

SLCMA Catchment News



May 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

Committee member:

Pamela Just



Sarina
Landcare



SLCMA May General Meeting

The next SLCMA General Meeting will be held on Wednesday May 17 commencing at 12.30pm. The meeting will be held at the SLCMA office grounds, 101 Sarina Beach Road Sarina.

Local archaeological and geological enthusiast Val Osborn will be the guest speaker at the meeting.

Val will be discussing the Mt Hector Conservation area and Rainbow Rocks. Come along and hear about what makes this area so unique and worthy of conserving.

This talk is a prelude to the upcoming guided walk to Rainbow Rocks. SLCMA have obtained funding from the Sarina Festival to hold this guided walk to a fascinating and unique, little known area. Further information about the walk will be circulated closer to the event.



Images: Val Osborne

Carmila Beach Reserve Rehabilitation Works

SLCMA have been busy in April finalising the last weed control event at Carmila Beach Reserve under a contract from Reef Catchments. Weed control works in the Carmila Beach Reserve have been ongoing for a number of years. The intent of the works is to continue to improve the condition of 14Ha of endangered coastal habitat within the beach reserve.

The area is significant given that it contains two endangered and one of concern Regional Ecosystems. It provides essential habitat for a number of listed endangered and vulnerable species.

The primary threat to the beach reserve is invasive weeds. The control works conducted by SLCMA to date have seen a significant improvement to the area with Prickly Pear and Lantana virtually eradicated. Significant areas of herbaceous and woody weeds are still prevalent and ongoing works is required to treat these.

SLCMA are presently undertaking revegetation as the next stage in the rehabilitation of the site. The native plants once established, will assist to control these weeds by



Image: S. Whittington-Shaw

shading the understorey and limiting the weeds' growing capabilities.

Left: SLCMA worker conducting weed control works at Carmila Beach Reserve, removing Rattle Pod (*Crotalaria pallida*) from access track to minimise weed seed dispersal from recreational vehicles using the area.

SLCMA Community Volunteer Program *by Sandy Whittington—Shaw*

April turned into a month of maintenance in the nursery! After Cyclone Debbie, a lot of stock was looking worse for wear thanks to the wind and lack of irrigation, so we needed to sort through and remove the casualties. While at it, we undertook some weeding and administered some TLC where required.

The stock has been moved around somewhat, with the Myrtaceae brought out into full sun, away from the shade of the *Lophostemon*, in an attempt to reduce the incidence of Myrtle Rust. The aquapods in the corner of the nursery have been moved out of the way to make space for some new benches.

We have also welcomed a new volunteer who has had previous experience in floristry, conservation, weed management and nursery operations. She has also recently been involved at the South Sea Islander Hut where she was lucky to learn some traditional medicinal uses of plants. With a great passion for plants and willingness to get her hands dirty, she is a most welcome addition to the volunteer team. Welcome Tayleah.

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.

Images: S. Whittington-Shaw



Left: Cleared area in nursery ready for new bench installation. Right: Nursery Volunteer Tayleah conducting repairs to shade cloth surrounding nursery compound after cyclone Debbie.

Did you know about Beer to benefit Landcare?

Hawke's Brewing Co. is proud to announce it's partnership with Landcare Australia, with every drop of Hawke's sold helping to support the rural communities who do such an amazing job in looking after the land that grows the all-Australian ingredients.

Hawke's Brewing Co. is an independent, Australian-owned beer company, built on three key principles.

- ◆ Brewing great quality beer.
- ◆ Supporting the land that grows its all-Australian ingredients.
- ◆ And a promise that the kind-hearted, generous and community-centric values of Bob Hawke are always upheld.

Hawke's Lager is available on tap across some of Sydney's most iconic pubs. Cans are now stocked at all [Camperdown Cellars](#) outlets in Sydney. Hawke's Lager will be rolling out to the rest of Australia throughout 2017.

In 1989, Bob helped turn a once small rural initiative into what's become Australia's largest environmentally-focused movement – Landcare. That's why Hawke's Brewing Co. is proud to announce its partnership with Landcare Australia. Bob is so passionate about this partnership that he's foregoing all financial benefit from Hawke's Brewing Co., and passing it on as donations to Landcare Australia.

Information and images extracted from Hawkes Brewing web page: <https://www.hawkesbrewing.com/home>



Land For Wildlife Field Trip

Don't forget the Land For Wildlife Field Trip is approaching. The field trip will be held on Wednesday May 31. Check our Facebook page to see the event flyer or contact the SLCMA office for further details.



Land for Wildlife Program

Michael and Sue Smith have been Land For Wildlife participants since 2012. Their property is a beautiful example of a property being rehabilitated to allow for natural regeneration.



Significant areas of the property was thick infestations of Lantana. However, through manual control much of the Lantana has been removed and native plants (received through the Land For Wildlife program) have been planted in replacement. Considerable natural regeneration is also occurring with previously unobserved native plant species now being identified.

The property has over 15 hectares of remnant variable mixed open forest to woodlands (Regional Ecosystem 8.12.12) that is being preserved through ongoing weed control and, providing valuable habitat for native fauna and flora.

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.au

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



Right: Cascading Pea (*Desmodium ormocarpoides*) recently identified at the property after thick lantana was cleared.

Image: Michael Smith

SLCMA Community Nursery "Plant of the Month"

This month's 'Plant of the Month' is ***Orthosiphon aristatus***, Cats whiskers **Family:** Lamiaceae

What is in a name? *Aristatus* (bearing a bristle at the tip); referring to the calyx lobes, latin **Lanium** meaning dead nettle, *Orthosiphon* two greek words; **orthos**—straigh, **siphon**—a tube.

Form: Perennial Herb to 1m; stems square

Leaves: simple, 30-70 x 18-38mm, clothed in minute hairs mostly along midrib and main veins.

Inflorescences / Flower: A terminal raceme. Flower petals white, pink or pale purple. Nov—Aug or much of the year in warm climates.

Fruit: A nut about 2mm long, enclosed in a boat—shaped calyx. Feb—March

Distribution: Rainforests and monsoon forest from the Torres Strait Islands to Cardwell, altitude 0-100m.

Ecological Notes: A much used traditional medicine. Attractive to bees, butterflies and some birds.

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 sourced from: *Fruits of Australian Tropical Rainforest 2004 Copper and Copper.*



Image: S. von Fahland



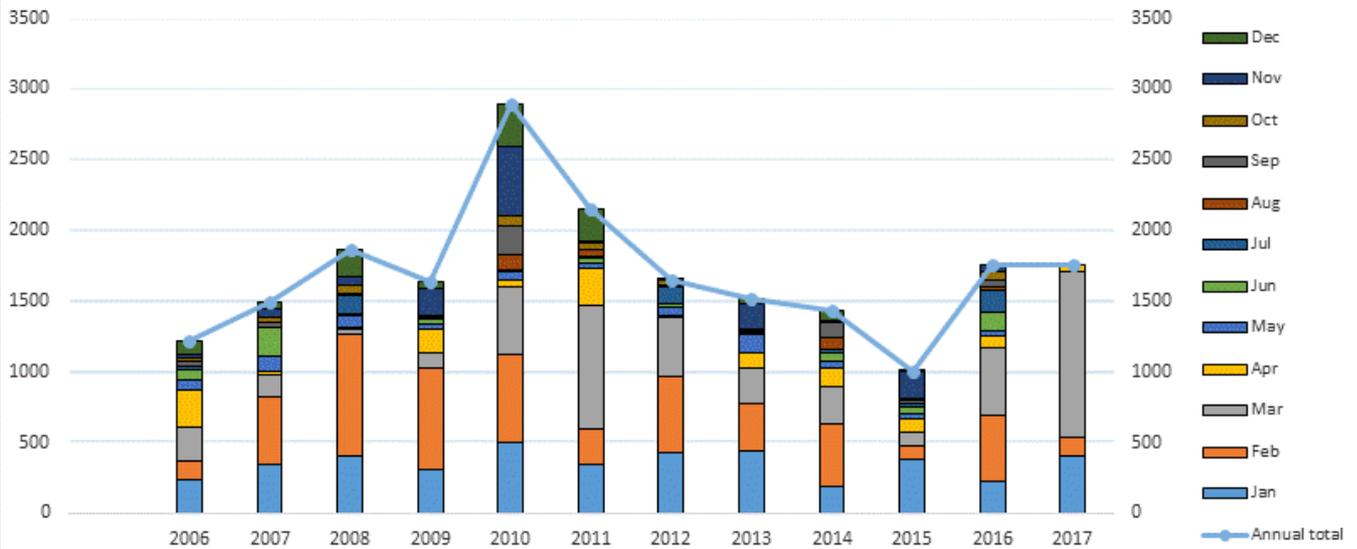
What SLCMA Membership does for you !

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 -2017 (inc annual total)



Just For Fun !

One day God called to Noah and said, "Noah, you need to build another Ark". Noah listened obediently. "But this time, Noah, I don't just want a couple of decks. I want 20 decks, one on top of the

other".

"20 DECKS?" cried Noah, "Well, okay... but should I fill it up with pairs of animals again?"

"Well, sort of. This time I want you to fill it up with fish," God replied. "Fish?" "Yes, fish. In fact, I specifically want carp. Just carp." Noah studied the landscape around him. "Okay God, let me get this right, you want another Ark?" "Right". "With 20 decks." "Right". "And you want it full of carp?". "Right." "But why?" asked Noah in confusion.

"Well, what I'm after..." replied God, "is a Multi-Storey carp Ark".



Upcoming Events & Significant Dates

- ◇ May 13—SLCMA General Meeting ph: 4956 1388
- ◇ May 13—World Migratory Bird Day
- ◇ May 21—International Day for Biological Biodiversity
- ◇ May 22—World Turtle Day
- ◇ May 22—Graziers networking event Eungella—ph: 4968 4200
- ◇ May 22—Discover De Moleyn's lagoon ph: 0437 657 564
- ◇ May 31—Land For Wildlife Field trip ph: 4956 1388

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Central QLD Coast
Landcare
Network

SLCMA is proudly supported by:



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

