

# SLCMA Catchment News



July 2017

Office: 101 Sarina Beach Rd  
Postal: PO Box 682  
Sarina QLD 4737  
Phone: (07) 4956 1388  
Fax: (07) 4956 2944  
Email:  
admin@sarinalandcare.org.au  
[www.sarinalandcare.org.au](http://www.sarinalandcare.org.au)

**SLCMA Office is OPEN every weekday, 9-12noon (afternoon by prior arrangement)**

**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



## SLCMA News

The next SLCMA General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 26 July at 1pm, at the SLCMA office. Join us for a tour of recent works including the Wetlands Treatment Train and Sustainable food garden. We look forward to seeing you there :)

We would like to inform our members and project partners that Lara Mathewson has stepped down as Coordinator. We would like to wish Lara all the best.

A reminder that your SLCMA Membership renewal, for 2017/18 financial year, is now due. Membership remains at \$10.00 per person, per year with the same great benefits including 10 free native plants (see back of newsletter for more benefits). Please contact SLCMA to discuss your options for renewal as soon as possible, to ensure your membership remains current and you receive all of your benefits.

## Stronger Communities Programme

SLCMA recently finalised a project funded through the Australian Government - Stronger Communities Programme which allowed for the purchase of equipment for the SLCMA Community Nursery; to improve the health, safety and comfort of our weekly volunteers. The final phase of the project included the purchase of a defibrillator, to complement our existing first aid kit. The project also included upgrading the propagation area with a purpose built workstation and non-slip anti-fatigue matting, which was installed in late 2016.



We would like to thank the Stronger Communities Programme for their support for the project, which has allowed us to continue to provide a safe and comfortable area for the SLCMA Community Volunteer team to operate in.

## Sustainable Food Garden Opening

Over 30 people gathered at SLCMA Office grounds on Wednesday June 7, for the opening of the sustainable food garden.

The garden will be used as an educational tool to teach the community and local youth about sustainable food production as well as an additional activity for Landcare volunteers to participate in. The produce grown in the garden will be a means through which SLCMA can give back to our valuable volunteers.

The opening event included an informative talk from guest speaker, Luke Mathews (from the Mackay Community Gardens) as well as enabled attendees to gain hands-on practical experience in planting, with the planting out of the garden bed to with an array of nourishing food plants. Attendees received advice on plant selection, placement and care and many left the event with cuttings to use in their own gardens.



The opening event and the construction of the sustainable food garden were funded through the Sarina Community Bendigo Bank and Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal Pty Ltd. If you would like to obtain more information on sustainable food gardening or see the plants that have been used contact SLCMA on [admin@sarinalandcare.org.au](mailto:admin@sarinalandcare.org.au) or phone 4956 1388.



Images: L. Mathewson

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

The volunteers were out and about a lot in the last month. Although officially in May, the team was able to collect seed from Plane Creek and then from Sandy & Mark's Rainforest property, whilst attending the Land for Wildlife field trip. A couple of lovely ferns were also sourced. We also enjoyed a rewarding morning of seed collecting at Jeanne & Mark's Eversleigh property. Thank you to these wonderful volunteers who opened their properties for us to enjoy.

The office gardens were given a long overdue tidy up, with Tayleah, Matt, Peter and Sandy putting in a day's work of weeding, pruning and mulching, to have them looking tidy for the Sustainable Garden opening. Peter has also been busy weeding and mulching in the Sarina Community Native Gardens. All of the gardens are looking fantastic!

The volunteers all pitched in, in various ways, to help get things ready for the Water Treatment Train Opening and for when the Rural Skills Centre students arrive in early July. A fantastic effort by the volunteers in potting up many wetland plants to fill the pods, ensured we had plenty to fill the Treatment Train prior to opening.

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

*Above Left: The volunteer team enjoy a well deserved break during a seed collection trip to Eversleigh Estate.*

*Above Right: Volunteer Peter Whitehead working on the Wetlands Treatment Train.*

*Left: Volunteers Tayleah, Matt and Peter conducting work in the SLCMA office grounds gardens prior to the opening event for the Sustainable Food Garden.*

## Free recycling programs—here's how you can join in!

Terra Cycle offers free recycling programs funded by brands, manufacturers and retailers around the world, to help you collect and recycle your hard-to-recycle waste. Examples of items that can be recycled by this organisation include toothpaste tubes and toothbrushes, coffee pods, fruit pouches, beauty product packaging and mail bags to name a few.

You can become a collection point for the recyclable products, register online and leave a box out the front of your work or home. Simply choose the programs you'd like to join; and start collecting in your home. When you have enough recyclable material collected you hit a button and, an email with a postage label is sent to you. Package everything up, glue the label on and post. All free of charge to you.

To find out more or to register visit the web page. <http://www.terracycle.com.au/en-AU/brigades>



# Land for Wildlife Program



Did you know we have some Council managed 'Land for Wildlife' registered properties in our catchment? These properties are a great opportunity to preserve, and showcase to the community, the natural values of important ecosystems within the catchment. One of these areas is the Plane Creek Revegetation Site.

Located along Plane Creek, in the Sarina township, the Plane Creek Revegetation Site began its rehabilitation story in 1994. Over the years, it has transformed from a weed infested waste land to today a fully functioning riparian ecosystem. The site has been utilised in the past for guided walks, seed collecting, water quality monitoring and environmental studies by local schools. Recently, the site was utilised for our 'School Activity Days' where students from local schools gained an understanding of the values of riparian vegetation as well as participated in a planting exercise. The students worked alongside Mackay Regional Council Regeneration crew to replace native plants that were lost from recent floods, following cyclone Debbie.

This site is an environmentally significant site demonstrating the values of riparian vegetation in bank stability and playing a role in reducing sediment load that ends up on the reef. Additionally, the site provides habitat for native animals and is a valuable seed collection site for native seed used in the community native nursery. The recent planting will ensure the longevity and the diversity of the site as well as assist in the control of weed species.

The Land for Wildlife Program is funded by the Mackay Regional Council Natural Environment Levy. If you would like more information about the Land for Wildlife Program or are interested in becoming a Land for Wildlife member please contact SLCMA on 4956 1388, email: [admin@sarinalandcare.org.au](mailto:admin@sarinalandcare.org.au) or visit our office at 101 Beach Road, Sarina.



Image: contributed

Area planted by school students Council team

## SLCMA Community Nursery "Plant of the Month"

This month's 'Plant of the Month' is *Acacia leptostachya* - Slender Wattle, Townsville Wattle

**Family:** Mimosaceae

**What is in a name?** *Acacia* comes from the Greek *akakia*, meaning a thorn or spike; *leptostachya* is from Greek *leptos*, meaning slender and *stakyos* meaning ear of corn; referring to slender flower spikes.

**Form:** Small shrub or tree up to 6m, with dense foliage and a rounded shape.

**Bark:** Dark grey and fissured.

**Leaves:** The phyllodes (leaves) are stiff, straight or shallowly curved, and narrow, although in young trees this varies. They are leathery, grey-green, 3–9cm long x 0.3–1cm wide; many closed spaced longitudinal veins, 2 or 3 veins yellowish and more conspicuous than the rest; inconspicuous basal gland.

**Inflorescences / Flower:** Golden yellow spikes, 2–4cm long, usually in pairs, in leaf axils; appear June to August.

**Fruit:** Narrow, linear pods, 6 x 0.2cm; seeds shiny brown.

**Habitat:** Open eucalypt woodlands, grasslands on headlands; on skeletal soil or deep sand.

**Distribution:** Eastern and central Queensland, from the east-central part of Cape York Peninsula near Coen as far south as Maryborough and Charleville.

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:** Melzer R and Plum J (2007) *Plants of Capricornia* and Perrin D (1990) *Dictionary of Botanical Names Australian Plant Names*  
**Image sourced from:** Keith Townsend—<http://anpsa.org.au/a-lep.html>





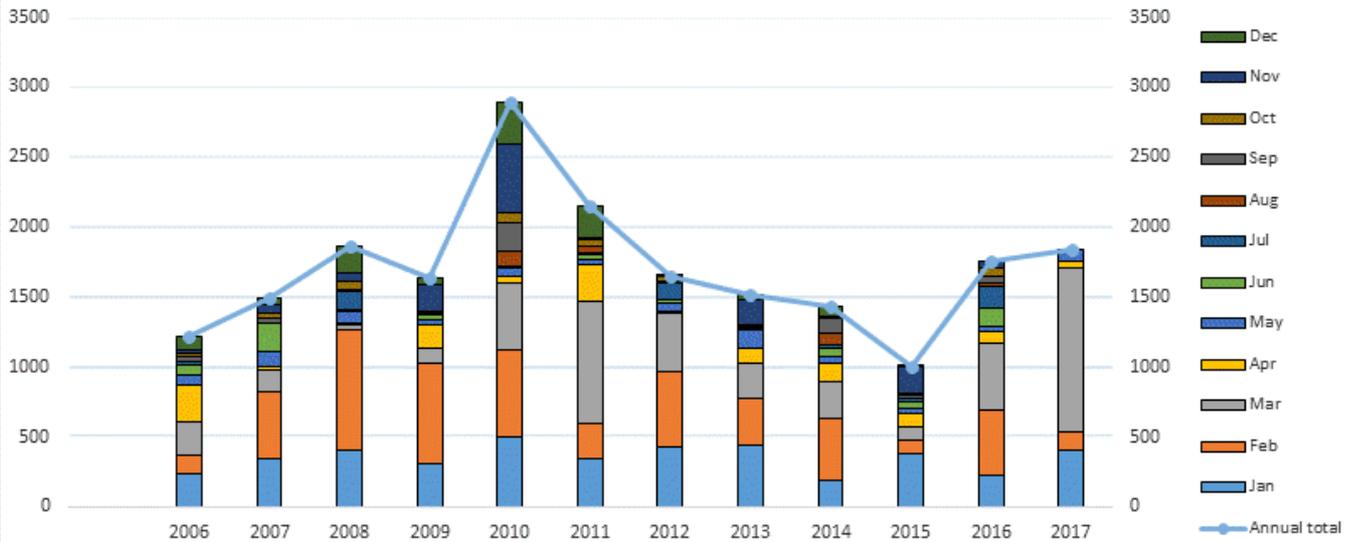
# What SLCMA Membership does for you !

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)



## Thankyou!

SLCMA would like to thank Jim Pearce for the generous donation of a new fridge. The fridge will enable us to ensure seeds in SLCMA's native seed bank remain viable for a longer period of time.

The seeds are then used in the SLCMA Community Nursery to propagate a variety of local native plants. This process is integral to ensure native plants of local provenance are available for environmental projects conducted by SLCMA, landholders and other groups, across the region.



Left: The new seed fridge donated by Jim Pearce



Above Right: L-R Jen Price, Gloria Murray, Jim Pearce in the SLCMA shade house.

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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.**

