

# SLCMA Catchment News 2021



**Dec 20/Jan 21**

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*Office opening hours:  
9am-2pm weekdays.*

*Other times by appointment, please call 4956 1388 :)*

## **Staff**

### **Administration Officer**

Kristy Thomsett

### **Coordinator**

Saskia von Fahland

### **Nursery Officer**

### **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—**please register prior, to attend.**

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

## **SLCMA Executive 20/21**

**Chair:** Mark Evans

**Vice-chair:** Lachlan McBride

**Treasurer:** Kevin Plumb

**Secretary:** Shirley Sidey

### **Executive members:**

Sandy Evans

Karen May



Sarina  
Landcare

## **Happy New Year to all!**

On behalf of SLCMA staff and Management Committee we hope that you had a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!

A big thank you to those members, volunteers and staff who came along to our **SLCMA Christmas party** at the Tandara Hotel, at the end of last year. It is always nice to sit back after a busy year and enjoy a chat and meal amongst friends.



Image: contributed The SLCMA team :)

The **SLCMA Office re-opened** on 4th January 2021 and we are looking forward to working with current and new volunteers, members and project partners throughout 2021, as we work together on projects and land management solutions throughout the Sarina Catchment.

We have a number of projects being implemented throughout 2021 including:

- Land for Wildlife Program and Landcare Support Program *funded by Mackay Regional Council Natural Environment Levy.*
- Sarina Catchment Waterwatch *funded by Queensland Government Citizen Science Grants.*
- Reef Assist Program - *funded by QLD Government via Reef Catchments*
- Riparian revegetation projects at Marion, Westhill and Cherry Tree Creeks and, coastal rehabilitation projects at Sarina Inlet Trail and Carmila Beach *-funded by Australian Government Communities Environment Program*
- Coordinated Feral Pig Control Program *within the Rocky Dam, Carmila and Clairview Catchments, supported by landholders, stakeholders, Reef Catchments and Plane Creek Farmers Action Group via Plane Creek Productivity Services.*

With these projects come a range of exciting activities throughout the year including:

- On-ground works: revegetation, weed control
- Awareness raising events: school activity days, workshops, field trips & displays
- Volunteer opportunities: SLCMA Community Volunteer Program, plant propagation, community working bees, marine debris and rubbish clean ups, water quality monitoring
- Landholder support: property visits, resources and land management planning, feral pig control
- NRM planning and networking with stakeholders
- Supporting working groups

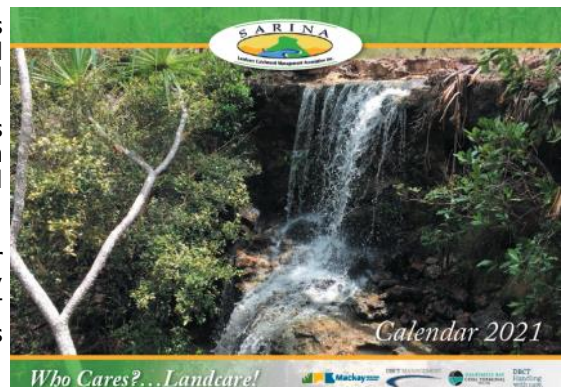
....and much much more! Please get in contact if you would like to know more about any of our projects and programs.

## **SLCMA 2021 Calendar! Get a copy today**

The 2021 SLCMA Calendars are now available. Members are eligible to receive **one free calendar**, with subsequent copies available for purchase for \$10 each.

The calendar showcases photographs taken by Landcare staff, members and volunteers of landscapes, wildlife and projects within the Sarina Catchment; as well as includes important dates such as SLCMA Volunteer Program mornings, Sarina Cattle Sales, and environmental awareness days.

A big thankyou to photographers for their contributions and to Mackay Regional Council, DBCT PL and DBCT Management for their support towards the printing of the calendar.



## Weed Feature: Mother-in-laws Tongue (*Sansevieria trifasciata*)

Mother-in-law's Tongue (MiLT) is a popular garden plant which is often dumped as garden waste where it will survive and establish, crowding out low growing native plants.

MiLT is a herb or forb growing upright clusters of fleshy leaves to approximately 60 centimetres. Leaves are lance-shaped and have a distinct dark green, grey-green and yellow mottling throughout. Typically, this species is a weed of roadsides, abandoned gardens, waste areas, disturbed sites, coastal environments, open woodlands, riparian vegetation, and margins of closed forests in our area. MiLT prefers well drained soils in shady areas but will tolerate dry periods.

Native to some parts of tropical western Africa (e.g. Nigeria and Democratic Republic of Congo), MiLT is widely naturalised in eastern Australia and in some parts of Darwin and has even reached Lord Howe Island off the east coast of New South Wales, further reaffirming its ability to spread easily.

MiLT is regarded as an environmental weed in QLD, NSW and NT, and as a "sleeper" weed in other parts of Australia. Sleeper weeds are non-native plants which have naturalised but have not yet reached their potential to form large and widespread populations in Australia. This weed can reproduce by seed and vegetatively via its rhizomes (creeping underground stems), meaning control can often be difficult.

Manual control is recommended to remove plants and infestations, however, you must ensure that all fragments are removed from the area to make sure the plant does not re-establish.

Herbicide control is possible, please refer to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries pest factsheet for suggested general use herbicides and application rates here: [https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/55588/mother-in-laws-tongue.pdf](https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0004/55588/mother-in-laws-tongue.pdf)

Mother-in-law's Tongue is not a prohibited or restricted invasive plant under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. However, by law, everyone has a general biosecurity obligation (GBO) to take reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with invasive plants under their control.



Image: Brisbane City Council

*Mother-in-Law's Tongue distinguishing patterning on fleshy leaves and dense growth.*



Image: Department of Agriculture & Fisheries

## Coordinated Aerial Feral Pig Control Program Update



Images: M. Sant & others

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

Over 50 landholders and stakeholders in the Rocky Dam, Carmila and Clairview catchments participated in the annual Aerial Feral Pig Control Program in December 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 and 2019, landholders in the Carmila and Clairview Catchments, respectively joined in the program.

Since the program has been operating, the aerial shoot has controlled over 1850 feral pigs and 52 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 shoot was:

Rocky Dam Catchment: 375 feral pigs, 3 wild dog

Carmila Catchment: 32 feral pigs

Clairview Catchment: 39 feral pigs, 1 wild dog

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 thank you to Mark Sant who continues to share his experience and local knowledge of the area, volunteering his time in the lead up, during and after the control events as well as his precision shooting skills; Andrew Jenkinson (Stockair Heliworks) for his ongoing support to the program; Trudy & Scott

Johnson for their assistance with radio contact for the Rocky Dam catchment during the control events.

# SLCMA Community Nursery 'Plant of the Month'

This month's 'Plant of the Month' is the Scrambling Lily (*Geitonoplesium cymosum*)

**Family:** Hemerocallidaceae

**What is in a name?** *Geitonoplesium* from the Greek *geiton*, meaning neighbour and *plesios* meaning near, named because of its close affinity to the genus *Luzuriaga*. *Cymosum* because the flowers are produced in cymes.

A **cyme** is an inflorescence in which the first flower is the terminal bud of the main stem and subsequent flowers develop as terminal buds of lateral stems.

**Form:** Slender perennial vine with fibrous roots.

**Leaves:** Alternate, linear to ovate, multi-veined by the midrib is conspicuous and raised on upper side.

**Flower:** Terminal cymes or panicles of one to many small white to mauve flowers; September to May.

**Fruit:** Bluish-black berries; November to July.

**Habitat:** Mainly in moist areas of eucalypt communities, rainforests and along stream lines.

**Distribution:** QLD, NSW, NG and Mel.

**Notes:** Fruit eaten by the rose-crowned fruit-dove, mistletoebird and satin bowerbird. Scrambling Lily can reach several meters into the forest canopy, however can also be used as a low plant, twining through other groundcovers and shrubs.

**Human Usage:** In Papua New Guinea, the tough, wiry stems are used in house construction. The young tender pale shoots emerging from the ground are edible. Grows readily from seed and is a hardy adaptable plant.

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 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:** Melzer and Plumb (2007) *Plants of Capricornia*

## SLCMA Community Volunteer Program by Morgan Thomas

An enormous thank you to all the volunteers who came along to our SLCMA Community Volunteer Program during 2020. We certainly could not have had the success we have had in the SLCMA Community Nursery without your combined efforts.

Throughout December, volunteers were busy seed raising and potting-on the local native plants, with great success. Likewise, our volunteers have been meticulously tending to the thousands of plants on our nursery benches, ensuring they are free of weeds and topped with adequate soil and fertiliser, where needed. Consequently, the plants are looking extremely healthy and are ready for planting at one of our revegetation sites or in your backyard. We also have a large variety of new seedlings getting ready for potting-on and moved out of the greenhouse in the coming months. So keep an eye out for our updated 'Plant Order Form', with new plant species available.

