

Catchment News 2026

January-June

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Mon/Wed: 9am-4pm

Tue/Thu/Fri: 9am-3pm

Please phone ahead to confirm availability, just in case the office is unattended.

Staff:

Coordinator:

Saskia von Fahland

Administration Officer:

Helen Dangerfield

Nursery Officer:

Susie Tomlinson

Project Officer:

Coral Findlow

Field Team:

Christian Cassells

Tylah Dunn

Grace Legge

Call us for information:

- Weed management
- Plant identification
- Land management
- Land for Wildlife
- Native plant purchases

SLCMA Community Volunteer

Program: Wednesday and Thursday 9am- 12noon at the SLCMA Community Nursery and seed collecting.

SLCMA Management

Committee 25/26:

Chair: Lachlan McBride

Vice-chair: Malcolm Warfield

Treasurer: Susan Andrews

Secretary: Karen May

Executive member:

Kath De Vita

SLCMA News!

Hello Landcare members! We have hit the ground running in 2026 with our Landcare team working hard completing onground works in the field, growing native plants in the SLCMA Community Nursery and working closely with our project partners to deliver a range of projects such as our Marine Debris Monitoring Surveys at Cape Palmerston National Park with QPWS and Yuwi Rangers and, native plant identification with Year 9 Agriculture students from Sarina State High School, just to name a few.

It has been great to see some of our Landcare members drop into the office and grab their free 2026 Landcare Calendar. It once again highlights the wonderful catchment we live, play and work in- with some of our natural wonders, restoration activities and much more.

A big thank you to DBI, Daly Bay and Mackay Regional Council for their support towards the printing of our annual calendar, it is much appreciated and would be very difficult to do without their support - so thank you.



Friendly reminder that membership renewals are now due. We value your membership and support and, look forward to your continued involvement in Landcare during 26/27 financial year.

Landcare membership remains at \$10 per person annually, with all of the great benefits. You are welcome to pay by internet banking, credit card or cash. Contact us to workout the best option for you.

Auditor Appointed for 2025/26 - A Special General Meeting was held on 6 May 2026 for the purpose of appointing an auditor for the 2025/26 financial year. It was resolved that SBB Partners be appointed as auditor for the 2025/26 financial year.

Thank you to the members who attended the meeting. Your involvement plays an important role in helping ensure we meet our legislative obligations as an incorporated association and maintain strong governance practices.

Nursery Price Update - We would like to advise that, from 1 July 2026, the sale price of our native tubestock and plant guard kits will increase. This decision was not taken lightly, however rising production costs mean an adjustment is now necessary.

The new prices (inc gst) will be:

- Native tubestock - \$3.50
- Plant guard kits - \$4.00

We believe the new prices will continue to represent excellent value for money while helping us cover the costs of producing these quality products and ensuring we can continue to provide them into the future.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our nursery and local revegetation efforts.

Staff Changes - Earlier in the year, we said goodbye to some of our staff: Rodney Fraser, Josh Ernst, and Adrian Brooks - we wish them the best on their next adventures.

L-R: Josh Ernst, Adrian Brooks & Rodney Fraser



Date Claimer - Join us for our 25th birthday celebration 🎉

Mark your calendars and join us as we celebrate 25 years of Sarina Landcare on Saturday 17th October in the beautiful Sarina Community Native Gardens.

Come along for a day of celebration, connection and community, with plenty of fun things to see and do for everyone. We can't wait to celebrate this special milestone with our members, volunteers, supporters and the wider community.

Save the date and watch this space for more details coming soon!



Thank you to Rebel Nation and the support of Community Bank Sarina for creating us a 25 year logo!

A slice of history - Celebrating 25 years of Caring for the Sarina Catchment

This year marks a significant milestone for SLCMA, as we celebrate our 25th birthday on 16 October.

On 16 October 2001, SLCMA was officially formed through the amalgamation of Sarina and District Landcare Group Inc. (*Incorporated Feb 1996*) and Sarina Integrated Catchment Management Association Inc. (*Incorporated May 1998*). The merger brought together two passionate community organisations with a shared vision of protecting and enhancing the natural environment of the Sarina Catchment.

While SLCMA celebrates 25 years as an organisation, the history of organised Landcare in the Sarina Catchment stretches back even further. Together, the original Landcare groups represent 30 years of community-led environment stewardship, volunteer action, and conservation achievements.

Over the past three decades, countless volunteers, members, partners and supporters have contributed their time, knowledge and enthusiasm to projects that have improved local waterways, protected native habitats, resored landscapes, and strengthened community connections to the environment.

This anniversary provides an opportunity to reflect on how far we have come, celebrate the people who have made it possible, and look ahead to the next chapter of caring for our catchment. Here's to 25 years of SLCMA and more than 30 years of Landcare in our Community!

Project profile - Plane Creek Revegetation Site

A Rich History - The Plane Creek Revegetation Site (aka Brewers Park Reserve) was once a pocket of fringing rainforest along the banks of Plane Creek. However, during the development of Sarina the area was cleared and used for a variety of purposes, including a market garden, agricultural land, a roadway, a rubbish dump, and even a circus site. Following years of disturbance, the site became heavily infested with weeds. Recognising its ecological value and potential, local community members came together in 1994 to form the Plane Creek Revegetation Community Group. Their vision was to restore the area to a healthy native ecosystem, with rehabilitation works commencing in 1995.

Planning for Rehabilitation - The success of the project began with strong community collaboration. Consultation with local and state government agencies, along with other community organisations, helped secure land tenure and support for the site. This support enabled the development of a strategic revegetation plan, which focused on restoring the area in manageable sections over a number of years. The staged approach allowed volunteers and project partners to progressively rehabilitate the site.

On-Ground Works and Achievements - Initial restoration works involved the removal of non-native vegetation through manual labour, slashing, and targeted herbicide application. Followed by planting of local native plant species throughout the site.

Since the project's inception, SLCMA worked alongside the Plane Creek Revegetation Community Group to help manage and maintain the area. Volunteer contributions, supported by employment and training programs such as Sarina Green Corps, have played an important role in the site's ongoing restoration.



1995



2005



2021

Project profile - Plane Creek Revegetation Site *continued...*

Over the years, funding support has enabled continued rehabilitation works, the installation of the original walking trail, interpretive signage, and improvements to visitor access. The site has also become a valuable educational resource, providing opportunities for school-based learning, native seed collection, and citizen science activities focused on water quality monitoring.

The site has been recognised through its registration under the Land for Wildlife program. While the Plane Creek Revegetation Community Group is no longer active, its legacy lives on through the thriving natural area it helped create. Today SLCMA works alongside Mackay Regional Council to help manage and maintain the site, ensuring its environmental, educational and recreational values continue to benefit the community. In recent years, Council has further enhanced visitor experiences through the installation of a permanent walking trail. Today, the Plane Creek Revegetation Site stands as a testament to what can be achieved when community members work together to restore and care for their local environment. What was once a degraded and weed-infested area is now a thriving natural space that provides habitat for wildlife, educational opportunities, and a peaceful place for the community to enjoy.

Introducing our new SLCMA Team Members

We would like to welcome new staff to our SLCMA Team; Coral Findlow (Project Officer), Christian Cassells (Field Team Leader), Tylah Dunn (Field Officer) and Grace Legge (Field Officer). Also Amber Winbank (Field Officer), while only with us for a short period, Amber made a meaningful impact on the Field Team - thank you.

Our new team members, have been busy learning about our projects, meeting volunteers and community members, and getting involved in a range of activities across the region. Their enthusiasm, willingness to learn, and positive attitude have already made a valuable contribution to our team. They are already making a real difference by helping landholders with their rehabilitation projects and supporting environmental outcomes across our region. We look forward to seeing them continue to grow and contribute to the important work we do for our environment and community.



L-R: Amber Winbank, Coral Findlow & Christian Cassells

Staff Profile: Coral, Project Officer

Coral joined Sarina Landcare as Field Team Leader and more recently as Project Officer; bringing with her more than 20 years of experience in the environmental industry. Having relocated from Gippsland, Victoria, she holds a Bachelor of Science in Plant Ecology and has worked across a variety of land management roles with Landcare, private contractors and government agencies. Coral has a strong passion for botany and is deeply committed to the conservation and regeneration of indigenous vegetation. Since arriving in the region, she has been impressed by the remarkable biodiversity and natural assets found throughout the area.

