

SLCMA Catchment Dec News



December 2016

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**SLCMA Office is
OPEN
Monday to Friday**

Coordinator
Lara Mathewson
Administration Officer
Nadine Hamill
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 Community
Nursery

SLCMA Executive 16/17

Chair:
Gloria Murray
Secretary / Vice-chair:
Greg Melvin
Treasurer:
Jenny Price
Executive Member:
Shirley Sidey



Sarina Community Bendigo Bank Funding

Sarina Landcare (SLCMA) was fortunate to be one of the 14 local groups awarded funding from the Sarina Community Bendigo Bank as part of the Community Engagement Program. The successful applicants were announced on Wednesday November 23. In total the program is injecting \$80,000 into the local community. SLCMA will use the funding to supply native tubestock and plant guard kits to educational facilities such as schools, kindergartens and scouts groups in our area,



Image: sourced from Bendigo Bank Face Book Page.

enabling young people the opportunity to assist with greening our catchment. This is a support activity SLCMA is passionate about — providing to educational facilities in our area. Recent funding cuts from other sources have made it a challenge but this funding will enable it to continue.

Christmas Event

SLCMA has received funding from the 2016 Mackay Regional Council Christmas Grants to contribute towards catering of our Christmas event. The Christmas event will be held at the Sarina RSL on Thursday November 15 commencing at 6.15pm. The event will be a celebration of 2016, highlighting achievement for the



year and acknowledging the contributions of the SLCMA volunteers to environmental efforts in our catchment and the success of SLCMA.



Award

SLCMA recently received a "Friends of the School" award from Sarina State High School. The award was presented on Tuesday November 1 at the High School Awards Night held at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre. SLCMA received the award for the contribution of resources and coordination of Landcare based activities with the high school science students in 2016.

Peri Urban Event

30 participants were involved in the Peri Urban event held on Wednesday November 9 at the Ted Malone Rural Skills Centre (RSC). The event focused on small block diversity with Bob North from the RSC giving a tour of the facility and showing participants the activities being under taken on the property. These included bee-keeping, poultry, aquaponics, food gardens, hydroponics, dung beetle breeding & grazing.



Image: N.Hamill

SLCMA Community Volunteer Program *by Sandy Whittington—Shaw*

A lot of rearranging and reorganising has been going on in the Nursery over the last few months and November was no exception. This month we emptied and moved the wetland tubs in order to boost production of wetland species. We also had two large orders to fill which was easily achieved with the assistance of the entire Volunteer Team. The excursion to the Rural Skills Centre was a nice change and the range of various projects suitable for small rural blocks was well demonstrated at the Centre. More determination and perseverance has been directed toward getting the seed bank organised. Many thanks to Jenny & Pam who have not been completely thrilled with the task, but chip away at it each week. It has been identified that a small bench-vice would be a very handy addition to the seed-sorting bench, so if anyone is having a shed clean up and comes across a small vice they no longer need, SLCMA would very gratefully accept the donation. And last but not least, the efforts of the most dedicated 'Pot-Washing Extraordinaires' have not gone un-noticed. Thank you Inez and Rodney. I'd like to convey a big thank-you to all our dedicated Volunteers who contribute in various ways. Your assistance is greatly appreciated, as is the way I have been welcomed to the SLCMA family. Merry Christmas to all, hope to see you safe and well in the new year, Sandy

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.



Image: S. Whittington Shaw

SLCMA Volunteer working on wetland plants

Did You Know?

CQ University researchers have recently discovered that one of our own native species, the Beauty Leaf Tree (BLT), has the potential to produce up to 4,000 litres of biodiesel per hectare in a year.

Features of the Beauty Leaf Tree include:

- Having seeds that contain ~60% non-edible oil which can be converted to fuel-standard biodiesel
- Converting its by-products into bio-oil
- Yielding hard wood timber with reputed durability
- Products of leaf, bark and seed having medicinal properties
- Being able to tolerate salinity and drought
- Being able to be integrated with grazing or crop production.

At present the Beauty Leaf Tree has not been cultivated on a large scale, so CQ University is keen to investigate its potential. The Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) and CQ University have provided support to conduct research into the Beauty Leaf Tree (BLT), with the view to promoting its use in various landscapes, including grazing sites and disturbed mine sites. The continuity of this support now impinges upon the contribution and participation of the growers and commercial partners so that the research outcomes can be continued with the view to making use of BLT in commercial production.

CQ University is seeking interest from partners for:

- Funds to undertake further research
- Their collaboration to conduct on-ground trials

CQ University would like to talk to prospective commercial partners to explore collaborative opportunities, so that the research outcomes can be readily used in commercial practice. If you are interested in this project please Contact Ms Suzi Blair phone 07 4923 2871, email s.blair@cqu.edu.au (extracted from CQUNI—Beauty leaf tree project Flyer)



Image: CSIRO

© CSIRO

Land for Wildlife Program

Stephen Miranda has recently joined the Land for Wildlife program. His property hosts an abundance of native species within a significant area of remnant vegetation.

The area of remnant vegetation on this property is host to many species of native fauna, with copious amounts of native birdlife present. The forest is very healthy with all levels of canopy present and strong evidence of natural regeneration occurring. The goals for this property are to preserve the integrity of the remnant vegetation area and reduce the amount of weeds and exotic species around the residence.



L-R, *Pittosporum ferrugineum*, *Mallotus philippensis*, *Melia azedarach* in seed

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 ***Abelmoschus moschatus subsp. tuberosus***, Native Rosella
Family: Malvaceae

What is in a name? Arabic, *abu-l-mosk*, father of musk, in allusion to the smell of the seeds.
moschatus, similarly, musk smelling. *tuberosus*, having tubers.

Form: Perennial species, soft, herbaceous trailing plant to 2m in diameter with soft hairy stems. It has an underground tuber and dies back to this tuber in the dry season, emerging again with the first substantial rains of the wet season.

Leaves: Leaves are alternate, rough, hairy heart-shaped or 3-5 lobed with serrated margins, 4-10cm x 4-8.5cm.

Inflorescences: Flowers are Hibiscus like, usually watermelon pink but sometimes white or cream—always with a dark centre. Flowers last for one day only but are very prolific and are borne between October and April, flowering time depending on the timing of the wet season.

Fruit: Black seeds are held in hairy, tough but papery capsules.

Habitat: Grows in seasonally wet areas or near creeks, in open forest and woodland, in a wide range of soils from sands to heavy clays.

Distribution: North and eastern Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia, in open woodlands or grasslands, most often found on rocky hillsides but sometimes on flat lands. It is also found in parts of south-east Asia.



Abelmoschus moschatus subsp. tuberosus

Other notes: It is a relative of the edible Okra and tubers and foliage were a source of food for Aborigines.

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.

Information and image was sourced from: *Australian Native Plants Soviet (Australia)* <http://www.anpsa.org.au/a->



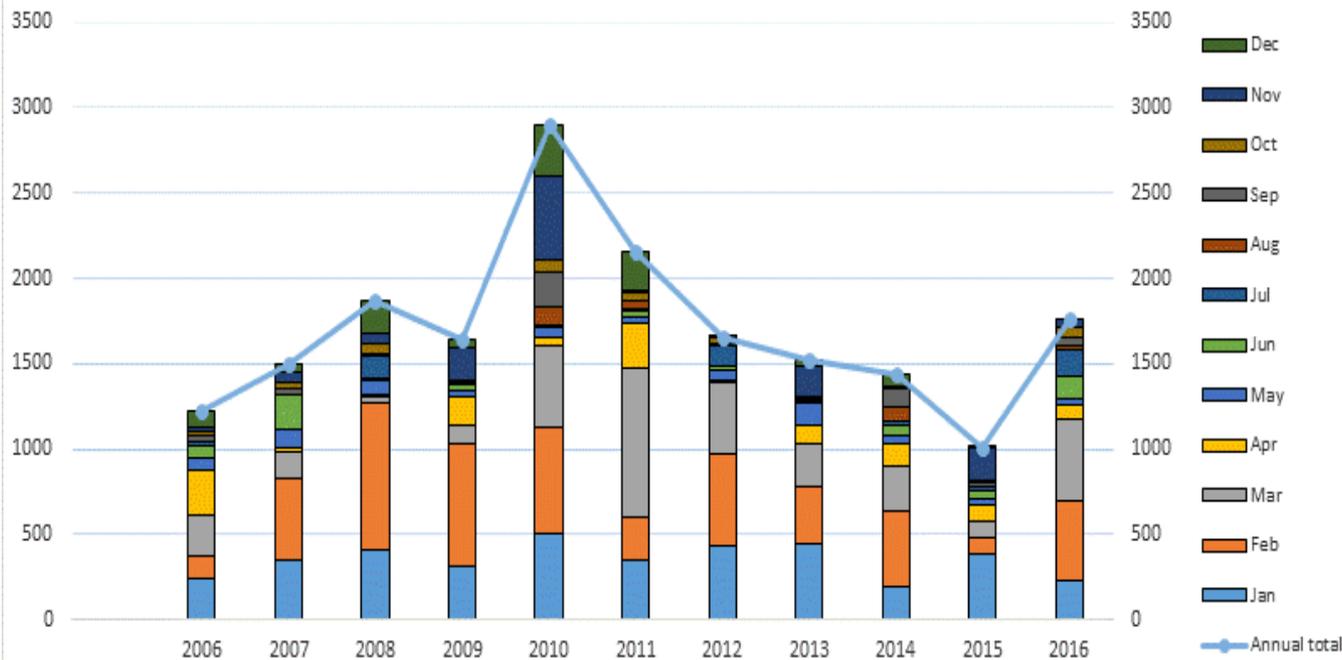
What SLCMA Membership does for you !

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 !

Knock Knock
 Who's there?
 Centipede.
 Centipede who?
 Centipede on the Christmas tree

Knock Knock
 Who's there!
 Anna!
 Anna who?
 Anna partridge in a pear tree.

Knock Knock
 Who's there?
 Mary
 Mary who?
 Mary Christmas !



Upcoming Events – Save these Dates

- ◆ **11 Dec:** International Mountain Day
- ◆ **15 Dec:** Christmas Dinner / Dec Special General Meeting
- ◆ **16 Dec:** SLCMA office closes for 2016
- ◆ **9 Jan:** SLCMA office reopening 2017

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SLCMA is proudly supported by:



DBCT MANAGEMENT



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

Sarina Community Bank® Branch
 together with
RURAL BANK

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