

SLCMA Catchment News 2024



July

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

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

Youth partnerships: building skills and connections

The SLCMA team has been actively engaging with local youth through a range of hands-on environmental awareness activities. These initiatives are designed to connect young people with nature, help them develop practical skills and knowledge for environmental care, and deepen their understanding of the importance of sustainability, biodiversity, and conservation. Thank you to Mackay Regional Council for their support towards these Junior Landcare activities:

Mackay Homeschooling Group



Photo: A Lambert

We hosted an education day for the Mackay Homeschooling Group, and it was a great success. The group enjoyed two interactive activities: macroinvertebrate identification and water quality assessment using water from Plane Creek, as well as a walk-and-talk tour through our Community Native Gardens. During the tour, students identified native plants and learned about our native bee hive, worm farm, frog hotel, and composting practices. We are grateful for the opportunity to engage with these groups and support our local youth and community.



Photo: A Lambert

Left: Exploring frog habitat

Right: Investigating macroinvertebrates

Schools National Tree Planting Day

In celebration of Schools National Tree Planting Day on Friday 26th July, our Nursery Officer, Susie, joined the Prep to Grade 3 students at Swayneville State School to plant a new bushtucker garden. This garden will beautifully encircle a yarnning circle, creating a vibrant and educational space for the children. It was a fantastic opportunity for the students to connect with nature and enhance their school's green spaces. Plants were provided to the school via the Mackay Regional Council Free Plant Give-way program.



Sarina Youth Centre

We recently had the pleasure of hosting a Frog Hotel Workshop for students at the Sarina Youth Centre. During the workshop, our Project Officer, Rodney, discussed the importance of frogs in our environment, the threats to their survival such as Chytrid fungus, and how to create safe habitats for local frogs.



Photo: P Burridge



Photo: P Burridge

This event is the first in a series of monthly workshops to be presented by SLCMA, at the Sarina Youth Centre. The next workshop, scheduled for August 21st, will explore the fascinating world of macroinvertebrates, also

SLCMA Field Team out & about



Field team same site sunshine & rain ;)

The SLCMA Field Team get to enjoy all the different weather that nature throws at themwhile onsite helping landholders to rehabilitate their waterways and build stability and resilience in their creekbanks through the Queensland Government Reef Assist Program.



Photo: H Lynch

Thank you team!

SLCMA 'Plant of the Month'

This month's 'Plant of the Month' is: *Melastoma malabathricum* subsp. *malabathricum*
Blue Tongue (or Native Lasiandra) **Family:** Melastomataceae

What is in a name? Greek, from *mela-* + *-stoma*; meaning "black mouth" refers to the edible purplish-black pulp within the fruit, which stains the mouth blue/black, when eaten.

Form: Small to medium attractive shrub.

Leaves: Leaves ovate, 6–11cm x 2–4cm; covered in short, stiff hairs; Conspicuous midrib, two major longitudinal veins and two less conspicuous intramarginal veins; petiole up to 10mm long.

Flower: Mauve-purple flowers on the ends of branchlets, occur in summer.

Fruit: Fleshy, capsules about 10mm diameter, split to expose a purple-black pulp with many small seeds.

Habitat: Grows in sclerophyll forest with high soil moisture or swamps on sandy soil. Important pioneer species that colonises disturbed wet-sclerophyll and rainforest habitats.

Distribution: Occurs in from the Kimberleys in WA, northern NT, QLD and as far south as Northern NSW, altitudinal range from near sea level to 1100m. Also occurs in India through southeast Asia, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Notes: Flowers produce no nectar, giving pollinators large amounts of pollen instead. Pollinated by native bees, particularly *Xylocopa bombylans* (Peacock Carpenter Bee), *X. aff. Gressittii* (Carpenter Bees), *Amegilla anomola* (Blue Banded Bee & Teddy Bear Bee) and *Nomia* species.

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://bie.ala.org.au/species/https://id.biodiversity.org.au/node/apni/7512892>, https://apps.lucidcentral.org/rainforest/text/entities/melastoma_malabathricum_subsp._malabathricum.htm



Photos: S Tomlinson

Sarina Community Nursery Volunteer Program



Photo: S von Fahland

SLCMA volunteers checking out our native flower garden

Our dedicated nursery volunteers have been working closely with Susie, our Nursery Officer, to support the daily activities in the nursery. We extend a warm welcome to Janette, who has joined us as a new volunteer for our nursery morning. We look forward to the positive contributions and fresh perspectives she will bring to our team. Thank you all for your continued commitment and support!

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: 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



Exciting News! Join Us, Green Up Sarina—Native Plant Giveaway

We are thrilled to partner with Mackay Regional Council to bring the *Gardens for Wildlife Program* to Sarina on 4th September, 9am-1pm during the “Green Up Sarina, Native Plant Giveaway Day”.

About the Gardens for Wildlife Program: This initiative is open to Mackay Regional Council ratepayers who wish to attract more wildlife into their gardens. Participants will receive 10 free local native plants, with one being a tree that provides essential canopy cover—a perfect spot for birds, food for butterflies, and a way to create shade for cooler neighbourhoods. Additionally, you’ll receive a special Gardens for Wildlife sign for your letterbox.

