

# SLCMA Catchment News 2024



## August

**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

Adrian Brooks

### 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

## Engaging local youth with educational activities

We enjoyed the opportunity to facilitate a school excursion with year 4 students from Sarina State School recently. The excursion, held at the picturesque Salonika Beach was aimed to connect students with their local environment through a range of hands-on, fun learning activities.



Photo: S von Fahland

Rodney with marine debris collected by students

The program kicked off with an engaging beach cleanup activity, where students learned about the impact of litter on marine ecosystems, the importance of reducing waste from its source and then participated in a beach clean up— exploring the types and sources of marine waste and discovering that we all have a role to play in reducing waste and where it ends up.



Photos: Sarina State School

Students sorting through the different types of marine debris

The students participated in an interactive walk and talk about coastal ecology, by exploring a diversity of coastal ecosystems including wetlands, mangroves, rock pools, sand dunes and beaches. This activity fostered an appreciation for natural habitats and the wildlife they support, their connectedness to each other and the importance to promote a healthy environment.

The excursion included a focus on sustainable practices, with lessons on how everyday actions can contribute to looking after our local environment. By integrating practical exercises with theoretical knowledge, we aim to inspire the next generation of environmental stewards.



We look forward to continuing this collaborative effort, providing more opportunities for local students to engage with and learn from their natural surroundings. Through these educational activities, we hope to instil a lasting sense of responsibility and enthusiasm for environmental conservation among young learners.

## National Tree Day — a planting success!

On 8th August, 24 staff from SLCMA, Mackay Regional Council (MRC), Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal PL (DBCT PL) and Dalrymple Bay Infrastructure (DBI) gathered at Louisa Creek Reserve to take part in National Tree Day. Together we planted 150 native coastal plants, contributing to the long term rehabilitation of the reserve.

Initial site preparations were undertaken by the SLCMA Field Team which included removal of guinea grass & guava and pre-digging of holes ready for planting. The planting event ran smoothly with all tubestock planted, guarded and watered within a short space of time. This was followed by a lovely morning tea provided by DBCTPL (thank you).

Everyone enjoyed seeing how previous National Tree day plantings were growing and contributing to the health of the site. Thank you to DBCTPL, MRC and the Queensland Government's Reef Assist Program for supporting the event.

L-R: All systems go during planting; Planting team satisfied...all 150 plants planted!



Photos: S von Fahland



## SLCMA 'Plant of the Month'

This month's 'Plant of the Month' is: Paroo Lily or Blue Flax Lily (*Dianella caerulea*)

Family: Asphodelaceae

Subfamily: Hemerocallidoideae

**What is in a name?** The genus name is derived from the Roman goddess Diana, with a diminutive suffix *-ella*. *Caerulea* from Latin, *caeruleus*, dark blue, referring to the colour of the fruit.

**Form:** Perennial strappy leaved herb tufted and solitary, or mat-forming.

**Leaves:** Bright green leaves have straight or toothed margins, and may reach 75cm in length.

**Flower:** Light to deep blue, about 1cm in diameter with yellow stamens and appear from early spring to mid summer.

**Fruit:** Small roughly spherical indigo-coloured berries which range from about 0.7 to 1.2cm in diameter. These fruit are edible.

**Habitat:** It occurs in a wide range of habitats, from coastal heathland, woodlands and even sand dunes.

**Distribution:** Eastern Australia in heathland and woodland from north Queensland to southern Victoria and Tasmania, generally east of the Great Dividing Range.

**Notes:** Very hardy, frost tolerant, long-lived plant. It can tolerate damp conditions but prefers moist well drained soil. Plants attract fruit-eating birds and butterflies.

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://anpsa.org.au/plant\\_profiles/dianella-caerulea/](https://anpsa.org.au/plant_profiles/dianella-caerulea/),  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dianella\\_caerulea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dianella_caerulea).



Photos: S von Fahland

Top to bottom: Flowers, unripe berries and form of Paroo Lily

## Sarina Community Nursery Volunteer Program

Our volunteers have been meticulously tending to the tubestock; focusing on essential tasks such as weeding, trimming, and labelling. These activities are vital for maintaining the health and presentation of our native plants, ensuring they are ready to make a positive impact in local gardens and habitats.



Photos: S.Tomlinson

This month's field trip, saw our volunteers enjoy a walk along the Sarina Inlet Trail



Volunteers on the search for ripe native seed

through to Johnsons Beach — enjoying the sunshine, brushing up on their plant identification skills and collecting a variety of native seed. Our volunteers head out on the last Wednesday of every month for a field trip around the Sarina Catchment, to collect much needed native seed to grow and/or store for later use. I wonder where we will venture to next month?

Are you eager to dive into your local community, connect with new friends, and discover the fascinating world of native plants and their propagation? **Join us for the SLCMA Community Volunteer Morning every Wednesday from 9am to 12noon. It's a wonderful opportunity to learn, grow, and contribute!** For more information, give us a call on 4956 1388. Get involved and make a difference! The SLCMA Community Volunteer Program is proudly supported by the Mackay Regional Council's Natural Environment Levy.

## Sarina Community Native Gardens

The Sarina Community Native Gardens are a must-visit for anyone passionate about native plants. We warmly invite the community and visitors to come and explore this living showcase of our region's unique flora. With the gardens always open to the public, you'll find a wealth of information and inspiration right at your fingertips. Take a leisurely self-guided tour through the gardens and you will find the plants labelled to make identification a breeze. Whether you're a seasoned botanist or simply curious about native plants, the gardens offer a delightful experience for all.



