

SLCMA Catchment News



Jan/Feb 2017

Office: 101 Sarina Beach Rd
Postal: PO Box 682
Sarina QLD 4737
Phone: (07) 4956 1388
Fax: (07) 4956 2944
Email:
admin@sarinalandcare.org.au
www.sarinalandcare.org.au

**SLCMA Office is
OPEN
Monday to Friday**

Coordinator

Lara Mathewson

Administration Officer

Nadine Hamill

Nursery Officer

Sandy Whittington—Shaw

Technical Officer

Saskia von Fahland

Call us for information:

- ◇ Weed management
- ◇ Plant identification
- ◇ Land management
- ◇ Local projects
- ◇ FREE property visits
- ◇ Land for Wildlife

Volunteer opportunities:

SLCMA Community
Volunteer Program:

- ◇ Wednesday 9-12noon:
Seed collecting, native
plant propagation at the
SLCMA Community
Nursery

SLCMA Executive 16/17

Chair:

Gloria Murray

Secretary / Vice-chair:

Greg Melvin

Treasurer:

Jenny Price

Executive Member:

Shirley Sidey



Sarina Community Native Gardens

In 2009 we began the journey of transforming an area of lawn adjacent to the SLCMA Office, into the Sarina Community Native Gardens. The main purpose of the gardens is to demonstrate and promote the use of native plant in gardens and landscaping situations instead of using other potentially weedy garden plants. It also provides an educational opportunity for locals & visitors to learn about local native plants, their benefits & uses in various situations.

Over the last eight years, we have met many milestones and achievements including the installation of a seasonal wetland, walking track, boardwalk and themed gardens including the sensory gardens and local habitats. A highlight was the official opening in 2013 by gardening guru, Costa Georgiadis with over 150 Sarina and Mackay locals in attendance.

The establishment of the plants is well under way with many already flowering, fruiting and providing habitat to a variety of native birds and other wildlife. The gardens are home to several endangered local plant species and serve as an opportunity to preserve these species. The gardens are a valuable seed collection source for the SLCMA Community Nursery. Additionally the gardens provide invaluable volunteering opportunities to local residents, enabling disability workers and others the opportunity to gain hands on work required for benefits payments.

The Sarina Community Native Gardens began with funding received through the QLD Government Natural Resource Awareness Grants and Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal and, later the Mackay Regional Council Natural Environment Program. Over the years, and during various aspects of the development and maintenance of the gardens we have received in-kind support from Mackay Regional Council, Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens, Society for Growing Australian Plants, Conservation Volunteers Australia, BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance and ongoing support from volunteers.

From humble begins (top image) to a thriving ecosystem (bottom image)

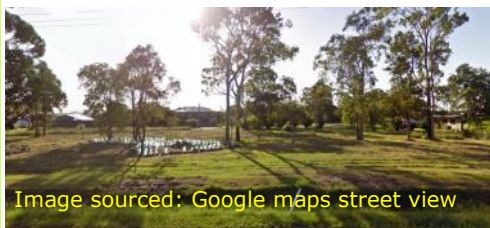


Image sourced: Google maps street view



Image: L. Mathewson

SLCMA is proud of the Sarina Community Native Gardens and its growth over the years, much work is required to maintain the gardens especially during these wet warm months. If you would like to become a volunteer or find out more about the gardens, please contact SLCMA on 49561388.

Dung Beetle Breeding Trial

SLCMA has received funding from Reef Catchments to participate in a dung beetle breeding trial. The trial is aimed at determining the optimal breeding density for the dung beetle *Onitis viridulus*, in the Mackay district.



Image: CSIRO

When there is large amounts of dung buried in a small area, the environment in the soil where the dung is buried (and where the larvae breed) becomes quite moist and can become hostile to the survival of larvae. The trial will compare three plots of varying dung and beetle densities to determine at what density the conditions become hostile.



Image: L. Mathewson

The trial is being conducted in partnership with the Ted Malone Rural Skills Centre (TMRSC) with technical advice provided by Dung Beetle Solutions. Results from the trial will be used by the TMRSC to efficiently breed dung beetles for release in the local farming community.

Left: Trial plots at the TMRSC.
Above: *Onitis viridulus*

SLCMA Community Volunteer Program *by Sandy Whittington—Shaw*

There was some concern prior to the Christmas break over monitoring and keeping the nursery stock well watered as it had been so hot and dry in the lead up to the office closure. However, that turned out to be the least of our worries! Peter and Sandy spent a lot of time tidying up around the site, including in the shade house, where plenty of space was made in preparation for busy new year ahead. A couple of bush tucker plants were also added to the 'taste' end of the sensory garden.

When it was dry enough, Greg, Peter and Sandy hooked in for a HOT morning of concrete block filling, finishing off the new potting mix bays ready for use. It looks great! Funding for the new potting bays was received under the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal Pty Ltd Community Sponsorship Program. Also, welcome back to all the hard working volunteers who contribute in so many different ways!

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.



Did You Know?



The Queensland Government has decided to introduce a legislated ban on the lightweight supermarket-style plastic shopping bags which make up the bulk of plastic bag use.

At the same time the government wants to lead national action to work with department stores on voluntary initiatives to reduce the use of the heavier plastic bags.

To find out more information visit: <http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/waste/pdf/plastic-bag-discussion-paper.pdf> - last

Feral Pig Aerial Control Program

The annual Aerial Feral Pig Control Program took place in January 2017 with landholders from Carmila Creek and Rocky Dam Catchments participating. The program began in 2008 with a partnership between SLCMA, Reef Catchments and local landholders, all keen to see on-ground action and a reduction in pig damage to productive farmland and the natural environment. To date, the program has significantly contributed to a reduction in the number of feral pigs, especially large breeders in the Carmila Creek and Rocky Dam Catchments. Landholders have seen a drastic improvement in the health of useable farming land in the catchments as well as improvements in the surrounding mangrove ecology and biodiversity.



L-R: Jim Swan (Landholder) and Mark Sant (Aerial Shooter)
Photo: Emily Smith

This year the control program was delayed due to a longer cane crushing season. Results for the two catchments show populations are reducing but complacency should not set in. In total, 18 pigs and 1 wild dog were controlled during this year's control event. Ongoing control is required to keep the populations of wild dogs and feral pigs at a manageable level.

Land for Wildlife Program



Raelene and Malcolm McDonald have been Land For Wildlife participants since January 2015. Their property has an abundant coverage of remnant vegetation conforming to the Regional Ecosystem (8.12.12) - *Eucalyptus tereticornis* and/or *E. Platyphlla* and/or *Lophostemon suaveolens* and/or *Corymbia spp.* Open forest to woodlands. Due to the

absence of fire, rainforest species are beginning to establish in areas across the property. The property hosts a large diversity of native species in the understorey including native vines, ferns and young emergent species. The understorey also contains fallen wood and rocky outcrops for wildlife to flourish.



If you would like more information on the Land for Wildlife Program or are interested in becoming a Land for Wildlife member please contact SLCMA staff on 4956 1388 or call into our office at 101 Beach Road, Sarina. Email SLCMA Coordinator Lara Mathewson on coordinator@sarinalandcare.org

The Land for Wildlife Program is funded by the Mackay Regional Council Natural Environment Levy.

SLCMA Community Nursery "Plant of the Month"

This month's 'Plant of the Month' is *Fluggea virosa*, Snowball bush

Family: Phyllanthaceae

What is in a name? *Fluggea*, after German cryptogamic botanist John Flugge. *Virosa*, from the Latin stinking, fetid, poisonous.

Form: A medium to large tree, 8 - 20m high, with spreading crown; it does not have aerial roots; may be deciduous in the dry season. Older trees to 35m may be found, usually with heavily buttressed bases.

Leaves: Leaves produced on long shoots not on short lateral shoots from the main twigs. Leaf blades about 3.5-6.5 x 2-3.5 cm. Petiole grooved or channelled on the upper surface. Stipules triangular, about 2 mm long. Larger twigs longitudinally grooved or ribbed.

Inflorescences: Flowers about 10-20 per fascicle. Flowers about 2 mm diam., pedicels about 3-4 mm long. Apex of the perianth lobes slightly fimbriate. Anthers about 0.4-0.7 mm long, filaments interspersed with five green glands. Ovary seated on a thin disk. Stigmas three, each ending in two or more lobes.

Fruit: Fruits +/- globular, almost pure white when mature. Tepals persistent at the base of the fruit and styles persistent at the apex. Cotyledons slightly wider than the radicle. yellow to crimson, often splitting, in clusters on stalks arising from the trunk and older branches.

Habitat: Along stream banks and on rainforest margins.

Distribution: Occurs in WA, NT, Cape York Peninsula, NE QLD and southwards as far as south-eastern Queensland. Altitudinal range from near sea level to 400 m. Grows in open forest, vine thickets and monsoon forest. Also occurs in New Guinea



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. Please contact SLCMA for more information.

Information and image was sourced from: Australian Tropical Rainforest Plants (Australia) http://keys.trin.org.au/key-server/data/0e0f0504-0103-430d-8004-060d07080d04/media/Html/taxon/Fluggea_virosa_subsp._melanthesoides.htm.

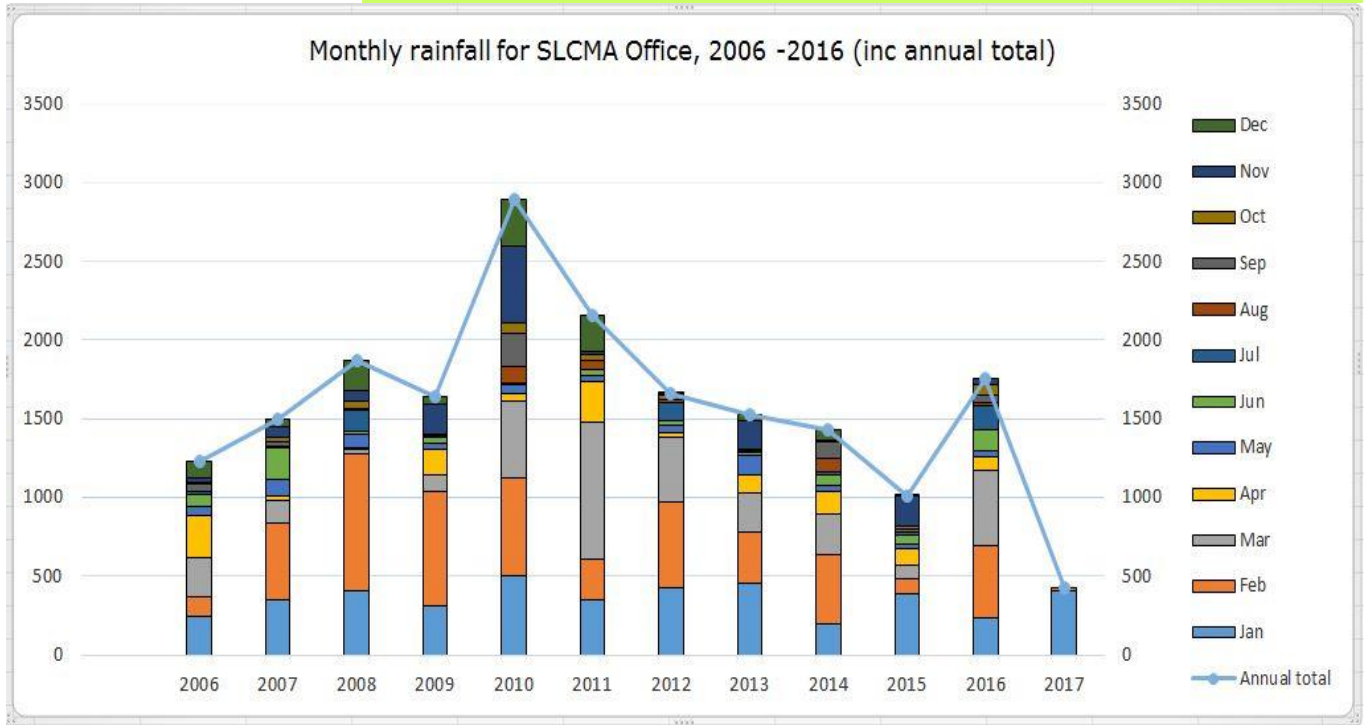


What SLCMA Membership does for you !

A membership with SLCMA has many rewards:

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- ◇ 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 !

What is the biggest ant in the world?
 An elephant!

What do you call an ant dipped in chocolate? Decad-ant

Why don't anteaters get sick?
 Because they are full of antibodies!

Did you hear about the ant that was good at solving quadratic equations?
 He was brill-ant.

YOU CAN TELL THE GENDER OF AN ANT BY THROWING IT IN WATER



IF IT SINKS=GIRLANT...IF IT FLOATS=BUOYANT

Upcoming Events & Significant Dates

- ◇ Feb 28—Business Clean Up day
- ◇ Mar 03—Schools Clean Up day and World Wildlife day
- ◇ Mar 5—11—National Groundwater Week
- ◇ Mar 8—Internationally Women's Day

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SLCMA is proudly supported by:



DBCT MANAGEMENT



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

Sarina Community Bank® Branch

together with

RURAL BANK

Bendigo Bank

Michelle LANDRY MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR CAPRICORNIA

07 4943 2722 | Michelle.Landry.mp@aph.gov.au | Michelle Landry MP

Authorised by M.Landry, Shop B, Sarina Beach Shopping Centre, Sarina 4737.