

# SLCMA Catchment News 2024



## September

**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

## SLCMA News

**Save the date: Saturday 16th November 16th, 4pm –SLCMA Christmas Party & Annual General Meeting!** Join us for some holiday cheer and celebrate our achievements over the last 12 months at our Annual General Meeting followed by some friendly games of barefoot bowls. *Lets celebrate together!*

**Join Our Team!** Have you ever wanted to help shape the future of Landcare? Now is your chance! We're looking for passionate, engaged members to join our management committee for a 12-month term. The minimum time commitment—is a 1-2 hour meeting each month, excluding December and January.

The committee provides essential guidance for the direction of SLCMA, and you will be working closely with our experienced staff and other committee members who offer strong support every step of the way. The management committee is made up of several key roles: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and two executive members, bringing diverse ideas and perspectives that enrich our work.

By serving on the management committee, you will be making an invaluable contribution, supporting our mission and bringing your ideas and experience to the table. Interested? Contact us to receive an information pack and learn more about nominating.

**Photo call for the SLCMA 2025 Calendar!** We are in the process of putting together next year's Landcare Calendar, and we'd love your help! Have you snapped a memorable moment in the Sarina Catchment this year? Whether it's a beautiful landscape, local wildlife, vibrant flora, farming activities or a rehabilitation project, we want to see it and share it. Show us the Sarina Catchment in all its glory!



Photo: S Linton

## Engaging locals at the Sarina Youth Centre

We recently hosted an exciting workshop at the Sarina Youth Centre, where local youth had the opportunity to learn about the fascinating world of microbats. This hands-on event discussed the critical role microbats play in our ecosystem as well as getting creative by decorating and constructing their very own microbat hotel!

Microbats are essential for maintaining ecological balance, as they help control insect populations by consuming vast amounts of pests, including mosquitoes and agricultural bugs. This makes them vital allies for farmers and a natural solution to pest control. During the workshop, participants discovered how these tiny creatures contribute to biodiversity and the overall health of our environment.

Feedback from the youth was overwhelmingly positive! Many expressed how much they enjoyed learning about microbats and their habitats. They were particularly excited about the hands-on experience of building and decorating the microbat hotels, taking pride in their creations. "It was cool to see how we can help the environment right from our own backyards," said one participant, while another added, "I never knew how important these little bats were!"

By the end of the workshop, not only did the youth leave with their painted microbat hotels, but they also took home valuable knowledge about conservation and the importance of protecting our local wildlife.



Thank you to everyone who participated and made this workshop a success! We look forward to more engaging activities that inspire our youth to connect with and protect the natural world around them. Keep an eye out for future workshops and events—let's continue to work together for a healthier planet! This workshop was supported by Mackay Regional Council Natural Environment Levy.



Photo: R Fraser

# SLCMA 'Plant of the Month'

This month's 'Plant of the Month' is: White Everlasting or White Paper Daisy

*Coronidium lanuginosum* (previously known as *Helichrysum lanuginosum*)

**Family:** Asteraceae

**Subfamily:** Asteroideae

**What is in a name?** Referring to Corona – from Ancient Greek – *Koroni* – and – *idion* which means "diminutive" or "little" and captures the "little crown" of the pappus bristles on the cypselae; *lanuginosum* meaning "woolly".

**Form:** Herb or low shrub to about 60cm with woolly hairy stems.

**Leaves:** Leaves (at least the lower) somewhat woolly; pericarp thin, elliptic to obovate, transparent.

**Flower:** White, yellow daisy-like flower, 3-6cm diameter, occurs Autumn to Spring. Solitary or in an open leafy panicle (multi-branched inflorescence).

**Fruit:** Flower turns into seed pod, brown in colour.

**Habitat:** Usually found in rocky situations, sometimes on exposed rocky coasts, also in woodlands and grasslands.

**Distribution:** Endemic to northern and eastern Queensland.

**Notes:** This species shows considerable morphological variation and occurs in a number of different habitats.



Photos: S von Fahland

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/2887778>

Flowers and form of White

## Sarina Community Nursery Volunteer Program

September has been a whirlwind of activity! We kicked off the month by partnering with the Mackay Regional Council to host the Free Native Plant Giveaway and Gardens for Wildlife programs. The event was a resounding success, drawing enthusiastic support from the community. Our dedicated volunteers helped set up, advised residents on plant selections, and provided a delicious morning tea, making the day truly special. It was fantastic to see our nursery volunteers engaged in this wonderful initiative.

In the days following the event, we dove straight into propagating new native plants to replenish our stocks. By month's end, we embarked on a rewarding field trip for seed collecting at Freshwater Point. It turned out to be an excellent harvest for several species: *Pittosporum ferrugineum*-Rusty pittosporum, *Chionanthus ramiflora*-Native olive, *Alphitonia excelsa*-Red ash or Soap tree and *Corymbia Clarksoniana*-Clarkson's bloodwood. The fruits were plump and ripe, making seed cleaning back at the nursery a breeze. Our volunteers also seized the moment, caring for our catchment by gathering a substantial amount of litter while on our seed collecting adventure. What a productive and fulfilling month it's been!

**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.



Volunteers ..... collecting rubbish ..... seed collecting ..... cleaning seed :)

# A Blossoming Success: Gardens for Wildlife Program takes root in Sarina!

We are thrilled to share the excitement from our recent collaboration with Mackay Regional Council for the “Green Up Sarina” native plant giveaway event on 4th September. It was a spectacular success and a true celebration of community and conservation!

