

# SLCMA Catchment News



**November 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

**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 17/18**

- Chair:**  
Gloria Murray
- Vice-chair:**  
Greg Melvin
- Treasurer:**  
Jenny Price
- Secretary:**  
Chris Brown

## SLCMA Annual General Meeting

Thankyou to our members who attended the Annual General Meeting on the 8 November. It was an opportunity to reflect on our projects, achievements and partnerships throughout the past year. **Thank You!**

A big thankyou to our Management Committee Members Gloria Murray, Greg Melvin, Jennifer Price, Shirley Sidey and Pamela Just for their support and commitment over the past year. A special thankyou to Shirley Sidey and Pamela Just who stood down at the AGM and a warm welcome to Chris Brown as our new Secretary.

## Out and about with the Sarina State High School Conservation Club

Approximately 10 students from the Sarina State High School Conservation Club have been attending activities with SLCMA every week during last term and this term. Recently, the students attended a field trip to Sarina Beach to learn about the characteristics and identification of plants; helping to establish the rain garden and sustainable food garden by installing worm tubes and planting herbs and vegetable seedlings and water quality monitoring at Plane Creek. The group has one more week left with us (before focussing on their end of year exams) - where we are planning some finishing touches on the rain garden and working alongside the volunteers in the SLCMA Community Nursery. A big thankyou to Aurizon Community Giving Fund for the opportunity to deliver activities and support the Sarina State High School Conservation Club.



SSHS Conservation Club with SLCMA staff at Sarina Beach

## One lucky Koala—released back to the bush :)

There has been good news for one lucky local koala, being released back into the bush recently, after almost 3 months of care and rehabilitation. Local landholders, Anthony and Marjorie Ross discovered the injured koala in a small tree on the family property, after their dog alerted them of its presence. It appears that the young female koala had been caught in a fire and had obviously travelled a long way (as no recent fires had occurred nearby at the time). She was very dehydrated, underweight, had burnt paws and nose and, was in a sad state.



Above: Koala in rehabilitation

After contacting local wildlife carer Denise Sharp, the koala was treated by a local vet from Andergrove Veterinary Clinic and taken into care by Denise where she received much needed medical care, rest and rehabilitation. The female koala was ready to go, and was successfully released close to where she was originally found.

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## One lucky Koala ...story continued...

Mrs Sharp is a member of the Ipswich Koala Protection Society and has ensured her training in caring for injured koalas is the latest available – meaning that injured koalas do not need to be taken out of the region for treatment and can be released back within their home range after rehabilitation.



Image: S von Fehland  
Moreton Bay Ash suckers

Mrs Sharp is on the lookout for fresh koala fodder for koala's that are currently in her care and being rehabilitated. Koala fodder includes the fresh, new leaves of blue gums (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*), Poplar Gum (*E. platyphila*), Ironbark, Bloodwoods (*Corymbia spp.*), Moreton Bay Ash (*E. tessellaris*). If you aren't certain of the species, a good rule of thumb is if the leaves give off an aromatic eucalypt smell, they will most likely be a good koala food. Unfortunately, these are often large trees which make it difficult to get to the fresh new leaves (at the ends of the branches). However, if you have any that have suckered or coppiced low to the ground (after damage such as cyclones, tree lopping) they are usually at the perfect height for easy collection. If you think you might have some available, please contact Denise on 0408 184 551.

Koala ready for release



Image: D Sharp

## SLCMA Community Volunteer Program by Sandy Whittington—Shaw

We started this month by taking part in the Mackay Regional Council's Workplace Health and Safety induction, to ensure everyone is aware of safety obligations and responsibilities within the workplace. The majority of volunteers attended the training morning delivered by Graeme Crothers from Mackay Regional Council and, other staff and volunteers who weren't available on the day, completed the online version. At present, we ask that all existing and new volunteers undertake this induction.



Image: S Whittington-Shaw  
New bench for wash tubs

A welcome addition to infrastructure this month was the fabrication and installation of a bench for the pot washing tubs. The sturdy construction will ensure the tubs aren't going anywhere! Thankyou BJ and Greg for this.

Potting, weeding and propagation continue to be on top of the to-do list in the nursery, with a great deal of mature stock having been tended to on the volunteer mornings. Our efforts are rewarded each week by morning tea and a chat. We were treated by Bendigo Bank who generously provided us with morning tea which we enjoyed while hearing about Bendigo's community approach to banking, as well as the full range of services and special rates available through them. Thank you Bendigo Bank for your ongoing support.

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.

## Land for Wildlife Program—Koala facts

**Scientific name:** *Phascolarctos cinereus*

**What's in a name?** *Phascolarcto* – *phaskolos* meaning pouched; *arktos* Greek meaning bear; *cinereus* Latin meaning ashy-grey.



Koalas are nocturnal (night active) and arboreal (tree dwelling). They are usually seen during the day while they are asleep or resting. Koala's share a number of characteristics with wombats, who are their closest living relatives, including a backward-facing pouch.

Koalas are a protected species and are listed as vulnerable under Queensland's *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and the *Commonwealth's Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

**How to spot a koala.** Koalas are among the most easily recognised of all Australian animals, however, they often go unnoticed as they rest wedged in a tree fork, high in a gum tree. From the ground, a koala may appear to be little more than a bump on the tree itself.

The fur on a koala's bottom has a 'speckled' appearance which makes koalas difficult to spot from the ground. The easiest way to discover a koala resting in a tree involves looking down, not up. While a koala sitting in the crown of a tree can be difficult to see, its droppings on the ground are quite obvious. These are small green-brown, fibrous pellets about 20 mm long and as thick as a pencil. The fresher the pellets, and the more abundant, the more likely koalas are somewhere overhead.

## Land for Wildlife Program—Koala facts *continued..*

Another sign that koalas are around is the distinctive call given by males during the breeding season over the summer months. The call is produced as the male 'snores' as he inhales and then gives a loud, deep roar as he breathes out. On a still night, the call can be heard almost a kilometre away. Females may also produce a low-pitched bellow similar to a male to indicate they are ready to mate. They will also 'squawk' and 'wail' during mating. For some more interesting facts and an audio clip of a koala visit <https://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/koalas/koala-ecology.html>

**Koala's are on the move!** It is breeding season and koalas are on the lookout for a mate. So keep an eye and ear out for koalas in your neighbourhood. Unfortunately, during these times they are also more likely to encounter threats such as: getting hit by cars while crossing roads, dog attacks or drowning in backyard swimming pools.

### Key threats to Koala:

- \* Habitat loss, including loss of food and shelter, through clearing and fragmenting the landscape for housing
- \* Disease threatens koalas particularly when stressed such as from loss of habitat (including food and shelter). During times of stress, Koalas are prone to outbreaks of the disease *Chlamydia* (a bacterial infection that weakens the immune system and causes blindness and female infertility or even death).
- \* Dog attacks
- \* Car hits

**How can you help support our local koalas?** The conservation of koalas in the future will depend largely

on private property owners managing their properties to retain or improve koala habitat.

- \* Protect and enhance existing koala habitat and wildlife corridors to create links across the landscape
- \* Revegetate with key koala fodder tree species and other non-eucalypts that grow in association with or in close proximity to the key tree species. Note, a variety of trees including non-eucalypts are also used for Koalas for feeding, shelter or other behavioural purposes.
- \* Consider your clearing options in areas of koala fodder trees. Avoid clearing or aim to retain tree-patch connectivity of these areas to reduce predation and disease spread.
- \* Control domestic and wild dogs on your property
- \* Maintain suitable grazing regimes that allow some tree regeneration in paddocks. Fence off areas of trees to allow recruitment of seedlings.
- \* Implement suitable fire regimes to maintain koala habitat.

### Koala habitat tree species for our region:

<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i>	Blue gum
<i>E. crebra</i>	Narrow-leaved ironbark
<i>E. exserta</i>	Queensland peppermint
<i>E. populnea</i>	Poplar box
<i>E. tessellaris</i>	Moreton Bay Ash
<i>Corymbia intermedia</i>	Pink bloodwood
<i>C. citriodora</i>	Lemon scented gum
<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>	Swampbox

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)

## SLCMA Community Nursery "Plant of the Month"

This month's 'Plant of the Month' is *Aneilema acuminatum* **Native Wandering Jew** **Family: Commelinaceae**

**What is in a name?** *Aneilema* Greek 'an'- not + 'eilo'—coil, meaning lacking a spathe (a large sheathing bract enclosing the flower cluster of certain plants); *acuminata*—refers to the shape of the leaf tip— an acute apex whose sides are somewhat concave and taper to a protracted point.

**Form:** Weak, slender, fleshy, trailing herb up to 40cm tall.

**Leaves:** Simple leaves 30-80 x 12-25mm, upper leaf with a slight 'sandpapery' feel, petiole (stem) forms a sheath at base, around stem; Upper and lower surfaces with sparsely hairy.

**Flower:** White-purple, 3 petals, 10-15mm across appear November to July.

**Fruit:** Flattened, 2-valved capsule, 400mm long, glossy, pale gray, enclosed in sepals, 2 seeds.

**Habitat:** Shady damp areas in rainforest, riparian forest, notophyll vine forest and open eucalypt forest.

**Distribution:** Northern Australia to New South Wales.

**Notes:** Useful groundcover in shaded damp areas, good basket plant

The "Plant of the Month" is currently available from the SLCMA Community Nursery. Landcare members are eligible to receive 1 free *Leaves & flowers of Aneilema acuminatum*

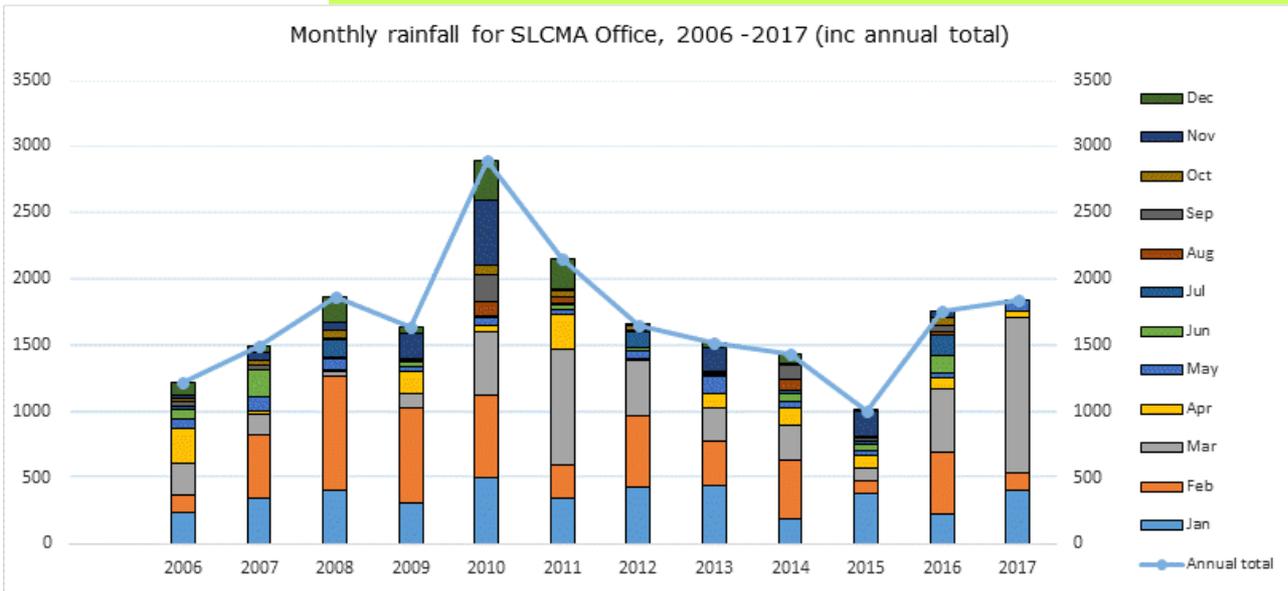


Image. S Whittington-Shaw

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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



## Important dates

- 13-19 November **National Recycling week**
- 4-8 December **Coastcare Week**
- 6 December **Celebrate Coastcare Week**—Join us for a Coastal Plant identification and seed collection field trip (9-12noon). *See SLCMA for more details.*
- 5 December **International Volunteer Day**
- 13 December **World Soil Day**
- 13 December **Last SLCMA Community Volunteer Morning** for year (return 17 January 2018)
- 13 December **SLCMA Christmas Dinner**—volunteers, members, project partners welcome to attend. *Watch this space for more details.*
- 15 December **SLCMA Office Closes** (re-opens 10 January 2018)



## Just for fun!

- ⇒ What happens when it rains cats and dogs? You have to be careful not to step in a puddle.
- ⇒ What do you call it when it rains chickens and ducks? Foul (fowl) weather
- ⇒ What's the difference between a horse and the weather? One is reined up and the other rains down.

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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.**

Sarina Community Bank® Branch

together with **RURAL BANK**

**Bendigo Bank**

**Michelle LANDRY MP**

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR CAPRICORNIA

07 4943 2722 | michelle.landry.mp@aph.gov.au | Michelle Landry MP

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