

SLCMA Catchment News



June 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



Japanese Sunflower—*Tithonia diversifolia*



You may have noticed the vibrant yellow flower of the Japanese sunflower recently. Don't be tempted to take cuttings and try to strike this plant. It is a serious environmental weed classified as Invasive under the *QLD Biosecurity Act 2014*. It

is capable of forming dense thickets and out-competing native vegetation. Japanese sunflower is commonly a weed on roadsides, embankments, unmanaged lands and fire degraded hillsides. Japanese sunflower stands up to 3 m. Flowers are sunflower-like heads up to 10 cm across, with yellow flower centres and reddish-orange petals 4–5 cm long. Leaves are pale

Green tapered, five-lobed, serrated and hairy, and between 6–15 cm in length and 5–12 cm in width. The stems are bushy, For more information including control options visit <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/.../62682/IPA>



Images: L. Mathewson

Graziers Network Event Eungella

SLCMA was fortunate to attend the recent graziers network event in Eungella on Monday May 22.

The event was an opportunity for Landcare to engage with graziers. Whitsunday and Pioneer Landcare representatives presented an informative talk on the values of riparian revegetation and how to conduct revegetation works. Whitsunday Landcare led an on-farm walk to identify weeds and discuss treatment options. Sarina Landcare presented on the benefits of dung beetles for soil health.

Participants were treated to a "paddock to plate" lunch and able to shop for local Eungella produce at the pop up farm market.

The event was funded under the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

*Far Right: Participants braving a wintery wet Eungella day at Cloud-break property. The wet climate provides ideal conditions for the kikuyu and clover pastures.
Right: Local Eungella produce*



Images: L. Mathewson

SLCMA Community Volunteer Program *by Sandy Whittington—Shaw*

This month in the nursery the volunteer team continued weeding, pruning and refilling stock which needed some TLC. As they were sorted, new homes were found, with the result of most stock having been moved to new locations. The reshuffle has also allowed us to move more stock out of the shade house, which can then be cleaned up somewhat over the cooler months which are not so busy for propagation.

The last few hundred plants for a large local revegetation project went out after various hold-ups including the extreme heat and rain we have experienced this year. We also had some plants go to a couple of local beach projects.

The treatment train is really starting to take shape with the first of the pods being filled with sedges. It will look wonderful when all four pods are planted out.

We also were very grateful to MRC for delivering a new set of bins specifically for the nursery. Some luxuries are taken for granted and the addition of bins is a real treat!

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.



Left: SLCMA volunteer Peter Whitehead working on the Wetlands Treatment Train section of the nursery. Below: The new Bins!



Images: S. Whittington -Shaw

Did you know?

"Ending land clearing in Australia by 2030 would cut Australia's greenhouse gas emissions by about as much as the whole of Australia produces in a year, a new report has found. Queensland has been clearing about 300,000ha of land a year since the Newman government weakened restrictions on land clearing. Combined with clearing in other states, analysis by the research firm RepuTex found that ceasing all land clearing would save between 300m and 650m tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions between 2021 and 2030.

That is a similar amount of abatement that would be achieved over a year if Australia completely stopped producing any greenhouse gases. Australia produces about 500m tonnes of CO2 emissions each year, which is expected to rise to just under 600m tonnes by 2030, the report commissioned by the Wilderness Society found. If land clearing was stopped sooner – by 2020 – they found emissions would be cut by a further 100m tonnes, which is roughly equivalent to those produced by the entire transport sector.

The analysis also examined the role of investing another \$5bn into tree-planting projects, which would cut emissions by another 200m tonnes.

The two measures combined would satisfy about 60% of Australia's carbon abatement commitments made in Paris."

Extracted from The Guardian article, Michael Slezak, June 1 2017. <https://www.theguardian.com/>



Planting Milestone Achieved



Dalrymple Bay Coal Pty Ltd engaged SLCMA to conduct revegetation planting of just over 1,700 native tubestock.

The tubestock produced at the SLCMA community nursery have been planted on the DBCT reveg site between Oct 2016 and May 2017. The completion of this planting marks a significant milestone and has freed up a lot of space in the nursery.

Land for Wildlife Program

Land for Wildlife participants and other interested individuals from Sarina Landcare and Pioneer Catchment Landcare participated in a field trip on Wednesday May 31.



The field trip involved visiting two very contrasting properties. The first property was a riparian revegetation site that had been transformed over the years from a very weed infested dumping area to a thriving riparian ecosystem through weed management and planting activities. The area has recently been transformed after inundation following cyclone Debbie. The site provided an excellent example of the benefits of riparian vegetation in slowing water movement, allowing sediment to drop out and bank stabilisation.



The second property visited was a private property that has an abundant array of remnant vegetation that is being managed by the owners. Participants on the field trip were able to wander through the remnant vegetation and view some unique vegetation species as well as hear about the native wildlife that frequent the property.

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 in to 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.



Left: Remnant vegetation walk,

Middle: *Fitzalanina bidwillii* seeds.

Right: Riparian revegetation site.