How to participate:

- Apply online: Visit the Mackay Regional Council website ([click here](#)) to apply.
- On the day: Bring a copy of your rates notice and select your plants, visit our website for our latest plant order form ([click here](#)).

Event Highlights:

- **Free Native Plant Program:** Collect additional four free plants per ratepayer from the Mackay Natural Environment Centre Nursery trailer.
- **Additional plants for purchase:** extra plants available from the SLCMA Community Nursery for \$3 each.
- **Pest Education trailer and Landcare Display:** Learn about local pests and Landcare opportunities.
- **Morning tea:** Join us at 10.30am with our SLCMA Nursery Volunteers
- **Coffee Van:** Onsite from 12noon.
- **Guided walks:** Explore the Sarina Community Native Gardens with our friendly Landcare staff

The *Gardens for Wildlife Program* aligns with the Mackay Urban Greening Strategy, promoting cooler, greener, and more connected neighbourhoods.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to enhance your garden while supporting local wildlife!

Benefits of creating a native garden with tube stock, sourced locally.

Native plants—locally sourced

- * Less weed potential
- * Preserve local genetic stock
- * Improve biodiversity
- * Provide habitat, food and shelter for local wildlife
- * Once established, require less fertilising and generally low maintenance
- * Best adapted to grow in local conditions
- * Provide green corridors that connects existing bushland
- * A variety of plant types herbs, shrubs, trees, grasses available

Tube stock

- * Cost-effective way to buy plants
- * More portable, easier to move around
- * Smaller hole to dig ;)
- * Less advanced, less chance of being pot bound and will develop a better root system once planted



GREEN UP SARINA NATIVE PLANT GIVEAWAY DAY



Sarina ratepayers are invited to come along and collect up to 14 free plants!

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4
9AM TO 1PM**

Sarina Community Native
Gardens - Sarina Landcare
101 Sarina Beach Road, Sarina.

- Collect four free native plants as part of the Free Native Plant Program.
- Collect 10 free native plants by signing up to the Gardens for Wildlife program.

Sign up for the Gardens for Wildlife program at mackay.qld.gov.au/gardensforwildlife

For more details on the Free Native Plant Program visit:

mackay.qld.gov.au/nursery



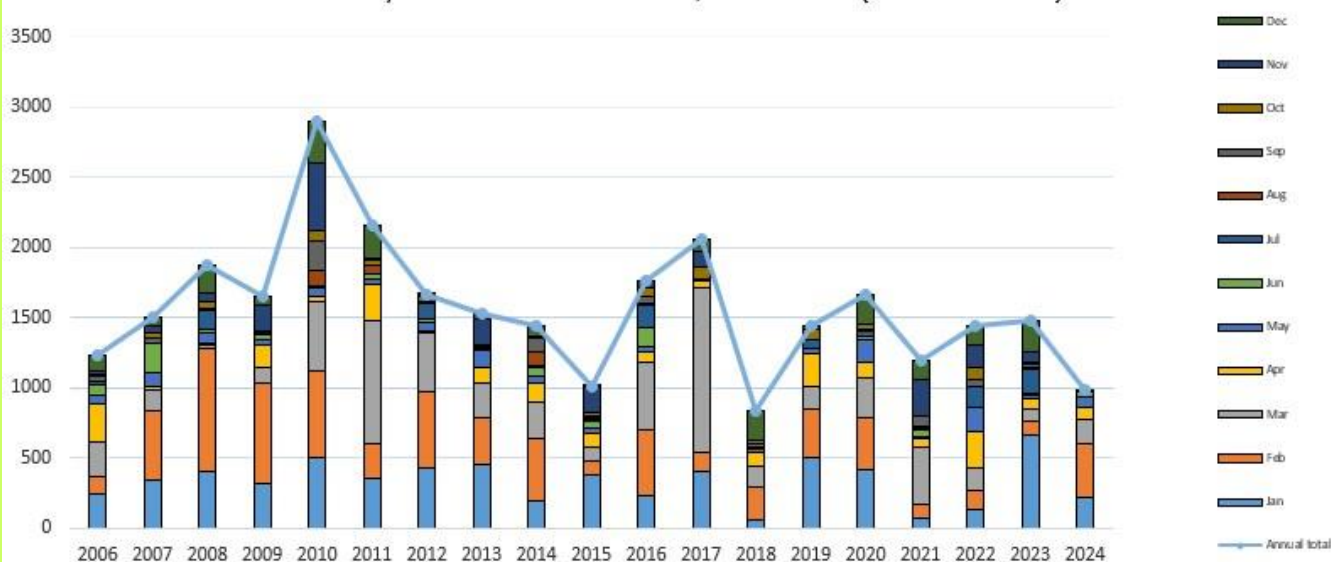


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What SLCMA Membership does for you !

- 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.



[Find us on facebook](#)



Just for fun!

- Q-** What kind of socks does a gardener wear?
A- Garden Hose
- Q-** What do you call two young married spiders?
A- Newly webs
- Q-** Why was the gardener so embarrassed?
A- He wet his plants



Comic by Jon Carter

SLCMA is proudly supported by:

