

# SLCMA Catchment News 2025



**April**

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Sarina, QLD, 4737

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**Email:**

[admin@sarinalandcare.org.au](mailto:admin@sarinalandcare.org.au)

**Office hours:**

Mon/Wed: 9am-4pm

Tue/Thu: 9am-3pm

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

**Project Officer**

Rodney Fraser

**Nursery Officer/**

**Field Supervisor**

Susie Tomlinson

**Field Team Leader**

Dominique Jooste

**Field Team**

Adrian Brooks

Chris Vrsaljko

Josh Ernst

**Call us for information:**

◇ Weed management

◇ Plant identification

◇ Land management

◇ Land for Wildlife

**Volunteer opportunities:**

SLCMA Community

Volunteer Program,

Wednesday, 9-12 noon.

Thursday, 2-5pm.

**SLCMA Executive 24/25**

**Chair:** Lachlan McBride

**Vice-chair:** Malcolm Warfield

**Treasurer:** Susan Andrews

**Secretary:**

Karen May

**Executive member:**

Kath De Vita



## Sarina News!

### A huge shout-out to the best bank around – Community Bank Sarina!

Thank you for providing an incredibly valuable social media training opportunity over three nights for local community groups, including SLCMA.



Photo: Community Bank Sarina

Local community groups attend social media training

The sessions were packed with practical advice and insight. Jade from RebelNation expertly guided us through the dos and don'ts of social media, shared useful tips for effective posting, and helped us better understand how to use various platforms. What a fantastic initiative by Community Bank Sarina – we're excited to put what we've learned into action!

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### A big thank you to the team at BHP Mitsubishi Alliance (BMA), who recently

donated a second-hand 100L water tank and pump to SLCMA. This will be very handy for watering small plantings such as in the Sarina Community Native Gardens. We would like to thank BMA for their support.



Photo: S von Fahland

Saskia von Fahland (SLCMA) receiving the water tank from Thomas Wilson (BMA)

Community donations and involvement are key to the successfulness of not-for-profit organisations such as SLCMA and, we are very grateful for the support we receive from the community.

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### We have welcomed two new Field Officers to the SLCMA Team recently, Chris and Josh. It is great to have them on the team!

**A bit about Chris:** Most of my work experience has been in residential landscaping and earthworks, particularly within the construction and civil industries. I recently worked with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) in Mackay as part of the Red Witchweed program. When the contract came to an end, I transitioned to Sarina Landcare (SLCMA) where I've continued contributing to meaningful land management projects.

Before that, I ran a small landscaping and garden maintenance business on the Central Coast of NSW. This included lawn mowing, garden upkeep, building retaining walls, and undertaking concrete and paving works.

My family and I also spent nearly three years travelling through NSW, QLD, and the NT in our 17ft caravan. Along the way, we took on a range of house-sitting, farm-sitting, and caretaking roles. One of the most memorable experiences was living and working on a million-acre cattle station outside of Mataranka, NT, where I did grader and farm work for three months.



Photo: S von Fahland

I have a strong interest in regenerative agriculture and permaculture, and I enjoy learning alongside the revegetation team. I'm always keen to get stuck into brushcutting and hands-on land work. Outside of work, I love spending time in nature, learning about animals, and being with my wife and our three beautiful kids.

Find out about Josh in our next edition of SLCMA News!

Chris and Josh mulching in the Sarina Community Native Gardens (SCNG)

## SLCMA 'Plant of the Month'

This month's 'Plant of the Month' is: *Acacia flavescens* (Yellow Wattle)  
**Family:** *Fabaceae*

**What is in a name?** *Acacia* is of Greek origin and means "thorny" or "thorny tree." It is derived from the Greek word *ἀκλή* (ake), which translates to "thorn" or "sharp point". *Flavescens* is derived from Latin and means "becoming yellow" or "yellowish." This name refers to the yellowish hue of the tree's branchlets, young shoots, or flowers, which are a distinguishing feature of the species.

**Form:** Small to Medium tree, 4-20m high.

**Leaves:** Distinctive sickle-shape, thick, dark green, 9–24cm x 5cm, 2 or 3 longitudinal veins that form indentations on the margin.

**Flower:** 30-60, pale yellow flowers per head; ball-shaped heads, 0.5cm diameter.

**Fruit:** Seed pods are flat, leathery light brown, 6–8cm x 1cm. They are slightly constricted between seeds.

**Distribution:** Widespread in eastern Queensland, mainly in coastal areas, from Cape York to Brisbane, at altitudes between sea level and 1000m, although it is mostly found on the coastal plain.

**Notes:** Hardy, attractive, nitrogen-fixing and fast-growing, is useful for screens, and has also been used for stock food. Food plant for the larvae of multiple butterfly's.

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. Visit our [website](#) for latest plant order form. All plants are grown from locally sourced seed in the SLCMA Community Nursery by SLCMA staff and the SLCMA Volunteer team.



Acacia Flavescens, leaves & flowers



## Sarina Community Nursery Volunteer Program

A huge thank you to our amazing nursery volunteers for your ongoing dedication and hard work each week. Your support with the many day-to-day tasks—whether it's weeding, cleaning, sowing seeds, potting up plants, or washing pots—keeps the nursery thriving and vibrant.

We truly value not just your efforts, but the smiles, stories, and laughter you bring with you. It's always a pleasure to share good company while getting our hands dirty together.

A special shoutout as well for helping refresh the raised garden beds at the office. The new display of flowering natives looks fantastic and is already drawing the attention of our resident native bees—your work benefits more than just the nursery!



Volunteers working in the office raised garden beds



Photos: S.Tomlinson

**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 days, now every Wednesday, 9am to 12noon and Thursday, 2pm to 5pm.**

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

Left: Volunteers in the nursery  
Right: Our nursery frogs enjoying some shelter in the pipes :)



Photo: S.vonFahland

## Sarina Community Native Gardens

The Sarina Community Native Gardens (SCNG) are looking great, after all the lovely rain and now sunshine, together with some much-needed TLC from our dedicated field team and a fresh mow by the Council (thank you!). This hidden gem is ready to be explored! Discover our region's unique native flora on a self-guided stroll. Want more insight? Book a group guided walk with our friendly landcare staff. Whether you're a plant lover or a curious wanderer, there's something for everyone. Contact us at 4956 1388 or [admin@sarinalandcare.org.au](mailto:admin@sarinalandcare.org.au) to plan your visit today!



# MangroveWatch: Citizen Science with Purpose

[MangroveWatch](#) is a hands-on citizen science program delivering real impact by providing vital research to support the conservation and better management of our threatened tidal wetlands.

Thanks to the support of the **Great Barrier Reef Foundation**, **Earthwatch Australia** and **MangroveWatch** are bringing **free community events** to your area — and we're inviting you to get involved!

**2024 has been a milestone year for MangroveWatch**, with successful program launches in Townsville, Magnetic Island, and Mackay. Thanks to the passion and commitment of dedicated community members, citizen scientists, and Indigenous Rangers, significant progress in monitoring and protecting coastal habitats has been achieved.

Now, **Earthwatch Australia invites you to be part of the MangroveWatch Saltmarsh SAVERS surveys in Mackay**. Join these free community events to explore local saltmarshes and discover how you can contribute to their protection.

To ensure these events work best for you, a range of tide-aligned time slots are on offer—feel free to register for as many as you'd like! Your input will help determine the most convenient locations and times.

**Your involvement matters.** Scan the QR code to learn more and be part of this important initiative.

*The MangroveWatch programs are part of Earthwatch Australia's 'Climate Resilience Champions' Program, supported by partnerships with the Australian Government [#ReefTrust](#), Great Barrier Reef Foundation, and the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.*



SLCMA staff joined in a Saltmarsh SAVERS survey recently near Campwin Beach. It was fantastic to see the area alive with critters, including these mud lobsters—an important nocturnal burrower that helps to recycle nutrients in mangrove ecosystems.

**earthwatch**  
AUSTRALIA



Photo: S von Fahland

Home of the mighty mud lobster, *Thalassina* sp.

## Riparian Fencing & Off-Stream Watering Point Grant

Reef Catchments has received funding under the Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund administered by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority to undertake the "Continuing the Path to Regional Resilience: Advancing Nature-based Solutions" program.

The program supports landholders across the Mackay Whitsunday Isaac region to implement riparian, wetlands or coastal vegetation fencing, enhancing resilience to tropical cyclones and flooding, while mitigating erosion and reducing sedimentation in our waterways.

### Increasing Riparian Resilience to Severe Weather Events

Creeks and streams that have good vegetation coverage on banks and adjacent riparian land have greater resistance to the effects of severe events such as floods and cyclones. Disturbance from stock and pest animals can damage stream bank vegetation, leading to significant erosion damage and often loss of productive agricultural land.

We can be proactive in maintaining and enhancing the resilience of our streambanks and riparian areas by installing fencing and associated off-stream watering points to control stock access and exclude pest animals.

Benefits of Riparian Fencing include:

- Increases resilience against extreme weather events
- Improve stock management
- Protect crops by removing safe havens for pest animals
- Improve property values and aesthetics
- Increase biodiversity
- Prevents loss of productive agricultural land



Photo: Reef Catchments

Example of riparian stock fencing

### There are three funding categories available for Riparian Fencing:

- Riparian fencing for stock control (up to 40% of total cost to a maximum of \$6,000/km)
- Riparian fencing for pest exclusion (up to 40% of total cost to a maximum of \$7,200/km)
- Off stream watering points (up to 40% of total cost to a maximum of \$7,000, or \$11,000 if a new bore is required for the first watering point; and a maximum of \$2000 for each additional watering point).

For more information or for a copy of the Expression of Interest; scan the QR code, visit [Reef Catchments website](#) or contact Project Officer Kimberley Bland: 07 4968 4200 or [kimberley.bland@reefcatchments.com](mailto:kimberley.bland@reefcatchments.com)





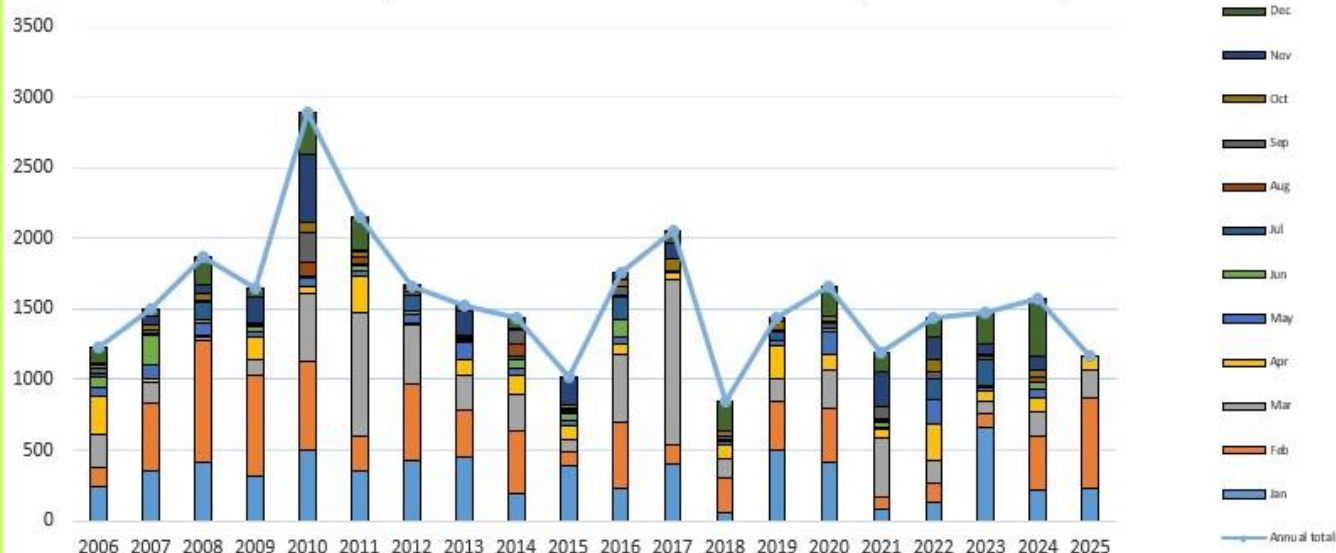
**Address:** 101 Sarina Beach Rd, Sarina QLD 4737  
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**Email:** [admin@sarinalandcare.org.au](mailto:admin@sarinalandcare.org.au)

## 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 -2025 (inc. annual total)



Please consider donating your Containers for Change to SLCMA. You can quote SLCMA's Scheme ID#C10002138 when you deposit your eligible containers **or**, you can drop your containers to us. 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**



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

### Just for fun!

**Q:** Why shouldn't you iron a four-leaf clover?  
**A:** Because you shouldn't press your luck.

**Q:** Why did the plant go to the psychiatrist?  
**A:** To get to the root of the problem.

**Q:** Why did the tree go to the dentist?  
**A:** To get its root canal done.



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**SLCMA is proudly supported by:**



Community Bank  
 Sarina

**Bendigo Bank**

