

# SLCMA Catchment News



**December 2017/  
January 2018**

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**SLCMA Office is OPEN  
every weekday,  
9-12noon  
(afternoon by prior  
arrangement)**

#### Coordinator

Saskia von Fahland

#### Administration Officer

Nadine Hamill

#### Nursery Officer

Sandy Whittington—Shaw

#### 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 17/18

##### Chair:

Gloria Murray

##### Vice-chair:

Greg Melvin

##### Treasurer:

Jenny Price

##### Secretary:

Chris Brown



## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

On behalf of SLCMA staff and Management Committee we would like to wish you, our volunteers, members and project partners a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!

The SLCMA Office will be closed from 16 December to (& including) 8 January 2018.

## Shade sail is up and ready for visitors



Image: N. Hamill

Our workspace around the Sustainable Gardens is now under shade thanks to Mackay Shade Sails and funding received through the *Queensland Government's Community Sustainability Action Grants*. The shading will provide a sun-safe area for volunteers, youth and community members while visiting and utilising the educational precinct. The project also included the installation of solar panels for the SLCMA office, in October this year.

## Aerial Feral Pig Control Program coming up!

The Aerial Feral Pig Control Program for the Koumala and Carmila Catchments, is scheduled for the week of 10-15 Dec (weather permitting). Every morning between 10-10.30am (from the 11 December), while the aerial control is occurring, Nadine (SLCMA) and Mark (Mackay Regional Council Pest Officer) will meet the helicopter and shooter at the Koumala Gymkhana grounds. This is an opportunity for landholders who may have any questions, concerns or would like to know more about the Aerial Feral Pig Control Program to come and chat. If you are a landholder in this area and would like to participate, please contact SLCMA on 4956 1388.

*The aerial control is a part of the Coordinated Feral Pig Control Program which involves complementary control activities throughout the year including baiting and trapping. Over the last 5 years since the program started, landholders have reported a massive decrease in damage to crops, grazing land and environmental areas. With most landholders considering their financial contribution towards the program 'a cheap insurance plan'. It is only through the ongoing participation and support of landholders, coordination and support from SLCMA and other stakeholders and, supplementary funding via Reef Catchments – that the program is so successful. It is important for all involved to ensure we continue to support the program and apply pressure on the feral pig population in the area.*



Image: M. Sant

## Join us for Coastcare Week (4-10 December)

Coastcare week is an opportunity to celebrate, learn about and look after our unique coastal environment. SLCMA is working alongside other groups in our region to ensure you have an opportunity to participate in caring for our coasts.

⇒ **Tue 5 & Thur 7 Dec: Grow plants at the Mackay Natural Environment Centre.** Contact Sue at [Suzanne.mccormack@mackay.qld.gov.au](mailto:Suzanne.mccormack@mackay.qld.gov.au)

⇒ **Wed 6 Dec: Plant identification and seed collection walk.** 9-12noon at Salonika Beach. Contact SLCMA at [admin@sarinalandcare.org.au](mailto:admin@sarinalandcare.org.au) or 4956 1388.

⇒ **Sat 9 Dec: Beach clean up at Blacks Beach.** Contact Skye at [ssalisburybriggs@cva.org.au](mailto:ssalisburybriggs@cva.org.au)

⇒ **Sat 9 Dec: Remove invasive plants at Far Beach.** Contact Melissa at [Melissa.spalding@pioneercatchment.org.au](mailto:Melissa.spalding@pioneercatchment.org.au)

⇒ **Coastcare photography competition.** Submit your favourite photo/s of this region's coastline by 10 December. Visit [Reef Catchments website](http://Reef Catchments website) for more details.

# SLCMA Community Volunteer Program *by Sandy Whittington—Shaw*

This month in the nursery, we were kept busy with lots of weeding, potting and re-potting. Mark and Peter have done a great job keeping the weeds at bay around the nursery, which have grown at double speed after the rain and warm weather. The wetland species in the treatment train have really taken off with the warmer weather also, so much so, that we spent two volunteer sessions splitting and re-potting sedges into forestry tubes, ready for sale. A couple more volunteers have completed the online safety induction and we must thank Shirley, who has been at the ready with her iPad to assist with the process. The mountain of pots to be washed is slowing shrinking thanks to continued effort most weeks from Inez in particular, who washes pots tirelessly and without complaint. Cleaning seeds and filing in the seedbank are also being worked upon most weeks.

It has been a dynamic year, with much change occurring in the nursery. As the Nursery Officer, I would like to pass on a heartfelt thanks to all of the volunteers, who give their time and help to achieve so much in our facility and through that help to achieve positive environmental outcomes in our region. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas, hope you have a lovely break and look forward to seeing you all in the new year.



Flower of the Frogs mout (*Philydrium lanuginosum*) from the Treatment train



Local nursery resident, Green tree frog inspecting our pots

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.

## Land for Wildlife Program: Wildlife Friendly Fencing



Fencing is an integral part of land management to assist to delineate legal boundaries, restrict stock movements and provide access routes for land managers. Unfortunately, fencing can have a negative impact on wildlife including restricting the movement of native wildlife and disrupting the feeding, migration, breeding and social patterns of wild animals, as well as causing deaths.

Barbed wire fencing is very popular and is generally preferred over plain wire as large stock are capable of simply pushing through plain wire. However, it is estimated that tens to hundreds of thousands of wildlife die every year due to entanglement on barbed wire. More than 70 Australian species of wildlife have been identified as occasional or regular victims of barbed wire fences. Most entanglements occur on the top one or two strands of a barbed wire fence. Sadly, most animals that become entangled die. Nocturnal animals, such as bats, gliders and owls are especially at risk. Barbed wire is now recognised as a threat in the recovery of a number of species including the Yellow-Bellied Glider, Mahogany Glider, Spectacled Flying-Fox and Grey-Headed Flying-Fox.

Any barbed wire presents a risk of entanglement; however, higher risks exist:

1. **Where fences are:** • Newly constructed. • On ridgelines. • Crossing or surrounding waterways and dams. • Near feed trees. • Higher than surrounding vegetation.
2. **When weather conditions are windy.**
3. **When visibility is poor** (such as night time, especially when there is no moon).
4. **For very old and very young animals.**

There are alternatives to barbed wire fencing and modifications that can be made to existing fences to help reduce the likelihood of wildlife entanglement. Such fences are referred to as 'wildlife friendly'. Given the vast diversity in the size, shape and movements of wildlife, fences need to be designed to suit local wildlife species and conditions. A fence that assists the

movement of one species may not be appropriate for others.

### How can you minimising the risk to wildlife?

**Removal.** If you do not run stock, you may not require fences. Instead, consider using vegetation to make your property more private. A combination of native trees, shrubs and ground covers can screen your property while providing habitat values and allowing wildlife movement.

**Modification:** If you require a wire fence, replace the top strand of barbed wire with plain or borderline (white plastic coated) wire. Where barbed wire is needed to contain stock, you can cover the top strand with polypipe in high risk areas. Electric fencing can be an effective alternative for stock containment but requires more regular maintenance.

**Improve visibility:** Many animals have difficulty seeing wire fences. You can improve visibility by stringing electric fence tape above the top strand of barbed wire. Alternatively, you can attach reflective materials such as metal tags or used CDs along the top wire.

**Fence spacing:** Fences can be modified to allow enough space underneath the lowest fence strand, which will assist the movement of ground-living wildlife such as kangaroos, wallabies and bettongs. A 50 cm gap between the ground and lowest fence strand is recommended.

Greater Glider (*Petauroides volans*)

**Planting vegetation:** You can assist the movement of wildlife that live in trees (such as Koalas and possums) by planting native trees and shrubs along both sides of fence lines. This allows wildlife quick access and cover when moving from the vegetation on one side to the other.



