

# SLCMA Catchment News



## March 2017

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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

#### Vice-chair:

Greg Melvin

#### Treasurer:

Jenny Price

#### Secretary:

Shirley Sidey

## Grazing Forum 2017

SLCMA attended the Grazing Forum on Wednesday 1 March, to host a display that highlighted the successes of the Aerial Feral Pig Control Program. A slideshow presentation was on display at the SLCMA display that detailed the ongoing need for such a control program in our area and statistically demonstrated the success of the program since its implementation in 2009.

SLCMA made up part of the trade display component of the Grazing Forum. Participants were able to browse the trade displays during their lunch break. Other displays included Pioneer Catchment and Landcare, Freckle Farm, and the Mackay Regional Pest management Group's pest trailer to name a few. It was an excellent opportunity for networking.

The Grazing Forum is an annual event hosted by Reef Catchments. This year's event enabled participants the opportunity to hear from a range of speakers discussing topics such as soil health, carbon and climate and how to stay viable as well as potential funding opportunities. This year a Q&A weed panel formed part of the forum and enabled graziers the opportunity to engage with experts.



Image: C. Lambropoulos

## Plant Adaptations School Activity

SLCMA Coordinator, Lara Mathewson was very fortunate to attend Koumala State School recently. Students from across 4 grades were presented with information on how to plant and care for native tubestock as well as adaptations of plants. Of particular interest to the students curriculum was learning about how native plants have adapted to their surrounds.

A variety of plants from the SLCMA Community Nursery were used to demonstrate the adaptations that enable native plants to maximise and conserve the water available to them. Students were able to view and feel the differences in plant leaf types to gain an understanding of some adaptations.

The children were extremely enthusiastic to get their hands dirty and moved out into the school grounds to plant local native species provided from SLCMA.

Funding from Mackay Regional Council Natural Environment Levy under the Landcare Support Program enables SLCMA to participate in such activities with local schools. Plants for the activity were made available to the school through funding from the Sarina Community Bendigo Bank Community Engagement Program.

*Right: Koumala State School Student R. Hooper, planting an Octopus Bush. (Argusia argentea) The hairy leaves of the Octopus Bush reflect sunlight from their surface and reduce the movement of air on their surface. This results in less transpiration. It is the evaporation of moisture from the plant.*



Image: Lara Mathewson



## SLCMA Community Volunteer Program *by Sandy Whittington—Shaw*

Image:  
S. Whittington Shaw



With quite a lot of rainfall in February, the volunteers were forced to play 'Dodge the showers' and 'Find a dry spot'. The tropical conditions were perfect for growing plants (including the weeds) and there was plenty of potting up and weeding to do. We found one little froggy friend who was well and truly enjoying the rain.

We also had over 2000 plants go out to landholders involved in the Peri-urban project and to a local revegetation project, creating lots of space for fresh new stock.

New sun hardening benches are on the way to increase the capacity of the nursery, our volunteers have been busy making space to allow for the benches.

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.

## Did You Know about Boomerang Bags?

Boomerang Bags works to reduce the use of plastic bags by engaging local communities in the making of Boomerang Bags – which are community made, using recycled materials.

Boomerang Bags provide a free, fun, sustainable alternative to plastic bags. By getting involved, you are participating in a national movement that celebrates a local grassroots initiative which encourages building communities and sustainability.



### 1) Build community

Boomerang Bags 'communities' are areas in which groups of volunteers get together to make bags regularly for the wider community to use. You can either make bags solo, join a nearby Boomerang Bags community, start a community of your own, or simply get together with friends to make a few bags over a cuppa!

### 2) Collect materials

Rummage through the linen closets of family, friends and friends of friends, or clean out your local op-shop for second-hand materials suitable for making bags!

### 3) Make Boomerang Bags!

Get together with above mentioned group and make Boomerang Bags! You can use the templates provided by Boomerang Bags, or come up with your own designs.

### 4) Put them to use!

Let the bags out into your local community!

If you don't live near a current Boomerang Bags Community, give them away to friends, family, colleagues, the bag-less stranger in front of you at the supermarket, wrap presents in them, or stash them in your car and handbag so that you're never caught without a re-useable bag when you need one!



To find out more or to obtain a 'How to Guide' to help get Boomerang Bags started in your local area visit:

<http://boomerangbags.org/about/> or on Face Book <https://www.facebook.com/boomerangbags>

## Soil Health Field Trip

The Central Queensland Soil Health Systems (CQSHS) group is holding its 4th Annual Soil Health Field Day on April 6-7.

The event is a mixture of presentations at the South's Leagues club and field excursions. The field excursions will show case trial sites where different practices are being employed to improve soil health. Participants will also have the opportunity to participate in a hands on in-field soil assessment workshop hosted by agricultural ecologist, David Hardwick. If you wish to obtain further information about the events or to book a place contact Simon Mattsson, [mattsson@mcs.net.au](mailto:mattsson@mcs.net.au) or Richard Prior, [rjprior@hotmail.com](mailto:rjprior@hotmail.com).



**CQSHS**, has been formed in recognition that soil is much more than just somewhere to stand your crop. The CQSHS group believes that addressing soil health must take a systemic approach. If you wish to find out more about this local group visit: <http://www.cqshs.farm/>

## Land for Wildlife Program

Many of Queensland's rare plants and animals occur on private land and their survival depends on local landholders to protect important ecosystems.



Land For Wildlife is a voluntary program that encourages and assists landholders to provide habitat for wildlife on their properties. The program is free. Whether you manage a large farm or small bush block, the land for Wildlife program can offer advice and assistance.

Land for wildlife welcomes landholders who:

- ◆ Manage part or all of their property as habitat for native plants and animals.
- ◆ Integrate nature conservation with other land uses, such as agriculture, grazing or tourism.
- ◆ Have a property generally over 1 ha in size (exceptions may apply for educational, community-owned or other properties).

Land For wildlife recognises the skills and commitment of landholders and is responsive to individual needs.

If you would like more information on the Land for Wildlife Program or are interested in becoming a Land for Wildlife member please contact us on 4956 1388 or call into our office at 101 Beach Road, Sarina or email [admin@sarinalandcare.org.au](mailto:admin@sarinalandcare.org.au)

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



Image: L. Mathewson

## SLCMA Community Nursery "Plant of the Month"



This month's 'Plant of the Month' is ***Mackinlaya macrosciadea***, Blue Umbrella tree.

**Family:** Araliaceae

**What is in a name?** ***Mackinlaya*** is named after John McKinlay (1819-1872) a South Australian explorer who led one of the expeditions to search for Burke and Wills and later explored the Northern Territory, ***macrosciadea*** from the Greek *macro* large and *sciadion* umbel, parasol—refers to the leaves.

**Form:** Slender, often multi-stemmed, open shrub with umbrella-like leaves.

**Leaves:** 7-18 x 2-7cm, glossy green.

**Inflorescences:** Large, branched umbels of small white, cream, green or yellowish flowers; any month.

**Fruit:** Berries, spherical, fleshy, green turning to a greyish blue when ripe; May to November.

**Habitat:** Well shaded areas in or near rainforest and riparian rainforest in particular.

**Distribution:** Queensland and Northern Territory.

**Ecological Notes:** Fruit eaten by the southern cassowary.

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.



Images: M & S Evans

Information sourced from: *Plants of Capricornia 2007*, Rhonda Melzer and Joel Plumb.



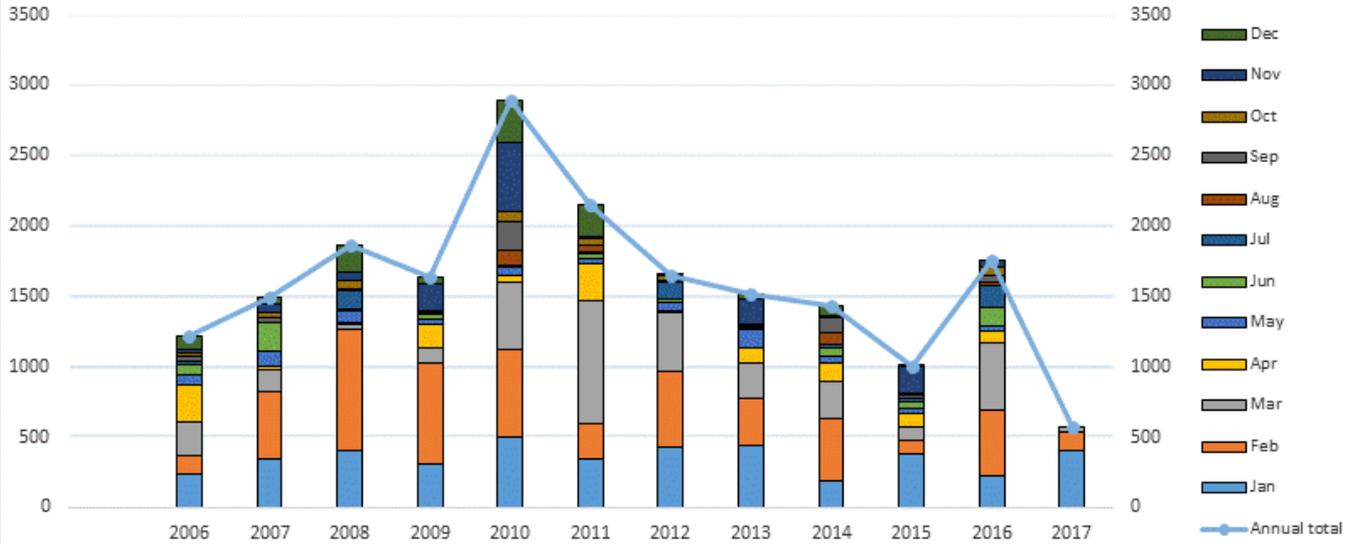
# What SLCMA Membership does for you !

A membership with SLCMA has many rewards:

- ◇ 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

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



## Just For Fun !

A physicist, biologist and a chemist were going to the ocean for the first time. The physicist saw the ocean and was fascinated by the waves. He said he wanted to do some research on the fluid dynamics of the waves and walked into the ocean. Obviously he was drowned and never returned.

The biologist said he wanted to do research on the flora and fauna inside the ocean and walked inside the ocean. He too, never returned.

The chemist waited for a long time and afterwards, wrote the observation, "The physicist and the biologist are soluble in ocean water".



## Upcoming Events & Significant Dates

- ◇ Mar 5–11—National Groundwater Awareness Week
- ◇ Mar 8—International Women's Day
- ◇ Mar 21—World Forestry Day
- ◇ Mar 22—World Water Day
- ◇ Mar 25—Earth Hour
- ◇ Apr 1—Nelly Bay free ecological walk ph 0408 187 944
- ◇ Apr 6-7— 4th Annual Marian Soil Health Field Day ph 0417 862 979

SLCMA is proudly supported by:



*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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