

Annual Report 2024/25



2024/2025

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Chairperson's Annual Report

It is with great pride that I present the Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association (SLCMA) Annual Report for the 2024/2025 financial year. This year, we have been busy, working hard to build on our previous successes and expand our efforts across the region. This demonstrates the continued commitment of our staff, partners, and volunteers to improving our region's natural resources.



Lachlan McBride,
Chairperson

Strategic Partnerships and Financial Growth

Our success remains intrinsically linked to the generous and ongoing support of our valued partners. Nothing would be achieved without them, and I want to sincerely thank the Mackay Regional Council, Bendigo Bank Community Bank Sarina, Plane Creek Productivity Services Ltd, Reef Catchments, Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal Pty Ltd, Dalrymple Bay Infrastructure, Aurizon, Great Barrier Reef Foundation, the Australian Government, and the QLD Government.

Conference and Future Funding Strategy

As Chairperson, I was proud to represent our local group at the recent National Landcare Conference. This was an invaluable opportunity to connect with Landcare leaders from across the country. I was honoured to present during a lunch session, sharing the successful strategies and on-ground impact of SLCMA with a national audience. A key focus of the conference was improving funding models for regional Landcare groups. I gained significant insights into innovative funding streams and successful partnership approaches utilized in other states. We are now actively exploring new opportunities and adopting best-practice funding models to diversify our revenue streams and secure long-term, sustainable financial support for the Sarina catchment.

This year has seen successful achievements including staff training and significant organisation investment, particularly in the expansion of our local nursery capacity, which now supports a larger volume of on-ground projects than ever before. Furthermore, our investment strategy, guided by the Management Committee, has ensured the organisation's long-term financial stability.

Government Engagement

A crucial aspect of our strategy involves ensuring that our vital work is recognized and supported at all levels of government. This year, we significantly elevated our advocacy efforts.

We were pleased to secure high-level engagement at the Mackay Community Cabinet. As Chairperson, I represented SLCMA and was able to meet directly with Premier David Crisafulli MP and Minister for Primary Industries, Tony Perrett MP. This was an invaluable opportunity to directly brief the government on the critical importance of the Sarina catchment's environmental health, particularly in relation to agricultural and primary industry priorities, and to advocate for continued, robust financial support for our on-ground projects.

We also maintain a highly productive relationship with our local State Member for Mirani, Glen Kelly MP.

- Nursery infrastructure success:** Following a successful site visit and direct liaison earlier this year, Mr. Kelly provided vital support that helped SLCMA secure grant funding to construct a new, high-quality shade structure over the Community Nursery.

- Operational enhancement:** This significant infrastructure upgrade will dramatically improve the operational efficiency of our nursery, increase our propagation capacity, and provide a safer and more effective workspace for our dedicated volunteers and staff.

- Public acknowledgment:** Mr. Kelly has consistently attended and supported key Landcare milestones, publicly acknowledging the crucial role SLCMA plays in catchment health and regional sustainability.

We sincerely thank all state representatives for their engagement and look forward to further collaboration.

Continued over page.....

Chairperson's Report continued...

Staff, Volunteer, and Governance Excellence

To our dedicated staff, led by Saskia and the team—your professionalism, commitment to safety, and outstanding team effort are the driving forces behind the delivery of our complex environmental programs.

Management Committee Successes

I would like to sincerely thank the Volunteer Management Committee for their dedication and strategic oversight. The Committee has been working exceptionally well together, providing consistent guidance throughout the term. A notable achievement this year is the significant improvement in the efficiency of our Human Resources (HR) processes. We have implemented new procedures that ensure HR matters are addressed and resolved quickly, fostering a more positive and supportive work environment for all staff.

Volunteer Contributions

I extend immense gratitude to all our volunteers, whose energy and time underpin our core operations.

- **Nursery Volunteer Program:** Successfully meeting increased demand for native plants following the nursery expansion.
- **Volunteer Management Committee:** Providing strategic direction and governance.

