



Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Assoc.

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Media Release

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Local schools participate in “Caring For Our Coast” activity days!

Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association Inc. (SLCMA) recently held educational, interactive school activity days themed “Caring For Our Coast”.

Over two days, 237 students from Chelona and Alligator Creek Primary schools came together at Sarina Beach. They participated in hands-on, educational activities aimed to create a greater understanding of practical ways to protect our coastal environments. The activities were delivered by dedicated volunteers and staff from SLCMA, Mackay and District Turtlewatch and Mackay Regional Council.

Students explored the coastal habitats along the Sarina Inlet Trail with SLCMA staff.; where they were able to see various types of coastal habitats and identify the different plants and animals which survive in these unique environments. Students also discussed and observed human impacts along the trail such as marine debris and environmental weeds.

During the ‘Story of a River’ delivered by Kylee Gilbank from Mackay Regional Council students had a hands-on chance to see how our catchments work and ways to keep our waterways healthy as they flow out into the coastal environment.

The Marine Turtle activity delivered by Fran Lloyd and Les Kemp from Mackay and District Turtlewatch proved to be very popular; with students learning about Flatback marine turtles that use our local beaches for nesting and the importance of protecting them. The activity raised awareness of the important role Mackay and District Turtle Watch volunteers play in collecting data for research purposes.

The school activity days are an initiative of SLCMA and funded through the BMA Community Partnerships Program (as part of the Sarina Community Coastcare Program) with support from the Mackay Regional Council Natural Environment Levy. Funding provides integral support towards coordination and facilitation of the event, transport assistance for schools and development of activity booklets for all students and teachers.

The school activity days were a great success with the students and teachers looking forward to future activity days. SLCMA would like to thank the schools who attended and the supporting organisations for their support and enthusiasm for the day.

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

Written by: Margaret Meng (Project Officer) & Saskia von Fahland

Photo/s & names of people in photo:

Photo 1: Chelona State School students and teachers learning about marine turtles from Fran Lloyd of Mackay and District Turtlewatch



Photo 2: Alligator Creek State School students participating in the 'Story of a River' delivered by Mackay Regional Council staff member Kylee Gilbank.

