

SLCMA Catchment News 2020



February 2020

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**Office
opening times:
Monday to Friday
9-2pm
(other times by
appointment only)**

Staff

Administration Officer

Kristy Thomsett

Coordinator

Saskia von Fahland

Nursery Officer

Davina Wain

Project Officer

Morgan Thomas

Call us for information:

- ◇ Weed management
- ◇ Plant identification
- ◇ Land management
- ◇ FREE property visits
- ◇ Land for Wildlife

Volunteer opportunities:

SLCMA Community
Volunteer Program,
Wednesday 9-12 noon

**Native plants available
for purchase \$3 each.**

SLCMA Executive 2020

Chair: Mark Evans

Vice-chair: Karen May

Treasurer: Kevin Plumb

Secretary: Shirley Sidey

Executive members:

Sandy Evans

Lachlan McBride



SLCMA News!

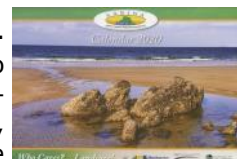
We would like to extend a warm welcome (& thank you) to Shirley Sidey who nominated and was voted in as Secretary at the SLCMA Management Committee Meeting on 21 January. Also a big thank you to Grace Tipping who was in the Secretary role for approximately 1.5 years.

~

The next **General Meeting** will be held at the SLCMA Office on **Wednesday 26 February**, 10.30am at the SLCMA Office. This is an opportunity to find out what is happening and have a chat about Landcare in our catchment, while enjoying morning tea and a cuppa with our volunteers. All members are welcome to attend.

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We have a couple **2020 SLCMA Calendars** still available. Members are eligible to receive **one free calendar**. Feel free to pop in the office and collect a copy. A big thank you to photographers for their contributions and to Mackay Regional Council, DBCT PL and DBCT Management for their support towards the printing of the calendar.



~

Keep an eye out for us at the next **Sarina Markets**, Sunday 29 March (weather permitting). We will have a range of goodies for sale: native plants, caps, hats, native plant and weed books. As well as lots of free information and fact sheets to share.

New Projects Funded :)

We are very grateful to have three projects funded recently through the Australian Government—**Communities Environment Grant Program**. All of the projects will include onground activities and provide opportunities for our local community to learn more about our natural environment, particularly our coastal areas and wetlands and the animals and plants that use them. We are looking forward to working with our project partners and the community on these projects and sharing our successes and achievements.

Rehabilitation of Carmila Beach Reserve: This project will assist to improve the health and condition of endangered vegetation within the 14.5ha Carmila Beach Reserve with the aim to build resilience within the landscape from impacts such as storms, weed invasion, fragmentation of vegetation and habitat degradation. We will be undertaking: targeted weed control to suppress competition with native plants and encourage natural regeneration; revegetation with local native plants to assist the regeneration process. A community planting event will raise awareness about the site and encourage involvement from locals and visitors.

Rehabilitation of Louisa Creek Reserve: SLCMA will work in partnership with Mackay Regional Council and the community including Conservation Volunteers Australia, to undertake rehabilitation activities within the Louisa Creek Reserve. Louisa Creek Reserve is registered with the Land for Wildlife Program and is a valuable section of coastal environment providing a buffer between residential land and important mangrove and estuarine habitat. We look forward to working with the community to undertake activities such as revegetation, weed control and litter collection and raising awareness about the importance of coastal areas.



Staff from SLCMA, MRC & CVA meet at Louisa Creek Reserve

Tedland Wetland Fishway Assessment: This project will monitor and evaluate the successfulness of a recently installed rock ramp fishway into the Tedlands wetlands, which provides habitat for recreationally and commercially important fish species. We are looking forward to working alongside staff from Catchments Solutions to undertake the monitoring, which will provide information about the fish (such as size, number and species) utilising the fishway as well as validate the cost-effective design of the structure for use at other sites throughout Queensland. The project will also incorporate a community field day to showcase the fishway and wetlands to the local community and promote the benefits to the biodiversity and fisheries resources that the fishway and associated wetlands provide.

SLCMA Community Nursery 'Plant of the Month'

This month's 'Plant of the Month' is **Orange boxwood** *Maytenus disperma* **Family:** Celastraceae

What is in a name? *Maytenus* 'Mayten' - the Chilean name for first species to be described; *disperma* Greek *di* two and *sperma* a seed—two seeds per fruit.

Form: Small tree to 15m, rounded dense canopy; bark—grey with distinguishable horizontal markings; branchlets often with small white dots

Leaves: Alternate, simple, entire, elliptical, with a blunt point; yellow-greenish both surfaces; thinly leathery, main lateral veins raised above, other veins obscure.

Flowers: Creamy-white to yellow-ish, November to January.

Fruit: Bright yellow capsule, splits into two halves revealing one or two glossy brown seeds with a thick aril; January to April and August.

Distribution: QLD and NSW

Habitat: In and near dry rainforests

Notes: Grow from fresh seed or cuttings from new growth.

Information sourced from: *Melzer R & Plumb J (2007) Plants of Capricornia, www.npqtownsville.org.au*



Photo: M. Marathon

FREE land management help for landholders—get in quick!



SLCMA is offering free land management assistance to eligible landholders. To be eligible, your property must be within the Sarina catchment and have a waterway/creek that you would like to rehabilitate. Landholders will receive a property visit from your local Landcare Officer, Land management and technical advice, Personalised Land Management Action Plan and information pack and, 40 free local native plants to assist in the rehabilitation of a waterway/creekbank on your property.



This project is in its final year, so get in quick. Spaces are limited, to express interest in participating please contact us on 4956 1388 or admin@sarinalandcare.org.au This project is supported by Queensland Government's Community Sustainability Action Grant Program.

Coordinated Aerial Feral Pig Control Program Update

Over 50 landholders and stakeholders in the Rocky Dam, Carmila and Clairview catchments participated in the annual Aerial Feral Pig Control Program during December 2019 and January 2020.

The Coordinated Feral Pig Program began in 2008 in the Rocky Dam Catchment; through a partnership between local landholders, SLCMA, Mackay Regional Council and Reef Catchments; all of whom were keen to see on-ground action and a reduction in pig damage to productive farmland and the natural environment. The program has continued to grow over the years with more landholders participating and increased land area being covered. In 2013, landholders in the Carmila Catchment joined in and this year, we welcomed landholders in the Clairview Catchment.

Since the program has been operating, the aerial shoot has controlled over 1349 feral pigs and 45 wild dogs. Landholders across the catchments have seen a drastic improvement in the productivity of farming land as well as improvements in the health of surrounding mangrove and wetland environments.

Landholders contribute financially on annual basis towards the program. This year, we also received funding from Reef Catchments for the Rocky Dam Creek Catchment and Plane Creek Productivity Services through the Plane Creek Farmer Action Group with support from Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF), for Plane Creek Catchment area. Together, the funding covers the cost of fly-time, fuel, ferry, bullets and project coordination.

The total feral animals controlled in this year's initial and follow-up shoot was:

Rocky Dam Catchment:	112 feral pigs, 2 wild dog
Carmila Catchment:	53 feral pigs, 1 wild dog
Clairview Catchment:	180+ feral pigs

Thankyou to the landholders, project partners and stakeholders who continue to support the project. The ongoing involvement and financial commitment of the landholders is essential for the program's success and to ensure ongoing sustained pressure on the feral pig populations across the catchments. Also a big thankyou to Mark Sant, Andrew Jenkinson (Stockair Heliworks), Trudy & Scott Johnson for their assistance in the lead up and during the control events.



Photo: M Sant & others

Top to bottom: feral pig in cane; local wetlands; feral pig controlled; damage to headlands

SLCMA Community Volunteer Program *by Davina Wain*

With all the rain in January and the water levels rising, we have water at long last in our seasonal wetland in the Sarina Community Native Gardens. To say the birdlife do not like it would be a lie – they are adding a beautiful feature for visitors to see.

With the humidity also on the rise, our seedlings are growing well and we have had a good strike rate of our sown seeds. As usual our volunteer team have been working hard cleaning pots, sowing seeding, potting-on and weeding – thank you ☺

Our volunteers enjoyed the opportunity to utilised the new walking track at the Plane Creek Revegetation Site (aka Brewers Park Reserve) on a recent seed collection field trip. We were able to collect lots of fresh seed; Leichardt tree (*Nauclea orientalis*), Creek Cherry (*Syzyguim australe*) and Native Mulberry (*Pipturus argenteus*) to name a few, all of which we were able to propagate straight away. It is a wonderful walkway and if you have not been there yet, I recommend a visit, you won't be disappointed.

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 morning, every Wednesday, 9am to 12noon. The SLCMA Community Volunteer Program is proudly supported by Mackay Regional Council, Natural Environment Levy. For more details contact SLCMA on 4956 1388.

L—R: SLCMA Volunteer Team along walkway at Plane Creek Revegetation Site; Fruit & flowers of Native Mulberry (Pipturus argenteus), Fruit of Macaranga (Macaranga tanarius); Seasonal wetland at Sarina Community Native Garden



Photo: S von Fahland

Photos: D Wain

Lantana Splatter Gun—available for hire

A friendly reminder, that SLCMA has a Lantana Splatter Gun available for hire to landholders wanting to control their lantana. The splatter gun is a gas powered, easy to use spray system that delivers a high concentration dose of glyphosate accurately to lantana. The Splatter Gun is available for hire at a cost of \$5.00 per day with a \$50.00 deposit, which is refunded upon the return of the Splatter Gun in clean, working order and full gas bottles.

The Splatter Gun has proven to be very effective at killing lantana bushes, with very little effort by the user. As with applying all foliage herbicides, for best results the plant needs to be actively growing. Upon hiring, a SLCMA staff will demonstrate the safety, operation and cleaning requirements for using the Splatter Gun.