Key Project Highlights 2024/2025

Building on foundational success, 2024/2025 saw several projects move from planning to impactful execution:

- **Reef Assist 2.0 (Supported by Reef Catchments, Funded by QLD Government):** This critical program continued to deliver major on-ground works, focusing on priority coastal and riparian zones. The program generated local employment and training opportunities while undertaking essential gully and streambank remediation, directly improving water quality flowing into the Great Barrier Reef
- **Land for Wildlife 24/25 (Funded by Mackay Regional Council):** This year, we significantly expanded our reach, successfully welcoming numerous new land managers into the program. This growth increased the total area under voluntary conservation agreement, protecting vital habitat for local species, including the Sarina Koala population.
- **Community Nursery Upgrade:** This crucial expansion phase was successfully completed, significantly boosting our capacity to supply native plants. This upgrade was made possible through the generous financial support of the Queensland Government and our steadfast partners, the Bendigo Bank Community Bank Sarina and Daly Bay. The upgraded nursery facility is now central to all our revegetation efforts.
- **Sarina Inlet Trail Completion:** Stage 3 of the project was finalised, enhancing community access and environmental awareness along the trail.

This report serves as a testament to the positive impact the SLCMA team, supported by the community and our partners, continues to have on improving the condition of our region's natural resources.

Thank you all for attending our Annual General Meeting today. I am now happy to answer any questions regarding this report or take them on notice.

Lachlan McBride, Chairperson.

Coordinator's Report

It has been another busy and successful year for the SLCMA team. Together we have delivered a range of projects and programs, working alongside project partners, landholders, and the community to protect and enhance the unique environment within our catchment.

Our achievements are the result of our diverse skills, strong partnerships, community and project support, and the dedication of our staff and volunteers. A big thank you to our Landcare team—your flexibility and hard work have made many of this year's achievements possible.

I would also like to extend our gratitude to our volunteer management committee for their trust in the Landcare team, their guidance, and for overseeing the governance of SLCMA.



Saskia von Fahland,
Coordinator

A special mention to Rod McFadzen who was presented with a life membership—in recognition to his long standing contribution to SLCMA.



Saskia von Fahland, Rod McFadzen

Staff from SLCMA, Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group and, Whitsunday Catchment Landcare



2024/25 Management Committee Members and Staff

We acknowledge and thank all staff and Committee members who contributed to SLCMA during the 2024-25 financial year. Some valued team members moved on to new opportunities during this time, and we are grateful for their contribution and service. We also welcomed new staff who bring fresh skills and enthusiasm to our team.

Management Committee Members:

Chair	Lachlan McBride
Vice Chair	Malcolm Warfield
Treasurer	Susan Andrews
Secretary	Karen May
Management Committee Members	Kath de Vita



Staff:

Coordinator	Saskia von Fahland
Administration Officer	Helen Dangerfield
Nursery Officer/Field Supervisor	Susie Tomlinson
Project Officer	Rodney Fraser
Field Team Leader	Dominique Jooste
Field Officers	Adrian Brooks, Josh Ernst



Above (L-R): Management Committee; Lachlan McBride, Malcolm Warfield, Susan Andrews, Karen May, Kath de Vita

Left (L-R): Staff; Helen Dangerfield, Dom Jooste, Saskia von Fahland, Susie Tomlinson, Josh Ernst, Adrian Brooks and Rodney Fraser

Thank you to the following staff for their contribution and who have left throughout the year: Helen Lynch, Chantelle Woods, Chris Vrsaljko

SLCMA office: resource centre & educational precinct

We are grateful for the ongoing support provided to us by Mackay Regional Council; who have allowed us to operate from the building ('SLCMA Office') at 101 Beach Rd, since 2004.

The SLCMA Office is utilised daily by staff, volunteers, members and landholders landcare activities and as a resource centre for land management information and advice.

Throughout the year, our office precinct has been a buzzing hub for many workshops, volunteer morning teas, community gatherings and meetings and, is close to other important community assets including the Sarina Community Native Gardens and the SLCMA Community Nursery.



Right: SLCMA educational precinct including SLCMA Community Nursery, SLCMA Office and Sarina Community Native Gardens

Left: SLCMA Volunteers tending to the native bee garden



Organisational Objectives

The objectives of Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association Inc. are:

- a. To promote a strategic and integrated approach to natural resource management and biodiversity conservation in the Sarina Catchment area.
- b. To foster coordination and cooperation between land managers, community groups, industry and government agencies in their natural resource management activities.
- c. To promote understanding and awareness of the interactions and relationships between the natural systems and resources of the catchment.
- d. To identify and prioritise natural resource management issues within the Sarina Catchment Area.
- e. To prepare, coordinate and implement priority action plans identified in the Sarina ICM Strategy.
- f. To promote sustainable solutions and actions through strong community, industry and government partnerships in catchment management strategies.
- g. To provide a forum for community and government discussion on natural resource and catchment management issues.