Coral is enjoying exploring our region and connecting with the local community and encourages everyone to say hello if they see her out and about. Please join us in warmly welcoming Coral to the team. We are excited about the experience and enthusiasm she brings to Sarina Landcare and the positive impact she will have on our projects and community.



Below (L-R): Christian Cassells, Coral Findlow & Tylah Dunn doing some scheduling



When a maintenance day falls on the same day as our regular volunteer morning, it creates the perfect chance to catch up over morning tea. It's always wonderful to see staff and volunteers sharing stories, enjoying a cuppa and strengthening the connections that make our Landcare community so special.

SLCMA Community Volunteer Program

Our volunteers returned to the nursery on 14 January and have enjoyed a busy and rewarding first half of the year, helping Nursery Officer Susie catch up after the Christmas break. Over the past six months, our volunteers have worked alongside the seasons, tackling essential nursery tasks including weeding tubestock, potting up seedlings, sowing seeds, and nurturing young plants. As the cooler months arrive, the focus has shifted to caring for and growing the next generation of native plants.

A highlight for many volunteers has been the opportunity to help out in the Sarina Community Native Gardens as well as participate in seed-collecting trips. These outings play an important role in sourcing local provenance seed stock, ensuring the native plants we grow are well suited to our region and contribute to maintaining local biodiversity.

Volunteers have also been enjoying the benefits of the recent nursery expansion. The project has included the installation of two new awnings, providing much-needed shelter and workspace over the potting mixing area and extended workspace for tending to plants throughout the year. We extend our sincere thanks to our funding providers; Mackay Regional Council Infrastructure Grant and Gambling Community Benefit Fund for supporting these improvements, which have enhanced both the nursery's functionality and the volunteer experience.

We would like to thank our dedicated volunteers. Their ongoing hard work, enthusiasm, and commitment are the foundation of the nursery's success and ensure that thousands of native plants continue to flourish for local restoration and community projects.

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 days, every Wednesday and Thursday, 9am to 12noon. Seed collecting excursions will be held on 2nd Thursday of the month and last Wednesday of the month (weather permitting). For more details contact SLCMA on 4956 1388. SLCMA Community Volunteer Program is proudly supported by Mackay Regional Council, Natural Environment Levy.

Right: Volunteers helping in the gardens and enjoying some time in the nursery



SLCMA Community Nursery continues to grow...

We are truly grateful to continue the nursery expansion, made possible through funding from Mackay Regional Council Infrastructure Grant and Gambling Community Benefit Fund.

These two grants have enabled significant improvements to our nursery workspaces, including the installation of an undercover area for soil mixing and storage, as well as the expansion of our undercover propagation workspace. These upgrades have not only improved the safety and comfort of our volunteers, staff, and visitors; but have also increased our capacity to host more participants at volunteer mornings and workshops.



New covered propagation workspace



New covered soil mixing and storage area



Many thanks to Better Built Sheds Mackay for their expertise in the design and installation of our new awnings. We are delighted with the final result.

Sarina Community Native Gardens

The Sarina Community Native Gardens is receiving a major upgrade, thanks to a community grant of just over \$24,000 from Community Bank Sarina. The "Enhancing Sarina's Community Native Gardens" project is helping to revitalise the space, improve accessibility and create new learning opportunities for people of all ages.

So far the project has included weatherproofing and redefining walking tracks to ensure safe access year round and, soon will be the installation of durable interpretative signage to help visitors learn about native plants, biodiversity and sustainable gardening practices. As well as a dedicated page on the SLCMA website to help visitors explore more information via QR cods in the gardens.

The upgrades will help the gardens reach even more people across the region, making the gardens more accessible, more infomative and ultimately more inviting. People will be able to explore at their own pace, learn about native plants and enjoy a space that truly reflects the beauty of our local environment. This project will create long term value for the community space - contributing to our wellbeing, culture and sense of connection.

The project has also supported local contractors, suppliers and volunteers, helping keep skills and economic benefits within the region. Thank you to Community Bank Sarina for their support!



Above: Harris Haulin delivering material for the walking track upgrades

Below: Sarina Mini redefining the drainage, spreading material to weather proof the walking trail



Thank you to our community volunteers lending a hand in the gardens, they are looking great!





