

SLCMA Catchment News 2025



January

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Sarina, QLD, 4737

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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

Dominique Jooste

Field Team

Chantelle Woods

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 24/25

Chair: Lachlan McBride

Vice-chair: Malcolm Warfield

Treasurer: Susan Andrews

Secretary:

Karen May

Executive member:

Kath De Vita



Sarina News!

Happy New Year, welcome back! As we step into 2025, we are excited to connect with you. Whether you are seeing us during a property visit with one of our Landcare Officers, discovering new skills at a workshop, volunteering at a community event, picking up native plants from our community nursery or stopping by our office for land management advice; we cant wait to see you! Lets make this year one of growth, connection and care for our incredible local environment. Here's to a fantastic year ahead together!

Farewell Helen Lynch—The SLCMA team said farewell to Field Team leader, Helen Lynch in January. After 12 months on the team, Helen is moving on to new adventures. We would like to thank Helen for her efforts leading the Field Team and wish her the best in her future ventures.

Helen Lynch, working in the Sarina Community Native Gardens



Photo: S von Fahland



Who Cares? ... Landcare!

Who would like a calendar with local photos, showcasing the beauty and diversity of our catchment?

Look no further, the SLCMA Calendar for 2025 is here! Thank you to the photographers who have captured (& shared with us) the seasons, landmarks and wildlife of the Sarina Catchment in stunning images. The calendar is also a useful tool to know when cattle sales and environmental awareness days are being held.

We are grateful that we have once again received support from Mackay Regional Council, Dalrymple Bay Infrastructure and Daly Bay, to produce the calendar, thank you. Also, thank you to BB Print—who always do a great job pulling it all together! Our members & volunteers are able to receive one free calendar each, please drop in to the office and pick up your copy!

Marine Debris surveys at Cape Palmerston NP

Ruggedly beautiful, Cape Palmerston NP is home to the distinctive 344m Mount Funnel and includes rocky headlands, lowland vegetation and 28km of coastline adjoining the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The area consists of over 20 different vegetation communities supporting rare and threatened flora and fauna including migratory shorebirds, mangrove mouse and nesting marine turtles. It is highly regarded by locals and visitors for bushwalking, fishing, camping and 4WDing and holds important cultural values to the Traditional Owners.

Through discussions with QPWS Rangers, Yuwi Cooperation Rangers and Tangaroa Blue; marine debris and illegal dumping of litter have been highlighted as negatively impacting this unique environment.

Through the Cape Palmerston Clean-Up Initiative: Community Marine Debris Collection and Monitoring Project, SLCMA is partnering with QPWS, Yuwi Cooperation and Tangaroa Blue to upskill staff and set up a regular marine debris surveying program and, working with the community to remove litter and marine debris from hot-spots and beaches within Cape Palmerston NP.

If you would like to be involved in the clean up events, please make contact with us so we can keep you in the loop when events are being held. This project has received funding support from the Queensland Government's Community Sustainability Action grant program.



Photo: S von Fahland

SLCMA Volunteers joined Yuwi Rangers at Cape Palmerston last year for the Reef Clean event.

SLCMA 'Plant of the Month'

This month's 'Plant of the Month' is *Lobelia membranacea*, **Native Lobelia**
Family: *Campanulaceae*

What is in a name? The genus *Lobelia* was first formally described in 1753 by Carl Linnaeus in *Species plantarum* and was named after the Flemish botanist Matthias de Lobel (1538–1616).

Form: Creeping, mat forming groundcover herb rooting at stem nodes.

Leaves: Oblong to elliptical, 1.5–8 mm long, 0.5–3 mm wide, margins toothed or rarely entire, minutely pubescent

Flower: Solitary blue/mauve flowers are held on stalks 2cm above the plant, flowers prolifically.

Fruit: Conspicuous, green 5-7mm long capsules

Distribution: Once prevalent along the Queensland east coast in damp, swampy conditions, this dainty groundcover is threatened by habitat fragmentation and degradation of habitat by weeds.

