

SLCMA Catchment News 2024



January

Office: 101 Sarina Beach Rd
Sarina, QLD, 4737

Phone: (07) 4956 1388

Website:
www.sarinalandcare.org.au

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/Field

Team Supervisor

Susie Tomlinson

Project Officer

Rodney Fraser

Call us for information:

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

Volunteer opportunities:

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

Native plants available for purchase \$3.30 each. Visit [website](http://www.sarinalandcare.org.au) for latest plant order form.

SLCMA Executive 23/24

Chair: Lachlan McBride

Vice-chair: vacant

Treasurer: Susan Andrews

Secretary: Karen May

Executive members:
vacant



SLCMA News!

Welcome to our new Project Officer, Rodney Fraser (Diploma Permaculture, Cert. IV Permaculture, Cert III Rural Operations, Safety White Card, Skid-steer, Excavator, Chainsaw and Chipper tickets)

Rodney has been consulting, designing, and implementing holistic property designs around the Sunshine Coast region for the last 8 years and has also been a vital part of the volunteer Bush Care teams in Logan. In this time Rodney has been a charismatic educator to long term unemployed, indigenous and refugees, teaching Conservation and Land Management for the skilling Queenslanders for work program. Through his years of experience working in nurseries, organic farms and as a property designer Rodney has acquired specialised skills in developing practical approaches to environmental restoration, establishment of sustainable living systems and holistic team management. In his spare time Rodney also enjoys working music festivals around the country in the traffic, camping and patron care department, this role works closely with the medical and harm reduction teams making sure everyone is being safe and enjoying their festival experience as much as possible. With Rodney's wide range of knowledge and skills we at Sarina Landcare know he will be a valuable addition to the team.



Rodney Fraser

Sarina Community Nursery Volunteer Program

The volunteer nursery morning recommenced on Wednesday 17th of January after the Christmas/ New year's break. Great to see some of the volunteers back to assist in the nursery. It is such a busy time with weeding, sowing, and potting on. We are always grateful for the helping hands and cheerful company.



Photo: S Tomlinson

Through the SLCMA Community Nursery we are providing local native koala fodder and habitat plant species, for the Sarina Koala Habitat Restoration Program. Our volunteers have been helping our Nursery Officer Susie, to grow plants ready for this program. They have attended seed collecting expeditions throughout the Sarina area to top up the nursery seedbank and make sure we have the appropriate plant species available. Back at the nursery, volunteers assist with the task of extracting seed from its fruit or capsule ready for storing or sowing and then potting on the young seedlings into tubestock ready to grow on.

Our nursery volunteers excited to be back :)

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.

We are hiring!

We are hiring! We are seeking an enthusiastic, motivated, experienced Field Officer to join our team. Our field team work on a range of rehabilitation projects throughout the catchment including beaches and creekbanks to private and community sites. If you are interested, please visit our [website](http://www.sarinalandcare.org.au) for more details and send your resume to: coordinator@sarinalandcare.org.au



Photo: C Woods

Sarina Community Native Gardens

There are many plants in flower, fruiting and seeding right now in the Sarina Community Native Gardens. It is such a delight to walk through and take it all in. Delicate intricate blooms, large bold vibrant coloured flowers, a variety of textures and hues. Splendid flushes of new foliage growth, tinges of blushing pinks and golden glows or the bare-naked starkness of tree trunks shed of leaves in preparation for the spring burst to come.

The gardens have been drenched with sunshine and rain providing the anticipated vigorous growth spurt that comes this time of year. The field team have been assisting to maintain the gardens paths by whipper snipping, to maintain access through the gardens and lending a hand with weeding the garden beds. Some species that are looking good in the gardens right now are:

- *Orthosiphon aristatus* - Cat's whiskers (mauve & white)
- *Grewia latifolia* - Dog's balls
- *Cordia subcordata* - Sea trumpet
- *Oplismenus compositus* - Running mountain grass
- *Dianella caerulea* - Blue flax lily

Most of the plants in the gardens are grown in our community nursery and plants can be ordered by downloading the plant order form from our [website](#).

The gardens are always open to the community and many of the plants are labelled to assist with identification. Visitors are welcome to walk around the gardens on a self-guided tour or if you would like to organise a group guided walk, contact us 4956 1388 or admin@sarinalandcare.org.au



Photo: R Fraser
Cat's Whiskers (*Orthosiphon aristatus*)



L-R: Bower of Beauty (*Pandorea jasminoides*), Sea Trumpet (*Cordia subcordata*)



R: Running Mountain Grass (*Oplismenus compositus*)



Photo: Geoff Pegg, Queensland DAF
Angle-stemmed myrtle (*Gossia gonoclada*)

Myrtle Rust—Unveiling the Conservation Concerns

Myrtle rust is a disease caused by the exotic fungus *Austropuccinia psidii* and threatens trees and shrubs in the Myrtaceae family of plants. Myrtaceae is the largest plant family in Australia and includes native plants such as tea tree (*Melaleuca spp.*), eucalypts (*Eucalyptus spp.*), *Angophora spp.*, and *Corymbia spp.*. The disease can: cause deformed leaves, stunt growth, reduce fertility, cause heavy defoliation of branches and kill plants.

There are at least 15 rainforest tree species at risk of extinction in the wild due to myrtle rust infection. Currently, only one strain of myrtle rust exists within Australia. However, other strains are present overseas. These close relatives of myrtle rust could have devastating impacts on Australian plants if they were to enter Australia. In 2022, the Australian Government established the National Myrtle Rust Working Group. The group brings together experts from across Australia and New Zealand to drive a coordinated response to myrtle rust.

Myrtle rust reproduces and spreads through its spores and, grows best in dark and damp conditions. The spores can be spread on: clothing, hair and skin, infected plants, equipment, insects and animals, and via wind dispersal. This makes it very hard to control and almost impossible to eradicate from natural settings.



Photo: Geoff Pegg, Queensland DAF
Smooth scrub turpentine (*Rhodamnia maideniana*)

Myrtle rust penetrates the plant's cells to draw nutrients from its host, damaging the plant. Once infected, plant symptoms can appear within only 3 to 5 days. Early stages of myrtle rust are often shown by purple spots appearing on leaves. Signs of later stages of infection are lesions on the leaves and dieback of smaller branches. It mostly affects the new shoots and young leaves, so seedlings often suffer the most. Flowers and fruits can also be infected, reducing the number of viable seeds. Severely infected trees and shrubs may no longer produce new leaves., this leads to death of branches and other above-ground parts of the tree.

Three species suffering rapid population declines in connection with myrtle rust are: Smooth scrub turpentine (*Rhodamnia maideniana*), Angle-stemmed myrtle (*Gossia gonoclada*) and Native guava (*Rhodomyrtus psidioides*). Information sourced from: <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/invasive-species/diseases-fungi-and-parasites/myrtle-rust>

Carpark surfaced for wet weather

We would like to thank Mackay Regional Council and staff, who provided the crusher dust and machinery to resurface the carparking area. The crusher dust has made a huge difference, as the area was previously unusable during wet weather. Being able to park off the road, keeps our staff safe while loading and unloading equipment out of the vehicles as well as keeps our staff and visitors' feet dry :)



Photo: R Fraser

Build your own frog hotel—re-use workshop—a success!

The Frog Hotel—Re-use Workshop was held on Friday the 19th of January at SLCMA. The workshop was a great success, with 23 people of various ages, family groups and individuals attending and creating 15 frog hotels.

During the workshop we had great discussions including:

- ◆ the importance of helping our local frog populations
- ◆ how to find frog calls online for easy identification
- ◆ the difference between toad and frog tadpoles and how to collect and dispose of toads
- ◆ Chytrid fungus and how it is affecting wild frog populations
- ◆ which native plants best attract and support frogs



Photo: R Fraser

Everyone went home with a Landcare membership, a few frog friendly plants and an amazing frog hotel designed and built by them ready to give their home frogs a real estate upgrade.

Thank you to Bruce Thompson from Mackay Regional Council who assisted with the workshop, including obtaining the materials from Incredible Tip shop—diverting waste from landfill for re-use in the frog hotels. Thank you to AJK for donating crushed recycled concrete and to Mackay Regional Council for the opportunity to work together and deliver these workshops to our local Sarina community.



Photos: S von Fahland

SLCMA 'Plant of the Month'

This month's 'Plant of the Month' is **Illawara Flame Tree, *Brachychiton acerifolius***

Family: Malvaceae

What is in a name? The name *Brachychiton* is derived from the Greek *brachys*, meaning short, and *chiton*, a type of tunic, as a reference to the coating on the seed; *acerifolus* suggests the appearance of the foliage is similar to that of the genus *Acer*, the maples.

Form: Medium sized tree up to 30m

Leaves: Leaves entire or 3-5-lobed, about 12-20 x 5-18 cm. Two, sometimes four, main lateral veins and the midrib radiate from the base of the leaf blade.

Flowers: Perianth (*petals and sepals*) about 20-30 x 16-22 mm, valvate (*petals or sepals touch each other without overlapping*) in the bud, glabrous (*free from hair*) or with scattered, stellate hairs outside, sparsely pubescent (*layer of thin hair*) inside. Usually flowering when leafless.

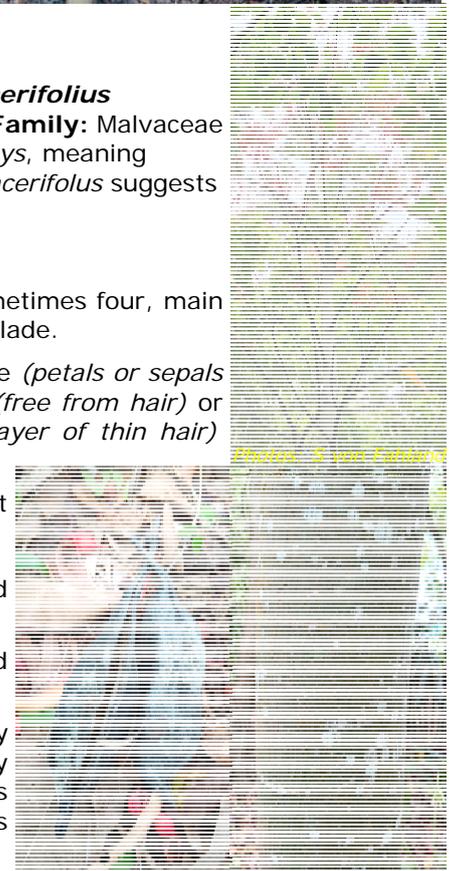
Fruit: Fruits glabrous outside, about 8-12 x 3.5-4 cm. Seeds about 10-12 x 5-7 mm.

Distribution: Endemic to Australia, occurs mainly in Queensland and southwards into south-eastern New South Wales.

Habitat: Grows in drier, more seasonal rainforest and well developed rainforests on a variety of sites.

Notes: Propagation from seed is relatively easy without any pre-treatment. The seeds are surrounded in the capsule by irritant hairs and are best collected using gloves. Grafting is also relatively easy. Seeds can be eaten roasted, after hairs have been burnt off.

⇒ Information sourced from: https://anpsa.org.au/plant_profiles/brachychiton-acerifolius/



Photos: S von Fahland

Top: Illawara Flame tree in flower
Bottom L-R: Seed pods and bark



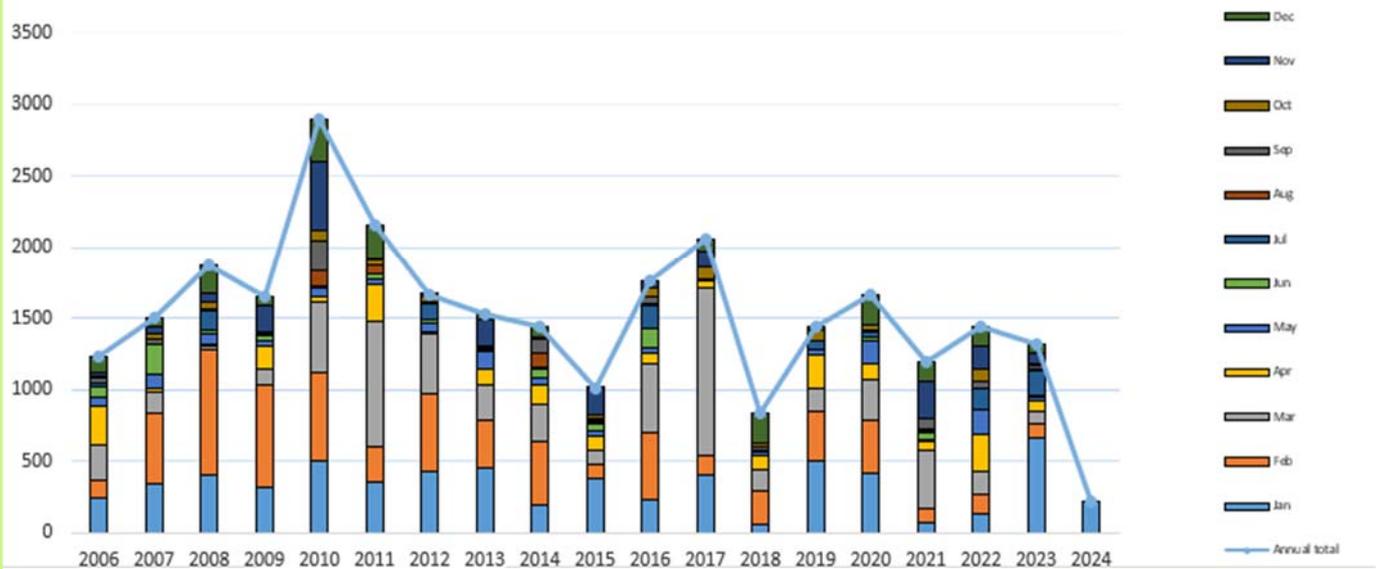
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What SLCMA Membership does for you !

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 -2023 (inc annual total)



Please consider donating your containers for change to SLCMA this festive season. It is a great way to help the environment and the community. You can reduce waste, save energy, and contribute to local environment projects and programs.



SLCMA's Scheme ID
C10002138



Central QLD Coast
Landcare
 Network

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

Just for fun!

Two trees were passing the time and chatting. They could see a small group of people walking in the distance and one tree turned to the other and said "Do you think they communicate with each other?" The other tree shook his head and said "Nah – no way- they haven't got roots."

When bees move into a new hive, do they have a house swarming party?

A duck walks in a bar, orders a beer and says "put it on my bill."

What do you get if you divide a pumpkin's circumference by its diameter?
 Pumpkin pie



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