

SLCMA Catchment News



November 2019

Office: 101 Sarina Beach Rd
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Sarina QLD 4737
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www.sarinalandcare.org.au
Email:
admin@sarinalandcare.org.au

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 9-12noon

Native plants available for purchase \$3 each.

SLCMA Executive 19/20

Chair: Mark Evans

Vice-chair: Karen May

Treasurer: Kevin Plumb

Secretary: Grace Tipping

Executive members:

Sandy Evans
Lachlan McBride



SLCMA News!

Members & volunteers are invited to join us for our **Christmas Dinner** on Thursday 12 December, 6-8pm at Third Ground Coffee House, Sarina. Cost is \$20 per person. RSVP & payment is required by **4 December**. Please see attached flyer or contact us for more information.

:~:

A big thankyou to **North QLD Bulk Ports** for their sponsorship towards the printing of our updated "SLCMA brochure". The aim of the brochure is to raise awareness of our organisation, create opportunities to strengthen partnerships and involve community members and groups in our landcare projects and programs.

The brochure contains information about what we do, the types of Landcare activities we coordinate and services we provide within the Sarina Catchment; as well as opportunities for the community to be involved in Landcare.



SLCMA stall at Sarina markets

Stuck for Christmas gift ideas?

Looking for a useful Christmas gifts that also supports a local not-for-profit organisation? We have a variety of items available for purchase including:

- ◆ Plant books—native plants and weed identification
- ◆ Caps (100% recycled PET) and broad-brimmed hats (cotton)
- ◆ Annual membership
- ◆ Native plants
- ◆ Gift cards



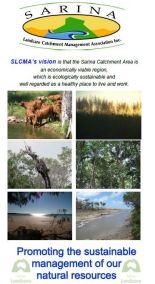
Feel free to contact us for more details about what is available.

Introducing our new Project Officer

Hi, my name is Morgan Thomas and I have just started as the Project Officer at SLCMA as of November 2019.

I recently moved to Mackay (Jan 2019) from Brisbane after completing a Bachelor of Science honours majoring in Biology and minoring in Environmental and Wildlife Sciences. I have a strong passion for conservation and the environment and am excited to apply this passion to the work I complete for SLCMA and the community. I have worked in a variety of similar roles during my time at university and after, including fieldwork in Malaysia, Kokosciuszko National Park and Blackdown Tablelands National Park.

I am very eager to begin helping SLCMA and the local community achieve their goals and work with everyone involved for the benefit of our natural resources.



SLCMA Community Volunteer Program *by Davina Wain*

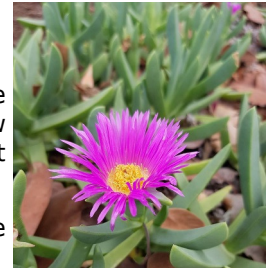
With the temperatures getting hotter, we have lots to do in the Community Nursery. We have continued cleaning up under the benches and finalising the set-up of the last new sun-hardening bench. Again a big thank you too Neil, Mick and Malcolm for helping us set up the overhead irrigation on the new bench.

Also thank you to our volunteer, Peter for looking after the Sarina Community Native Gardens with lots of mulching, weeding and watering and, for his hard work tending to the sustainable food gardens.

Local plumber Mr Solli has done a great job making some alterations to the irrigation, connecting up our pot washing tubs and hand washing sink. The sink is now connected to the water treatment train - with hand washing 'wastewater' now being filtered through a series of ponds by variety of native wetland plants. Thankyou to DBCT Management for their sponsorship towards upgrading the plumbing and irrigation within the nursery.

Some of our volunteers enjoyed making Kokedama balls with a native succulent, *Carpobrotus glaucescens* (Pig face). They looked lovely and we were able to take them and a range of other native plants, to sell at the recent Sarina Markets.

As usual we have been busy cleaning seed, ready for propagating and/or storing in the seedbank. We also have been potting up our seedlings, getting them ready for sun hardening and planting.



Pig face (Carpobrotus glaucescens)



Photos: S von Fahland

Volunteers enjoying a well-deserved ice-block!

The last volunteer morning for the year will be 11 December and we will re-join in the new year on 15 January. 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.

Saltmarsh— a valuable resource

On the 7th of November, SLCMA had the privilege of joining MangroveWatch for a 'Saltmarsh Value & Threat Assessment' at Sarina Beach. Our Project Officer, Morgan Thomas joined a variety of stakeholders including Mackay Regional Council and Reef Catchments to learn more about the values of saltmarsh and the current and future threats to saltmarsh communities. Our day involved walking around the saltmarsh area learning about the plant communities, the function and processes involved in saltmarsh and most importantly, why saltmarsh are so valuable and what is threatening them.



Photos: M Thomas

Exploring local saltmarsh, Sarina Beach

What is a saltmarsh?

