhere Landcare!



Thank you to all of our volunteers:

- **Management Committee members**—supporting the governance and direction of SLCMA
- **Nursery Volunteer team**—supporting the SLCMA Community Nursery and our native seedbank.
- **Community members**—participating in events such as Great Northern Clean Up and working bees.
- **Staff**—who always go over and above their paid roles to support SLCMA and our projects.



*Our nursery volunteers enjoyed a morning tea to celebrate Volunteer week*

Thank you all for lending a hand and choosing to spend your time with us to help make a difference :)

:~:

**SLCMA Strategic Plan 2023-2025** It has been a long time in the making, but we are proud to release our strategic plan to our members. This strategic plan will serve as blueprint for the SLCMA Management Committee and staff in five key focus areas highlighting our main objectives until 2025.

- Strategy one: Strengthen governance and staff
- Strategy two: Ensure financial sustainability of the organisation
- Strategy three: Promotion and marketing
- Strategy four: Grow and develop stakeholder engagement
- Strategy five: Increase programs and projects

The SLCMA Strategic Plan 2023-2025 can be found on our website ([click here](#)).

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All the best to Nate Farnham, who finished up with us in May.

Nate has worked as a Field Officer on our Field Team for the last six months and, previously in 2022. Nate enjoyed the opportunity to work with SLCMA and seeing the project sites improve over time.

Thanks Nate for being part of the SLCMA team, good luck with your future endeavours :)



Nate Farnham

## SLCMA Community Nursery Expansion Update

The expansion of the SLCMA Community Nursery is progressing well, thanks to the support of our volunteers, local businesses and, our Nursery Officer, Susie.

Benches and plants have been moved into position and the irrigation has been installed and is working perfectly.

Thank you to Mick from Dowdens for giving your time to assist Susie to install the irrigation. The extension is almost completed, and we look forward to offering more public access to the nursery soon.

*Susie & Mick from Dowdens working on the irrigation*



Photo: S von Fahland

# SLCMA 'Plant of the Month'

This month's 'Plant of the Month' is: *Morinda citrifolia* (Cheese fruit 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

The week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> of May was National Volunteer Week and we are very fortunate to have a great team of volunteers returning weekly to assist with the general activities in the nursery. They are a great asset to our organisation, and we can't thank them enough.

We are also very appreciative of the contribution our Admin Officer Helen, who often provides for the nursery volunteer morning with her much anticipated home baked treats for morning tea. Three cheers for our volunteers!!!



Volunteers...and imminent rain in the background



Volunteers enjoy the views at Grasstree Beach headland

Our seed collecting trip for May was to the Grasstree Beach headland. We walked along the tracks to Whites Beach collecting seed from *Helichrysum lanuginosum* - White paper daisy, *Lophostemon confertus* - Brush box, *Pimelea cornucopiae* - Rice flower and *Thespesia populneoides* - Tulip tree. The headland track was an enjoyable walk with glorious views highlighted by the blooms of *Acacia flavescens* - Yellow wattle, *Acacia leptocarpa* - North coast wattle and *Melaleuca viridiflora*—Broad leaved paperbark. We all enjoyed a much needed hot cuppa and a treat for morning tea afterwards which eased our damp state from getting caught in a refreshing light shower of rain ;)

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.



Photos: S.Tomlinson

Volunteers working in the SLCMA Community Nursery

# Collaborating with the Yuwi rangers at Cape Hillsborough

Diverse habitats are protected in the 1074.85ha Cape Hillsborough National Park, one of the most ruggedly beautiful parks on the Central Queensland coast. Lowland rainforest and vine forest grow along creeks, valleys and hillside gullies. Rocky hills and headlands support open eucalypt forest and a grassy understorey, while patches of low heath survive on exposed slopes. West of the day-use area, a large mangrove community is an important breeding ground for marine animals.

On the broad beaches, sand bubbler crabs leave intricate patterns at low tide, and many sea creatures shelter in tidal rock pools. Large rhyolite boulders scattered over the headlands and beaches are a reminder of volcanic activity millions of years ago, as are volcanic plugs and other striking rock formations found in the park. Surrounding waters are part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

Known as Yuwi nandhi, land of the Yuwi people, the Yuwi people have a strong spiritual connection with Cape Hillsborough, which intertwines the people with the water and land as well as their air, land and sea animals—the Yuwi people understand it is their cultural responsibility to care for land and sea country. Yuwi people believe if you care for mother earth, then mother earth will provide and care for her people. The relationship and responsibility of the Yuwi people to care for their land and sea Country is strong.



Photo: contributed by Yuwi Rangers

Yuwi Rangers and SLCMA Reef Assist team

Our Reef Assist team have had the absolute pleasure of collaborating with the Yuwi rangers at Cape Hillsborough NP helping to manage plant growth to reduce the fire load on the forest floor; in preparation for a cultural burn and to help reduce the heat of the burn. We all learnt a lot about cultural burning practices, the difference between cold and hot burns and the impact hot burns have on native flora and fauna. The amazingly beautiful Cape Hillsborough area is culturally significant and we here at Sarina Landcare are honoured to be able to work closely with the custodians of this beautiful part of the country.