Sarina Catchment Area



SLCMA's Vision and Goals

Vision for the Sarina Catchment

The Sarina Catchment Area is an economically viable region, which is ecologically sustainable and well regarded as a healthy place to live and work

Goals

Land Use Planning: The land resources of the Catchment are managed in an ecologically sustainable manner.

Land Management: The most appropriate ecologically and economically sustainable land management practices are adopted throughout the catchment.

River/Creek Management: The creek systems are managed in such a way as to enhance and maintain their natural values while providing for the needs of the catchment community.

Water Management: The integrity of the natural systems within the catchment are enhanced and maintained while providing water of a suitable quality and quantity to meet the needs of the community.

Coastal Management: Management of the coastal area in a way that will ensure the sustainable use of the natural resources

Vegetation/Biodiversity: The native vegetation and biodiversity values of the catchment are enhanced and maintained and the natural systems are not further degraded.

Community Awareness and Involvement: A community that is aware of the need to maintain and improve the natural resources of the catchment and is actively involved in doing so.

SLCMA Membership 2024/25

Class of Membership	Is membership of the class to be limited or unlimited in number?	If the class of membership is to be limited in number, how?	Limitations relating to the class of membership	Entry requirements for class of membership	Number of members
Government Organisation Member	Unlimited	N/A	1. Full voting rights	Open to nominated Councilors of local authorities within the Association's catchment area, and nominated officers of State Government departments or authorities, or divisions or branches within them.	15
Associate Member	Unlimited	N/A	1. Full voting rights	Shall be opened to nominees of: Companies and Cooperatives carrying out activities within the Catchment area. Local organizations and institutions. Local groups with a direct interest in land use	37
Ordinary Landcare Member	Unlimited	N/A	1. Open to any adult owners or occupiers of land 2. Full voting rights	1. Must be over 18 years of age 2. Annual fee for membership, the amount to be decided at an annual general meeting	82
Junior Member	Limited	There are to be no more than 50 Junior members at any time	1. May not vote 2. Not eligible for election to management committee positions	1. Must be under 18 years of age 2. Must be a registered Junior Landcare member.	4

SLCMA Membership benefits!

A membership with SLCMA has many rewards:

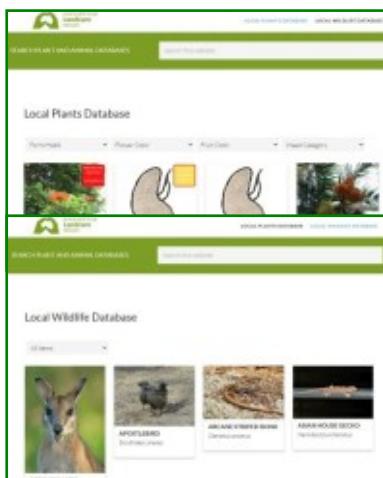


Native Bee workshop

- ◊ Easy access to Natural Resource Management information and extension
- ◊ Landcare 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 from the SLCMA Community Nursery each year
- ◊ Invitations to Natural Resource Management bus tours, field days and workshops
- ◊ Copy of the SLCMA Annual Report

Communication & publications

- **SLCMA Catchment News** is distributed to 138 recipients. The newsletter is a great way for members to keep up-to-date with available funding, workshops, field days, volunteer opportunities and the latest in natural resource management news. Thankyou to Michelle Landry MP for producing colour copies of the newsletter for our members who receive the newsletter by post.
- **SLCMA website and facebook page** are a great way for the community and members to keep up-to-date with what is happening in our catchment as well as being able to find out what native plants are available in the SLCMA Community Nursery. Thankyou to Kapow Interactive for their support towards the SLCMA and the associated Central QLD Coast Landcare Network website.



- **The local wildlife and plant databases** are a shared resource between SLCMA, Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group (PCL) and Whitsunday Catchment Landcare (WCL), through the Central Queensland Coast Landcare Network (CQCLN) website.



QR code for local CQCLN plant database

The plant database provides images and identification information for local native plants and weeds; including flower and fruit characteristics, life form, distribution, habitat and some ecological notes. It is a useful tool for community members interested in plant identification for our local area. Sourcing local images of all the plants is 'a work in progress', and we are continuing to work together to add more photos.

The wildlife database provides images and information about native wildlife you are likely to encounter across the Mackay Whitsunday region.