A saltmarsh is a marine plant ecosystem that occupies the upper tidal zone above mean sea level but below the highest astronomical tidemark and receives regular but infrequent tidal flooding. These plant communities consist of salt tolerant (halophyte) plants, algal mat and claypan/saltpan complexes with less than 50% tree cover. The plant communities in saltmarsh areas include herbs, small shrubs and grasses (halophytes), sedges, reeds and succulent herbs that are typically less than 0.5m tall and highly adapted to the harsh growing conditions of saltmarshes, such as high salinity, full light exposure and moisture extremes. Saltmarsh communities do not typically support trees or tall shrubs due to these harsh conditions.

Why are saltmarsh important?

Saltmarsh are important for a variety of reasons such as, fish habitat, carbon storage/sequestration potential, water quality improvement, habitat values, recreation values and cultural values. However, saltmarsh are continually under threat in the form of direct damage (vehicle damage, pig damage), physical processes (erosion and burial), litter and trash, habitat replacement/land use change, coastal squeeze (sea levels rising), mangrove encroachment, weeds and pest species, runoff (urban, agricultural and pollutants), altered hydrology and drought. So what can be done to help protect this important ecosystem?

Where is the saltmarsh? Accurate mapping and how you can help

You can help map saltmarsh more accurately to help us understand where they occur and allow for future monitoring. If you have access to a GPS or a tracking app on your phone, then take a walk around a saltmarsh patch one day. Send us the track at mangrovewatch@gmail.com

What is in the saltmarsh? Accurate species records and how you can help

You can help create an accurate list of tidal wetland plants around Wet Tropics to help further understand saltmarsh. Next time you are out in the saltmarsh, take a photo of the plants you see (using a phone is fine). Send the photos to us at mangrovewatch@gmail.com or record your sighting in the Atlas of Living Australia (<http://www.ala.org.au/get-involved/>).

SLCMA Community Nursery "Plant of the Month"

This month's 'Plant of the Month' is **Paroo Lily** *Dianella caerulea*

Family: Hemerocallidaceae



What is in a name? *Dianella* from Latin *Diana*: mythical goddess, *ella* meaning small; *caerulea* Latin *caeruleus* meaning dark blue.

- Form:** Tufted perennial herb with fibrous roots, up to 1m.
Leaves: Erect leaves with pointed tip, sheath folded lengthwise, up to 70cm long.
Flowers: Spikes of bluish-purple flowers, longer than leaves, Spring to Summer
Fruit: Bright blue-purple berries
Distribution: Widespread across Australia
Habitat: Open forest, often on sandy soils
Notes: Hardy plant, useful in gardens, suited to most conditions and soils. Easily propagated from seed or division of rhizomes



Above: Flowers Below: Leaves/ shape of *Dianella caerulea*

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: Plants of Capricornia 2007, Rhonda Melzer and Joel Plumb.*

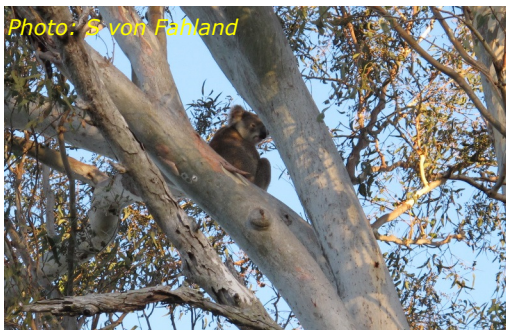


Photo: N von Fahland

Koala Information Session update

Twenty-one community members and stakeholders attended a **Koala Information Session** recently, to discuss local koala populations in the Sarina region. The aim of the session was to:

- ⇒ Create a greater understanding of koalas in general and their needs within the landscape
- ⇒ Identify gaps in knowledge and opportunities for action
- ⇒ Gauge the interest of community members and organisations to work together on future activities that will protect koala populations and their associated habitats.

A big thankyou to Kylie Harris (DES) and Alistair Melzer (CQ Koala, CQ University) who travelled from Rockhampton to attend the session and share their knowledge and experience with us. Alistair provided interesting information about koalas (including their biology and habitat needs) as well as examples of what is happening locally and across QLD. Kylie Harris (DES) provided an insight into the Nature Refuge program and current koala data and mapping.

From discussions throughout the session, it was evident that community members and organisations want to work collaboratively to find out more about local koalas and identify strategies that will protect koalas and their associated habitats, into the future. All agreed that initially, raising community awareness and encouraging accurate recording of koala sightings was a priority. This will provide more accurate information about local koala habitats and movement that can be used to update mapping, guide planning and decision making.

Land for Wildlife Program - Alligator Creek State School



Photo: P Nielsen

Congratulations to Alligator Creek State School for the recent registration of their bushland area into the Land for Wildlife Program. The 2ha of bushland was registered as 'working towards' in 2013 and on a recent re-visit was successfully recommended for 'full registration'.

The area includes a creekline surrounded with a diverse range of riparian vegetation as well as Melaleuca and Eucalypt open woodland further away from the creek. The area provides a diversity of habitats which includes all canopy layers (herbs, shrubs, trees and vines); groundcover including leaf litter and hollow logs; a seasonal water source and connectivity through the riparian vegetation along the creek to neighbouring properties to the west.

The area is utilised as an educational resource for the school students. Over the years, the school students and Grounds Officer have worked with Conservation Volunteers Australia and SLCMA to undertake weed control and revegetation along the creek. We look forward to working together on future projects on the site.



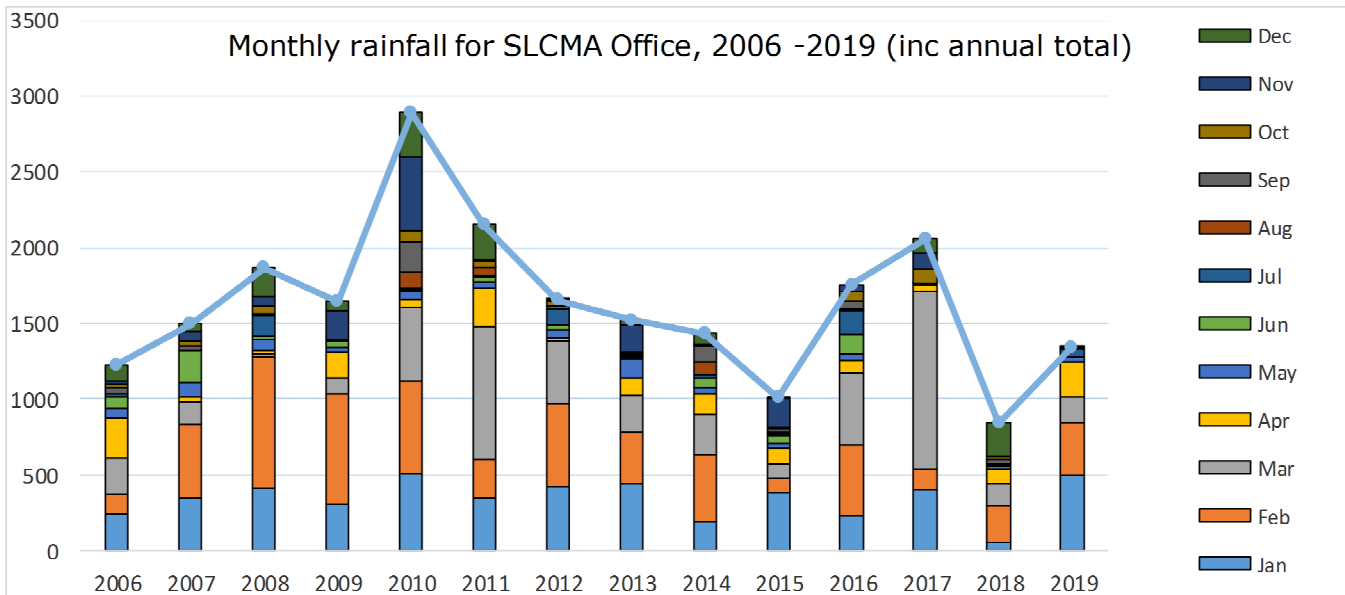


What SLCMA Membership does for you !

A membership with SLCMA has many rewards:

Office: 101 Sarina Beach Rd
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www.sarinalandcare.org.au
 Email:
 admin@sarinalandcare.org.au

- ◇ 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
- ◇ Discounts on purchases of books for sale



Just for fun!

Two silk worms got in a fight.
It ended in a tie.

Why does a milking stool only have 3 legs? Because the cow has the udder.

What's the cheapest kind of meat you can buy? Deer balls. They're under a buck.

What animal has more lives than a cat? Frogs, they croak every night!

The early bird might get the worm...
But the second mouse gets the cheese.



I was going to tell you another cow joke...
but it's pasture bed time.

Community events

December 2019

Marine Debris Surveys

- Thursday 5th Dec @ Harbour Beach
- Friday 6th Dec @ Pioneer River
- Monday 9th Dec @ Half Tide Beach
- Tuesday 10th Dec @ Louisa Creek Beach
- Monday 16th Dec @ Wilson Beach, Conway
- Tuesday 17th Dec @ Conway Beach, Conway

To get involved email:
info@tangaroablue.org
or visit: www.reefclean.org

Educate • Reduce • Prevent

Find us on [facebook](#)



Central QLD Coast
Landcare
Network

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

SLCMA is proudly supported by:



Sarina Community Bank® Branch

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MICHELLE LANDRY MP
Federal Member for **Capricornia**

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

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