

SLCMA Catchment News



**December 2018/
January 2019**

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**Office
opening times:**
**Monday to Thursday
9-12noon**
**(other times,
by appointment only)**

Staff
Administration Officer
Kristy Thomsett

Coordinator
Saskia von Fahland

Project Officer
Adam Eaton

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

SLCMA Executive 18/19
Chair: Mark Evans

Vice-chair: Karen May

Treasurer: Jeff Burt

Secretary: Grace Tipping

Executive members:
Sandy Evans
Lachlan McBride



Happy New Year to all!

On behalf of SLCMA staff and Management Committee we hope that you had a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!



The SLCMA Office re-opened on 7 January 2019 and we are looking forward to working with current and new volunteers, members and project partners throughout the year, as we work together on projects and land management solutions throughout the Sarina Catchment.

We have a number of projects being implemented throughout 2019 including:

- Land for Wildlife Program and Landcare Support Program *funded by Mackay Regional Council Natural Environment Levy*
- Revegetation works within Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal *funded by DBCTPL*
- Riparian revegetation projects at Westhill, Marion and Cherry Tree Creek *funded through Reef Catchments - Natural Disaster Relief Recovery Arrangements through the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments.*
- Coordinated Feral Pig Control Program, *supported by landholders within the Rocky Dam and Carmila Catchments*
- Riparian Rehabilitation after Cyclone Debbie Project *funded by Community Sustainability Action Grants, Queensland Government.*



Photo: A Eaton

Plane Creek Revegetation Site

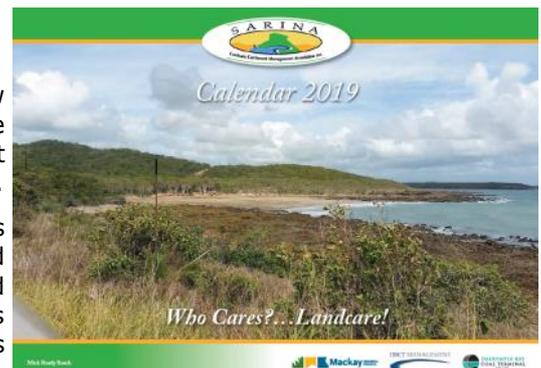
With these projects come a range of exciting activities throughout the year including: onground works (revegetation, weed control), awareness raising events (school activity days, workshops, field trips, displays), Volunteer opportunities (SLCMA Community Volunteer Program, plant propagation, community working bees, marine debris and rubbish clean ups), Landholder support (property visits, resources and land management planning, feral pig control), NRM planning and networking with stakeholders, supporting working groupsand much much more!

Hot off the press!

The 2019 SLCMA Calendars are now available. Members are eligible to receive **one free calendar**, with subsequent copies available for purchase for \$10 each.

The calendar showcases photographs taken by Landcare staff, members and volunteers of landscapes, wildlife and projects within the Sarina Catchment; as well as includes important dates such as SLCMA Volunteer Program mornings, Sarina Cattle Sales, and environmental awareness days.

A big thankyou to photographers for their contributions and to Mackay Regional Council, DBCT PL and DBCT Management for their support towards the printing of the calendar.



~ Thankyou ~



Thankyou to Lendlease for their donation of a new digital camera for SLCMA. The camera has already proven handy in capturing the onground activities of our revegetation and volunteer teams over the last few months; and will assist us to monitor our project sites, capture events and provide photos for reporting.

Aerial Feral Pig Control Program

Sixty landholders across the Carmila and Rocky Dam Creek Catchments participated in the annual Aerial Feral Pig Control Program over the 27–29 December 2018. Due to extreme weather conditions throughout December the aerial control event was undertaken a little later than usual, despite this 127 feral pigs were controlled.

We will be working closely with participating landholders to discuss opportunities for follow up control event/s over the coming months. Thankyou to all the landholders involved and in particular thankyou to Mark Sant, Trudy Johnson, Rodney Hindle and Plane Creek Productivity Services for their assistance and communication throughout the event.

The ongoing involvement and financial commitment of the landholders has made the program successful over the years, ensuring ongoing sustained pressure on the feral pig population in the catchments.

The Coordinated Feral Pig Program began in 2008 through a partnership between local landholders, SLCMA, Mackay Regional Council and Reef Catchments; all of whom were keen to see on-ground action and a reduction in pig damage to productive farmland and the natural environment. The program has continued to grow over the years with more landholders participating and increased land area being covered. The program encourages the use of a range of control methods including trapping and baiting in conjunction with the aerial control.

Landholders across the catchments have seen a drastic improvement in the productivity of farming land as well as improvements in the health of surrounding mangrove and wetland environments.

Disaster Recovery—tree planting along local creeks

As part of the Disaster Recovery Works in the Mackay Region, SLCMA has been funded by Reef Catchments to revegetate areas along Marion, Westhill and Cherry Tree Creek (a combined total of almost 3000 native plants). SLCMA would like to thank the efforts of our Revegetation Team and all that were involved, and we look forward to seeing the sites grow. The initial planting of the sites have been undertaken and maintenance of the project sites will be undertaken until mid June 2019.



Revegetation along Westhill Creek, Jan '19

Snapshot of Cherry Tree Creek (taken from *Natural State Newsletter, Reef Catchments—Dec 18*)

Disaster recovery works have been completed at Cherry Tree Creek south of Sarina. In March 2017, floodwater caused major erosion along Cherry Tree Creek and government funding under the Australian and Queensland Government's Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements was secured to assist with environmental recovery and repair.

The aim of the work is to prevent approximately 526 tonnes/year of fine sediment being exported to the Great Barrier Reef lagoon; protect productive agricultural land from further loss through erosion; and protect the existing Reef Catchments revegetation and rock beaching works from further damage.

Over a 12-year assessment period, the sites have lost approximately 4,100 square metres of productive sugarcane land. The estimated total fine sediment lost during the assessment period was 3,308t equating to an anticipated ongoing fine sediment loss rate of 526t per annum if bank stabilisations works were not implemented. Site surveys found that the locations that have undergone bank erosion are those that either had little to no riparian vegetation or had riparian vegetation that was much less established compared with surrounding areas. It takes many years before revegetation has reached a point where it will offer protection to waterway banks and subsequently, engineered works were designed to stabilise the eroded banks of Cherry Tree Creek together with a complementary revegetation program.

Six sites along Cherry Tree Creek have been remediated under the NDRRA program. Works at these sites have seen banks re-profiled, over 250 linear meters of bank stabilised with over 2,900 tonnes of rock, finished sites have been seeded and mulched were completed by the end of October 2018.



Revegetation along Cherry Tree Creek, Nov '18

The SLCMA Revegetation team completed planting 2,400 native plants across the 6 sites in November 2018 and will undertake ongoing site maintenance until 30 June 2019.

SLCMA Community Volunteer Program *by Adam Eaton*

December started off with a bang, finally after what seemed like the hottest and driest it's ever been, and we were treated to some spectacular storms followed up by much needed rain. Within a couple of days everything was back nice and green and with a bit of luck the start of a great wet season.



Throughout December the volunteers were busy with seed raising and potting on, with good success. After chipping away over the last few months, the team have cleaned up approximately 7500 plants on the sun hardening benches consisting of weeding, re-fertilizing, new soil and pruning. It is good to see the plants all looking nice and healthy and ready for future revegetation projects and plant sales. It has also allowed us to bring more plants out from the shade house, for sun hardening.

Some local preserves for our volunteers :)

We finished the year with a Christmas party lunch at the SLCMA Office. It was a nice opportunity to thank our volunteers, reflect on the year and share some yummy food over good conversations.

The first volunteer morning for the new year was held on 16 January with volunteers keen to catch up with each other and tend to the plants. We will be organising a variety of seed collecting field trips and other fun activities throughout the year with our volunteers.

After my first 3 months in the role I have realised that without the help of the volunteers every week my job in the nursery would be near impossible and many hands make light work. We are always looking for new volunteers to join our team. Our activities are quite varied, and you never know what tasks you will be involved in.

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.



SLCMA Christmas party 2018

Land for Wildlife Program

Land for Wildlife is a voluntary program which aims to encourage and assist private landholders to provide habitat for wildlife on their property. Properties in the program can be devoted to habitat protection or may be managed for other purposes, such as farming and agriculture, whilst incorporating nature conservation.



The retention of habitat for native wildlife can play a major role in sustainable land management. It can provide a natural means of pest control, help with erosion and salinity management and provide shade and shelter for livestock. Whilst National Parks and other reserves protect natural areas, they only cover four percent of Queensland. The protection of habitat on private land can therefore play a critical role in helping maintain the survival of our native plants and animals. It can also contribute to providing habitat links between isolated pockets of vegetation or nature reserves.

Benefits of joining the program: A visit will be made to properties nominated for inclusion in the Land for Wildlife program (subject to meeting certain criteria) and advice will be given on:

- How wildlife habitat can be integrated with other uses on private land, to benefit both the landholder & wildlife
- Management and protection of habitat areas
- Weed control
- Incentives and assistance available to landowners

Property assessments are a key component of the Land for Wildlife Program. Individual property assessments provide landholders with personalised advice, feedback, support and encouragement. The program also provides contact with like-minded landholders and offers a chance to share ideas and experiences through field days, workshops and other activities. Landholders are provided with land management resources, regular newsletters, opportunities for re-visits, 20 free native plants annually as well as a Land for Wildlife sign to acknowledge their contribution to wildlife conservation.

SLCMA delivers the program within the Sarina Catchment area of Mackay Regional Council, on behalf of Mackay Regional Council. If you would like to find out more, check your property's eligibility for the program Or, are an existing LfW landholder who would like a follow up visit; please contact us on 4956 1388 or admin@sarinalandcare.org.au



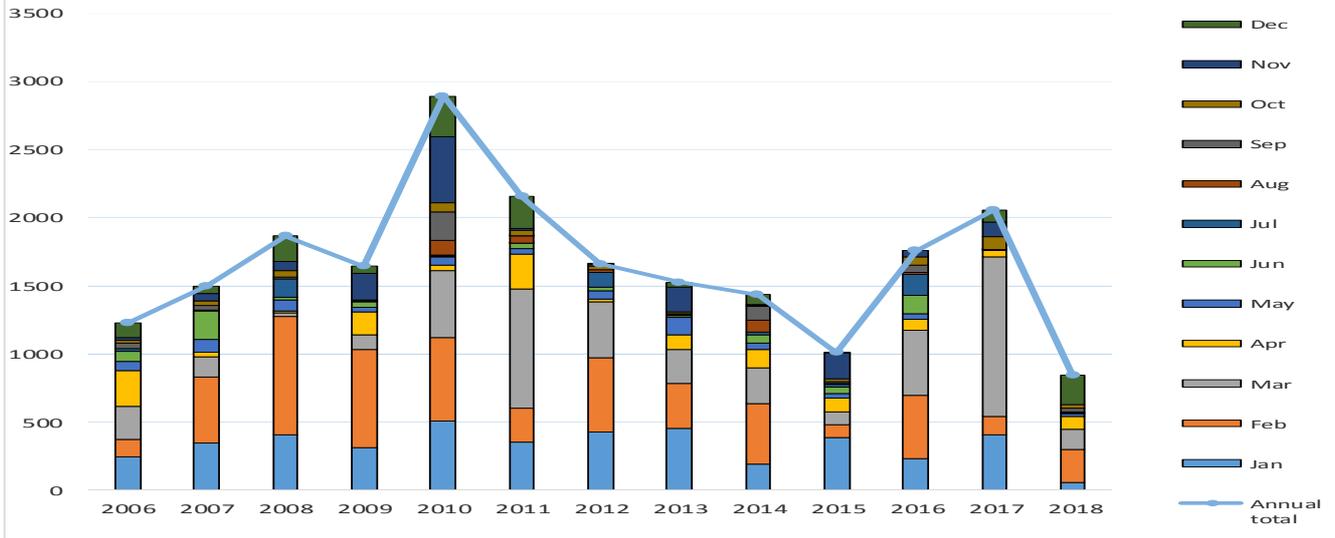
What SLCMA Membership does for you !

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
- ◇ Discounts on purchases of books for sale

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Monthly rainfall for SLCMA Office, 2006 -2018 (inc annual total)



Just for fun!

* What did the digital clock say to the grandfather clock?
 Look Grandpa, no hands!

- * What is the difference between weather and climate?
 You cant weather a tree but you can climate.
- * What is the difference between a horse and the weather?
 One is reined up and the other rains down.
- * What did one raindrop say to the other?
 Two's company, three's a cloud



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

Containers for Change

SLCMA has registered with Containers for Change for virtual donations and we are hoping that you will consider using our identifier code—**C10002138**. We also welcome physical donations of eligible containers to our office, feel free to contact us on 4956 1388, to arrange drop-off.



SLCMA is proudly supported by:



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MICHELLE LANDRY MP
 Federal Member for Capricornia

If you have any issues, don't hesitate to contact my office

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