- **SLCMA Calendar 2025** was well received by members, schools and volunteers. It is a great opportunity to showcase places of interest, wildlife and critters from around the catchment. It also includes important dates such as meetings, environmental awareness events and cattle sales. Thankyou to Mackay Regional Council, Daly Bay and Dalrymple Bay Infrastructure for their contribution towards producing the calendar.

Technical Working Groups supported

We continue to actively participate in key regional working groups, collaborating with stakeholders to identify knowledge gaps, develop projects, share expertise and remain informed on local, regional and state priorities.

This ensures we are well positioned to contribute to solutions across areas such as pest management, wetlands, biodiversity, threatened species and Landcare. SLCMA is proud to support the following working and advisory groups:

- Central QLD Coast Landcare Network
- Mackay Whitsunday Regional Pest Management Group
- Healthy Rivers to Reef Partnership
- Mackay Whitsunday Isaacs Wetland Working Group
- Central Queensland Koala Advisory Group



Snapshot of Landcare activities across the catchment



SLCMA Community Nursery

The SLCMA Community Nursery has been in operation for 22 years! The facility was built in 2003 by SLCMA volunteers and the Sarina Green Corps team, and has been extended twice over this time, with the most recent extension occurring over the last 18 months.

The nursery is utilised as a training facility for the community and a base for the SLCMA Community Volunteer Program; to learn about native plants, plant propagation and general nursery practices. It also allows us to grow native plants locally, for local and regional rehabilitation projects, community projects, gardens and landscaping.

In the past year, the nursery has provided **17,822 native plants to the community**, for planting back into our catchment. Plants were provided to:

- Landcare Members *through the free plant allocation of 10 plants per member per year*
- Land for Wildlife (LfW) landholders *through the annual free plant allocation of 20 plants per LfW registered property*
- Support Mackay Regional Council Free Plant Giveaway for schools and community groups in the Sarina area and, Gardens for Wildlife Program for Sarina ratepayers.
- Small and large-scale rehabilitation projects along local waterways, coastal dunes and bushland.
- General sales to the public through our 'click & collect' orders



Top: before nursery (2003)

Middle: during building of nursery (2003)

Bottom: current nursery (2025)

All funds raised are put back in to support the running costs of the nursery.

Thankyou to the Landholders who have given us permission to collect seed on their property and to those who have brought seed in throughout the year. We continue to seek new local species to propagate and further diversify our species list, which currently consists of **over 300 different species**.

In April 2025, we celebrated the expansion of the nursery grounds with an official opening. The expansion marked an exciting new chapter for our nursery. With the additional space and improved facilities, we have been able to grow a wider variety and greater number of native plants. This means more opportunities to engage volunteers, host educational workshops and support local landholders and community groups with high quality, locally sourced native plants!

The expansion has been a whole of community effort, as such we would like to thank our following supporters—who together helped bring the nursery expansion to fruition:

- Mackay Regional Council—permission to expand the nursery grounds
- Stronger Communities Programme— funding the site preparation including ground works and levelling
- Community Bank Sarina—funding the new security fence and associated signage
- Daly Bay (Community Sponsorship program) —funding our new irrigation system
- Dowdens Plumbing and Water Treatment—assistance with installing the irrigation system and donation of a new water controller
- ATCO—donation of metal frames for re-purposing into benches
- Sue McCormack, Mackay Natural Environment Centre, Mackay Regional Council—technical advice and support
- Barry Naylor, Nursery Industry Extension Officer—technical advice and support
- Michael Hemmens, Dowdens Pumping & Water Treatment—technical advice and support
- Gary Lavender, All Torque— modifying and constructing new nursery benches

We are very excited to be able to continue our nursery upgrades over the next 12 months with news that we were successful in applying for funding through the *Mackay Regional Council Infrastructure Grant Program* and *Gambling Community Benefit Fund*—to expand our workspace by installing two shade structures.



Volunteers, SLCMA staff and supporters celebrating the opening of the SLCMA Community Nursery expansion

A big thankyou to our volunteers who assist staff on a weekly basis to keep our seedbank full and tend to the plants in the nursery.

And a **huge thank you to our Nursery Officer extraordinaire, Susie**, who keeps everything functioning in the nursery to ensure we can continue to supply, good quality, locally adapted native plants to our region.

