

Annual Report 2022/23



2022/2023

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Chairperson's Annual Report

SLCMA operates as a non-profit organisation, and we work with other stakeholders to achieve various environmental benefits. We provide project management and resources while project partners and sponsors provide finances and other support. Nothing would be achieved without our project partners and sponsors, and I would like to take the opportunity to thank them for their ongoing support these include 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, Australian Government and QLD Government. Sarina Landcare have been working on the Strategic plan 2023-2025, The plan builds on the last one, but we are also looking at new projects we can bring to the region and expanding our local nursey, staff training and investing back into the orgaisnation.



Lachlan McBride, Chairperson

I also wish to thank the staff; without staff we would not have been able to help the environment. Saskia and her team have done a great job in keeping safe and working together as a team to get these projects delivered. We have been lucky to increase our relationship with Reef Catchments, working together to gain more funding for the catchment. This includes the Reef Assist Program which has been extended for another 12 months. We have been able to support the Revegetation team with training and on-ground projects.

I would like to thank the management committee for their ongoing support and guidance throughout the term. We have been busy working on investment on our term deposit thanks to Susan and her team on getting the best deal investing in training for the management team, including leadership training and governance.

The whole team of SLCMA would like to thank our volunteers over the last year for the enormous amount of work they have done in the following areas of the organisation. I would also like to thank everyone for their safety awareness and looking after one another.

- Wednesday morning – Nursery Volunteer Program – seed collecting and growing native plants
- Sarina Waterwatch Volunteers - Water quality testing throughout the catchment
- Volunteer management committee – oversee the strategic direction of the organisation

Some projects we have been working on throughout the year include:

- Landcare support (*funded by Mackay Regional Council*)
- Nursery Expansion (*funded by Stronger Communities Programme and Community Bank Sarina*)
- Fox, what fox? (*funded by QLD Government, Community Sustainability Action Grants*)
- Cats claw creeper control along Carmilla creek (*funded by Reef Catchments*)
- Land for wildlife 23/24 (*funded by Mackay Regional Council*)
- Enhancing the Sarina Inlet Trail stage 2 (*funded by Aurizon Community Giving Program*)
- Reef assist 2.0 (*Supported by Reef Catchments, funded by QLD Government Reef Assist Program*)
- Supporting Reef Catchment's new Sarina Koala project (*funded by Australian Government's Saving Koala Fund*)

This annual report showcases the team's impact, the benefits of their tireless work, and the power in developing strong working relationships with land managers to get the job done, improving the condition of the region's natural resources.

Any questions happy to answer or take on notice.

Thanks,
Lachlan McBride, Chairperson.

Coordinator's Report

Compiling the annual report is always a good opportunity to reflect on what we have achieved over the last 12 months...and while we have had a tricky year seeking new staff (*apparently we aren't the only ones*)..the awesome landcare team we do have, have gone above and beyond to deliver the great variety of ongoing and new projects and landcare activities, within the Sarina Catchment. We have continued to deliver pest management activities, coastal and riparian rehabilitation projects, land management support, volunteer opportunities and awareness raising events.

This success is only made possible with the commitment of all the SLCMA team staff, volunteers (nursery and management committee); through the successful application for project funding and sponsorships (for which we are grateful) and; ongoing collaboration with our project partners and stakeholders.

We have continued to be able to offer a range of services to the community throughout the year including:

- plant identification and land management support
- providing native plants through the SLCMA Community Nursery
- supporting local events by attending with the SLCMA display, information and interactive activities
- facilitating volunteer opportunities through the SLCMA Community Volunteer Program, Friends of the gardens, National Tree day, Great Northern Clean Up and working bees across the catchment
- supporting local schools and youth groups by providing guided tours, attending Under 8's days and delivering school activity days
- making a difference onground through the SLCMA Field Team

We have finalised our strategic plan to help guide the future direction and sustainability of SLCMA through to 2025.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the SLCMA staff for working together, taking pride in the tasks they undertake and making a difference on a daily basis; to the SLCMA Management committee for their input and guidance and our project partners for their support.

Thank you, Saskia von Fahland, Coordinator.



Saskia von Fahland,
Coordinator

2022/23 Management Committee Members and Staff

Management Committee Members:

Chair	Lachlan McBride
Vice Chair	Karen May
Treasurer	Susan Andrews
Secretary	Carol Norris (acting)
Management Committee Members	Kath Redmond

Current Staff:

Coordinator	Saskia von Fahland
Administration Officer	Helen Dangerfield
Nursery Officer/Field Supervisor	Susie Tomlinson
Field team	Nate Farnham, Chantelle Woods

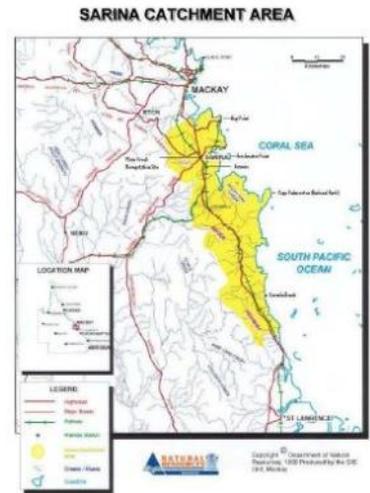


L-R: Susie, Helen, Nate & Chantelle

Organisational Objectives

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

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



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 2022/23

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.	16
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	39
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	93
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:



SLCMA display

- ◇ 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

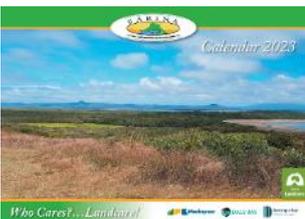
Communication & publications

- **SLCMA Catchment News** is distributed to approximately 180 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. We have updated our plant ordering process online, with links to plant information on the Central QLD Coast Landcare Network plant database. *Thankyou to Kapow Interactive for their support towards the SLCMA and the associated Central QLD Coast Landcare Network website.*
- **Local plant database** is 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.



- **SLCMA Calendar 2023** 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, Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal PTY LTD and Dalrymple Bay Infrastructure for their contribution towards producing the calendar.*

SLCMA office: resource centre & educational precinct



The humble SLCMA Office!

SLCMA is well supported by Mackay Regional Council; who have allowed us to operate from the building at 101 Beach Rd since 2004.

The office is utilised by staff and volunteers in daily Landcare activities and as a resource centre for volunteers, members and landholders to access land management information. Throughout the year, our office precinct has been the hub for many workshops, volunteer morning teas and tool maintenance operations

as well as a link to other close-by activities including: Sarina Community Native Gardens, Native bees, SLCMA Community Nursery and Water Treatment Train.

Raised garden beds — Our raised garden beds were revamped throughout the year, thanks to our nursery volunteers. It was originally established as a vegetable and herb garden however collectively we decided to change the focus and create a native flower garden. The gardens showcase a diversity of native flowering herbs & groundcovers and importantly have become a one-stop-pollen shop for our nearby native bees to enjoy.

Worm farm & composting—Learn about integrating wriggly worms, worm tubes and compost into your backyard garden system; to minimise waste, recycle nutrients and improve soil health.



Nursery volunteers Sue, Marg, Shirley, Kath & Judith revamping the raised garden beds

SLCMA Community Nursery

The SLCMA Community Nursery turns 20 this year! The facility was built in 2003 by SLCMA volunteers and the Sarina Green Corps team, and has been extended once over this time. It 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 **6607 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
- Small and large-scale rehabilitation projects such as creekbank projects along Plane Creek creek and, coastal sites such as Carmila Beach, Sarina Inlet, Grasstree Beach and Louisa Creek Reserve.
- General sales to the public through our 'click & collect' orders and native plant sales.

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 diversity our species list, which currently consists of **over 150 different species**.

This year we have focussed expanding and upgrading the nursery. This will allow us to increase our capacity for more volunteers and host school groups, grow more native plants and be more accessible to the public - a win win for the whole community!

The expansion is being undertaken in stages. To date we have been busy with preparations including liaising with Mackay Regional Council and Nursery Industry Extension Officer Barry Naylor for approvals and designs, as well as, writing funding applications and talking with local businesses to undertake the onground works.

Thank you to Mackay Regional Council for providing approval to expand the nursery facility area. We have also been successful in our funding applications to the *Stronger Communities Programme* and *Community Bank Sarina* to for initial site preparations including tree removal, ground works and fencing.

Future stages of the expansion will include building and modification of nursery benches, upgrade of irrigation system, relocation of soil bays and creation of a soil mixing and storage area, extension to the propagation area and relocation of the wetland treatment train....it wont happen overnight but it will happen :)

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.



Top: before nursery (2003)
Middle: during building of nursery (2003)
Bottom: current nursery (2023)



2003 From umbrella & plastic tables.. → 2023 ...To solid awning & stainless benches...



Thank you to Diverse Asset Maintenance (DAM) Services for carefully removing and pruning the vegetation



Thank you to Sarina Mini Excavators for levelling & preparing the ground

SLCMA Community Volunteer Program

Wowzas, the SLCMA Community Volunteer Program has been operating for 20 years! A big thankyou to all our volunteers past and present. This year we have welcomed a few new volunteers and continued to enjoy the company of our long-standing volunteers. A big thankyou to all of our volunteers who have continued their dedication, coming along every Wednesday, 9am—12noon. Collectively, our volunteers contributed over 1000 hrs in the last 12 months—what a great effort! We are saddened to hear of passing of two volunteers throughout the year, Mick Middleton and Neil Bradley.



The volunteers mainly operate in the SLCMA Community Nursery undertaking cleaning and sowing seeds, potting up seedlings and of course, the fun jobs of weeding and washing pots. We have also been on a few of plant identification and seed collecting trips around the catchment including Plane Creek, Louisa Creek, Freshwater Point; Carmila Sarina and Hay Point Beaches.



We are also proud that our volunteer program is a place to connect with like-minded people, share stories, form friendships and enjoy a friendly chat over a cuppa. The SLCMA Community Volunteer Program receives much needed and appreciated support from the Mackay Regional Council, Natural Environment Levy.

Volunteers in nursery and out & about seed collecting & morning :)

Sarina Community Native Gardens

The Sarina Community Native Garden project was identified in 2008, by SLCMA and our nursery volunteers as away to involve the community and provide an opportunity to demonstrate and promote the benefits of using native plants in gardens and landscaping situations as an alternative to non-native, potentially weedy garden plants as well as an educational opportunity for locals & visitors to learn about our local native plants.

Permission to install the gardens on the 0.25ha site, was approved by Mackay Regional Council in 2009. After consultation and planning with Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens and Native Plants QLD - Mackay Branch; onground works began in late 2009. The gardens were officially opened in 2013, by Gardening Australia guru, Costa Geordiadis.

The changes over the years have been amazing with many of the plants now flowering, seeding and providing habitat for a variety of native birds and wildlife. Over the time, we have achieved many milestones including the installation and extension of a seasonal wetland, walking track, boardwalk, themed gardens including the sensory gardens, examples of local habitats and more recently the boomerang garden.

The gardens have hosted a number of community events over the years including our Community Fun Day in 2021, to celebrate SLCMA's 20th birthday. The event was well supported with displays, stalls, fun activities and presentations as well as, a commemorative tree planting with the SLCMA Management Committee and Mayor of Mackay Regional Council, Greg Williamson.

Our future goals for the Sarina Community Native Gardens is to increase community use and visitation through hosting of workshops, organising guided tours with groups and promoting self-guided tours, so that it is a valued asset in the Sarina Community.

A big thank you to Susie, our Nursery Officer who has worked hard throughout the year to ensure the Sarina Community Native Gardens continue to evolve and provide a wonderful display of a variety native plants, for locals and visitors. Also, thank you to the SLCMA Field team who have helped Susie with the hard yakka jobs including whippersnipping, pruning, mulching and chipping branches.



SLCMA staff working in the gardens; some of the flowers & fruit on display throughout the year



Snapshot of Landcare activities across the catchment



Pest management projects: Coordinated Feral Pig Control Program

SLCMA continues to deliver the Coordinated Feral Pig Control Program across the Rocky Dam, Carmila and Clarview catchments. The program, which has operated since 2008, was co-funded this year by private landholders, Reef Catchments and in-kind support by SLCMA.

The success of the program is attributed to a coordinated approach with landholders and stakeholders including Plane Creek Productivity Services, Council and Department of Resources. It also compliments and aligns with other aerial feral pig control programs across the wider Mackay Whitsunday region.

The program engages with over 50 landholders across a range of landuses (cane, grazing & horticulture), who participate voluntarily in one or more of the control methods, at different times of the year. The different control methods include trapping, baiting (with Council) and the annual aerial control event. The annual aerial control event was held in December 2022 and January 2023, which led to 186 feral pigs being controlled.

It is great that landholders are working together and recognise that a pig controlled a few kms away is still of benefit to them and their property. The coordinated approach allows for a large area of the catchment to be covered in a short space of time, increasing the potential to reduce feral pig numbers and hence reduce negative impacts on farming land and natural areas.

Fox, what fox?

Foxes are becoming more apparent in our region, particularly in our coastal zones. Foxes are a potential threat to native fauna such as the water mouse, northern quoll, marine turtle and ground nesting bird populations by feeding on nests and young.

We are in the last year of the 18 month project "Fox, What fox?", a partnership between QLD parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) and Mackay Regional Council to undertake fox detection surveys at Mt Hector Conservation Park, Cape Palmerston and Westhill National Parks.

Mackay Regional Council have worked with Southern Queensland Landscapes – Project Delivery Officer Tom Garrett and Rocky the Conservation Detection Dog; to undertake annual surveys and eradication of foxes on public and private land within the Mackay Regional Council area over the last few years.

This project links into the current fox detection program and extends the monitoring to within the identified park areas. The project has improved the knowledge of presence and location of foxes within the park areas and which is helping to guide future monitoring and eradication activities to protect native wildlife.

Surveys were conducted in October 2022 in the three park areas and in September 2023 we focussed our efforts on Cape Palmerston National Park, where to high presence of fox activity was detected. In 2022, two active dens were identified and fumigated and in 2023 three dens were identified and fumigated.

A community meet & greet event was held at Bucasia Beach esplanade, which was well attended by the community. It was an opportunity to learn first hand how the surveys are conducted, find out more about foxes within the region. It was a great chance to meet dog handler Tom and his conservation dog team Rocky and Cooper.; as well as hear from project partners Mackay Regional Council Pest Officer Maria Ferraro, QPWS Officer Daniel Burndred and David & Faye from Mackay and District Turtlewatch. This project is funded through the *Queensland Government's—Community Sustainability Action* grant 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:

- **Garden escapees:** working with volunteers, Grasstree Beach Progress Association and Mackay Regional Council to remove garden escapees that have been dumped and now growing within bushland in the Grasstree Beach area.
- **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.

Through ongoing funding and support from our project partners we aim to continue to monitor and control these infestations, to reduce their extent and opportunity to spread.



Conservation Detection dogs, Rocky & Cooper with Dog Handler, Tom Garrett and MRC Pest Officer, Zach Birkin



Bucasia community event

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:

- **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 Revegetation 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 at 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 off previous NTD plantings and continue the rehabilitation of the site.

- **Enhancing the Sarina Inlet Trail –Stage 2** —funded through the Aurizon Community Giving Fund . The "Sarina Inlet Trail" is a 400m bush walking track that meanders through a small but diverse area of native coastal vegetation at Sarina Beach. The trail is well utilised by residents and visitors, providing a link between Sarina Beach and Johnson Beach. The project will help to reduce weed invasion and enhance the biodiversity of the native coastal vegetation along the trail as well as provide an opportunity to engage with the community, to raise awareness about the importance of the site within the coastal environment.



Site preparation is underway

Our SLCMA Field Team have been undertaking targeted weed control specifically Singapore daisy (*Sphagneticola trilobata*), Guinea grass (*Megathyrsus maximus*) and Lantana (*Lantana camara*) along the trail, to encourage native regeneration of native plants with some complimentary revegetation.

- **Rehabilitation of Carmila Beach Reserve** — The SLCMA Field Team completed restoration works along Carmila Beach, which included planting and maintaining 2,050 local native plants across seven sites within the coastal vegetation. The sites stretch along the Carmila Beach Reserve and include the critically endangered 'littoral rainforest and coastal vine thickets of eastern Australia' ecosystem. These vegetation types are known to provide essential habitat for the northern quoll, beach stone curlew and the mangrove mouse and a number of other listed species including the black-throated finch (*Poephila cincta*) and the lesser swamp-orchid (*Phaius australis*). In addition, the Carmila Beach area is highly valued by our community for its natural values and, is well utilised by travellers and locals for camping and recreational activities.



Revegetation at Carmila Beach

The planting sites were chosen in areas most impacted by weeds and where thinning of native vegetation and loss of canopy cover is occurring. The plants have been in the ground for almost 12 months, while some have been subject to uprooting by resident bush turkeys and bandicoots...Overall, the remaining plants are growing well and there is also evidence of natural regeneration of native plants across the sites—all of which will help improve the health and resilience of this important ecosystem. This project is supported by Reef Catchments and Isaac Regional Council, through funding from the Australian Government's Reef Trust.

- **Weed control at Gillinbin**—funded by Reef Catchments. The project targeted lantana control within the coastal dunes which contains the Threatened Ecological Community (TEC): Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Vine Thickets of Eastern Australia (known as beach scrub). The aim of the project was to reduce the lantana infestation to reduce the risk of fragmentation of the site and encourage the regeneration of native coastal plants.



Coastal scrub at Gillinbin

Other projects...

- **Rehabilitating the Sarina Catchment** — This 12 month project focussed on rehabilitating coastal sites at Grasstree and Carmila Beaches to increase their health and biodiversity through 10 onground days to undertake weed control and planting of 300 native plants, community engagement events including school activity days, marine debris clean-ups and walk 'n' talks and produced 2 case studies. This Community Action Plan project was completed this year and was funded by the partnership between the Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.
- **Sarina Landcare Support Project**—funded through Mackay Regional Council—Natural Environment Program. This annually funded project 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.
- **DBCTPL Bundwall Project**— Our Field Team has enjoyed the opportunity to maintain revegetation projects DBCT— the plantings aim to utilise native plants to improve the biodiversity and aesthetic values as well as reduce the presence of weeds and stabilise banks.
- **Reef Assist Program 2.0** —funded by QLD Government through Reef Catchments. This program has supported the employment of 2.5 part-time staff to deliver rehabilitation activities across the catchment including supporting landholders with land management support, onground works and free native plants. The two person Reef Assist team have been able to access training and upskilling in Certificate *in Conservation and Land Management* as well as practical experience on the ground. We thank the onground team for their hard work and dedication in often harsh conditions to work across the catchment—tackling weeds, rehabilitating important environmental sites and giving local landholders a helping hand. The Reef Assist Program has been a great initiative and has allowed SLCMA another opportunity to work alongside our project partners and support landholders in the catchment.
- **Sarina Catchment Waterwatch**—funded through QLD Citizen Science Grants. This two year project was completed this year and supported 14 citizen scientists to be part of the Sarina Catchment Waterwatch program. The program has been building a picture of the water quality over time in four creeks across the Sarina Catchment. The citizen scientists were trained to use water testing equipment to measure the electrical conductivity, pH, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, water flow and weed invasion. In addition, SLCMA staff are conducting baseline monitoring and laboratory sampling to discover the presence of herbicides. A very big thank you to all our volunteers.

This project was proudly supported by the Queensland Government – Queensland Citizen Science Grants.



Carmila School students at Carmila Beach



Community working bee at Grasstree Beach



Planting of bundwall at DBCT



Watering revegetation at Carmila Beach



Water quality monitoring at Carmila Creek

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.



Some of the natural values Land for Wildlife Landholders are looking after through the program

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 Mackay Homeschool group; Homebush, Alligator Creek, Swayneville, Carmila and Dundula state schools and St Annes Catholic Primary School through:

- Providing hands-on interactive activities for Under 8's day events with the famous (& much loved) macro-invertebrate activity
- Facilitating School Activity Days with project partners including Reef Catchments and Conservation Volunteers Australia to deliver hands on educational activities from marine debris clean ups, recycling and making seed bombs to walk 'n' talks through local riparian areas, mangroves and coastal scrub.



Students exploring macro-invertebrates (aka water bugs)

Working Groups supported

SLCMA is proud to support the following working groups:

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



Central QLD Coast
Landcare
Network

Supporting Community Events

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

- **Clean Up Mackay Region** at Freshwater Point
- **National Tree Day** with DBCTPL & Mackay Regional Council at Louisa Creek Reserve
- **Composting and worm farming workshop**, with Mackay Regional Council
- **Community working bees**— 'Weed 'n' feed working bee at Grasstree Beach to remove garden escapees threatening native bushland, Marine debris cleanups at Grasstree Beach
- **Sarina 4WD & Outdoor Centre birthday celebration**—talking landcare, plants & fun games
- **St Lawrence Wetland Weekend**— This is the third year that we



Clean Up Mackay Region, Freshwater Pt



Marine debris clean up Grasstree Beach



Planting at St Lawrence wetlands



Creating frog hotels



have attended the St Lawrence Wetlands Weekend. It is a great opportunity to showcase to the community what we do in the Sarina Catchment and, engage with the community through displays and interactive activities. This year we enjoyed working alongside Conservation Volunteers and the Koinmeburra people to facilitate a community planting during the event. Over two mornings, 65 volunteers planted 380 native plants, with the aim to restore native vegetation around the wetlands. This unique event, supported by Costa Georgiadis, provides a great opportunity for the community to experience and learn about the St Lawrence Wetlands and demonstrates and celebrates what the community can achieve when working together.

- **Build your own frog hotel re-use workshop**— Participants harnessed their creative energy to re-use second hand materials such as plumbing pipes, buckets, pots & cisterns to create supplementary frog habitats providing cool, moist shelter for our local frogs...rest assured all frogs were catered for with a range of single and family hotel rooms to 5 star resorts created!
- **Healthy horse, healthy land workshop**—What a pleasure it was to have internationally acclaimed author and horse property management expert, Stuart Myers back in the region. This informative workshop was thought provoking for our passionate horse owners and provided a range of handy property enhancement and management techniques to improve horse and land health.

SLCMA is supported by:

