



Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Assoc.

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Media Release

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New Marine Turtle Sign for Sarina Beach

Visitors to Sarina Beach will now be able to find out more about the marine turtles that visit our region, with an updated marine turtle information sign recently installed in the park area.

Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association (SLCMA) in partnership with Mackay and District Turtlewatch recognised the value of the sign to help improve awareness of marine turtles and how we can protect them, particularly during their nesting and hatching period (October to March) when they visit our beaches.

Ms Diane Clarke from Mackay and District Turtlewatch said "The old sign had been regularly used by locals, visitors and for educational events however; over time it has become unreadable due to fading".

There are seven species of marine turtle throughout the world, six of which live and nest in Queensland. The most common sea turtles nesting on our local beaches is the Flatback turtle, with the occasional Green turtle. With all species of marine turtle being considered endangered or vulnerable, it is important for all of us to help protect them and their habitats.

Major threats to the survival of marine turtles include coastal development pressure through vegetation clearing and artificial lighting, boat strike, ingestion of synthetic materials eg. Plastics, predation of eggs or hatchlings by domestic and feral animals.

To report dead or stranded marine wildlife please call the Marine Stranding Hotline on 1300 264 625.

This project was made possible through the *Sarina Community Coastcare Program* supported by BHP Mitsubishi Alliance Community Partnerships Program and with the assistance of the Sarina Green Army team.

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For more information please contact Saskia von Fahland, Regional Landcare Facilitator (Sarina) on 4956 1388.

Photo/s:

Sarina Green Army Team with Mackay and District Turtlewatch volunteer, Diane Clarke.

Front row L-R: Richard Brown (Team Leader), Catherine Santo, Caleb Roberts

Back row L-R: Abby Pollard, Ashley Coyne, Caleb Davoren, Diane Clarke (MTW), Simone Emery-Pollard, Shaun Lawson.