SLCMA Community Volunteer Program

The SLCMA Community Volunteer Program, launched in 2003 alongside the establishment of the SLCMA Community Nursery, continues to thrive thanks to the incredible dedication of our volunteers. Every Wednesday, our committed team gathers to contribute their time and passion to a wide range of activities, from nurturing native plants to building strong connections within the community. This year also marked an exciting milestone with the introduction of a second weekly volunteer session on Thursdays from 2–5 pm, further expanding participation and opportunities to get involved.

Throughout the past year, we were delighted to welcome new faces to the program while continuing to enjoy the unwavering support of our long-standing volunteers. Together, these incredible individuals contributed more than 2,000 volunteer hours over the past 12 months—a remarkable achievement that highlights their generosity, commitment, and passion for the environment.

Our volunteers play a vital role in every stage of operation at the SLCMA Community Nursery. Their work includes collecting, cleaning and sowing native seed, potting up seedlings, and completing essential nursery tasks such as labelling, weeding and washing pots. Beyond the nursery, volunteers also took part in plant identification and seed-collecting field trips throughout the catchment, further enriching their knowledge and strengthening their connection to our local natural environment.

For the second year in a row, our volunteers assisted with the *Sarina Native Plant Giveaway*—working alongside SLCMA and Mackay Regional Council staff to promote the native plants to Sarina residents and provide the opportunity to collect free native plants.

The SLCMA Volunteer Program is about far more than just the work—it is a hub for connection, learning and camaraderie. It provides a welcoming space for like-minded people to share stories, form friendships and enjoy a well-earned cuppa together.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our Nursery Officer, Susie Tomlinson, for her guidance and dedication to the program; to all our volunteers for their unwavering commitment; and to Mackay Regional Council for their invaluable support in sustaining this important program. Your combined efforts not only help the SLCMA Community Nursery flourish but also strengthen the bonds that make our community truly special. Thank you for another amazing year.

Sarina Community Native Gardens

The Sarina Community Native Gardens project was identified in 2008 by SLCMA staff and nursery volunteers as a way to involve the community while demonstrating and promoting the benefits of using native plants in gardens and landscaping. The site also provides an important educational opportunity for locals and visitors to learn about our region's native plants and their environmental value.

Permission to establish the gardens on the 0.25ha site was approved by Mackay Regional Council in 2009. Following consultation and planning with Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens and Native Plants QLD—Mackay Branch, on-ground works commenced in late 2009. The gardens were officially opened in 2013 by Gardening Australia's Costa Georgiadis.

The transformation of the site over the years has been remarkable, with many plants now flowering and seeding, and providing valuable habitat for a wide range of native birds and wildlife. Key milestones have included the installation and expansion of a seasonal wetland, construction of a walking track and boardwalk, and the development of themed gardens, including sensory gardens, local habitat gardens and, more recently the boomerang garden—and soon to surround a planned yarning circle. The gardens have also hosted a range of community events over the years, including the Community Fun Day in 2021 to celebrate SLCMA's 20th birthday. The event was well supported, featuring displays, stalls, family-friendly activities and presentations, along with a commemorative tree planting with the Mayor of Mackay Regional Council, Greg Williamson.

A big thank you to Susie, our Nursery & Gardens Officer, who has worked tirelessly throughout the year to ensure the gardens continue to evolve and provide a beautiful and diverse display of native plants for locals and visitors. We also acknowledge the SLCMA Field Team for their support with the hard yakka jobs such as whipper-snipping, pruning, mulching and chipping branches, and Mackay Regional Council's mowing team for keeping the lawns in tip top shape. Our future goals for the Sarina Community Native Gardens focus on increasing community use and visitation through workshops, guided group tours and the promotion of self-guided tours, ensuring the gardens continue to be a valued community asset. We look forward to the next 12 months as we work toward these goals, supported by funding from the Community Bank Sarina Bendigo Bank to upgrade and weatherproof the walking track, install permanent information signage and improve the drainage across the site.



Volunteers enjoying seed collecting, nursery work and morning tea



Pest management projects:

Coordinated Aerial Feral Pig Control Program

SLCMA continues to deliver the Coordinated Aerial Feral Pig Control Program on behalf of landholders across the Rocky Dam, Carmila and Clairview catchments. The program has been operating since 2008 and plays a critical role in reducing the impacts of feral pigs on agricultural productivity and natural ecosystems.

The success of the program is built on a strong, coordinated approach between landholders and key stakeholders, including Plane Creek Productivity Services, local council and the Department of Resources. The program also complements and aligns with other aerial feral pig control initiatives across the wider Mackay Whitsunday region.