Image: S von Fahland

**Wildlife Friendly Fencing...continued...** Poles can act in a similar way. You can place a pole on an angle against the inside of a fence to allow for a quick escape route. A pole placed between two trees on either side of a fence creates a natural bridge for wildlife. Keep in mind that if you do have barbed wire fencing, do not plant wildlife-attracting trees or shrubs nearby. This will help avoid entanglement by birds and flying foxes that seek out nectar and/or fruit.

**Monitor barbed wire fences in your local area.** Report any entangled animals to your local wildlife rescue organisation, found at [www.fauna.org.au](http://www.fauna.org.au) Do not approach a trapped animal as it is likely to struggle and do more damage. Where possible, leave the rescue to an experienced carer who will untangle the animal with minimal further injury. Do not handle flying-foxes.



Image: S von Fahland

If you would like more information about the Land for Wildlife Program or are interested in becoming a Land for Wildlife member please contact SLCMA on 4956 1388, email: [admin@sarinalandcare.org.au](mailto:admin@sarinalandcare.org.au)

This article was taken & modified from [www.lfwseq.org.au](http://www.lfwseq.org.au) and [www.wires.org.au](http://www.wires.org.au)

*Black Flying Fox (Pteropus alecto) caught in top strand of fencing.*

## War on Cats Claw Creeper continues..

SLCMA has been fortunate to obtain funding via Reef Catchments to continue controlling and monitoring Cats Claw Creeper within the Sarina Catchment. There are four known infestations within the Sarina Catchment including Oakenden, Sarina township, a section of both Plane and Carmila Creeks. Control methods have previously included chemical, manual and biocontrol. The project will increase local knowledge of the extent and impact of Cats Claw Creeper in the Sarina Catchment and help prevent its spread.

Cats Claw Creeper (*Dolichandra unguis-cati*) is a restricted invasive plant under the *Queensland Biosecurity Act 2014* and a Weed of National Significance. This large woody vine climbs and creeps aggressively, smothering large trees and other established vegetation in riparian areas, with the potential to impact water quality by undermining creekbank stability. Cats Claw Creeper seed is spread by wind and water.

If you would like to know more about Cats Claw Creeper—its identification, control and management or have a suspicious plant you would like identified, please contact us.



Image: S von Fahland



Image: S Burchill

**Top:** Young stems of Cats Claw Creeper growing up trunk of Moreton Bay Ash **Bottom:** Flowers of Cats Claw Creeper

## SLCMA Community Nursery “Plant of the Month”

This month’s ‘Plant of the Month’ is *Castanospermum australe* **Black Bean**

**Family: Fabaceae**

**What is in a name?** *Castanospermum* - from two words, *castanea* Latin for chestnut and *spermum* Greek for seeded. *australe* - Latin for southern, here referring to the southern hemisphere.

**Form:** 8-20m under cultivation with a dense round canopy; in natural situations it can grow up to 40m.

**Leaves:** Glossy dark green pinnate leaves

**Flower:** Sprays of red and yellow pea-shaped flowers, 3-4cm long, October-November. Nectar produced by the flowers attracts birds, bats and butterflies.

**Fruit:** March – May, large cylindrical pods, 12-20cm x 4-6cm, pods split in two, 3-5 large bean-like seeds.

**Habitat:** Coastal rainforests and beaches; moist fertile well-drained soils on mountain sides, creek banks

**Distribution:** Northern New South Wales to Cape York Peninsula on the Queensland coast and west to the Bunya Mountains.

**Notes:** Hardy species, valuable timber species. Can be slow to establish, prefers full sun however shady situations is tolerated as is light frost. Ideal shade tree for parks, has a strong extensive root system useful for creekbank stabilisation. For this reason it should not be planted within 10m of drainage lines, sewers, foundations etc. **\*\*Leaves and seeds are toxic to livestock\*\***

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 sourced from:** Australian National Botanic Gardens; Images Australian Plant Image Index([www.anbg.gov.au](http://www.anbg.gov.au))



Image: APTI



Image: M Fagg



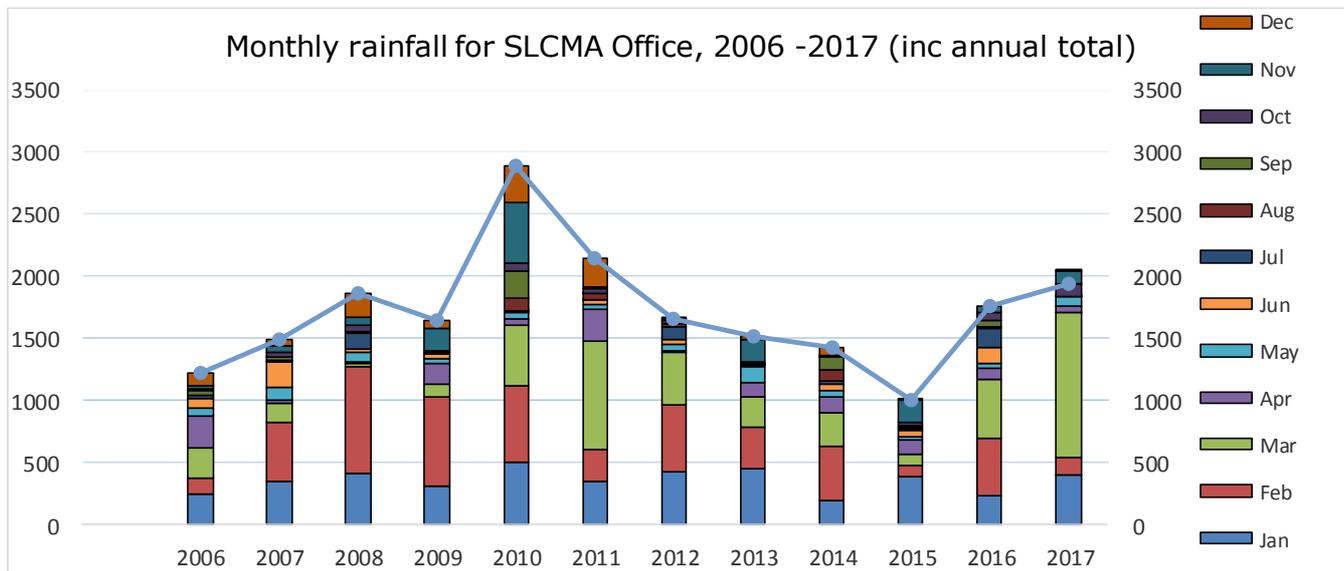
# What SLCMA Membership does



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

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## Important dates

- 4-10 December **Coastcare Week**
- 6 December **Celebrate Coastcare Week**—Join us for a Coastal Plant identification and seed collection field trip (9-12noon), Salonika Beach. Contact SLCMA for more details.
- 5 December **International Volunteer Day**  
**World Soil Day**
- 10-15 December **Aerial Feral Pig Control** Koumala & Carmila catchments (weather permitting)
- 13 December **Last SLCMA Community Volunteer Morning** for year (return 17 January 2018)
- 13 December **SLCMA Christmas Dinner**—volunteers, members, project partners welcome to attend. Contact SLCMA for more details.
- 15 December **SLCMA Office Closes** (re-opens 10 January 2018)

**Just for fun!** \*How many reindeer does it take to change a light bulb?

Eight! One to screw in the light bulb and seven to hold Rudolph down!

\*Christmas tip: Wrap empty boxes in Christmas wrapping paper.

When your child misbehaves, toss one into the fire.

\*This will be the fifth year in a row that my in-laws will come over for Christmas.

I think this time we should let them in.

[Find us on facebook](#)



Central QLD Coast  
**Landcare**  
Network

**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.**

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