Reference: <https://www.capehillsboroughresort.com.au/aboriginal-culture/>

## Reef Assist Program

This is a shout-out to the amazing work and legendary people in our local Landcare groups.

In the Mackay, Whitsunday and Isaac region, we're lucky to have three Landcare groups maintaining and improving local natural areas.

As part of the two-year Reef Assist 2.0 'Mackay Whitsunday Streambank Stewardship Program' led by Reef Catchments, Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Assoc., Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group Inc. and Whitsunday Catchment Landcare Inc. have been doing impressive work in streambank remediation through revegetation and weed management along our local waterways.



Photo: H Lynch

Louisa Creek Reserve

Several sites work with landholders seeking to reduce sediment and nitrogen loss and improve waterways within their properties. Revegetation along waterways assists with bank stabilisation and erosion control, increases biodiversity, provides wildlife corridors and improves water quality leaving the catchment and entering the Great Barrier Reef. This all equates to a healthy and productive waterway ecosystem, which means happy fish and therefore very happy fishermen!

Reef Assist has supported local Landcare groups to restore and maintain gullies and riparian areas along our waterways while providing meaningful employment and training opportunities in our region since late 2020, under the initial Reef Assist 1.0 program (2020-2022) and now under Reef Assist 2.0.



Photo: R Fraser

Bells Creek

The passion and commitment of the Landcare groups for improving our natural areas can be seen through this testimonial from one of their dedicated field officers: *"Being able to learn about a field I'm passionate about in a practical sense is awesome and I couldn't be happier. Helping create an ecosystem that will be around long after I'm gone has also a special kind of satisfaction you can't get any other way".*

Here are some photos of the field officers in action around our region. The Mackay Whitsunday Streambank Stewardship Program is funded through the Queensland Government's Queensland Reef Water Quality Program.

## Sarina Community Native Gardens

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](mailto:admin@sarinalandcare.org.au)



Photos: R Fraser



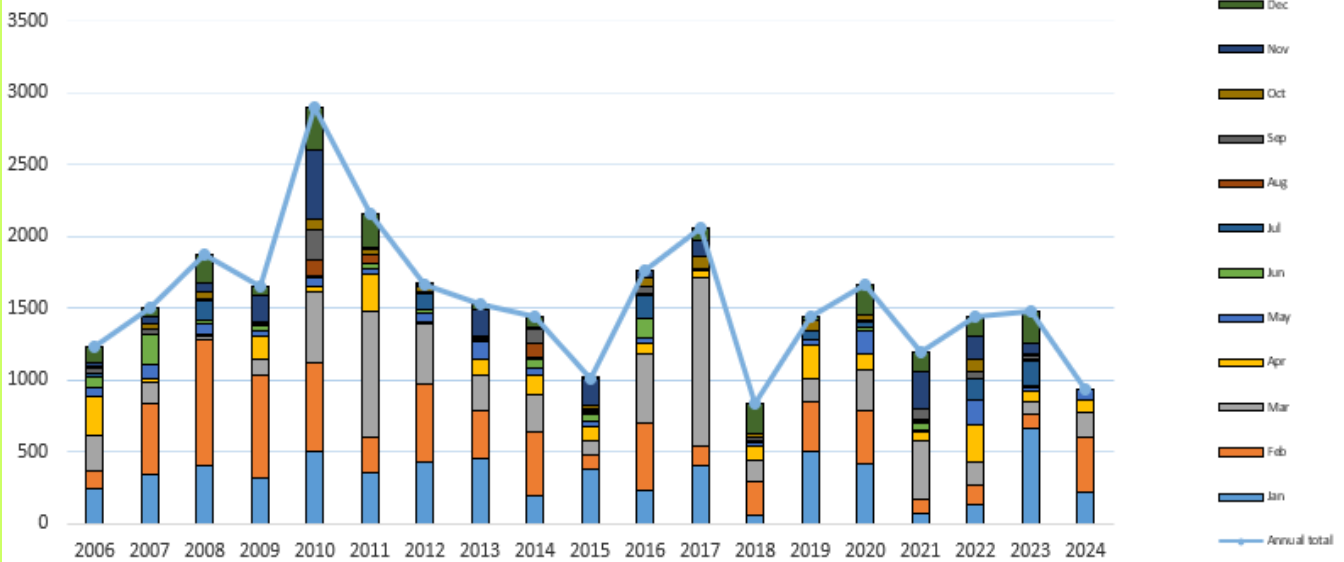
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**Email:** [admin@sarinalandcare.org.au](mailto:admin@sarinalandcare.org.au)

## 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-** What do you get if you cross a sheep and a kangaroo?  
**A-** A wooly jumper



**Q-** Which Australian animal can jump higher than a tree?

**A-** All of them because trees can't jump.

**Q-** What did the wombat say when he met someone new?

**A-** I have not met herbivore

A termite walks into the bar. He sits down and asks "hey, is the bartender?"



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