The program currently engages with more than 60 landholders across a range of land uses, including cane, grazing and horticulture. During the 2024/25 financial year, 1,360 feral pigs were controlled across the catchments, contributing to almost 5,000 feral pigs removed since the program began. Over the years, the program has received a mix of local and state funding to complement landholder contributions; however, in recent years it has become solely landholder funded. SLCMA continues to advocate on behalf of participating landholders to secure complementary funding and support the long-term sustainability of the program.

It is encouraging to see landholders working collaboratively and recognising that pig control undertaken kilometres away can still deliver significant benefits for their own properties. This coordinated approach enables large areas of the catchments to be treated in a short period of time, increasing the effectiveness of control efforts and helping to reduce the ongoing impacts of feral pigs on both farming land and surrounding natural areas.

A big thank you to Andy Jenkinson from StockAir Heliworks and Mark Sant, local cane farmer and marksman, for their ongoing support and invaluable assistance with the program.

Weeds... Weeds and their monitoring and management, are a big part of rehabilitating our natural areas. Our Field team work tirelessly to keep the general weeds within our project sites under control to allow for the native plants to establish (*whether planted or through natural recruitment*).

Some sites have the presence of restricted invasive weeds (under the [Biosecurity Act 2014](#)) and environmental weeds, which require a targeted approach to survey, control and monitor. These have included the following category 3 restrictive invasive plants:

- **Madeira Vine:** working with Mackay Regional Council to monitor and control infestations within the Plane Creek Revegetation Site.
- **Cats Claw Creeper:** working with private landholders to survey the extent of, and control infestations along sections of Plane and Carmila creeks.

Garden escapees: In partnership with local volunteers, the Grasstree Beach Progress Association and Mackay Regional Council, we have been addressing the spread of invasive garden escapees in the Grasstree Beach bushland that originated from illegally dumped garden waste. Over the past two years, four community working bees have resulted in the removal of more than 1,410 kg of invasive plants, including Yellow Allamanda, Yucca, Mother-in-Law's Tongue and Agave. Ongoing monitoring of the site will continue to manage regrowth and protect the surrounding native vegetation.

Grasstree Beach Reserve (2023 to 2025) Well done to Grasstree Beach Weed Warriors!

June 2023-810kg, June 2024—400kg, June 2025—200kg;
of garden weeds removed by volunteers



Above: pig damage within sugar cane



Coastal management projects:

The Sarina Catchment includes vast sections of coastline which includes sensitive dunal systems and coastal vegetation, rocky headlands and areas of the endangered Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Vine Thickets. Throughout the year, we have work alongside the community and project partners to rehabilitate, protect and enhance priority areas, to ensure biodiversity and health of the coastal areas are maintained into the future. Some of these project sites include:



- **Cape Palmerston Clean-Up Initiative: Community Marine Debris Collection and Monitoring Project—funded through the Queensland Government’s Community Sustainability Action Grant Program.** SLCMA, in partnership with the Yuwi Land and Sea Rangers and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, is delivering an ongoing marine debris monitoring and clean-up program at Cape Palmerston National Park. This initiative extends beyond clean-up activities, focusing on the long-term protection of the region’s coastline, marine life and sensitive ecosystems from the impacts of marine debris. The project aims to gain a greater understanding of rubbish and marine debris sources and trends to help guide future park management decisions, while also empowering the local community to continue clean-up efforts into the future.

The project commenced with specialist training delivered by Tangaroa Blue Foundation and the establishment of a permanent marine debris monitoring site. Since then, bi-monthly marine debris surveys have been undertaken, with data recorded in the Australian Marine Debris Initiative (AMDI) Database to monitor trends over time. To date, three community beach clean-ups have been held, resulting in the removal of more than 600 kg of rubbish and marine debris. The project will continue to actively engage project partners and the wider community through to May 2026.

- **Tracking Trash, Teaching Change in the Sarina Catchment—funded through the Queensland Government’s Community Sustainability Action Grant Program.** The project aims to reduce marine debris through targeted clean-ups while collecting data to identify litter trends and sources. The project will be conducted at Grasstree, Sarina and Johnsons Beaches, as well as at Freshwater Point—sites that have historical marine debris data and will provide valuable opportunities to measure changes in debris levels over time. The project promotes improved waste management practices, increased recycling and greater community awareness of marine debris impacts, while building long-term environmental stewardship across the region. We look forward to working with local schools and the wider community to build awareness and encourage active engagement in caring for our coastal environments. Now in its early stages, the project will be delivered over the next two years.



