



Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Assoc.

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Media Release

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Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association (SLCMA) hosted its first weekend community volunteer morning on Saturday 16 March. With the early autumn weather in all its glory, participants enjoyed working in the gardens, reveling in the sunshine and fresh air.

SLCMA will continue to host the Saturday morning volunteer option on a monthly basis as part of the national **Landcare Is For Everyone (L.I.F.E)** campaign, encouraging communities to participate in Landcare.

Margaret Meng, SLCMA Project Officer said "This will give families more opportunity to become involved in Landcare. Many families want to volunteer their time in activities that will make a difference in their own community but they have such busy schedules and there are not many opportunities where young children can come along and join in. These mornings will give them the option to volunteer as a family, they can stay for the whole morning or just come down to the gardens for an hour, the choice is theirs."

"Activities begin at 8:00am and finish at 11:00am. The morning offers participants a range of activities including planting native plants, pruning, seed collecting, mulching, weeding and general garden maintenance. There will be something available for the whole family, depending on your age, ability and interest".

The Sarina Community Native Gardens is being established by SLCMA and provides a family friendly place including a walking trail with interpretive signage meandering through themed gardens such as the sensory gardens and plantings from local ecosystems including coastal, wetland and rainforest habitats. The gardens showcase the use of native plants (instead of weedy non-native plants) in garden situations and will be utilised by the community, visitors and schools as an opportunity to learn about local native plants, their benefits & uses in various garden situations.

Up and coming SLCMA weekend volunteer mornings will be held on 13 April, 11 May and 15 June 2013. All tools, equipment, sunscreen and gloves will be provided, along with a much deserved morning tea.

Volunteers wishing to participate will need to bring a hat and water bottle and wear sturdy footwear. For catering purposes please contact SLCMA on 4956 1388 to register your interest. If weekends don't suit you, SLCMA also operates the Sarina Community Volunteer Program every Wednesday between 9-12noon at the SLCMA Community Nursery. This program, and the Sarina Community Native Gardens are supported by the Mackay Regional Council Natural Environment Levy.

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For more information please contact Margaret Meng, SLCMA Project Officer, on 4956 1388.

Photo 1 (L-R): Pearl and Inez McMurtrie enjoying some family time together while volunteering on Saturday 16 March at the Sarina Native Community Gardens. SLCMA weekend volunteer mornings will now be a monthly event to support the Sarina Community Native Gardens Project and the national **Landcare Is For Everyone (L.I.F.E)** campaign.

