



Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Assoc.

Postal address: PO Box 682, Sarina QLD 4737

Location: 101 Beach Rd, Sarina QLD

Phone: 07 4956 1388 **Fax:** 07 4956 2944

Email: slcma@mcs.net.au

Media Release

27 May 2013

Sarina Community Native Gardens: A suburban wildlife sanctuary

The Sarina Community Native Gardens on Beach Road, Sarina are proving to be a sanctuary for local wildlife. Whilst the main purpose of the gardens is for educational and recreational use, the gardens are providing a much needed haven for local birdlife which have to cope with the problems of living in suburbia. The trees and shrubs are providing a food source as well as shelter to raise young and the seasonal wetland is providing a water source for some of the year.

Since the gardens began, I have noticed an increase in different bird species utilising the gardens. Prior to the gardens the primary residents were two Masked Lapwings (often known as plovers) which nested on the site annually and some local guinea fowl. A friendly Willy Wag-tail is another long term resident which greets SLCMA staff and volunteers and provides us with much entertainment as he hops around the garden beds catching insects .

Now days the gardens have many more feathered friends including a mating pair of White-Faced Herons (who successfully raised two chicks last year) and a Pacific Baza. There are the Whistling Ducks which frequent the wetland, successfully raising 8 ducklings this year, often hiding them under the Boobialla trees (*Myoporum acuminatum*) in the sensory 'taste' garden.

As the Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association (SLCMA) Office is adjacent to the gardens, I am currently listening to the wonderful song of the Yellow Breasted Sunbird as he goes about collecting items to build this year's nest and I get much enjoyment watching the Burdekin Ducks out-manoeuvre the Masked Lapwings as they scuffle for the best spot to bathe and feed in the seasonal wetland.

Other birds spotted using the gardens include Kookaburras, Spangled Drongos, Fig birds, Pale-headed Rosellas, Rainbow Lorikeets, a variety of Doves and Pigeons, Black and White cockatoos, Butcher Birds, Crows, Pee Wees and Magpies.the list goes on.

If you would like a tour of the Sarina Community Native Gardens and a chance to catch a glimpse of some of the wonderful birdlife; come down during SLCMA's next volunteer morning scheduled for Saturday 15 June from 8am to 11am. The monthly volunteer program offers participants a range of activities for the whole family, including planting native plants, pruning, and

seed collecting, mulching, weeding and general garden maintenance. Volunteers will need to bring a hat and water bottle and wear sturdy footwear. All tools, equipment, sunscreen and gloves are provided, along with morning tea. For more information please contact SLCMA.

The development of the Sarina Community Native Gardens is supported by the Mackay Regional Council's Natural Environment Levy.

-ends-

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



Photo 1: Adult White-faced Heron feeding at the seasonal wetland in the Sarina Community Native Gardens



Photo 2: White-faced Heron chicks at the the Sarina Community Native Gardens

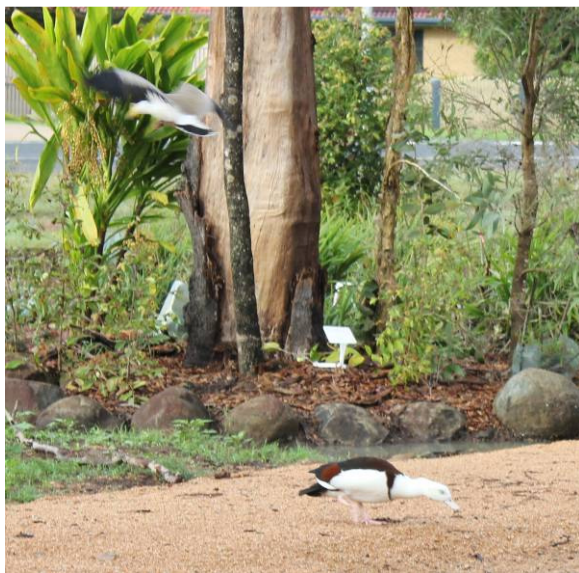


Photo 3: Burdekin Duck 'ducking' for cover from the swoop of the resident Masked Lapwing at the Sarina Community Native Gardens



Photo 4: Kookaburra perched in a red bottle brush tree surveying its feeding grounds at the Sarina Community Native Gardens