

SLCMA Catchment News 2025



June

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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!

Invasive Grasses workshop— Our SLCMA team recently attended an Invasive Grasses Workshop hosted by Reef Catchments and presented by Biosecurity Queensland. It was an informative day exploring the identification, management strategies and impacts of invasive grasses such as grader grass, giant rat's tail grass and gamba grass. Some of these are total landscape changers, especially if left unmanaged. It was also a rare and welcome moment to have all three landcare groups from our region (as part of the Central QLD Coast Landcare Network) in the same room.



Photo: contributed

Landcare staff get-together at Invasive Grasses workshop



Photo: N McDougall

A big thank you to Glen Kelly MP for his recent donation of \$1,000 towards the SLCMA Community Nursery and our volunteer program; your support is appreciated.

L-R: Glen Kelly MP, Cr Karen May & Susie Tomlinson (Nursery Officer) in SLCMA Community Nursery

**** Correction May SLCMA Newsletter** In the Notch Point article we mistakenly stated that the Leatherback turtle nests at Notch Point. This was incorrect, it is the Flatback Turtle that uses Notch Point as a nesting beach. We apologise for the error and thank our readers for their understanding **

Cape Palmerston Community Clean-up

We're calling all ocean lovers, nature enthusiasts, and eco-warriors to roll up their sleeves and be part of something truly impactful!

SLCMA, together with the YUWI Rangers and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service are undertaking marine debris and litter collection at Cape Palmerston National Park — and we want YOU to be a part of it! The Cape Palmerston Community Marine Debris Collection and Monitoring Project is more than just a clean-up — it's a mission to protect our stunning coastline, marine life, and delicate ecosystems from the growing threat of marine debris.

What's it all about?

- **Collect & protect:** We'll be actively removing litter and marine debris from the beach — giving marine turtles, seabirds, and other wildlife a safer, cleaner home.
- **Track & learn:** We're putting science into action! By using proven marine debris monitoring methods, we'll help build a clearer picture of where debris is coming from and how we can stop it.
- **Inspire change:** Through education and community action, we're spreading the word about how we can all reduce waste and protect our coastlines for generations to come.

This is your chance to make a difference, connect with community, and spend a rewarding day in one of Queensland's most beautiful National Parks.

When: Friday 15th & Saturday 16th August 2025

What to bring: Hat, long-sleeved shirt, closed-in shoes, water bottle

What's provided: Waste collection bags, gloves, sunscreen, insect repellent, some catering & drinking water.

Own transport for beach driving is essential! To express your interest in attending and find out more details including meeting times & location please contact us on 4956 1388 or email: admin@sarinalandcare.org.au



Photo: Tanagera Blue

Cape Palmerston NP marine debris litter collection



SLCMA 'Plant of the Month'

This month's 'Plant of the Month' is: *Acacia holosericea* (Silver Wattle)

Family: Fabaceae

What is in a name? *Acacia* comes from the Greek (akis), a thorn or spike; *holosericea* is from the Greek word (holos), whole, complete, and the Latin word *sericeus*, silky.

Form: Spreading shrub to 3m, with a spread of about 4m, very quick-growing, but fairly short-lived (approx. 5 years).

Leaves: There are two types of *Acacia* leaves: true leaves on young seedlings – these are feathery looking, called bipinnate; and phyllodes on more mature plants, which are flattened leaf stalks modified to function like leaves. All young seedlings of *Acacia* have bipinnate leaves, some retain this characteristic all their lives. The 'phyllodes' of *A. holosericea* are grey-green covered in silky white hairs, ovate-lanceolate, with 3 or 4 prominent veins.

Flower: Bright yellow, rod-like, 3 – 6cm long, appear between May and July.

Fruit: Twisted, seed pods, 3 – 5cm long, remain on plant after seed has fallen. Shiny dark brown seeds, 3.5mm long with a bright yellow aril (fleshy appendage attached to the seed).

Distribution: Native to Queensland, Northern Territory, and the northern parts of Western Australia.

Notes: In some areas this was a very important plant to the Aboriginal peoples. A concoction of leaves and pods was put into the water to kill small fish. The seeds are very nutritious, and can be roasted, boiled like lentils, or steamed with vegetables. The roasted seeds have a nutty flavour popular with children who have little access to sweets. This is a food tree for the larvae of *Jalmenus eichhorni*, the Northern Imperial Blue butterfly.

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](https://www.somemagneticislandplants.com.au/plants/soapbush-wattle) 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.

Information sourced from: <https://www.somemagneticislandplants.com.au/plants/soapbush-wattle>, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acacia_holosericea



Photos: S von Fahland



Top: Form of Silver wattle
Middle: Seed pods
Bottom: Flowers

Sarina Community Nursery Volunteer Program

Our volunteer sessions in the nursery have been wonderfully productive. We've made great progress potting on plants, weeding tubestock, cleaning and sowing seed, and washing loads of pots and trays. The momentum was briefly interrupted by a mother possum and her young joey, spotted feasting on some newly planted seedlings. Fortunately, we were able to possum-proof the shade house, which seems to have encouraged the hungry pair to move on. It's always a delicate balance for a plant nursery to coexist with a resident possum family!

As usual, we wrapped up the month with a seed-collecting trip—this time to Hay Point. We successfully gathered seed from several native species, including *Vigna marina* -Dune Bean, *Cyperus pedunculatus* -Pineapple sedge, and *Diospyros geminata* -Queensland ebony.



Photo: S. Tomlinson

SLCMA Volunteers at Hay Point foreshore

While there was less seed available than hoped, our volunteers made a big impact by removing a significant amount of rubbish and marine debris from the area. Their efforts not only support native plant regeneration but also help protect the broader ecosystem. We're incredibly grateful for their ongoing dedication to caring for our natural environment.

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, 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.

Sarina Community Native Gardens

The Sarina Community Native Gardens is a hidden gem 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 to plan your visit today!



Photo: S. Tomlinson

A big month for the SLCMA team – from beaches to bushland!

June has been a big month for SLCMA, with our dedicated landcare team and incredible community making real progress in caring for our local environment. From marine debris surveys and coastal rehabilitation to improving koala habitat and lending hand in the local native medicinal garden, we have been busy around the catchment and we are proud to share what we've achieved together! Here is a snapshot of what we have been up to:

Grasstree Beach Weed Warriors- We kicked off the month with an energising Weed Warrior event alongside enthusiastic residents of Grasstree Beach. Together, we removed 200kg of invasive garden escapees that were illegally dumped and spreading in local bushland. The main culprits were Yellow Allamanda, Mother-in-Law's Tongue and Agave. Thanks to the keen eyes and helping hands of the community, this beautiful bushland is now one step closer to its natural glory!



Photo: S von Fahland

Weed Warrior Team ready for action



Photo: S von Fahland

Collecting marine debris at Cape Palmerston NP

Cape Palmerston marine debris and litter collection—Our marine debris and litter collection project at Cape Palmerston is powering ahead! With the first of four community clean-ups being held on 16th June, we removed over 50kg of marine debris and litter from this fragile coastal ecosystem. A huge thank you to Yuwi Rangers and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service staff who joined us for the event and, Tangaroa Blue and Isaac Regional Council for their support in waste disposal. Over half the waste collected was able to be recycled including 'containers for change'; with the remainder destined for landfill. We would love to see you at our next community clean-up event in August. This project has received funding support from the Queensland Government's Community Sustainability Action grant Program.



Photo: S von Fahland

Working bee at Sarina Hospital YUWI medicinal garden

Sarina Hospital community working bee – Celebrating the Sarinan Hospital YUWI medicinal garden What a joy it was to return and help out in the Sarina Hospital YUWI medicinal garden on 26th June. Volunteers, hospital staff and our Landcare team spent the morning spreading mulch, installing plant labels, weeding and enjoying how well this culturally significant garden is establishing. The plants were planted in November 2024 and are flourishing, with most already flowering and fruiting. The project is coordinated by the Sarina Hospital with assistance from SLCMA, YUWI Rangers and Sarina Youth Centre. It's not just a garden — it's a living connection to traditional knowledge and local healing plants.

Revegetation works at Notch Point – A habitat under restoration

We are continuing to work closely with Isaac Regional Council on their restoration project at Notch Point. Last year, the SLCMA team installed fencing along the coastal dune and the endangered coastal vine thicket to help protect these sensitive areas. The next step in the restoration project is revegetation, which began in early June, with over 600 native plants in the ground. The remaining 2400 (grown in the SLCMA Community Nursery) will be planted in the coming months. This stunning coastal site is well on its way to a healthier future for both wildlife and visitors.



Photo: D Jooste

Revegetation—Notch Point Reserve



Photo: D Jooste

Revegetation—creating and linking koala habitat

Sarina Koala Habitat Restoration

The Sarina Koala Habitat Restoration project through Reef Catchments has been a great opportunity for our SLCMA team to help out local landholders while enhancing important koala habitat. It is definitely a team effort with our Project Officer working closely with Reef Catchments and the landholders to design and plan each project site. Our Nursery Officer & volunteer team growing the native plants in the SLCMA Community Nursery. And our Field Team on the ground undertaking site preparation, planting and maintenance of the sites. This month, over 500 plants have been planted in the ground through the project—well done team! This amazing project is helping many landholders restore vital koala habitat in the Sarina catchment.

What an action packed month!!

It's been a month full of hard work, strong partnerships, and passionate community involvement — and we couldn't be prouder. Thank you to everyone who pitched in, showed up, or supported our mission in any way.

Let's keep the momentum going – Everywhere you go, leave it better than you found it.



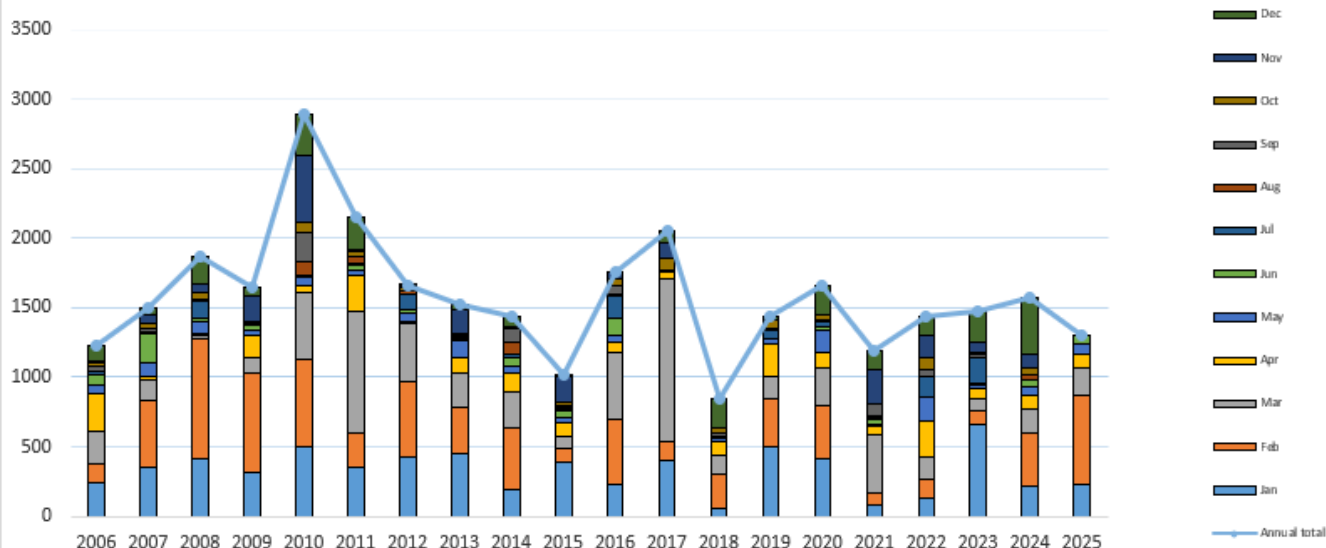
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Email: admin@sarinalandcare.org.au

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 do plants hate maths?
A: Because it gives them square roots.

P: I tried to make a belt out of herbs, but it was a waste of Thyme.

Q: Why did the gardener plant a seed in the computer?
A: He wanted to grow his website.



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 Sarina

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