

# SLCMA Catchment News



**October 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 goes solar!

It is exciting times ahead as SLCMA ventures down the 'solar road' with the installation of a solar system for the SLCMA Office. We look forward to harnessing solar energy and improving the sustainability and energy efficiency of the SLCMA Office. Thankyou to Energybase for working with us on the project.



Images: S von Fahland

This project is funded through the Queensland Government's Community Sustainability Action Grants.

Watch this space, because the project also includes the installation of a shade sail in the backyard of the SLCMA Office — to provide a sun-safe area for volunteers, youth and community members while visiting and utilising the educational precinct. The shade sails are due to be installed in the next few weeks.

## Sarina Scouts Club Learn about Landcare



The Sarina Scouts Club visited SLCMA recently to learn more about our catchment and begin work towards gaining their "World Scout Environment Badge". The group of 27 enthusiastic participants (including parents and leaders) joined in a range of activities to gain an understanding of local issues and solutions relating to water quality, biodiversity and catchment health.

The event began with a hands-on activity called the "River Story" - demonstrating the link between landuse —potential impacts – and overall catchment health. This was followed by a tour of the educational precinct demonstrating local initiatives that promote and improve our natural environment. This included native bee hive, sustainable food garden, Sarina Community Native Gardens, wetland water treatment train and SLCMA Community Nursery. The group finished up by getting their hands dirty, potting-on 150 local native *Dianella* plants.



Images: M Wilson

*The World Scout Environment Badge seeks to create an awareness of personal responsibility for the environment. The badge encourages Scouts to connect with nature, think about how we interact with the environment and take action to protect it. The environment is a global subject and the badge focuses on learning about local and global issues and how taking local action can help both of these.*

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



Image: S Whittington-Shaw

We were very honoured and proud to be able to host the Mackay Regional Council 'Councillors in the Community' visit last month. It was a great opportunity to show the visitors how valuable the Natural Environment Levy is in facilitating the Volunteer mornings and some of the things we do in the nursery.

Later in the month, we gratefully took possession of 4 new sun hardening benches, fabricated and delivered by the gents from the Sarina & District Mens Shed. The benches were custom built for us, with upper and lower shelves and will last for years. Thanks gents, they will

certainly be put to good use. Once we get irrigation fitted, our outdoor holding capacity will increase by about 4000!! A big thankyou to DBCT Pty Ltd for funding for this.

Thankyou to our volunteer team who have been busy potting on seedlings, weeding & washing pots—while enjoying a good chat and some yummy morning teas :)

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.

## SLCMA Community Nursery “Plant of the Month”

This month's 'Plant of the Month' is ***Sterculia quadrifida* Peanut Tree**

**Family: Steruliaceae**

**What is in a name?** *Sterculia* Latin *Sterculius*, the Roman god of manure heaps—refers to the smell of the flowers and leaves of some species; *quadrifida* Latin *quadri* four and *fidus* split—refers to the calyx lobes, which is in fours, rather than five as in most species.

**Form:** Small to medium, deciduous tree with spreading canopy, attractive foliage and fruit.

**Leaves:** Simple, alternate clustered in pseudo-whorls at the tips; ovate with a cordate base; 5-14cm long, slender petioles 1-5cm long with a swelling at each end; dark green and smooth above/ paler finely hairy below; veins prominent—clustered towards the ends of branchlets

**Flower:** Numerous lemon scented, creamy green to dull yellow bell-shaped flowers; occur mainly spring and summer.

**Fruit:** Boat shaped, bright orange-red (when ripe), woody capsule; splitting to reveal 2-8 glabrous seeds, 13-18mm long, with a shiny blue-black skin covering a creamy white kernel.

**Habitat:** Rainforest including littoral, riparian and dry types, associated open forests.

**Distribution:** Across northern tropical Australia, east coast to northern NSW.

**Notes:** The seeds are edible raw or cooked, tasting like peanuts (remove outer black skin). Hardy, fast growing. Prefers well drained soils, moderately resistant to drought. Useful shade or shelter tree and for coastal stabilisation.

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.



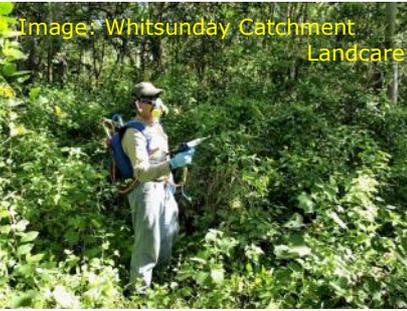
Image: [www.witjutigrub.com.au](http://www.witjutigrub.com.au)

## Free property visits available now!

Do you need a hand to identify plants (native and weedy) on your property? Some advice in how to manage and protect natural areas such as creeklines and native vegetation? Or, some tips for maintaining good pasture?

We can provide a variety of land management advice and assist with prioritising, planning to achieve your property goals. 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. This project is funded through the Mackay Regional Council Natural Environment Levy.

# Land for Wildlife Program — Get ready to control lantana this wet season



**Splatter gun control of Lantana**—Over the last decade or so, splatter guns have proven to be an effective weed control tool in the ongoing war to manage lantana and other weeds.

The splatter gun (or gas gun) control technique involves the low volume, high concentration application of herbicide to lantana foliage. This technique is particularly useful in areas of difficult access or sensitive vegetation because the tool is easily portable and causes limited off-target damage. While it is still important to integrate control techniques, this tool is proving to be an

important weapon in the lantana control arsenal.

Unlike other foliar spray methods, the splatter gun is designed to shoot a stream of herbicide, not a spray nor even a splatter. This stream is delivered in a single line out to 6-10 metres, with each line separated by about 2 metres. The concentration of herbicide is increased, so there is not the normal requirement to wet all the foliage. As a bonus, the total volume of herbicide used is decreased and is considerably cheaper than traditional foliar spray methods.

## The Benefits

- Great for use in forested areas where targeted streams of herbicide can be shot around sensitive native vegetation (or pasture for that matter).
- Perfect for steep terrain and other difficult-to-reach areas.
- Require less herbicide than conventional foliar spray packs, so this reduces the risk of residual herbicide damage and reduces the impact on the wallet too.
- When delivered from a 5L backpack, splatter guns are easy to carry and manoeuvre through thick bush.

## The Disadvantages

- For large infestations, the 5L backpack needs to be refilled regularly .
- There is the possibility of overspray from splatter guns on windy days or with inexperienced operators.
- Low effectiveness on plants with wet leaves such as from heavy dew or rain.
- Difficult to apply effectively to spindly lantana re-growth.

## Timing

The splatter gun can be used year-round **if plants are actively growing**, but works best during summer months. Effective herbicide control requires sap flow to ensure the transport of herbicides into the root system.

This technique works best on thick, clumped lantana or scattered re-growth with a compact growth form which is at least 300 mm in height.



## Where can you get access to a Lantana Splatter Gun?

Lantana splatter guns are available for hire from SLCMA for \$5/day (subject to availability). They can also be purchased from [www.phillipsgreen.com](http://www.phillipsgreen.com) for around \$600.

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.

## Sarina Community Native Gardens



A big thankyou to Tuka and the Mackay Regional Council Revegetation team for their involvement in the Sarina Community Native Gardens recently. The gardens are looking great after maintenance works

during the first half of the year. More recently, they have helped with raising the level of the centre of the gardens to help with accessibility and maintenance during the wet season and, landscaped a small 'sitting knoll' for when we give tours to visitors and school groups.

The establishment of the Sarina Community Native Gardens began in 2009 and was officially opened in 2013 by inspirational gardening guru, Costa Georgiadis. The garden aims to demonstrate the uses and benefits of Australia and local native plants in garden situations.

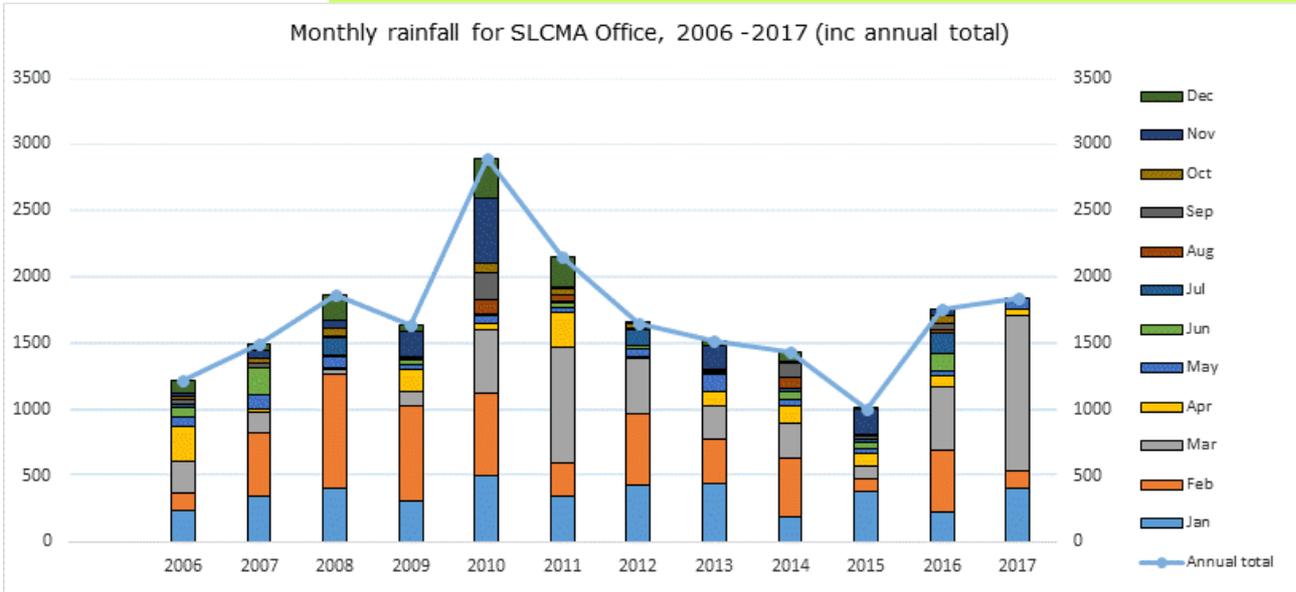


# What SLCMA Membership does for you !

A membership with SLCMA has many rewards:

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 admin@sarinalandcare.org.au

- ◇ 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



## Up & coming events

23-29 October **Aussie Backyard Bird Count**. Register online and partake in the national bird count: <https://aussiebirdcount.org.au/>

27 October, 9am-12pm **Reliance Creek Palm Vine Forest Walk**. Open to the public. This guided tour of the Palm Vine Forest—a unique habitat to a number of threatened species. The walking tour will include a briefing on the history of the site and Pioneer Catchment Landcare’s involvement to-date, with identification of important plant and weed species. **RSVP to** [admin@pioneercatchment.org.au](mailto:admin@pioneercatchment.org.au). Ph.4944 1979

**Just for fun!**

⇒ A dung beetle walks into a bar and says, "Excuse me, is this stool taken?"

⇒ What does a dung beetle eat on a sunny day? A poopsicle!



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Central QLD Coast  
**Landcare**  
Network

**SLCMA is proudly supported by:**



Sarina Community Bank® Branch

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**Michelle LANDRY MP**

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR CAPRICORNIA

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

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