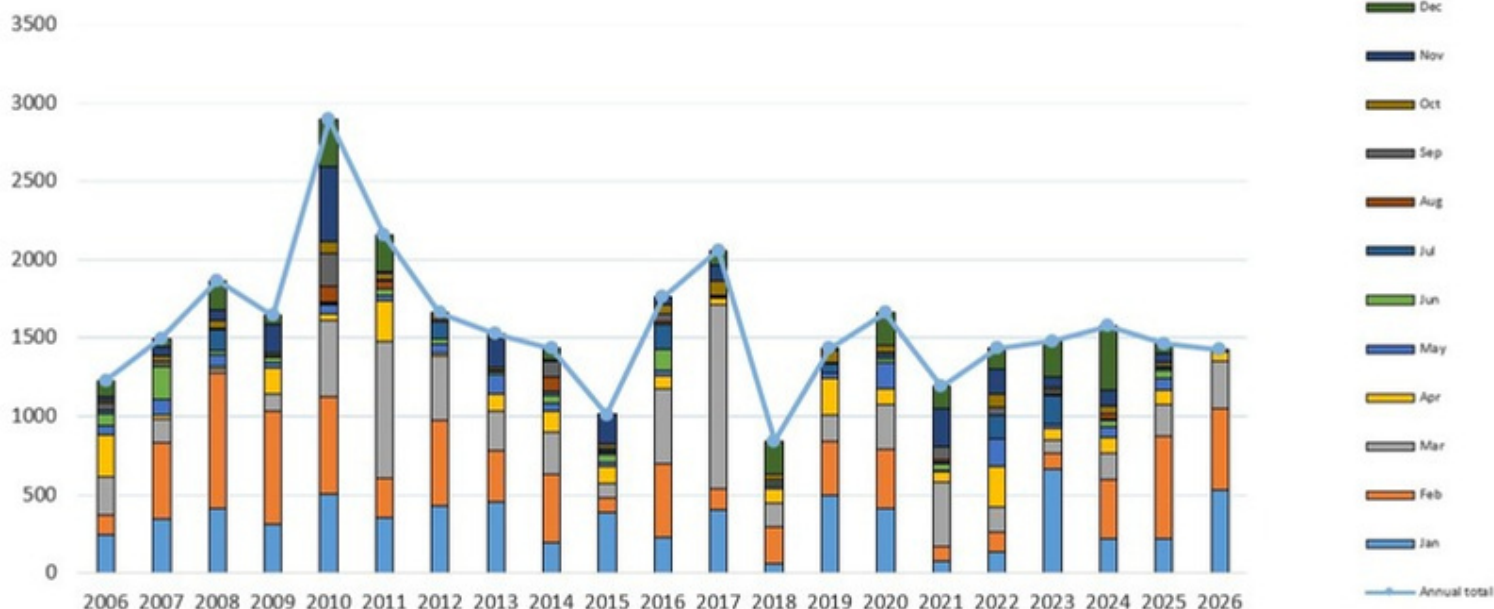
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A membership with SLCMA has many rewards:

- Monthly newsletter, project updates and annual report
- A vote on issues in your catchment
- Up to 10 free native seedlings/year from the SLCMA Community Nursery
- A say on the types of projects applied for
- Easy access to land management information and extension
- Invitations to field days, workshops and events

Monthly rainfall for SLCMA Office, 2006 -2026 (inc. annual total)



Scheme ID: C10002138

Please consider donating your Containers for Change to us. You can quote our **scheme ID#C10002138** when you deposit your eligible containers, or, you can drop your containers to us at the office.

It is a great way to help the environment and the community. You can reduce waste, save energy and contribute to local environmental projects and programs.

Just for fun!

Why did the parrot wear a raincoat?

He wanted to be polyunsaturated

Why do cows lie on each other in the rain?

To keep each udder dry

A economist friend told me to put something away for a rainy day.

I've gone for an umbrella.

I was eating soup outside my favourite restaurant the other day and it started raining.

It took me hours to finish my meal.



SLCMA is part of the CQCLN, a partnership for the natural resource management of catchments in the Central Queensland Coast Bioregion: Sarina, Pioneer & Whitsunday catchments.

SLCMA is proudly supported by:

