

SLCMA Catchment News 2023



May/June/July

Office: 101 Sarina Beach Rd
Sarina, QLD, 4737

Phone: (07) 4956 1388

Website:
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Email:
admin@sarinalandcare.org.au

Office hours:

Mon/Wed: 9am-4pm

Tue/Thu: 9am-2pm

Fri: 9am-3.30pm

Please phone ahead to confirm availability, just in case we are out on a project or meeting.

Staff

Coordinator

Saskia von Fahland

Administration Officer

Helen Dangerfield

Nursery Officer

Susie Tomlinson

Call us for information:

- ◇ Weed management
- ◇ Plant identification
- ◇ Land management
- ◇ Land for Wildlife

Volunteer opportunities:

* SLCMA Community Volunteer Program, Wednesday, 9-12 noon.

* Friends of the Sarina Community Native Gardens—express your interest to participate

Native plants available for purchase \$3.30 each.

SLCMA Executive 22/23

Chair: Lachlan McBride

Vice-chair: Karen May

Treasurer: Susan Andrews

Secretary (acting):

Carol Norris

Executive members:

Kath Redmond



SLCMA News!

Some of you may have wondered 'what has happened to the SLCMA newsletter?' ...the good news is it didn't get lost in the mail! It has actually morphed into this May/June/July bumpa edition! So we hope you enjoy the read :)

Memberships are due. It is now the new financial year and with that comes membership renewals. SLCMA membership remains at \$10 per year per member and still with the great benefits such as: 10 free native plants, discounts on the purchase of books, as well as a 'vote' on issues & projects we develop for the Sarina catchment.

RENEW
MEMBERSHIP

Membership renewals can be paid online or by cash in person at the SLCMA Office. If you renew via internet banking, please use your name as a reference and send us a quick email to confirm. Also, to ensure you receive our newsletter and other Landcare newsletters—remember to let us know if any of your contact details have changed and need updating.

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We were saddened to hear the passing of Nick Kenyon, a long time Landcare member and active Management Committee member. Nick was Treasurer on the Management Committee for 5 years between 2005—2009 & 2012 and, Chairperson for 2 years between 2010—2011.

We are forever grateful for Nick's contributions towards SLCMA, his support and of course witty humor including taking 'SLCMA along' with him and his wife Patti, on their adventures across the globe. We would like to wish Patti and Nick's family and friends our sincere condolences.



Patti & Nick (with SLCMA shirt) in front



Photo: contributed

Join us for these exciting events...

Clean Up, Mackay Region — Freshwater Point boat ramp.

When: Saturday 19th August, 9-11am.

Join our Clean Up Australia Day event and help remove rubbish to prevent it entering our marine environment. Volunteers are asked to wear closed-in shoes and a hat. This event is supported by Mackay Regional Council, you can register your attendance [online](#) or on the day.



:~:

'Build your own frog hotel' from used plumbing pipes and other materials.

When: Saturday 9th September, 9.30-11.30am at the SLCMA Office.

Cost: \$15 per frog hotel, includes all materials, light refreshments and one annual SLCMA membership.

RSVP: Registration and payment to SLCMA by 7th September is essential.

This is the first in a series of Reuse Workshops, supported by Mackay Regional Council. Reuse (also known as repurposing or upcycling) is one of the three R's for the environment: reduce, reuse and recycle. The goal of the three R's is to protect the planet by eliminating waste. For more information about any of these events, please contact us on 4956 1388.



Sarina Community Nursery Volunteer Program

Our nursery volunteers have enjoyed a couple of different plant-based activities over the past months. In May, our volunteers assisted with a revamp of the office backyard raised garden bed. It was originally established as a vegetable and herb garden but recently it was decided that it would become a bee haven for our resident native bees.

Ginger plants, heirloom chives, capsicum and sambung were carefully lifted, divided and rehomed to our volunteers, members and staff. The soil was then aerated and filled out with some coco peat to add organic matter and enhance water retention. We then mass planted the garden with a range of native flowering plants to create a one-stop-pollen shop for the bees to enjoy. The selection of native plants (all grown in our nursery) included:

- ◆ *Artemisia fimbriatum* – Native snapdragon
- ◆ *Ranunculus lapaceus* – Native buttercup
- ◆ *Lobelia membranacea* -Native lobelia
- ◆ *Bacopa monnieri* – Brahmi
- ◆ *Viola perreniformis* – Native violet
- ◆ *Xerochrysum bracteatum* – Golden everlasting daisy
- ◆ *Coleus eungelaensis* – Eungela coleus

The native bee flower garden is growing nicely and is inspected weekly by our volunteers for its progress and, assess the attendance of bees and other visiting insects. I think we all enjoyed this project and hopefully the bees enjoy it as much as we do.



Photo: S von Fahland

Volunteer Mick Middleton

We have also had our usual tasks in the nursery, cleaning and sowing seed, potting on and, weeding tubestock – to keep our native plants healthy and growing well. As well enjoyed the sunshine during a seed collection trip to Hay Point.

More recently, we were sad to hear of the passing of one of our volunteers, Mick Middleton. Mick has been a regular volunteer in the nursery and supporter of many of our other events since 2019; helping out with clean up days, weeding and in the gardens. We will definitely miss seeing Mick around Landcare and enjoying his company. We wish Mick's family and friends our condolences during this difficult time.

If you would like to volunteer in your local community and meet new people while learning local native plants and their propagation, come along to the SLCMA Community Volunteer morning, every Wednesday, 9am to 12noon. For more details contact SLCMA on 4956 1388. SLCMA Community Volunteer Program is proudly supported by Mackay Regional Council, Natural Environment Levy.

SLCMA 'Plant of the Month'

This month's 'Plant of the Month' is the ***Melaleuca viminalis***, **Weeping Bottlebrush** Family: Myrtaceae

Name: Named *Melaleuca polandii* in 2006, when *Callistemons* were transferred to *Melaleuca*. *viminalis* from the Latin *vimineus* having long, flexible shoots.

Form & height: Shrub or tree, 5-10m with weeping branches

Leaves: Simple, alternate, pubescent (hairy) when young

Flowers: Bright red, 'bottle-brush' flowers, September to December

Fruit: Brown, woody, small 'gum-nut' like capsules

Habitat: Streambeds and banks

Notes: Hardy, used widely as a street planting. Source of pollen for bees and nectar eating birds. Grows in most soils, needs full sun and a reasonable amount of water. Occurs in QLD and NSW.

The "**Plant of the Month**" is currently available from the SLCMA Community Nursery. Landcare members are eligible to receive 1 free "Plant of the Month", throughout that month. This and other native plant species are also available for purchase at \$3.30 each. All plants are grown from locally sourced seed in the SLCMA Community Nursery by SLCMA staff and the SLCMA Volunteer team.



Photo: S von Fahland

Flowers & leaves of *Melaleuca viminalis*



Photos: S Tomlinson



Photo: S von Fahland

Top: Volunteers renovating the raised garden
Middle: celebrating the end product.
Bottom: Volunteers at Hay Point boardwalk

Friends of the Sarina Community Native Gardens



Fresh mulch on the gardens

The change of season from hot sticky madness of summer to cooler calm is upon us. Much nicer weather for gardening.

The revegetation team members have been assisting with pruning, weeding, mulching and some infill plantings.

In the boomerang garden, *Crinum pedunculatum* - Crinum lily and *Artanema fimbriatum* - Native snapdragon, have been planted. The lilies will make an impressive display in the wetter months when they come into bloom with clusters of white pleasantly perfumed flowers. Native snapdragons enjoy a moist warm area to grow. They are a low growing plant producing dainty bright blue to purple flowers which are said to attract the blue banded bee. These will make a stunning addition to the gardens.

On May 17th, we held our first afternoon "Weed and Feed" in the gardens. Thank you so much to our wonderful and enthusiastic new garden friends who got stuck into removing nutgrass from the Emu-hedge Garden. It was lovely to sit down with the volunteers afterwards and enjoy a feast of sandwiches and a refreshing drink. This event was supported by Mackay Regional Council Natural Environment Levy.

The gardens are looking refreshed after the working bee, a top up of mulch and welcome showers of rain during June. Visitors are welcome to wander through the gardens at any time. If you are interested in finding out more about the gardens or would like to volunteer to help out, please give us a call.



Volunteers & Susie helping with the weeding



Photo: S Tomlinson

Native snapdragon (*Artanema fibriatum*)



All smiles after working bee



John refreshing the gardens with fresh mulch

Have you ever wondered where your Landcare donations go?

We'll wonder no more...rest assured we set them aside and as opportunities arise, it is discussed with the SLCMA Management Committee and given the yey or ney. As some of you may remember, SLCMA has a defibrillator at the office in case of an emergency. The defibrillator kindly alarmed us recently (*with regular beeps throughout the day*) that it was in need of a replacement battery & pads. Through your donations, we were able to purchase these items and give the defib the maintenance it required. Rest assured it is ready if we need it for at least the next 4 years (hopefully we don't actually ever need it).

Thank you to those of you who give us your *Containers for Change* bottles/cans and cash donations throughout the year, every little bit counts :)



Carmila School learns about their coasts...

On 15th June, 32 Carmila school students enjoyed the opportunity to explore and learn about the unique coastal environment at Carmila Beach, through a series of hands-on activities.

A big thank you to Morgan and Kellie from Reef Catchments who provided a 'threatened species walk and talk' through the critically endangered ecological community of 'Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Vine Thickets of Eastern Australia' aka beach scrub. The students were amazed at the different types of native plants and enjoyed learning about why their beach scrub is so important and how to protect it.

Thank you also to Susie from SLCMA who provided an insight into the life of plants—looking at the different types seeds from our native coastal plants and then making (& distributing) their very own coastal seed bombs.



Saskia guided the students through the beach dunes to identify and collect marine debri. At first glance, there didn't appear to be much, but once the students' eagle eyes focused in, they collected approximately 15kg of marine debri. The students were shocked at the amount of microplastics and plastic lids they found.

This event is part of our "Rehabilitating the Sarina Catchment" project, a Community Action Plan project funded by the partnership between the Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.

Students collecting marine debri from Carmila Beach

Team work makes dream work, at Grasree Beach



During one of our native seed collection mornings with our volunteers; we discovered illegal dumping of garden waste within bushland at Grasree Beach. Upon closer look, we noticed large masses of garden weeds taking root, spreading through the area, and compromising the native bushland. After discussion with our volunteers

Photos: contributed



and Mackay Regional Council we decided to place a call to action by holding community working bees. As a result, we held two "Weed 'n' Feed" working bees in June.

A big thank you to the community volunteers, local residents of the Grasree Beach Progress Association and the Mackay Regional Council Natural Area Team who joined forces in a bid to remove the garden weeds. A range of garden weeds were removed including agave, mother-in-law tongue, aloe vera, periwinkle, poinciana, jade and oleander...just to name a few! Over the two working bees a total of 11 volunteers, 2 Mackay Regional Council staff and 3 SLCMA staff removed a massive amount **810kg of garden weeds!**

But wait, there are still some more weeds to remove, if you would like to lend a hand, let us know as we will organise future community working bees. In the meantime, you can help by:

- ◆ Disposing of your garden waste correctly and encouraging friends and neighbours to do the same.
- ◆ Report illegal dumping to Mackay Regional Council, phone 1300 MACKAY (622 529).

Left: Volunteers enjoying morning tea after their BIG effort removing weeds (right)

What you can do with your green waste...

Did you know that dumping green waste is NOT ok?

Illegal dumping of green waste, organic waste and soils can seriously threaten Queensland's primary industries, natural environment, livestock, human health and peoples' livelihoods.

Some impacts include:

- ◆ introducing pest plants that can outcompete native plant species, smothering them and overtaking natural areas
- ◆ infesting and blocking watercourses, contaminating waterways and smothering surfaces of creeks and lakes
- ◆ introducing pest animals or diseases into new areas, such as yellow crazy ants, fire ants, and myrtle rust
- ◆ blocking tracks and fire trails in natural areas that risk the lives of firefighters and members of the public
- ◆ creating increased bush fire fuel loads or ignition sources
- ◆ attracting wildlife to roadsides to feed on organic waste, and increasing the likelihood they will be hit by cars.

What you can do with your green waste

There are many benefits to using green or organic wastes at home:

- ◆ recycling your green waste by composting reduces waste to landfill and can reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- ◆ composting produces useful materials that can be put back into your garden to improve soil health
- ◆ using green waste as a mulch around your garden can protect soils from erosion, reduce weeds and plant stress, and can help to prevent water evaporation from the soil.
- ◆ Mackay Regional Council offers Free Composting and Worm Farming workshops, [click here](#) for more details or visit the Mackay Regional Council website.

If you need to dispose of your green waste, then:

- ◆ place in your red (or green) lidded waste bin
- ◆ take your green waste to your local waste transfer station. Mackay Regional Council residents are issued with three free dump vouchers with their rates notices. *Why not share your spare dump vouchers with your neighbours.*
- ◆ organise a green waste recycling bin from your local garden waste removal company



Land for Wildlife Program update

We have recently welcomed the following new landholders to the Land for Wildlife (LFW) program:

- ◆ Stephan and Sharon Burt were excited to receive their LFW gate sign, land management plan and information booklet - demonstrating their commitment to the looking after the natural environment on their property.
- ◆ Marcus Rowe joined the program to receive plant identification and pest management advice so he can confidently identify and control weeds on his property and, maintain a healthy ecosystem. He has some big goals for his property in the future. We are very excited about his involvement in the program and wait in anticipation as his goals are met!

We have also conducted property revisits to catch up with existing LFW landholders and see how they are going towards achieving their property goals. Wendy & Robert Scheers, who own Jaimons Boarding Kennels on the Bruce highway, has made a commendable effort in controlling Singapore daisy, *Sphagneticola trilobata*, which is categorized as a restricted invasive plant species. Wendy and Robert plan to target other problematic weeds around the property. We appreciate their continued commitment to the program and thank them for their hard work and efforts.

Calling all current LFW landholders – If it has been a while since we have visited your property and you would like to organise a revisit, please let us know. We are more than happy to catch up and discuss your progress or goals and provide advice to help you integrate nature conservation with other land management uses such as grazing or residential use; whether that be managing threats such as weeds and pest animals or, learning about native plants, animals or ecosystems on your property. Give us a call as we are here to provide support.

Would you like to join the Land for Wildlife program? The Land for Wildlife (LFW) program is a free, voluntary program that aims to support, encourage, and recognise landholders who integrate wildlife conservation with their land management activities. By protecting the natural biodiversity of your land, you can provide a wide variety of habitats for native wildlife within the landscape.

The program offers a variety benefits including a property visit, plant identification and advice, personalised land management plan, 20 free native plants annually, quarterly newsletter and invitation to field days and workshop.

If you are interested, please complete and return the [Expression of Interest Form](#) (found on our website www.sarinalandcare.org.au) to admin@sarinalandcare.org.au, or call the SLCMA Office on 4956 1388. *The Land for Wildlife Program is supported by Mackay Regional Council Natural Environment Levy.*

Lantana control in local 'beach scrub'

Check out some of the amazing work that the SLCMA revegetation team completed with some assistance from PCL! What you see in the photo is a patch of "Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Vine Thickets of Eastern Australia" (colloquially known as "beach scrub"), which is a critically endangered ecological community. Less than 30% of the original extent of beach scrub now remains in the central Queensland coast area, meaning the remaining patches are more vulnerable to other threats including weed invasion.

SLCMA was recently contracted by Reef Catchments to assist these landholders in helping to manage Lantana throughout this patch of beach scrub. The team spent almost 12 days (*with assistance from the PCL team*) helping to tackle the Lantana within this patch. Unfortunately, Lantana can form dense thickets which act to smother and destroy native vegetation and can make ecosystems impenetrable to animals and people. The team were able to cover approximately 4 hectares through this project, with intentions to continue the weed control efforts through other funding streams.

The Threatened Ecological Communities project was supported by Reef Catchments through funding from the Australian Government's Reef Trust.

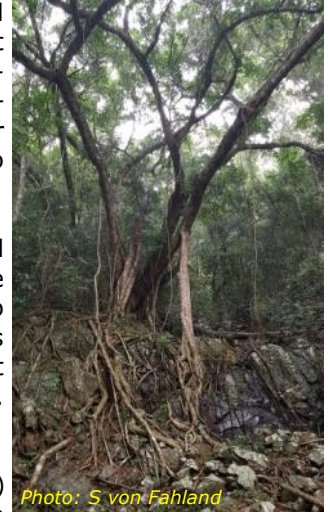


Photo: S von Fahlend

One of many magnificent trees on a local LFW property



Photo: contributed

SLCMA & PCL Field staff cut/pasting lantana



Photo: M Thomas

Aerial photo of beach scrub



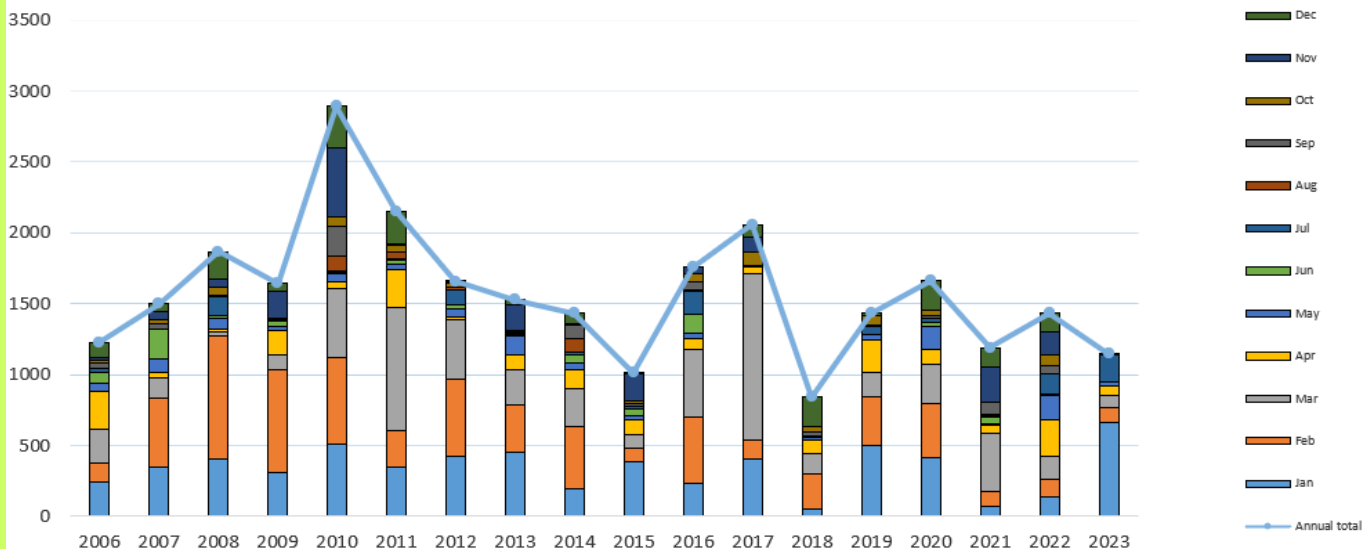
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Email: admin@sarinalandcare.org.au

What SLCMA Membership does for you !

A membership with SLCMA has many rewards:

- ◇ Easy access to Natural Resource Management information and extension
- ◇ Monthly newsletter, meeting minutes, progress and project reports
- ◇ A vote on issues in your catchment
- ◇ A say in the types of projects applied for
- ◇ Up to 10 free local native seedlings/year from the SLCMA Community Nursery
- ◇ Invitations to Natural Resource Management field days and workshops
- ◇ Copy of the SLCMA Annual Report

Monthly rainfall for SLCMA Office, 2006 -2023 (inc annual total)



Just for fun!

- What kind of band never plays music? A rubber band.
- What has lots of eyes, but can't see? A potato.
- What part of the chicken has the most feathers? The outside.
- What kind of room has no doors or windows? A mushroom.
- What has a bottom at the top? Your legs.
- What do you call a dinosaur with only one eye?
A Do-you-think-he-saw-us!
- What did the right eye say to the left eye?
Honestly, between you and me something smells.



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



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