



Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Assoc.

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Media Article

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Weedbuster Week recognised throughout the region

A free Weed ID Field Day was held in Sarina recently, which kicked off Weedbuster Week events across the Mackay Whitsunday region.

Weedbuster Week, held every year, is a week that draws attention to the impacts of invasive weeds on agriculture, industry, the environment and our way of life. This year, Weedbuster Week with the theme, *Teaming up to tackle weeds*, recognised the importance of partnerships between governments, industry groups, volunteer groups, Landcare and landholders in managing weeds.

In Sarina, staff from Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association (SLCMA), Mackay Regional Council and Biosecurity QLD teamed up at Farm HQ, to provide advice to landholders about weeds. Landholders were encouraged to bring in weed samples for identification, discuss control options and swap it for a native plant.

Landholders also had the opportunity to check out the Mackay Regional Pest Trailer and have a go at the "*What is this weed?*" competition, sponsored by Farm HQ. (Congratulations to the winner, Ray Greaves).

Prevention and early intervention are the most cost effective means of dealing with weeds. Landholders are encouraged to monitor their property regularly and have suspicious plants identified through their local Landcare, Council &/or Biosecurity QLD Pest Officers.

For those interested, you can also join the Weed Spotters Queensland Network, a community based weed alert system that aims to find, identify and document new occurrences of potential weeds at an early stage so that action can be taken.

Weed spotters is also a fun way to learn about weeds, how to identify them, how to present them by pressing for safe storage of specimens and more importantly, how to manage them in your particular situation.

By becoming a member of Weed Spotters, you can send your samples or photos to the local coordinator who can give that advice locally. Samples are

then forwarded to the Herbarium for confirmation of the advice given. Weed Spotters receive a quarterly newsletter and occasional get togethers for discussion and further training. Your local coordinator is Peter Alden from Biosecurity Queensland.

For more information please contact Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association (SLCMA) on 4956 1388.

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For more information please contact Saskia von Fahland, Coordinator/Regional Landcare Facilitator on 4956 1388.

Photo/s: L-R: Peter Alden (Biosecurity QLD), Jo Mitchell (Landholder), Michael Tuckett (Mackay Regional Council) at the Weed ID Field Day, Sarina.

