



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

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Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association (SLCMA) is hosting their monthly weekend volunteer morning on Saturday 13 July. The morning's activities will begin at 8am and finish at 11am and focus on the 5 themed sensory gardens.

SLCMA Project Officer, Margaret Meng said "The establishment of the sensory gardens began in 2011 during National Tree Day and many plants are now at the stage where we can experience the distinct tastes and smells that our local native plants have to offer".

"The morning will offer 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. You can stay for the whole morning or just come down to the gardens for an hour or two, the choice is yours."

"The Sarina Community Native Gardens are being established by SLCMA to provide a family friendly place to enjoy the outdoors while learning about local native plants. The gardens showcase the benefits and uses of native plants in garden situations. There is a walking trail with interpretive signage meandering past the five sensory gardens and through the themed plantings from local ecosystems including coastal, wetland and rainforest habitats".

If you would like your family to be involved in establishing the Sarina Community Native Gardens and help make a difference in your community and environment, please contact SLCMA on 4956 1388 to register your interest.

Future SLCMA weekend volunteer mornings will be held on 13 July and 17 August. 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.

If weekends don't suit you, SLCMA also operates the SLCMA 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): SLCMA volunteer, Nick Kenyon, planting *Lomandra longifolia* (Mat rush) in the sensory smell gardens during their establishment on National Tree Day in 2011.



Photo 2 (L-R): SLCMA volunteers, Margaret Belfrage and Ankie Van de Haterd, experiencing the papery fruits of a *Dodonea viscosa* (Sticky hop bush) planted in the sensory touch gardens of the Sarina Community Native Gardens.