- **Notch Point Reserve Rehabilitation Project—** SLCMA has been working in partnership with Isaac Regional Council (IRC) at the Notch Point Coastal Reserve to help protect and restore this important coastal environment. These works play a vital role in preserving the region’s unique ecosystems, particularly vulnerable marine turtle nesting areas and endangered beach scrub communities.

On-ground works have included the replacement of key coastal bollard fencing along the sand dunes to protect marine turtle nesting habitat. This fencing acts as a protective barrier to minimise human disturbance and maintain the integrity of the dunes as a critical nesting site. By clearly identifying these sensitive areas, visitors are better informed, helping ensure marine wildlife has the best possible chance to thrive.

In addition, the wire fencing surrounding the endangered beach scrub has been replaced to prevent impacts from stock and campers. This native vegetation is essential for maintaining coastal ecological balance, preventing erosion, and providing habitat for a range of wildlife species. The new fencing will help safeguard these vital ecosystems from further degradation.

IRC has also installed new signage to educate visitors about the environmental significance of the area. Complementing this, SLCMA has undertaken targeted weed control and is working towards planting 3,000 locally native plants to enhance dune stabilisation and promote biodiversity. These efforts strengthen existing habitat and contribute to the long-term health of the coastal environment.

We sincerely thank Isaac Regional Council for involving us in this important project. Notch Point is a site we have supported historically, beginning with the initial installation of coastal fencing in the early 2000's. Their commitment to protecting and enhancing this unique coastline is commendable. Together, we are making meaningful progress in safeguarding this special environment for future generations. We encourage the community to get involved and support these initiatives so that Notch Point remains not only a beautiful destination, but also a thriving habitat for wildlife.

A special acknowledgement to the Environment and Sustainability Team at Isaac Regional Council, who were recognised as a finalist in the *Collaboration* category at the LGMA Queensland Awards of Excellence. This recognition highlights their work in restoring coastal habitats at Notch Point and, in partnership with Koinmerburra Aboriginal Corporation, at the St Lawrence Wetlands.

Other projects...

- **Louisa Creek Reserve**—is highly regarded by the community as a valuable coastal environment that provides a buffer between residential land and the important mangrove and estuarine habitat. It is registered under the Land for Wildlife Program and over the years has received support from many project partners to ensure its rehabilitation and protection. SLCMA continues to work in partnership with Mackay Regional Council and the community to undertake rehabilitation activities in stages, across the site. Our Field Team through the *Reef Assist Program* have continued to undertake weed control, mulching & planting to improve the health and biodiversity of the reserve.



National Tree Day 2024, Louisa Creek Reserve

Over the last few years, it has also been chosen as a site for National Tree Day, through a partnership with Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal PL (DBCTPL) and Mackay Regional Council (MRC). Together, we have been able to extend previous NTD plantings and continue the rehabilitation of the site.

- **Sarina Landcare Support Program**—funded through Mackay Regional Council—Natural Environment Program. This long standing program supports SLCMA to provide ongoing services to landholders and the general community through activities such as the SLCMA Community Volunteer Program, environmental awareness events, displays at local events, working with stakeholders, coordination of projects and workshops, support for local schools. This project is invaluable for allowing our staff to work in the community and network with project partners and stakeholders—often leading to the development of new projects and sourcing of additional funding from outside the region.



Sarina free native plant giveaway 2024



Riparian rehabilitation

- **Reef Assist Program 2.0**—funded by QLD Government through Reef Catchments. the Reef Assist Program 2.0 has been running since 2022 and will conclude in October 2025. The program supports the employment and upskilling of Landcare staff while providing landholders with expert land management advice and on-ground assistance to stabilise creekbanks and coastal dunes, improving water quality.

Over the course of the program, more than 20 hectares of rehabilitation works have been completed on both private properties and public reserves. Activities have included targeted weed control, planting 7,000 native plants, and follow-up site maintenance. Reef Assist 2.0 delivers tangible environmental benefits and leaves a lasting legacy for the health of the Sarina Catchment.

- **Daly Bay Rehabilitation Projects** — Our Field Team continues to build on and maintain restoration projects Daly Bay — the revegetation works aim to restore riparian corridors, improve the biodiversity and aesthetic values as well as reduce the presence of weeds and stabilise banks.