Notes: This beautiful groundcover can be used as a lawn alternative, in hanging baskets, around rockery and is a great habitat for frogs. Also, some species of *Lobelia* are larval food plants for the Green Blotched Moth (*Cosmodes elegans*).

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://ppnn.org.au/plant-info/lobelia-membranacea/>, <https://cqclandcarenetwork.org.au/plants/native-lobelia/>, <https://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Lobelia~membranacea>



Flowers, leaves and form of Native Lobelia



Photos: S. Tomlinson

Sarina Community Nursery Volunteer Program

The volunteers resumed in the nursery on Wednesday 15th of January, after a four-week break. Upon returning, our main tasks included weeding tubestock plants and potting up seedlings. Volunteers also took the time to clean seeds for future sowing and storage, and, as always, we washed tubes for reuse. Since January is a short month of volunteer mornings, we decided not to venture out for seed collecting but instead gathered a few seeds and cuttings from the gardens. It was a nice opportunity to view some of our amazing native species flowering and fruiting.



Volunteers busy in the nursery :)

If you would like to volunteer in your local community and meet new people while learning 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. SLCMA Community Volunteer Program is proudly supported by Mackay Regional Council, Natural Environment Levy.

Sarina Community Native Gardens



Wheel of Fire (*Stenocarpus sinuatus*)

With the lovely wet season upon us, the seasonal wetland in the Sarina Community Native Gardens is bustling with noises of frogs and birdlife. Being a low-lying area, things are also a little muddy—so we recommend either wearing gumboots to explore or holding off until it is a bit drier!

The Sarina Community Native Gardens are a must-visit for anyone passionate about native plants. We warmly invite the community and



Cats Whiskers (*Orthosiphon aristatus*) & Little Evodia (*Melicope rubra*)



Photos: S. Tomlinson

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.

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. Come discover the beauty and biodiversity of the Sarina Community Native Gardens—an adventure awaits!

The Great Toad Bust 2025

Did you know? Cane toads (*Rhinella marina*) are toxic at every life stage and female cane toads can lay up to 35,000 eggs at a time! This presents a danger to our pets, wildlife and agriculture.

The Great Cane Toad Bust is held for one week in January every year, where the community are encouraged to tadpole trap by day and toad bust by night. The event also focusses on raising awareness about the environmental impacts of invasive cane toads, educating the community on distinguishing cane toads from native frogs, and teaching effective and humane removal methods.



Attendees wearing their Toad Busting shirts!



Project Officer, Rodney checking the tadpole trap

As part of this year's Great Toad Bust, on the 22nd January SLCMA facilitated a hands-on, interactive workshop at Middle Creek Dam. This was a great local opportunity for the community to learn about how to:

- identify cane toads and cane toad tadpoles
- differentiate between native frogs and their tadpoles
- reduce toad numbers by toad proofing waterbodies
- humanely disposing of toads and their tadpoles

Thanks to *Watergum* and their partner *Foundation for Australia's Most Endangered (FAME)* we were able to demonstrate the use of the newly invented tadpole trap and lure, which were donated to SLCMA for the event and future loaning to our Landcare members.

Thank you to everyone who came to this event, your contribution and interest in controlling this invasive species has a big impact on the health and well being of our natural environment.

SLCMA members are able to loan a toad tadpole trap from us, to trial on your property, however the lures will need to be purchased directly from Watergum via their [website](#). If you would like a trap of your own, these can also be purchased directly from Watergum.

This event was supported by Mackay Regional Council Natural Environment Levy, Watergum and FAME.



Above: Participants learning about the tadpole trap



Middle: Toadlets caught during the workshop



Photos: H Lynch

Right: The picturesque Middle Creek Dam

Join the School Waste Minimalisation Program

** Did you know only 14% of school waste is actual rubbish? The rest can be recycled or composted!

** Reducing food and garden waste to landfill cuts methane emissions—28 times more potent than CO₂—while fostering lifelong sustainability habits in students.

Reef Catchments is looking for one more school to join their successful School Waste Minimalisation program. Funded by the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, the program offers:

- A **\$5,000 grant** to reduce waste.
- Tailored waste audits and action plans.
- Access to the **Youth Climate Champion Program** for student-led initiatives.

Spots are limited—submit your Expression of Interest now to secure your place and help create a sustainable future!

Contact Reef Catchments Project Officer Rachel Taylor at rachel.taylor@reefcatchments.com or [visit their website](#) to learn more about the program. *The MWI School Waste Minimisation project is funded by the partnership between the Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.*



Photo: Reef Catchments

Waste audit at a local school



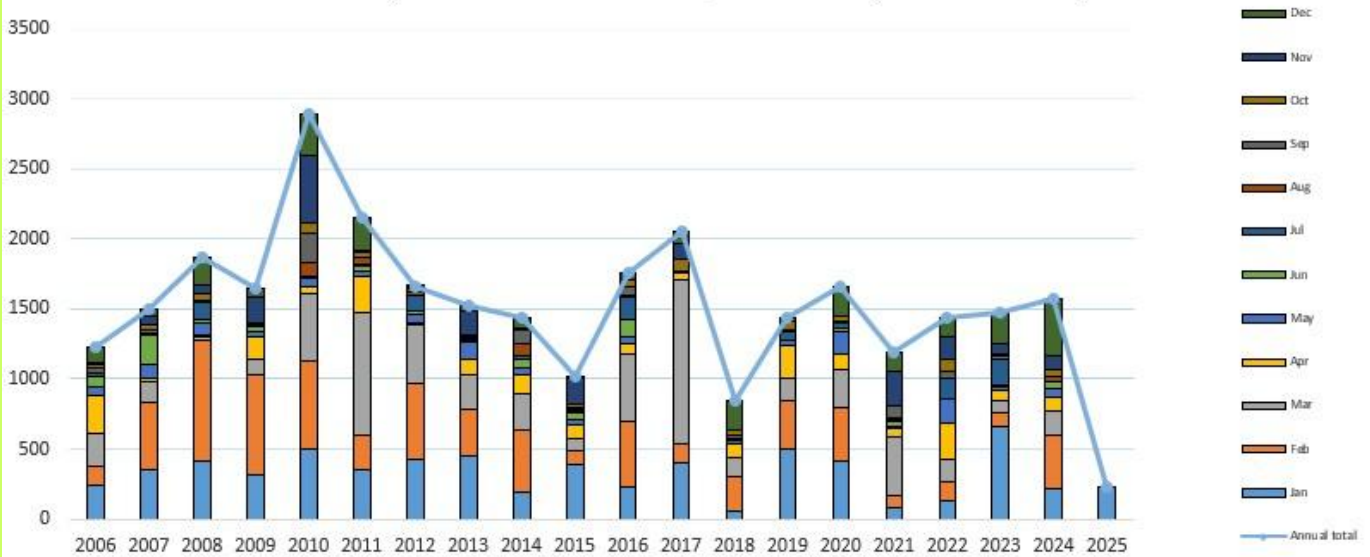
Address: 101 Sarina Beach Rd, Sarina QLD 4737
Phone: (07) 4956 1388
Website: www.sarinalandcare.org.au
Email: admin@sarinalandcare.org.au

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 -2025 (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.



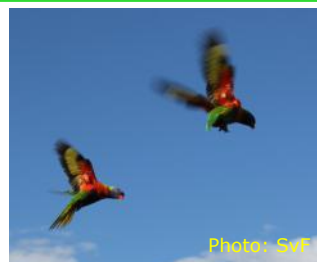
SLCMA's Scheme ID
C10002138



A partnership for the natural resource management of catchments in the Central Queensland Coast Bioregion: Pioneer, Sarina & Whitsunday Catchments.

Just for fun!

- Q:** How do trees get on the internet?
A: They log on!
- Q:** Why did the tomato turn red?
A: Because it saw the salad dressing.
- Q:** Why are flowers so good at problem-solving?
A: Because they know how to nip it in the bud!



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