We were able to finish the year off in style, with our volunteer Christmas morning tea. Held at the SLCMA Office, it was a great opportunity to thank our volunteers, reflect on the year that we've had, discuss plants (we could never get sick of them!) and share some delicious food. Oh, and a hilarious Secret Santa game!

The first volunteer morning for the new year was held on the 20th of January, continuing on it's normal weekly schedule from here on. We are planning to organise a variety of seed collecting field trips and fun activities throughout the year, so please come along and keep up-to-date on our [SLCMA Facebook Page](#) and also our private [SLCMA Volunteer Facebook Page](#).

It has been a pleasure to work alongside the volunteers over the past few months and something I will miss greatly once we fill the role of Nursery Officer. It was incredibly eye-opening to see just how much the volunteers do for our nursery, and I have enjoyed everything that they have taught me. We are always looking for new volunteers to join our team, so please let your friends and family know about the program.

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. SLCMA Community Volunteer Program is proudly supported by Mackay Regional Council, Natural Environment Levy. For more details contact SLCMA on 4956 1388.



Images: Australian National Botanic Gardens

Flowers (above) and sprawling growth (below) of Scrambling Lily



Image: S von Fahland



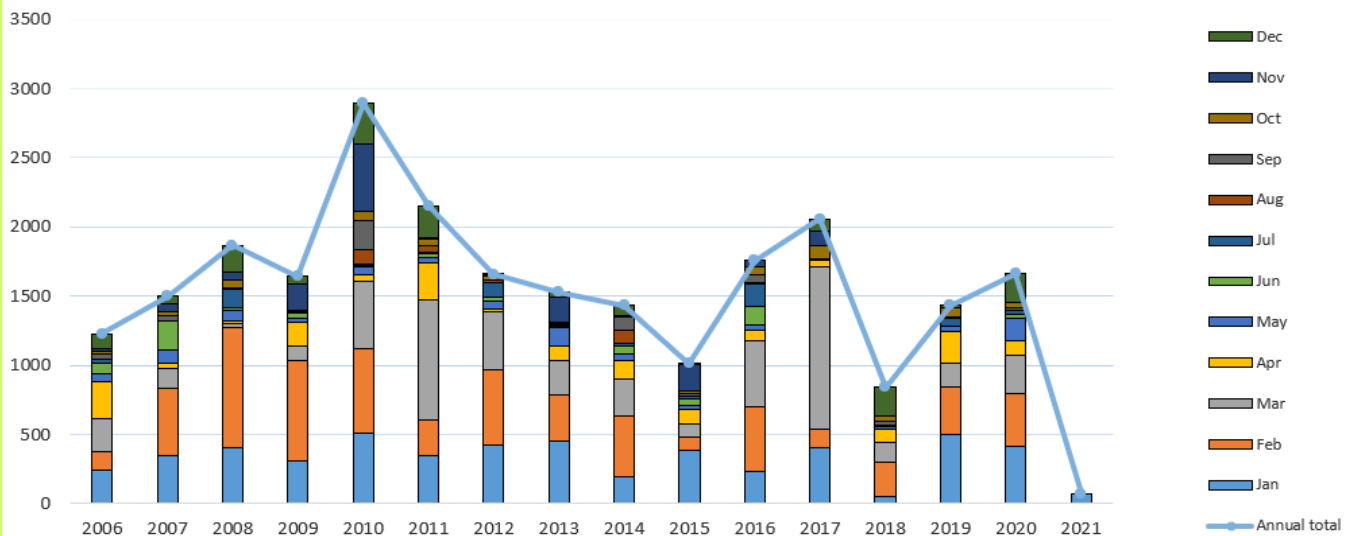
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## What SLCMA Membership does for you !

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 -2021 (inc annual total)



### Just for fun!

Q: What did the stamen say to the stigma?  
 A: I like your style.

Q: What did one hungry plant say to the other plant?  
 A: I could use a light snack.

I want to tell a joke about a girl who only eats plants but, you probably haven't heard of herbivore.

You can't just go ahead and plant flowers.... If you haven't botany...



*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. Thankyou to those who have donated your containers, so far we have raised **\$117.30** —Thankyou :)



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