

SLCMA Catchment News



September 2017

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

Coordinator

Saskia von Fahland

Administration Officer

Nadine Hamill

Nursery Officer

Sandy Whittington—Shaw

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

Come along to our next general meeting to be held at 1pm, 4 October at the SLCMA Office.

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.

Date Claimer: 8 November; 6.30pm General Meeting followed by Annual General Meeting at 7pm.

Mackay Regional Council visit Landcare



Image: L. Thripps

Mackay Regional Council Mayor and Councillors with SLCMA Management Committee, Staff and Volunteers

SLCMA Management Committee, Staff and Volunteers welcomed a visit from Mackay Regional Council CEO, Mayor, Councillors and Staff recently. It was a great opportunity to highlight the SLCMA educational precinct including Sustainable Food Garden, Native Bee hive, Sarina Community Native Garden, Water Treatment Train and SLCMA

Community Nursery as well as see first hand the SLCMA Community Volunteer team, in action. We finished off the visit with some great discussions over morning tea.



Local Green Homes Open to Public Sustainable House Day 2017

Sustainable House Day is a national event which has been held annually since 2001. Homes are opened to the community so that owners can showcase the features that contribute to lower energy costs and liveability in the local climate, and that minimise the impact on the environment.

This year for the first time there will be two homes open in the Mackay region. Margaret and Philip Lane in Mackay, and Lyn and Tom Jantke in Sarina, will give guided tours of their homes. They will give climate specific tips and advice on what has worked for them in their choice of design, building materials, solar power, water harvesting, landscaping for major rain events, plant choices, successful food crops and more.

Their homes, named Tropical House and Rainbow House, will be open to the public on Sunday September 17, from 10am to 4pm. Profiles on these homes, listing their sustainable credentials, can be found at <https://sustainablehouseday.com/?postcode=4740&state=&years=2017&s=&geo-radius=100&dir-search=yes>

The day is a valuable resource for anyone who is looking to build, renovate, buy an existing house or generally improve the liveability of their property.

Visitors to Sustainable House Day can obtain addresses by registering to attend via the website at www.sustainablehouseday.com

SLCMA Community Volunteer Program *by Sandy Whittington—Shaw*

Image: N Hamill



The last month of winter was rather quiet in the Nursery, but that certainly doesn't mean the volunteers were sitting idle. At the start of the month, they enjoyed a lovely Winter morning collecting seeds at Johnson's Beach, being accompanied by the SSSH students undertaking their 'green classroom' sessions. The students joined the volunteer team for a couple seed cleaning and propagation sessions through the month as well. We hope the students have enjoyed what we do in the nursery and at SLCMA. We welcome any and, all of them to join the volunteer mornings while they are on school holidays.

SLCMA Volunteer team and Sarina State High School Conservation Club on a plant identification and seed collecting at Sarina Inlet

Another 2 morning sessions were dedicated to seed sorting; one in the nursery and one in the office: we are most definitely regaining some sort of organisation in our

seed bank so a big thank-you to all of the volunteers who have persisted with cleaning, sorting and filing.

With the cooler weather, we took the opportunity to do a lot of tidying and freeing up space in the shade house, in anticipation of Spring, whose warmer weather will trigger germination of many seeds which have been sown in the past few weeks. The volunteers will be kept busy potting up new seedlings and now have plenty of space for the green babies to grow.

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.

SSHS Conservation Club join in the Landcare fun!

Fifteen students from the Sarina State High School Conservation Club have participated in Landcare activities across the catchment, every week, during the last term. The students from grades 8 through to 12, participated in rehabilitation activities including:

- * Plant identification, seed collection, cleaning and propagation alongside the SLCMA Community Volunteers
- * Guided tours of the SLCMA educational precinct including sustainable food garden, native bee hive and Sarina Community Native Garden and, Louisa Creek Reserve highlighting the importance and role of coastal vegetation and rehabilitation process
- * Ongoing works at Sarina Beach with the Mackay Regional Council Revegetation Team and the Sarina Community Native Gardens.

All of which have complimented the establishment of their own 'native garden' within the school grounds and field trip with 'Wild Mob' to Brampton island. We have really enjoyed having the students join us in our Landcare activities and look forward to more activities in the future. A big thankyou to Aurizon Community Giving Fund (supporting the program), Bendigo Bank (provision of native plants) and Mackay Regional Council (provision of transport for students).



Images: S von Fahland

Sarina State High School Conservation Club working in the Sarina Community Native Gardens and at Louisa Creek Reserve

Land for Wildlife Program



Did you know the Land for Wildlife Program in our area (and hence participating landholders) is part of a wider network of like-minded landholders across Australia. We recently had the pleasure of having Deborah Metters, Coordinator of the program in South East QLD visit the region and provide training to our Officers. Staff and volunteers from SLCMA, Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group, Whitsunday Catchment Landcare and Mackay Regional Council attended the informative event. It was a valuable opportunity to create a partnership between the regions and share experiences of the benefits of the program to landholders and the natural environment. A big thankyou to Mackay Regional Council for supporting the training event.

The Land for Wildlife Program brings together like-minded landholders to share skills and knowledge about nature conservation and; assists landholders to protect native wildlife and flora for the benefit of future generations. In our region, the Land for Wildlife Program is funded by the Mackay Regional Council Natural Environment Levy and delivered by SLCMA and Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group.

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

Officers undertaking a Land for Wildlife property assessment



New sun-hardening benches arrive in style!

Our new sun hardening benches have arrived with assistance (& muscle power) from the Sarina Men's Shed!

The new benches will increase the capacity of the SLCMA Community Nursery by providing more space for sun-hardening our native tubestock. *Sandy and our volunteer team will have them filled in no time.*

Never underestimate the power of partnerships!

It is only through the support of our many project partners and ring leader, Greg Melvin (SLCMA Management Committee Member) that this has been made possible. A big thankyou to Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal PTY LTD for funding towards the *Nursery Optimisation Equipment Project*; students at the Ted Malone Rural Skills Centre for constructing the benches; and transport assistance from the Sarina Men's Shed.

Sarina Men's Shed helping move the new benches



SLCMA Community Nursery "Plant of the Month"

This month's 'Plant of the Month' is **Acacia Oraria Coastal Wattle**

Family: Mimosaceae

What is in a name? Oraria latin from ora, sea-shore

Form: Shrub/tree 3-10m with dark, fissured bark

Leaves: Rounded soft leaves (phylloides) with short leaf stalks, 3 main veins.

Flower: Clusters of creamy white to light yellow fragrant, ball flowers.

Fruit: Twisted pods change from purple-green to whitish brown when ripe; contain small black seeds wrapped in a red-orange aril.

Habitat: Mostly in sandy coastal forests and on watercourses inland north of Cairns.

Distribution: Cape York to Carmila and in Timor.

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: Townsend K. (1994) *Across the Top*, Beasley J. (2009) *Plants of Cape York the compact guide*



Seeds, leaves and flowers of Acacia oraria

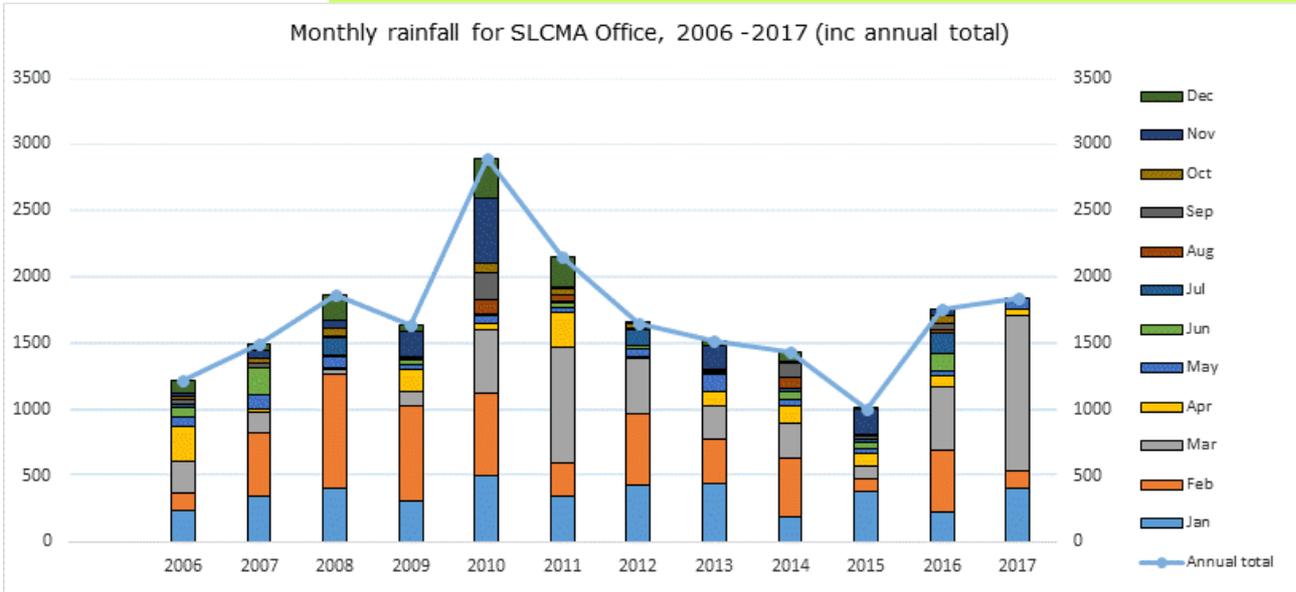


What SLCMA Membership does for you !

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



Landholder Support—now available!

SLCMA and Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group (PCL) have been successful in obtaining funding through the Mackay Regional Council Natural Environment Program to deliver the **Landholder Support Program**. The program will allow Landcare Officers to undertake property visits for interested new landholders and provide follow up support via re-visits for landholders who have previously been involved in similar programs such as the Peri-urban Project.

Property visits are free and include an on-site visit by a Landcare Officer, development of a land management plan and information pack. Re-visits will include an updated action plan and other land management information/advice, if required.

If you are an owner/manager of a semi-rural or rural property and would like to be involved Or, have been involved previously and would like a re-visit; please contact SLCMA on 4956 1388 for landholders within the Sarina Catchment and PCL on 4941 979 for landholders within the Pioneer Catchment. Please note, there are a limited number of visits available, and visits will be offered on a first-in basis.

SLCMA is proudly supported by:



Sarina Community Bank® Branch
 together with
RURAL BANK
Bendigo Bank

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