Photo: S von Fahland

A walking track meanders through the gardens

For those seeking a deeper dive into our plant life, we offer group guided walks led by our knowledgeable team. To arrange a special tour for your group, simply reach out to us on 4956 1388 or email [admin@sarinalandcare.org.au](mailto:admin@sarinalandcare.org.au). Come discover the beauty and biodiversity of the Sarina Community Native Gardens—an adventure awaits!

## Native bee workshop a buzzing success!

We are thrilled to report a great success for the Native Bee workshops that were held in the region, throughout August. The workshops hosted by our local Landcare groups, brought together almost 40 native bee enthusiasts for an engaging and educational 'buzzworthy' experience.

The workshops provided an opportunity for participants to learn from experts, Dean and Helen from Brymac Native Bees; about native bee management, rescues and care. Dean and Helen's expertise shone through as they guided attendees through the intricacies of native bee biology and conservation.

One of the highlights of the Sarina workshop was the interactive demonstration on how to safely transfer a rescued bee hive into quality OATH boxes. This opportunity allowed attendees to take part in the meticulous process involved in hive transfer and gain practical skills essential for native bee care. The detailed explanations and real-time problem-solving offered invaluable insights into the art and science of beekeeping. Attendees left the workshop with a newfound appreciation for these vital pollinators and a host of practical tips for managing native bee hives.

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with many attendees praising the workshop for its depth of knowledge and interactive approach. For those who missed this unique opportunity, stay tuned for future events and workshops. Local Landcare Groups are committed to fostering a greater understanding and appreciation of our native bees and look forward to hosting more exciting workshops in the future.

Thank you to everyone who attended and, to Dean and Helen from Brymac Native Bees for sharing their expertise. Your support and enthusiasm make a difference in our efforts to protect and celebrate all of Australia's magnificent native bees.

*Below: Some of the process of transferring the rescued bee hive into a OATH box*



Photos: S von Fahland

*Helen & Dean (above) presenting to attendees (below)*



*Below: Thanks to Vicki from Coffee Van Go—Espresso for keep our attendees boosted with energy*



## The hardworking SLCMA Field Team...

A massive thank you to our dedicated field team! So far this year, they have planted 4250 native plants in the Sarina Catchment area...and that is only part of the story, prior to planting the Field Team undertakes site preparation and after planting comes follow-up watering and ongoing site maintenance to ensure the plants establish well. And to top it off, all the plants were grown in the SLCMA Community Nursery by Susie and our volunteers from locally sourced seed, ensuring local genetics is preserved. Team work makes dream work!

*L-R: SLCMA Field team working on site; Dom, Chantelle & Helen ready for the day; Adrian & Dom mulching*



Photos: H Lynch



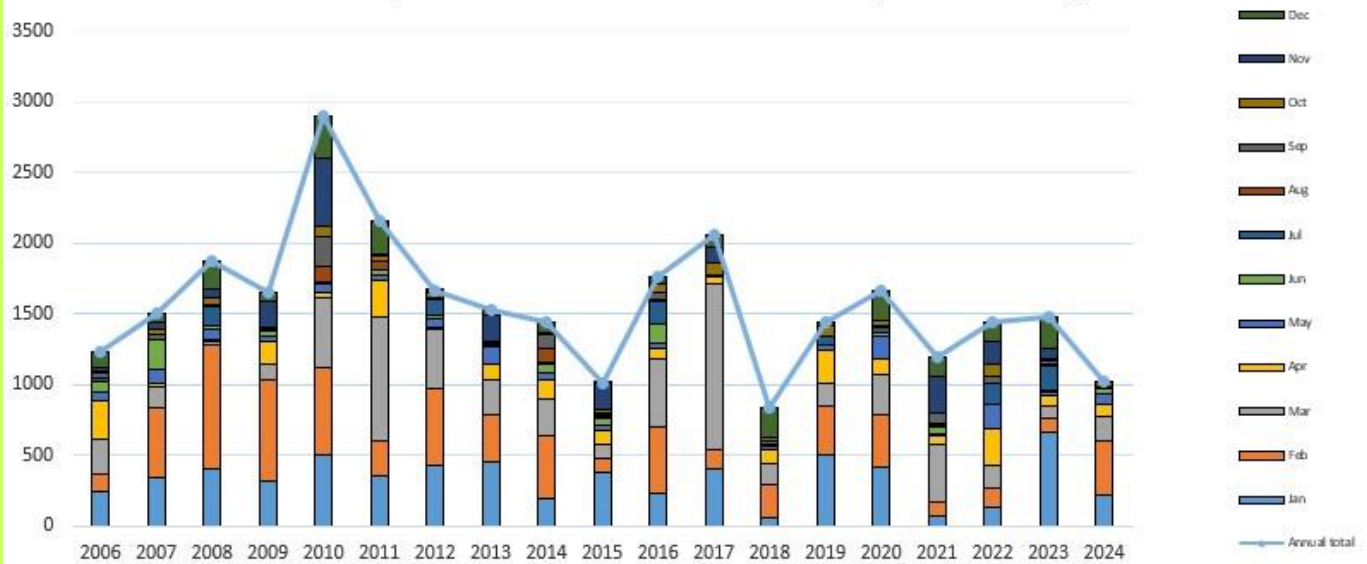


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## What SLCMA Membership does for you !

- 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. You can quote SLCMA's Scheme ID#C10002138 when you deposit your eligible containers **or**, you can drop your containers to us. 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 Australian native plant go to school?  
**A-** To improve its "fern-omenal" knowledge!
- Q-** What did the tree say to Spring?  
**A-** "What a re-leaf"
- Q-** Why did the eucalyptus tree become a comedian?  
**A-** Because it had a "koala-ty" sense of humor!



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