Creating Koala habitat corridors

- **Sarina Koala Habitat Restoration** delivered by Reef Catchments — We have been working closely with Reef Catchments and private landholders on this project, which aims to restore and enhance important koala habitat within hot spots in the Sarina Catchment. It is definitely a team effort, our Project Officer works closely with Reef Catchments and the landholders to design and plan each project site. Our Nursery Officer & volunteer team have grown 11,500 koala fodder and habitat plants in the SLCMA Community Nursery. And our Field Team are on the ground undertaking site preparation, planting and maintenance of 21 sites. This amazing project is helping many landholders restore vital koala habitat in the Sarina catchment.

Land for Wildlife Program

The Land for Wildlife program has continued this year with all its wonderful benefits. The program recognises landholders working to encourage and provide habitat for wildlife. This past year we welcomed four new landholders to the program and were able to undertake seven re-visits to existing members. The diversity of properties involved in the program is amazing and we look forward to continuing to deliver the program into the future, on behalf of Mackay Regional Council.



The Land for Wildlife program is a voluntary program that recognises landholders who are making a significant effort to encourage and provide habitat for wildlife on their properties. This is achieved by conserving and actively managing habitat as well as integrating nature conservation with other land uses such as agriculture, grazing or tourism. The program will continue into the next year, so if you have a property larger than 1 hectare with some retained vegetation, please reach out if you would like to join the program. The benefits include, a site visit, a personalised land management plan, access to land management information and advice, 20 free native plants per year, opportunities for property revisits, plant identification, invitations to field days and workshops, a quarterly regional newsletter and access to a 'closed' Facebook page where you can communicate with other members of the program.

The Land for Wildlife program is delivered within the Mackay Regional Council boundaries of the Sarina Catchment by SLCMA and the Pioneer Catchment by Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group (PCL); on behalf of the Mackay Regional Council Natural Environment Program. This coordinated approach provides consistency across the region and beneficial linkages to other complimentary projects and programs.



Toad busting workshop



Habitat under LfW program



Katherine Faucett & Beau North

Supporting our local youth and schools

SLCMA continues to provide support to our local schools, through the Landcare Support Project funded by Mackay Regional Council Natural Environment Program. This funding provides SLCMA the capacity to support local schools for up to 5 days per year with support such as providing technical advice, delivering educational activities, assisting teachers and students with resources and information and, seeking opportunities for additional funding for complimentary projects.

Through the program we have worked with Sarina Scouts, Sarina Youth Centre and, local schools including Homebush, Sarina, Alligator Creek, Koumala, Dundula state primary schools; St Annes Catholic Primary School and Sarina State High School.

- Frog hotel and micro bat workshops
- School excursions to Salonia Beach focussing on coastal ecology of nearby mangroves, wetlands, rock pools, sand dunes and beaches—fostering an appreciation for natural habitats and wildlife they support; and exploring the types and sources of marine debris.
- Providing hands-on interactive activities for Under 8's day events with the famous (& much loved) macro-invertebrate activity
- STEM presentations
- Native plant propagation workshop, supporting high school students with their studies in Certificate 1 in Agriculture



Supporting Community Events

SLCMA was out & about throughout the year, with Landcare displays, facilitating workshops and working bees at various locations including:

- **National Tree Day** with DBCTPL & Mackay Regional Council at Louisa Creek Reserve
- **Sarina Hospital Traditional Medicinal Gardens—official opening**—We are proud to be a part of the project, working together with Sarina Hospital staff and volunteers and Yuwi Land and Sea Rangers. The project has created an opportunity for connection - to share knowledge, honour traditions, and create a lasting place for reflection and wellbeing. The gardens named **Yinha Gurubila Ganya**, meaning "**Here Medicine Place**". This inspiring space is more than just a garden — it's a living connection to Country, culture, and healing.
- **St Lawrence Wetland Weekend**— At this annual event, we hosted a hands-on interactive display, supporting the 'Wetland Pass' activities that let kids and adults explore and learn about wetlands, nature, and our environment. Supported by Costa Georgiadis, this vibrant event gives the community a chance to experience the St Lawrence Wetlands firsthand and celebrates what can be achieved when people work together.
- **Mackay Community Cabinet**—Meet with Ministers to discuss Landcare and Feral Pig Management
- **Native bee workshop**— This was an amazing event with Dean and Helen Bryant from Brymac Native Bees; learning about our Australian native bees and a practical demonstration on how to safely rescue of *Austroplebeia australis* (AA's) from a salvaged old log into a specific box designed for AA's.



SLCMA is supported by:

