

# SLCMA Catchment News 2020



May/June 2020

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*Our office is currently closed to the public. We are still operating, please call on 4956 1388 and leave a message.*

### 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 9-12 noon—on hold until further notice.

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

### SLCMA Executive 2020

**Chair:** Mark Evans

**Vice-chair:** Karen May

**Treasurer:** Kevin Plumb

**Secretary:** Shirley Sidey

**Executive members:**

Sandy Evans

Lachlan McBride



## SLCMA News!

**Friendly reminder that membership renewals** for 20/21 are due. The membership fee remains at \$10 per person annually, with all of the great benefits. You are welcome to pay by internet banking, credit card or cash. Contact us, to workout the best option for you.

**SLCMA Office** — will soon be open for visitors again. In the meantime, please contact us via phone or email and we will be happy to assist any Landcare enquiries.

**SLCMA Community Nursery**—We have had a great response to the plant order form, please continue to use this form for any plant orders you may have including: free: membership, 'plant of the month' or project allocations as well as for purchasing plants. *If we have run out of a particular species we will contact you to discuss alternative species.*

**SLCMA Community Volunteer Program**—we are aiming to start our volunteer program up again soon—watch this space!

## Thankyou ..... :)

**Mackay Regional Council**—for organising the repair of the front gates to the SLCMA Office. We all think the gates are pretty swish and work great, we are very thankful.



**Hasting Deering—Underground Workshop**— for donating their spare gloves to us. They will be very 'handy' for SLCMA staff, volunteers and the community—to keep our hands clean & safe when working on our project sites: planting, weeding, rubbish clean-ups etc.

## SLCMA Revegetation Team— Out and about

The SLCMA Revegetation Team have been hard at work over recent months keeping our project sites in check. One particular site along Cherry Tree Creek has been tricky to access since the wet season — thankfully they overcame some challenges (boggy ground, COVID-19, over 2m high grass, flooded water pump, buried pipes) and have been able to prepare the site and then plant 620 native plants. Well done!

The project, funded through Reef Catchments aims to reinstate a section of riparian vegetation to help stabilise the creekbank. We look forward to working on the site into the future and helping the plants to grow. Many thanks to the landholder for their assistance with the project.



Image: S von Fahland



Image: A Campbell



Image: S von Fahland

SLCMA Revegetation Team working hard (& in the mud) on a local revegetation site

# Kate's Gully— a dash of interest, a pinch of 'Landcare' and a regular dose of hard work

Local landholders Mr & Mrs Gill, contacted SLCMA in 2017, after observing the impacts of surface water runoff, along a drainage line that runs through their property. The drainage line which is dry for most of the year, becomes a capture and release point for surface water runoff during rain events from neighbouring elevated land.

The main areas of concern were:

- ◆ a small culvert at the top of the catchment area where surface water is captured then directed into the drainage line. The water flowing out of the culvert during rain events, is fast flowing and consequently, eroding the surrounding banks of the drainage line.
- ◆ seasonal inundation of land adjacent to the drainage line
- ◆ erosion points along the drainage line

During the initial property visit, SLCMA staff were able to identify areas along the drainage line that required stabilisation, recommended a change in land management and prioritise onground works – with the aim to rehabilitate the drainage line, build stability and resilience into the banks, reduce erosion and improve water infiltration.

Initially, the drainage line consisted of a few mature native trees and some weedy herbs and shrubs such as urena burr, sicklepod and devils' fig. The area was being maintained with a combination of mowing and herbicide application. This was difficult to continue through the wet season when access was limited and it also created areas of bare soil; creating an ongoing cycle of management.

Over the last three years, Mrs Gill has received annual donations of coconut palm mulch from Landcare volunteer Gail Bradley and assistance from family members, including Landcare volunteer Shirley Sidey. She has changed the management of the area by undertaking selective weed control, mulching and revegetation with a variety of native plants.

- ◆ Smaller plants such as Lomandra, Dianella and sedges have been planted within the drain. The roots are now holding the soil and the tops of the plants are able to bend with the water flow during rainfall events.
- ◆ Native shrubs and trees have been planted along the higher edge of the drain.
- ◆ Groundcover is being maintained through blanket mulching while the plants are establishing. This has minimised bare soil, retained moisture and suppressed weed growth.
- ◆ The outside edge of the revegetation area is able to be maintained as a lawn – which helps reduce weed invasion.

The canopy of the plants are now coming together – meaning less maintenance; there is no more bare soil and the roots are holding the banks in previous 'washout' areas. An additional extra for this project, is the creation of a habitat area for local wildlife. While every drainage line and waterway is different and subject to different pressures – it is great to see what good things can happen when you start the process....remember to assess, plan, prioritise and of course start onground action. Congratulations to the Gill family on their efforts and many thanks for sharing your story.

## **Recipe for success in rehabilitating natural areas**

**Main Ingredients:** Dedicated landholders with a keen eye, able to recognise they might have a problem and who are willing to seek information.

**Method:** Regular dose of hard work and a pinch of "landcare".

## **FREE land management help for landholders—get in quick!**

**Do you have a waterway or creek that you would like to rehabilitate?** SLCMA is offering **free** land management assistance to eligible landholders, to help with creekbank rehabilitation.

To be eligible, your property must be within the Sarina catchment and have a waterway/creek that you would like to rehabilitate. Valued over \$950, landholders will receive a property visit from your local Landcare Officer, Land management and technical advice, Personalised Land Management Action Plan and information pack and, 40 free local native plants and guard kits; to assist in the rehabilitation of a waterway/creekbank on your property.

This project is in its final year, so get in quick. Spaces are limited, to express interest in participating please contact us on 4956 1388 or [admin@sarinalandcare.org.au](mailto:admin@sarinalandcare.org.au) This project is supported by Queensland Government's Community Sustainability Action Grant Program.



## A weed to watch out for....Water Mimosa

The importance of ongoing monitoring and identifying suspicious or unknown plants, has been highlighted recently with the presence of the invasive weed, Water Mimosa confirmed at Kuttabul, by Biosecurity Officers.

Water Mimosa (*Neptunia plena* or *N. oleracea*) is a long-lived aquatic plant that poses an extreme threat to waterways and wetlands. The plant can grow from seeds and from sections of stem that break free from the parent plant. Under favourable conditions, water mimosa grows out from the banks to form floating rafts of dense interwoven stems. These can be dislodged by water movement (especially during floods) and are soon replaced by more water mimosa. These floating rafts can restrict water flow in creeks, channels and drains. It can impede recreational watersports and boating access. The rafts are so dense they can reduce water quality by preventing light penetration and reducing oxygenation of water. This creates favourable habitat for mosquitoes and reduce fish activity, causing the death of native, submerged water plants and fish. It is also a known in Asian cooking and has been known to be distributed by gardeners.

Water Mimosa has compound leaves consisting of olive green leaflets, arranged in opposite pairs along the stem. When disturbed or touched the leaflets close up (similar to the Common Sensitive Plant (*Mimosa pudica*)). Water mimosa has yellow, ball-shaped flowers that grow from the base of the leaves.

Water mimosa are restricted invasive plants under the Biosecurity Act 2014. The Act requires that all sightings of water mimosa plants must be reported to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 within 24 hours of the sighting.

By law, everyone has a general biosecurity obligation to take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risk of spread of water mimosa until they receive advice from an authorised officer. It must not be kept, moved, given away, sold, or released into the environment without a permit.

For further information and identification please visit [biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://biosecurity.qld.gov.au).

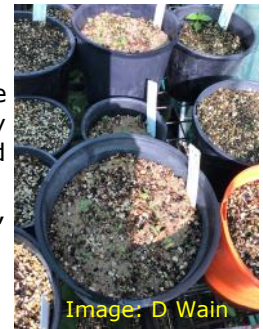
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## SLCMA Community Volunteer Program

Our volunteer mornings are currently on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions, however we are in the process of starting them up again soon and will be contacting our volunteers shortly to advise of the details. We definitely miss having our volunteers around and look forward to seeing you all soon.

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



## SLCMA Community Nursery 'Plant of the Month'

This month's 'Plant of the Month' is ***Sterculia quadrifida* Peanut Tree**

**Family: Steruliaceae**

**What is in a name?** *Sterculia* Latin *Sterculius*, the Roman god of manure heaps—refers to the smell of the flowers and leaves of some species; *quadrifida* Latin *quadri* four and *fidus* split—refers to the calyx lobes, which is in fours, rather than five as in most species.

**Form:** Small to medium, deciduous tree with spreading canopy, attractive foliage and fruit.

**Leaves:** Simple, alternate clustered in pseudo-whorls at the tips; ovate with a cordate base; 5-14cm long, slender petioles 1-5cm long with a swelling at each end; dark green and smooth above/ paler finely hairy below; veins prominent—clustered towards the ends of branchlets

**Flower:** Numerous lemon scented, creamy green to dull yellow bell-shaped flowers; occur mainly spring and summer.

**Fruit:** Boat shaped, bright orange-red (when ripe), woody capsule; splitting to reveal 2-8 glabrous seeds, 13-18mm long, with a shiny blue-black skin covering a creamy white kernel.

**Habitat:** Rainforest including littoral, riparian and dry types, associated open forests.

**Distribution:** Across northern tropical Australia, east coast to northern NSW.

**Notes:** The seeds are edible raw or cooked, tasting like peanuts (remove outer black skin). Hardy, fast growing. Prefers well drained soils, moderately resistant to drought. Useful shade or shelter tree and for coastal stabilisation.

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, Townsend (1994) Across the Top—Gardening with Australian Plants in the tropics.*



Fruit and seeds of the Peanut Tree



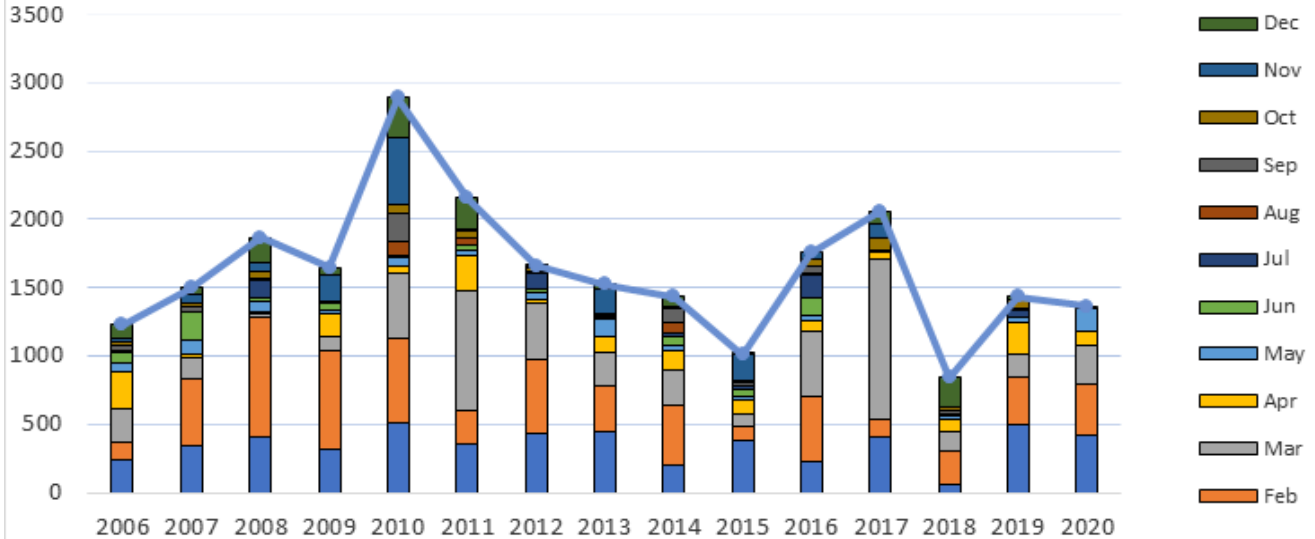
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## What SLCMA Membership does for you !

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 -2020 (inc annual total)



### Just for fun!

There are two reasons why you should never drink toilet water.  
 Number one. And number two.

H<sub>2</sub>O is water, but what is H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>?  
 It's for swimming and drinking, of course.

Why do scuba divers fall backwards into the water?  
 Because if they fell forwards, they would still be in the boat.



[Find us on facebook](#)



*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, through this we have raised **\$117.30** —Thankyou :)



**SLCMA is proudly supported by:**



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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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