Images: L. Mathewson

SLCMA Community Nursery "Plant of the Month"

This month's 'Plant of the Month' is ***Micromelum minutum*** – Lime Berry

Family: Rutaceae

What is in a name? *Micromelum* from the Greek **micros** small and **melon** apple or tree fruit—refers to the small Fruit; *minutum* from the Latin **minutus** very small.

Form: Small tree to 7m but often much smaller.

Bark: Grey, smooth to slightly scaly.

Leaves: Alternate, pinnate with seven to eleven leaflets, green above, paler with short downy hairs below, asymmetrical base.

Inflorescences / Flower: Large terminal panicles of small white bisexual flowers; sweetly fragrant; spring to winter.

Fruit: Drupes, ovoid, 6-7mm long, changes from yellow to bright orange; spring to summer.

Habitat: Dry rainforest including littoral rainforest

Ecological Notes: Fruit eaten by the rose-crowned and wompoo fruit-doves, Laval food plant for the orchard swallowtail and fuscous swallowtail butterflies.

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: *Plants of Capricornia R. Melzer & J. Plumb 2007.*



Image: John Elliot



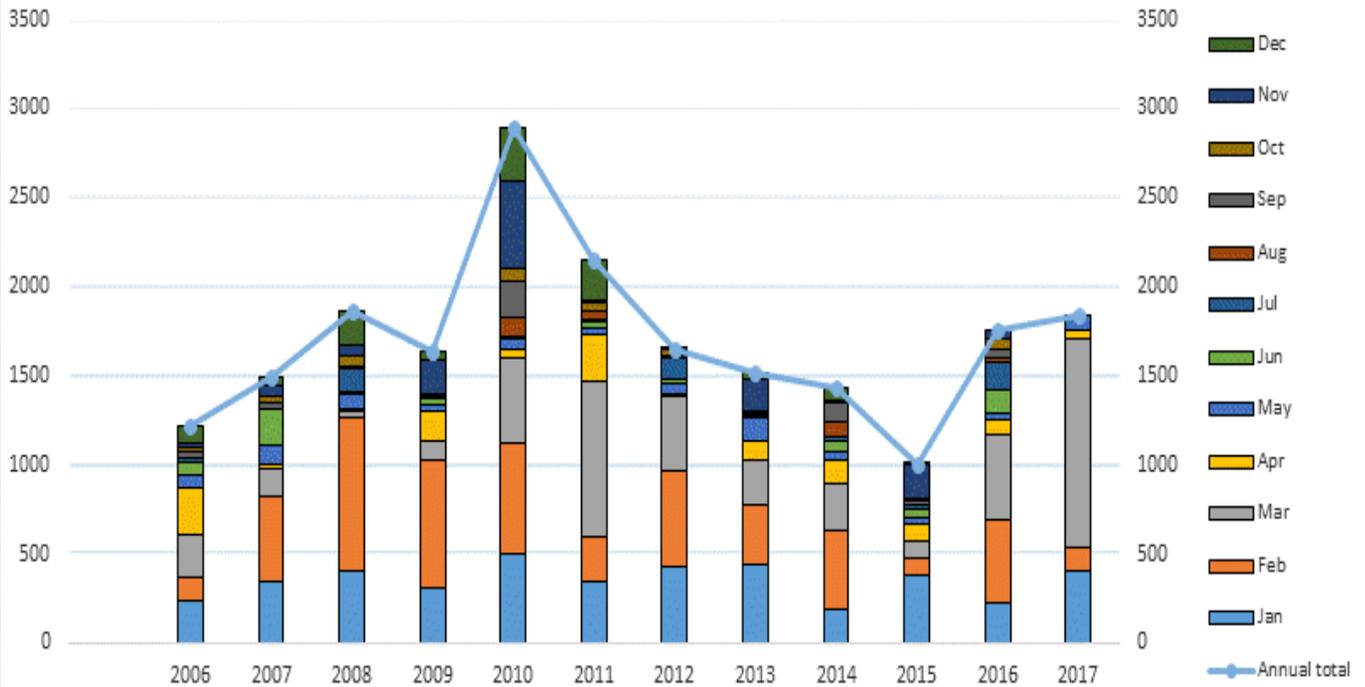
What SLCMA Membership does for you !

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 -2017 (inc annual total)



Can you help?

SLCMA require an operating fridge. The seed storage fridge has ceased working. If you have a functioning disused fridge that you would like to see put to good use we would love to hear from you. Please give the office a call ph: 4956 1388 or email coordinator@sarinalandcare.org.au

Upcoming Events & Significant Dates

- ◇ June 5—World Environment Day
- ◇ June 7—SLCMA Sustainable Food Garden Opening ph: 4956 1388
- ◇ June 9—St Lawrence Wetlands Weekend (visit Isaac council webpage for more details).
- ◇ June 17—World day to combat desertification and drought
- ◇ June 28—SLCMA wetlands treatment train opening
- ◇ June 22—Mackay Show Holiday

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Central QLD Coast
Landcare
Network

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

Michelle LANDRY MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR CAPRICORNIA

07 4943 2722 | Michelle.Landry.mp@aph.gov.au | [Michelle Landry MP](https://www.facebook.com/MichelleLandryMP)

Authorised by M.Landry, Shop 8, Sarina Beach Shopping Centre, Sarina 4737.