

SLCMA Catchment News



September 2016

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**SLCMA Office is
OPEN
Monday to Friday**

Coordinator

Lara Mathewson

Administration Officer

Nadine Hamill

Acting Nursery Officer

Sandy Whittington—Shaw

Technical Officer

Saskia von Fahland

Call us for information:

- ◇ Weed management
- ◇ Plant identification
- ◇ Land management
- ◇ Local projects
- ◇ FREE property visits
- ◇ Land for Wildlife

Volunteer opportunities:

SLCMA Community
Volunteer Program:

- ◇ Wednesday 9-12noon:
Seed collecting, native
plant propagation at the

SLCMA Executive 16/17

Chair:

Gloria Murray

Vice-chair:

Greg Melvin

Treasurer:

Jenny Price

Secretary:

Jen Mitchell

Executive Member:

Theresa Morgan



Annual General Meeting — Saturday Sept. 17

SLCMA's annual general Meeting will be held on Saturday September 17 2016.



A native bee hive

Commencing at 10am, Guest speaker Len Caruana, will showcase a native bee hive. The bee hive is being installed at SLCMA through funding provided by the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal Pty Ltd Sponsorship Program.

Following on from Len's presentation will be the Annual General Meeting. Nominations for positions on the Management Committee can be made in advance by contacting the SLCMA office on 4956 1388 or by

emailing admin@sarinalandcare.org.au. Alternatively nominations can be made on the day.

At the completion of the AGM a general meeting will be conducted. The morning will be concluded with a sausage sizzle. SLCMA invites all interested individuals to come along on the day.



Don't Forget Membership for the 2016-2017 financial year are due for renewal. Membership is still \$10 /yr with all the usual membership benefits applicable.

SLCMA Upgrades



Image: L Mathewson

A new slimline shed being installed at the SLCMA Nursery

SLCMA is presently hosting 10 participants in the "Skilling Queenslanders for work" project. Under the guidance of their trainer the workers are completing a vast range of construction based tasks in the SLCMA nursery and around the office.

SLCMA are extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in the project and obtain tangible outcomes whilst assisting to provide training opportunities for youth in our local area.

New staff member joins the SLCMA team!

SLCMA are excited to welcome to the team Sandy Whittington Shaw. Sandy has been the successful applicant for the Nursery Officer position. With ample experience in the area of revegetation and nursery work as well as team leadership skills, Sandy is a valuable addition to the team. Sandy possesses a bachelor degree in environmental science and has a passion for native plants, being an active member of Native Plants Queensland Mackay Branch (formally SGAP). Sandy was awarded the Australian Plants Diversity Bursary in 2015 and was funded to attend the biennial national conference of the Australian Native Plants Society in Canberra. Sandy has been a nursery volunteer at both Pioneer Catchment Landcare and SLCMA prior to obtaining the position.



Image: contributed

Sandy Whittington Shaw

SLCMA Community Volunteer Program *by Sandy Whittington—Shaw*

August seems to have zipped by at top speed and Spring has now sprung! The volunteer team enjoyed an outing to a property on Rainforest Road, Sarina for a seed collection trip. We were guided around the garden and into a section of remnant vine forest, through which the property owner has constructed a stone path. All marvelled at the tall trees, especially a large *Falcataria toona*, Mackay Cedar and we were pleasantly surprised by the beautiful fruit of the deadly *Dendrocidia moroides*, Moonlighter tree.



Image: S Whittington Shaw

If you would like to volunteer in your local community and meet new people while learning about local native plants and their propagation, come along to the SLCMA Community Volunteer morning, every Wednesday, 9am to 12noon. The SLCMA Community Volunteer Program is proudly supported by Mackay Regional Council, Natural Environment Levy. For more details contact SLCMA on 4956 1388.

Volunteers collecting seed from Neolitsea brassii (Grey Bollywood)

Did You Know?

"The common Indian Myna bird is fast becoming Australia's number one feral enemy! The myna bird has been declared the second greatest threat to native birds after land clearing. It's currently spreading through eastern Australia, yet in some areas its arrival is so recent that unknowing residents welcome it into their backyards and encourage it to feed alongside native birds.

First introduced to Australia to control insect pests, the arrival of the Common Indian Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) in a region signals a disastrous change to come in local bird populations. This extremely aggressive bird chases out native birds and small tree dwelling marsupials such as feather-tailed gliders.

It's not just Australia that is suffering from the myna onslaught - in 2000, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) declared the bird among '100 of the World's Most Invasive species', and for good reason. It is now a pest bird in many regions from Singapore to the Seychelles, and has pushed native birds towards extinction in Polynesia, Hawaii, and Mauritius.

Dubbed the 'garbage bird' because of its unseemly habits, myna birds flourish wherever humans live, their populations booming around garbage tips, factories, schools, shopping centres and dumped cars. And their presence may also have health implications for humans.

Native to India, the cocky brown-and-black myna with its characteristic yellow eye-patch has become an unwelcome but all too familiar sight in many parts of Australia. Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra in particular have become favourite myna haunts and the myna has been pushing relentlessly north and westwards from its major population base, on a path following the highways and towns where it thrives on the rich bounty of human society." From article by Abbie Thomas <http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2004/04/08/2044900.htm>

Any suspected local sightings of the common Indian Myna bird can be reported to SLCMA or entered into Feral Scan (see below for further information on Feral Scan).

Feral Scan

Feral scan is an interactive free community web site focused on citizen surveillance. It enables you to help map feral animals and the damage they cause. Feral scan is also available as a mobile app from the app store for iphones or from google play for android phones.

It is a landholder, community, industry, government and business collaborative powered by the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre, Australia's largest integrated invasive animal research & management Collaborative with 27 participating organisations. For more information visit: <http://www.feralscan.org.au/>



Image: Dr Chris Tidemann, The Australian National University



Land for Wildlife Program



Images: S. Whittington Shaw

Sandra and Mark Evans have been Land for Wildlife participants since 2010. Since joining the program they have worked to control invasive weeds on their block, including lantana and singapore daisy to name a few.

They have created rock terracing to assist in the control of erosion on their sloping block and, have allowed natural regeneration of native plants to occur. As a result their property is a stunning example of 'Notophyll Rainforest / Microphyll rainforest'.

The property is a significant seed source for the SLCMA Community nursery with some rarer species found thriving as well as a large diversity of fern species. The property is a host to many fauna species including the Unadorned Rock Wallaby and the Cairns Birdwing Butterfly.



If you would like more information on the Land for Wildlife Program or are interested in becoming a Land for Wildlife member please contact SLCMA staff on 4956 1388 or call into our office at 101 Beach Road, Sarina. Email SLCMA Coordinator Lara Mathewson on coordinator@sarinalandcare.org

The Land for Wildlife Program is funded by the Mackay Regional Council, Natural Environment Levy.

SLCMA Community Nursery "Plant of the Month"

This month's 'Plant of the Month' is *Hoya australis*, Common waxflower.

Family: Apocynaceae

What is in a name? Hoya; – after Thomas Hoy, English gardener. **australis;** southern, referring to the global distribution of the species.

Form: Vine, adventitious root climber, twiner or lithophyte, climbing plant with succulent foliage.

Leaves: The leaves are simple, 25/150 x 15-120mm, may be fleshy, glabrous, hairy or sparsely hairy; upperside may have glands at base; petioles 5-20mm long. The stems contain a white, milky sap.

Inflorescences: Flowers occur in clusters of up to 40, each on a long pedicel (stalk) and about 20 mm in diameter. They are borne on the same stalk in successive seasons and are fragrant, white in colour with deep red markings in the centre.

Fruit: A follicle, green to brown, 70-180mm long x 4-6mm wide; seeds numerous, cream 3-5mm long, attached to white plumes about 25mm long. June to Feb. The seed pods are long and slender, about 100 mm long containing a number of seeds.

Habitat: Rainforest, monsoon forests, vine thickets, swamp forest and open forest from the Torres Straight Islands to the Macleay River NSW, altitude tropical QLD 0-630m. Also NT, WA and New Guinea and Melanesia.

Other notes: The species is popular in cultivation in tropical and subtropical areas and is successful in temperate areas if protected from frost (the species will tolerate light frosts). Good drainage is essential.

H. australis is also suited to growing in containers and hanging baskets as it seems tolerant of root constraint. Flowering is best if good light is available but the plant will grow in reasonably heavy shade.

The "Plant of the Month" is currently available from the SLCMA Community Nursery. Landcare members are eligible to receive 1 free "Plant of the Month", throughout that month, please contact SLCMA for more information.



Image: Brian Walters

Information was sourced from: PCL plant notes, Cooper & Cooper (2004) Fruits of the Australian Tropical Rainforest and Australian Native Plant Society Web page: <http://anpsa.org.au/h-aus.html>



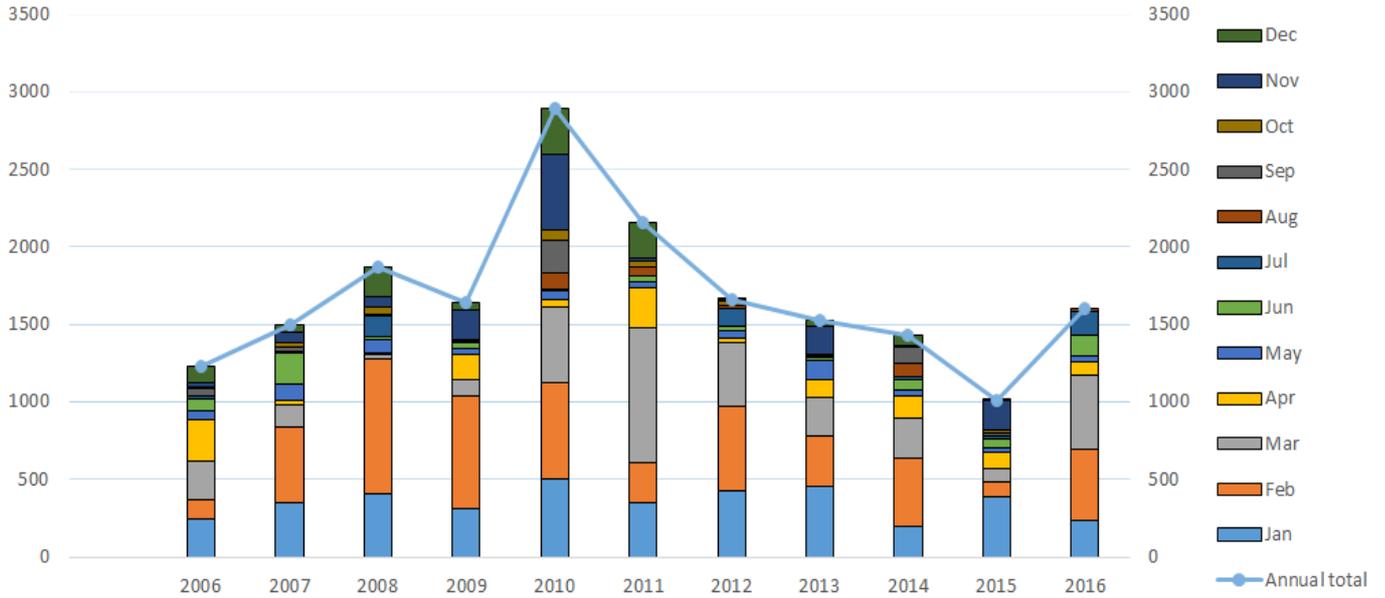
What SLCMA Membership does for you !

A membership with SLCMA has many rewards:

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- ◇ Easy access to Natural Resource Management information and extension
- ◇ Monthly newsletter, meeting minutes, progress and project reports
- ◇ A vote on issues in your catchment
- ◇ A say in the types of projects applied for
- ◇ Up to 10 free local native seedlings/year from the SLCMA Community Nursery
- ◇ Invitations to Natural Resource Management field days and workshops
- ◇ Copy of the SLCMA Annual Report
- ◇ Discounts on purchases of books for sale

Monthly rainfall for SLCMA Office, 2006 -2016 (inc annual total)



Just For Fun !

A parish priest is to offer 'eco-sinners' the chance to confess in what is thought to be the first 'green' confessional booth. Obviously you can't confess all your sins in one go but must separate bottle, paper and plastic confessions.
 □mygreenweek.com

Upcoming Events – Save these Dates

- ◆ **3 Sept : Great Northern Clean Up Freshwater Point Boat Ramp, 9am**
- ◆ 5-11 Sept: Landcare Week
- ◆ **7 Sept: National Threatened Species Day. Sarina Native Gardens Community Gardens Tour, 9am**
- ◆ 11 Sept: Sustainable House day, Bilby day
- ◆ 16 Sept: International day for the preservation of the ozone layer
- ◆ 16 Sept: Greater Whitsunday Food Network Inc Annual General Meeting 10am
73 Gordon St Mackay RSVP admin@greaterwhitsundayfood.org.au
- ◆ **17 Sept: SLCMA Annual General Meeting, 10am**
- ◆ 22 Sept: World Car Free Day, World Maritime Day.



SLCMA is proudly supported by:



A partnership for the natural resource management of catchments in the Central Queensland Coast Bioregion: Pioneer, Sarina & Whitsunday Catchments.

