

SLCMA Catchment News



April 2018

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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 17/18

Chair:

Gloria Murray

Vice-chair:

Greg Melvin

Treasurer:

Jenny Price

Secretary:

Chris Brown



Thumbs up to Chad!



Chad McNaughton, Mackay Regional Council trainee in Conservation & Land Management

In 2017, as a Senior at Sarina State High School (SSHS), Chad McNaughton participated in the Senior Enrichment Program, which included attending the 'green classroom' program facilitated by SLCMA in partnership with SSHS and supported by Aurizon Community Grant Giving Fund and Mackay Regional Council. The program comprised of a number field and nursery days, conducting various conservation activities. He enjoyed these thoroughly and they reinforced the passion that he already had for the natural environment.

Chad was successful in his application for a Conservation & Land Management Traineeship with Mackay Regional Council, which started at the end of February. SLCMA is delighted to have been able to nurture Chad's interests (even if only in a small way) and assist him in achieving his goals. Good on you Chad!

Coming up in April

- 4,11,18 **SLCMA Community Volunteer Morning**, 9am-12noon at the SLCMA Community Nursery. *Nursery activities, plant propagation and field trips. We look forward to seeing you there! :)*
- 6-15 **National Youth Week**
- 10 **Sarina Prime and Store Sale**, from 10am at the Sarina Showgrounds.
- 22 **Earth Day**
- 27 **Attracting Wildlife to your Gardens**, 10am at the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens. Join Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group for this FREE guided walk starting at the Gardens' Administration building.
- 27 **Monthly bird walk**, 6.30am at the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens. Join Birdlife Mackay for this FREE event, to discover the local bird species, as they do their monthly bird count (*last Friday of the month*). Meet at the Lagoons Deck next to the Café.

SLCMA Community Nursery



Image: S Whittington-Shaw

Weed Management Tip!

Regular monitoring your property for new weeds is an essential aspect of property management. This will ensure that any new weeds are identified and controlled within a short time frame to reduce the risk of spread to other areas within (and outside) your property. New weeds often appear after disturbances such as earthworks, cyclones, floods and bushfires – which can cause damage to, and impact the structure and health of the existing vegetation.

If you come across a new plant or suspected weed, there are a number of ways to have it identified. If possible, take a photo and a sample of the plant being sure to include features such as flowers, fruit and leaf arrangement. Also take notes including location, date, number individuals/size of infestation, distinguishing features such as stem/flower/leaf shape & colour, bark, form/habit etc. This information can then be passed on to your local [Landcare Officer](#), Council Pest Officer or [Weed Spotter Network Coordinator](#) or; used when looking through identification books and tools such as *Weeds of the Mackay Whitsunday Region* or Biosecurity Queensland's [Weeds of Australia Identification Tool](#). Please make sure all plant samples are contained within a sealed bag to reduce the chance of spreading weed seeds. Once identified, you can determine whether or not the plant will require controlling and ongoing management.

SLCMA Community Volunteer Program *by Sandy Whittington—Shaw*

Images: S Whittington-Shaw



We started the month with a seed collecting and plant identification trip to the Hay Point Foreshore and then onto the Mt Hector Lookout for morning tea. The foreshore is well represented with common species expected on beach and foredune areas, including a magnificent stand of Pandanus and a vast area covered by the lovely *Wollastonia uniflora*, Beach Sunflower.



Along with the regular weeding and potting on seedlings, the team also continued with maintenance of the wetland plants in the water treatment train. The Woolly Frogs Mouth Lily *Philydrum lanuginosum*, flourished over the summer period, flowering and then producing an abundance of fine dusty seed in tall seed spikes. The volunteers were kept busy trimming off the spent seed spikes, collecting seed, and pricking out seedlings which had self-sown in the neighbouring wetland 'carriage'. There will be plenty of these beautiful emergent macrophytes available for purchase for using in dams or ponds, shortly.



The cool change in the weather is very noticeable, making the nursery quite comfortable in the mornings and maybe responsible for the large number of volunteers attending over the past month, with sometimes more than 12 volunteers in attendance. It maybe the great company too!

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.

Top: *Pandanus* sp. at Mt Hector Lookout; Middle: Volunteers in SLCMA Community Nursery; Bottom: Exploring plant life at Hay Point foreshore

Land for Wildlife Program—Property profile

Image: S Whittington-Shaw



Recently added to the Land for Wildlife portfolio is a 31.5 ha property which borders the biodiverse Rocky Dam Creek at Koumala. There are a number of different regional ecosystems and vegetation community types represented across the property; including the 'endangered' *seasonally inundated Melaleuca woodland*, the 'of concern' *riverine wetland with notophyll vine forest* and 'of concern' *riverine wetland on creek banks*. An 'of concern' classification indicates there is only 10 – 30 % of that particular vegetation community remaining,



compared to what was originally present. For 'endangered' ecosystems, there is less than 10% remaining. Therefore, this property is a very welcome addition to the voluntary conservation program.

The various vegetation types and close proximity to permanent water creates a diverse habitat and thus provide homes for a large diversity of wildlife; Black and white Cockatoos, Dollar birds, Sacred Kingfishers, Sea Eagles and other bird species, goannas and wallabies have all been spotted on the property.

When the owners purchased the property, it was largely infested with lantana. They have put in a fantastic effort over a number of years eradicating the invasive plant and are now being rewarded by the natural regeneration of native plants. They plan to supplement the natural regeneration by revegetating with native tubestock. Hence, they definitely welcome the availability of 20 free native plants annually, made available through the Land for Wildlife Program.

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 or email: admin@sarinalandcare.org.au

Project Profile: Landholder Support Program (Sarina Catchment)

Funding Program: Mackay Regional Council—Natural Environment Levy
Project Duration: February 2017 — February 2018 (completed)
Project Partners: Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group, Landholders

Background: The Landholder Support Program builds on previous similar programs which started many years ago as an initiative of the Mackay Regional Pest Management Group and local Landcare Groups; acknowledging the need to provide land management advice and extension support to landholders, particularly 'peri-urban/hobby' farmers that do not have direct access to supporting organisations, as do agriculture, grazing and horticulture. The program recognises this, and also understands how quickly environmental issues can arise and spread, where landholders do not have the knowledge or capacity.

Aim: To provide land management advice and extension support to local landholders (within the Sarina Catchment area of Mackay Regional Council) to help landholders make informed land management decisions and undertake onground works that will protect and enhance land capability, biodiversity, water quality and the natural environment.

Outcomes and achievements:

- Undertake 5 new property visits including development of a property plan, provision of technical advice and/or links to other resources and programs including plant identification, weed management and biosecurity.
- Provide follow-up support to 5 participating landholders through a 're-visit' including review of property plan and further technical advice.

This project is now complete, however if you are seeking land management advice or information please contact SLCMA on 4956 1388. We are dedicated to providing ongoing support to landholders within the Sarina Catchment, through our existing Landcare network and other relevant projects and programs.

Everybody Lives in a Catchment



Image: S von Fahland

SLCMA Community Nursery "Plant of the Month"

This month's 'Plant of the Month' is **White flowered Bauhinia** *Lysiphyllum hookeri* **Family: Caesalpinaceae**

What is in a name? *Lysiphyllum* Greek **lysis** a loosing **phyllon** leaf; *hookeri* after Sir William Joseph Hooker, professor of botany and director of Kew Gardens.

Form: A small tree, often multi-stemmed, spreading canopy; flaky bark.

Leaves: A compound leaf, consisting of two round, stalkless leaflets, 4-7 longitudinal radiating veins; deciduous.

Flower: White flowers; petals 3-4cm long; January to November.

Fruit: Flat, oblong woody pods with flat seeds; March to April.

Habitat: Monsoon forests, vine thickets, beach forest and open forests.

Distribution: Endemic to QLD, occurs in North eastern QLD and south to coastal central QLD from sea level to 500m.

Notes: Has potential in gardens and as a street tree in dry areas. Produces showy white flowers.

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: www.keys.trin.org.au; Melzer & Plumb (2007) *Plants of Capricornia*



Flowers and leaves of White flowered bauhinia (*Lysiphyllum hookeri*)

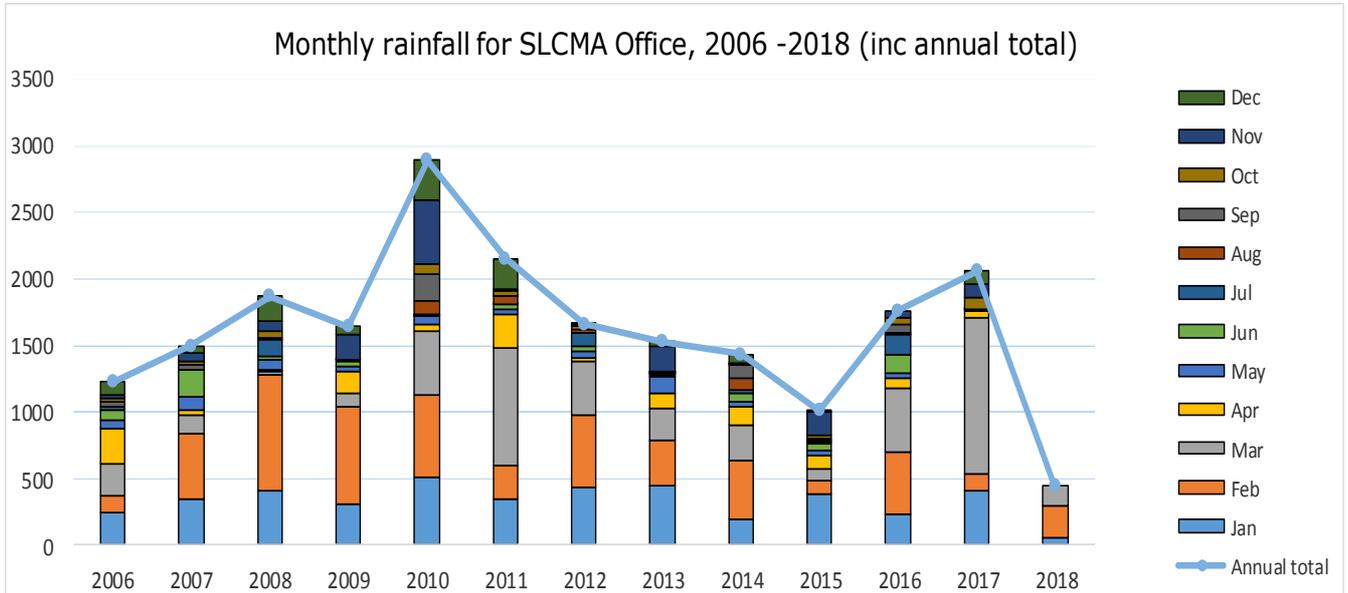


What SLCMA Membership does for you !

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



SLCMA has been recording rainfall since 2006 (see above), which is providing an interesting overview of what has happened over the last 12 years. The SLCMA rain guage has recently been relocated to a more suitable spot, thankyou to Peter. The previous location had become unsuitable given the height of surrounding plants and their effect on an accurate rainfall reading.

Did you know? According to the Bureau of Meteorology, the most accurate height to install a rain guage is 0.3m above the ground, due to an increased influence of wind with height above the ground. Obviously, that height can be tricky for some locations when managing other possible disturbances such as buildings, people, animals, grass & other plants. Hence, the height of our rain guage is approx. 1.5m :)



[Find us on facebook](#)



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

Just for fun!

Why do mother kangaroos hate rainy days?
 Because the children have to play inside!



SLCMA is proudly supported by:



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