Land for Wildlife Program *by Morgan Thomas*

Property owners Bill and Michelle Hainsworth are to be the newest members of our Land for Wildlife Program. Through their hard work encouraging natural regeneration on their property, they are able to preserve another 26 hectares towards the program's already retained, 21 820 hectares.



Their property has an extensive range of native species, including *Melaleuca spp.*, *Eucalyptus spp.* and *Acacia spp.*, helping to boost their biodiversity. Likewise, the property owner's consistent management and monitoring of weed species has allowed for further natural regeneration of native species within their property and therefore increased habitat for wildlife. The health and prosperity of this remnant vegetation is demonstrated through regular encounters with an extensive variety of native bird and mammal species including wallabies, bush stone curlews (*Burhinus grallarius*), olive-backed sunbirds (*Cinnyris jugularis*) and even Koalas (*Phascolarctos cinereus*).

The property is an excellent example of the benefits for wildlife and landholders that habitat retention, revegetation and continued maintenance can have. Encouraging natural regrowth and regeneration of native plant species provides native animals with additional habitat, resources such as food and water, nesting locations & material and, protection from predators. Plant biodiversity continues to draw a large variety of mammals, reptiles and birds to the property, and therefore protecting this habitat is imperative if we wish to live alongside wildlife in the future.



Photo: M Thomas

SLCMA delivers the program within the Sarina Catchment area of Mackay Regional Council, on behalf of Mackay Regional Council. If you are interested in joining the Land for Wildlife program or, are an existing LfW landholder who would like a follow up visit; please contact us on 4956 1388 or admin@sarinalandcare.org.au



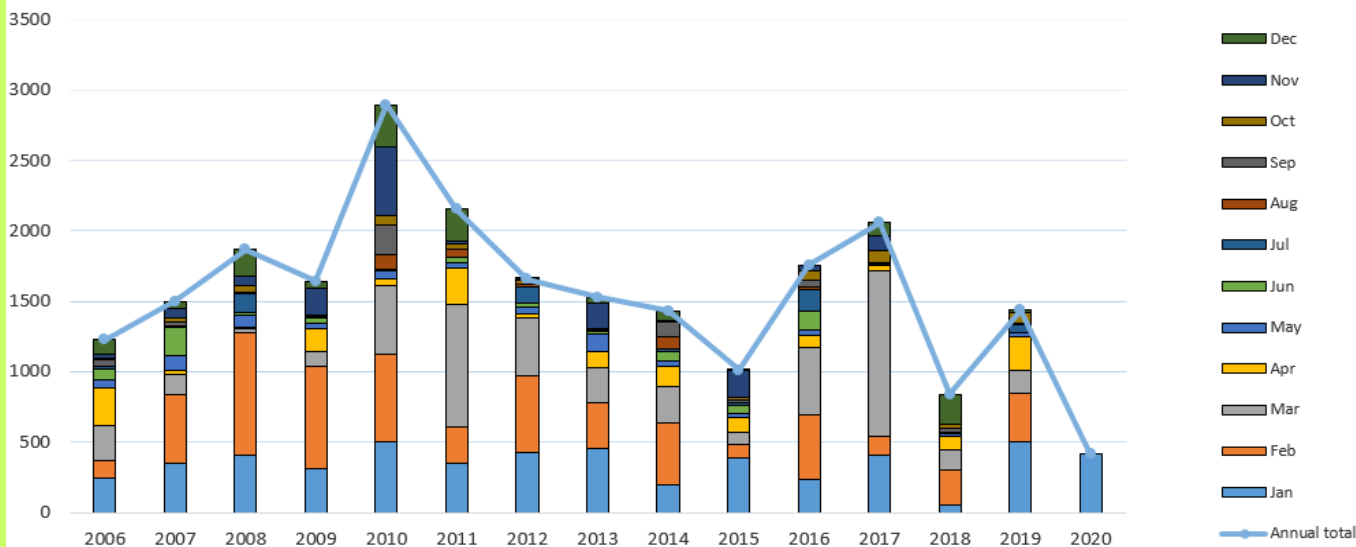
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What SLCMA Membership does for you !

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 -2020 (inc annual total)



Just for fun!

The Lone Ranger and Tonto were camping in the wilderness. After they got their tent set up, both men fell sound asleep.

Some hours later, Tonto wakes the Lone Ranger and says "Kemo Sabe, look towards sky, what you see?" The Lone Ranger replies, "I see millions of stars." "What that tell you?" asked Tonto.

The Lone Ranger ponders for a minute then says, "Astronomically-speaking it tells me there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, it tells me that Saturn is in Leo. Time-wise, it appears to be a quarter past three in the morning. Theologically, the Lord is all-powerful and we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, it seems we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell you, Tonto?"

You dumber than buffalo....it mean someone stole tent".



Find us on [facebook](#)



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

Containers for Change

SLCMA has registered with Containers for Change for virtual donations and we are hoping that you will consider using our identifier code—**C10002138**. We also welcome physical donations of eligible containers to our office, feel free to contact us on 4956 1388, to arrange drop-off.



SLCMA is proudly supported by:



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If you have any issues, don't hesitate to contact my office

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