## Some of the event highlights:

**Gardens for Wildlife Program:** 87 eligible Sarina locals received 10 free local native plants each, that’s 870 native plants in a bid to ‘green up Sarina’; provide shade for our neighbourhoods and support local wildlife. The program allows for a variety of native plants and must include one tree, to provide shade for our neighbourhoods and support local wildlife. Each participant also received a Gardens for Wildlife plaque to proudly display on their letterbox.

The Gardens for Wildlife Program is a wonderful initiative that aligns perfectly with the Mackay Urban Greening Strategy, aiming to foster cooler, greener, and more connected neighborhoods. It was heartwarming to see so many community members eager to enhance their gardens and support local wildlife.

**Bonus free plants and more:** Ratepayers who attended could also collect an additional 4 free native plants from the Mackay Natural Environment Centre (MNEC) Nursery. For those that were looking to expand their garden even further, could purchase extra plants from the SLCMA Community Nursery.

**Educational Experiences:** Mackay Regional Council Pest Officers set up the Regional Pest Education trailer, providing information and advice on pest management and, SLCMA staff and volunteers offered information about native plants and opportunities for volunteering and community involvement in Landcare activities, at our Landcare display.

**Morning Tea and Coffee:** The day was made even sweeter with morning tea, thanks to our dedicated SLCMA Nursery Volunteers, and a local coffee van, *Coffee Van Go—Espresso* on-site keeping everyone refreshed and energised.

**Guided Walks:** Participants enjoyed guided tours of the Sarina Community Native Gardens with our friendly Landcare staff, exploring the beauty and benefits of native flora.

A huge thank you to staff from MNEC, Mackay Regional Council and our volunteers for their help during the day and, for everyone who came out and made the event a success. Your enthusiasm and commitment to creating wildlife-friendly spaces are truly inspiring. Don’t miss out on future opportunities to get involved and continue supporting our local environment! For more information on the Gardens for Wildlife Program or to apply, visit the [Mackay Regional Council website](#). If you would like to purchase native plants or find out what is available at the SLCMA Community Nursery contact us on 4956 1388 or visit our [website](#).

*Together, we’re making a difference, one garden at a time!*



Photo: N Hughes

MRC Pest Officers with Pest Education Trailer



Photo: S von Fahland

Coffee Van Go-Espresso giving us an energy boost



Photo: S von Fahland

Above & below: SLCMA & MRC staff ready to go



Photo: N Hughes

Photo: S von Fahland



Photo: R Fraser

Community members enjoying the SLCMA Community Nursery and information



Photo: R Fraser

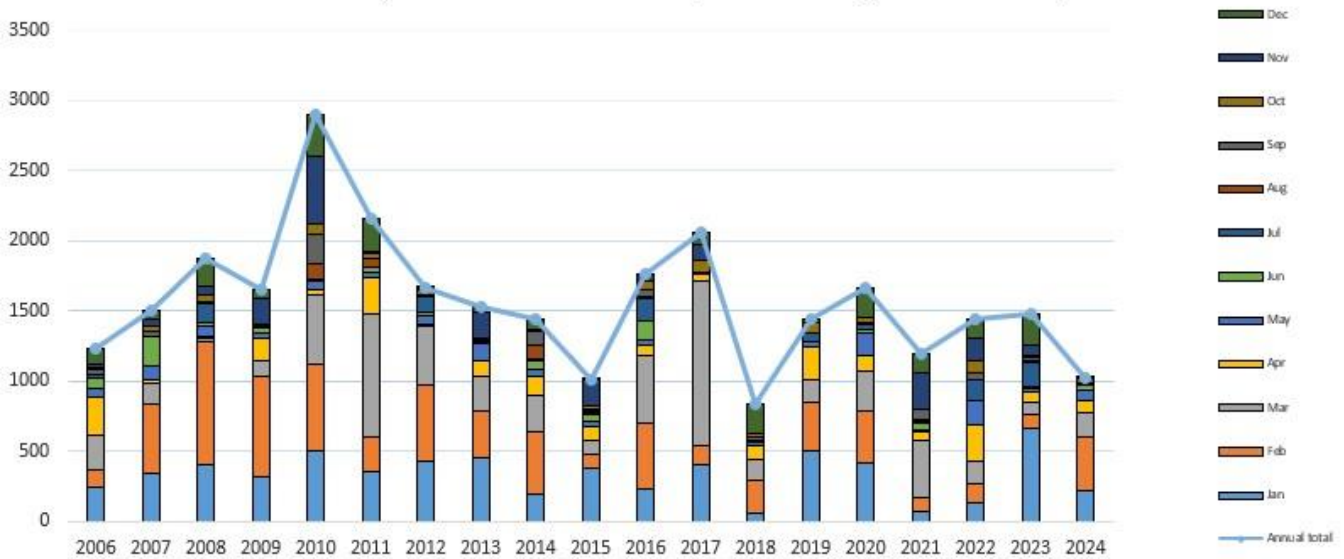


# What SLCMA Membership does for you !

- 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

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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 call an Australian native plant that's always on time?  
**A-** A "Punctual-ia"!

**Q-** Why did the wattle tree break up with the gum tree?  
**A-** It couldn't handle the "eucalyptus" in the relationship!



Comic by Jon Carter



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