



**Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Assoc.**

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## **Media Release**

**16/07/13**

### **Newsflash, for green thumbs!**

Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association Inc. (SLCMA) is happy to announce that the *Sarina Native Garden Competition* has been extended to include Sarina and surrounding areas – Mackay to Clairview.

If you, your friend or neighbour has a 'mostly' native garden that they are proud of, this is your opportunity to nominate your (or your friend's) garden creation. Entry is free and all entrants will receive 5 free native plants from the SLCMA Community Nursery.

Winners will be announced during the launch of the *Sarina Native Community Gardens* on 7 September by Costa Georgiadis, host of Gardening Australia. Winners will receive a 1 year Landcare membership (from SLCMA) as well as other great prizes, thanks to our sponsors including 1<sup>st</sup> prize: \$500 voucher (Woodmans Mitre 10), 2<sup>nd</sup> prize: \$300 (Mackay Regional Council) and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize: \$150 Wheelbarrow of garden goodies (Farm HQ).

The *Sarina Native Garden Competition* aims to showcase the different ways gardeners have incorporated Australian native plants within a garden – a purposefully planted area where native plants have been used to enhance and improve the look and health of a garden.

Whether you live on a small suburban block or a larger property, the use of Australian native plants has many benefits. They look great and encourage native wildlife and, add extra colour, movement and pleasant sounds. Other benefits include:

- water efficiency and reduced fertiliser requirements – local native plants have evolved in your area and can thrive in local climate and soil conditions.
- Conserving biodiversity – local native plants can contribute to the natural environment by maintaining species diversity, unlike many exotic plants that can have weed potential and invade natural bushland areas.

Entry forms and competition details are available from SLCMA by calling 4956 1388 or email: [slcma@mcs.net.au](mailto:slcma@mcs.net.au). Nominations close on 9 August 2013.

**-ends-**

For more information please contact Saskia von Fahland, Coordinator, SLCMA on 4956 1388.

**Photo/s:**

Photo 1: Native rosella, *Abelmoschus moschatus*



*Photo by S von Fahland*

Photo 2: Just some of the different colours and shapes you can see in the Sarina Community Native Gardens



*photo by S von Fahland*

Photo 3: Coastal banksia, *Banksia integrifolia* a spectacular local native plant seen commonly in our beach scrub – can make a lovely addition to your garden.



*photo by S von Fahland*