

SLCMA Catchment News 2025



May

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Sarina, QLD, 4737

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Email:

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!

Meet Josh – Our Newest Field Team Member!

We're thrilled to welcome a new face to the Landcare team – Josh, a proud local with a passion for the great outdoors and a deep love for the land he calls home.

Josh brings with him a strong work ethic honed from three years as a barista and hands-on experience doing mowing and maintenance work around Armstrong Beach and Freshwater Point. His commitment to helping others shines through in everything he does – whether it's supporting the community, improving quality of life, or protecting the environment.

A true local, Josh is driven by the desire to care for the land he grew up on. When he's not hard at work with the field team, you'll find him fishing, camping, and spending time with animals – all things that fuel his love for nature and the outdoors.

Josh is especially excited about Landcare's mission of rehabilitating the local environment, and we're just as excited to have him on board. His enthusiasm, local knowledge, and can-do attitude make him a fantastic addition to the team. Next time you see Josh out in the field, be sure to say hello and give him a warm welcome!



Photo: R Fraser

Field Officer Josh Ernst

Celebrating the SLCMA Community Nursery Expansion

We had a fantastic time celebrating a major milestone – the official opening of our Community Nursery expansion! It was wonderful to see so many friendly faces on the day. We'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our dedicated volunteers, passionate members, hardworking staff, and generous supporters.

This expansion marks an exciting new chapter for our nursery. With the additional space and improved facilities, we're now better equipped to grow a wider variety and greater number of native plants. This means more opportunities to engage volunteers, host educational workshops, and support local landholders and community groups with high-quality, locally sourced native species.

Importantly, this growth will help us meet the increasing demand for plants that are native to our region – a vital step in restoring and protecting the unique biodiversity of the Sarina Catchment. By providing plants that are adapted to our local conditions, we can contribute more effectively to revegetation projects, erosion control, wildlife habitat restoration, and broader ecosystem resilience.

Together, we're building a greener, healthier future for our environment and community. A huge thank you to our supporters: Community Bank Sarina, Mackay Regional Council, Dowdens Plumbing and Water Treatment, Daly Bay and ATCO.



Glen Kelly MP, Maree Franettovich (Community Bank Sarina), Lachlan McBride (SLCMA Chair)



Attendees at the celebration



Photo: A Matsen



Photo: H Dangerfield

L: Attendees at the celebration

R: Cr Ash-Lee Johnson, Susie Tomlinson, Saskia von Fahland, Cr Nathenea MacRae

SLCMA 'Plant of the Month'

This month's 'Plant of the Month' is: *Alphitonia excelsa* (Red Ash) **Family:** Rhamnaceae

What is in a name? *Alphitonia* is derived from the Greek αλφίτον (alphiton), barley meal, and refers to the dry, mealy quality of the mesocarp in the fruits; *excelsa* is from Latin *excelsus*, elevated, high.

Form: Reaches a height of 7–25m, by 5–10m across, spreading shade-producing habit when a larger tree with an overall greyish green appearance.

Leaves: Alternate leaves, 5–14cm x 2–5cm, dark glossy green above, silvery with fine hairs underneath.

Flower: Small greenish white flowers in late autumn and early winter .

Fruit: Globular dark fruit around 1.5 cm in diameter, which contains two seeds.

Distribution: Grows in eucalypt forests, coastal scrub, gallery forests and rainforests. Endemic to Australia, found in New South Wales, Queensland, Northern Territory and the northeastern tip of Western Australia.

Notes: The leaves are eaten by many insects, often giving the tree a ragged appearance. These insects attract a number of bird species, especially cockatoos. It is also a food plant for many lepidoptera caterpillars. Indigenous Australians used the leaves as a soap and fish poison due to the plant's high saponin content.

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.

Information sourced from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alphitonia_excelsa, <https://www.somemagneticislandplants.com.au/plants/red-ash>



Photos: S von Fahland

Red Ash (*Alphitonia excelsa*)

Top: Flowers & leaf

Middle: Dark ripe fruit and silver leaf underside

Bottom: Form

Sarina Community Nursery Volunteer Program

May has been a wonderfully productive month at the nursery. Our hardworking volunteers have been busy with a range of essential tasks, keeping everything running smoothly behind the scenes. To celebrate their dedication, we hosted a special morning tea during National Volunteers Week as a small token of our appreciation.

This month, we also welcomed some guest volunteers who joined us for our Wednesday morning session as part of a Certificate III course offered by Ideal Placements. It was a pleasure to have them on board, and we hope the experience provided valuable hands-on learning in a supportive environment.

A highlight of the month was the official opening of the nursery expansion — a proud milestone made possible through the support of our generous sponsors, valued stakeholders, and, most importantly, our incredible volunteers.

We will be rounding out the month with a field trip to Freshwater Point for a seed-collecting excursion — a fantastic opportunity to support future nursery growth while enjoying time in the field together.

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.



Photo: S Tomlinson



Photo: S von Fahland



Photo: S Tomlinson

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 to plan your visit today!



Photo: S. Tomlinson

Join us to help tackle marine debris at Cape Palmerston NP



Photos: S von Fahland

Yuwi Rangers, SLCMA & QPWS staff with sorted marine debris

SLCMA is working together with Yuwi Rangers and QPWS to tackle marine debris at Cape Palmerston National Park. To date we have undertaken marine debris survey training with Tangaroa Blue and have begun regular marine debris monitoring surveys at Cape Palmerston, will collect vital data to help inform future conservation efforts.



Thanks to the survey team for their help :)



Setting up transects, ready to collect marine debris

We are now gearing up for the first of four Community Clean-Up events, which will take place on Monday 16th June at Cape Palmerston. These events are more than just clean-ups—they're a call to action and an opportunity to educate and empower the community. Participants will be removing significant volumes of rubbish from the stunning beaches of Cape Palmerston, helping to restore and protect this unique coastal environment for future generations.

We encourage everyone—individuals, families, and community groups—to get involved. Together, we can make a real difference in the fight against marine debris and support a cleaner, healthier environment. If you are interested in joining us on Monday 16th June or future clean up events, please contact us on 4956 1388.

Let's work together to protect our coasts!

The Cape Palmerston Clean-Up Initiative: Community Marine Debris Collection and Monitoring" Project is proudly supported through the Queensland Governments Community Sustainability Action grant program.

Notch Point Restoration Project

**** A special shout—out to Environment and Sustainability Team at Isaac Regional Council, who were recognised recently for being a finalist in the Collaboration category at the LGMA Queensland Awards of Excellence. Being for their impactful work on restoring coastal habitats on this project at Notch Point and with Koinmerburra Aboriginal Corporation at the St Lawrence Wetlands. Congratulations! ****

We have been working closely with the Isaac Regional Council to implement vital restoration efforts at Notch Point—a unique and ecologically important area under increasing pressure from human activity.

The beautiful Notch Point Reserve is home to endangered "Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Vine Thicket" (aka beach scrub), delicate sand dunes, and a vital nesting beach for the Leatherback Turtle. However, these natural features have been under threat from uncontrolled camping, beach driving, vegetation removal for firewood, illegal dumping, and cattle.

What we have completed:

- **Replaced bollard fencing:** Approximately 500m of bollards have been replaced and relocated approximately 2m further inland, along the coastal esplanade. This change allows for natural dune recovery and rehabilitation.
- **Educational signage:** Four new signs have been installed—one at the beach entrance to guide visitors, and three around the campsite to raise awareness about the local ecosystem, including the endangered vine thicket, the dunes, and turtle nesting zones.
- **Wildlife-friendly fencing:** At the northern end of the beach, 140m of deteriorated fencing has been replaced with wildlife-friendly fencing to protect the endangered coastal thicket vegetation.

Next stage—Revegetation!

- **Dune rehabilitation:** A mix of native coastal plants will be planted along the coastal dune to create a healthier, more resilient dune system. This will help stabilise the dunes, improve vegetation connectivity and safe place for marine turtle nesting, while maintaining the aesthetic value of the area for campers.
- **Enhancing coastal thicket:** A mix of native beach scrub plants will be planted to fill in gaps around the existing endangered vegetation to improve the vegetation cover and provide protection to existing vegetation.

These efforts mark a significant step forward in preserving the unique environment at Notch Point while supporting responsible recreation. Community awareness and support are essential to the long-term success of this project. Together, we can ensure Notch Point remains a haven for wildlife and a beautiful destination for future generations.



Photos: H Lynch



Top to bottom:
* Old bollards and new bollards
* Old wire fence and new fence



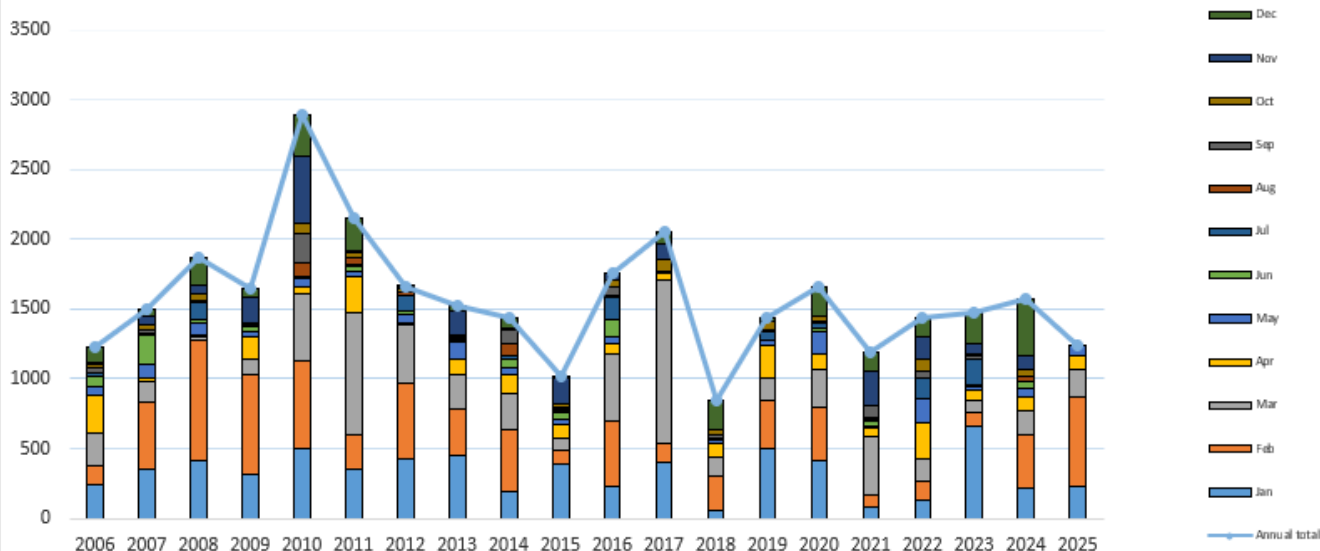
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What SLCMA Membership does for you!

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 -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



SLCMA's Scheme ID
C10002138



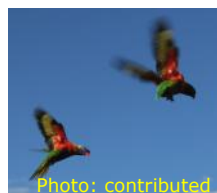
A partnership for the natural resource management of catchments in the Central Queensland Coast Bioregion: Pioneer, Sarina & Whitsunday Catchments.

Just for fun!

Q: What plant can you grow in your hand?
A: A palm tree.

Q: What has pincers and grows on trees?
A: Crabapples

Q: What did the grey rock say to the green rock?
A: I'm lichen your colour.



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SLCMA is proudly supported by:



Community Bank
 Sarina

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