

SLCMA Catchment News



May 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



Coming up in May

All month SLCMA Display at **Sarina Community Bendigo Bank**

9,16,23,30 **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! :)*

14-20 **National Volunteer Week** - All

volunteers are welcome to join us for a

BBQ lunch and hands-on demonstration of a defibrillator by local first aid trainer, Wednesday 16 May :) Thankyou to our volunteers :)

15 **Sarina Prime and Store Sale**, from 10am at the Sarina Showgrounds.

11 **Plants of the Central QLD Coast Bioregion**, 10am at the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens. Join Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group for this FREE guided walk starting at the Gardens' Administration building

22 **SLCMA General Meeting**, 12noon at the SLCMA Office followed by guided tour of the Wetland Treatment Train with Phil Trendell.

23 **World Turtle Day**

25 **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.

25 **Freckle Farm Tour**, 10-3pm find out about Local farmers, Landcare, Drones, Farm biosecurity and much much more! Join us for this FREE event supported by Reef Catchment's Regional Landcare Facilitator funded through Australian Government National Landcare Program. RSVP by 18 May to: reception@reefcatchments.com or 4968 4200.



SLCMA Community Nursery "Plant of the Month"

This month's 'Plant of the Month' is Javanese Flat Sedge *Cyperus javanicus*

Family: Cyperaceae

What is in a name? *Cyperus* greek *cypeiros*, name of a sedge

Form: Perennial, erect, tufted sedge growing 0.60 -1m.

Leaves: Long and folded on base, flat above, 2-13mm wide, divided internally by partitions

Flower: Brown, occurring January to August, 6-12 primary rays each up to 8cm long

Fruit: Dark brown to black, oval nut, 1.2-1.5mm long, triangular in cross-section.

Habitat: Alluvial sand along watercourses, swampy areas, rainforest, woodland and dunal scrub.

Distribution: Occurs from sea level to 550m altitude in North eastern QLD, Western Australia, Northern Territory.

Notes: It can tolerate periods of inundation and is suitable for edge planting around sedimentation basins. Its fibrous root also assists with erosion control.

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: WSUD Technical Design Guidelines for Mackay - Version 3 November 2011, www.keys.trin.org.au



Images: D. Eickhoff (flickr)

SLCMA Community Volunteer Program *by Sandy Whittington—Shaw*

April was an unusual month in the nursery, with school holidays, a looming cyclone, and the Anzac Day public holiday falling on the last Wednesday in the month. Over the holidays we had 2 junior volunteers join us; welcome to Andrew & Matthew. While Tropical Cyclone Iris was making it very wet and windy we took shelter in the office and used the time to sort seeds and add to the seed bank. We also had another new volunteer join us - welcome Ruth. Welcome also to Neil, who has been coming along for a couple of months now. Neil has a keen interest in bush tucker and is always ready for a chat and a laugh.

The next week was back to beautiful sunshine and we had a full team, busily potting, weeding, washing and sowing seeds. Some care and attention was given to a few trays of stock which had become a tad wayward over the summer growing period. All this work makes for a hungry team and they were rewarded when our Secretary Chris dropped in a freshly baked fruit cake for the volunteer team to enjoy. Thanks you so much Chris! We also purchased two new mini wheelie bins which will be used for storing potting mix and for soaking items in disinfectant. The addition of items like these makes our lives easier and helps the nursery run more efficiently.

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.



Image: S Whittington-Shaw

Volunteer Peter giving the new bins the 'thumbs up'

Supporting local farmers: Whitsunday Dairy Fresh



Above(L-R): Peter, Matt and David Woodland
Below: Whitsunday Dairy Fresh



Images: contributed

Hazelwood View nestled in Crediton, Eungella, has been owned and run by David and Peter Woodland since taking it over from their parents Jim and Kathleen Woodland in 1978. Jim and Kath Woodland married and moved to Jim's farm (post WWII) in Eungella in 1951, choosing Eungella as the spot where they'd settle and be one of the first to bring Dairying to Eungella. After the passing of Jim, the boys, Peter and David took it upon their shoulders to step up and take on more responsibility on the family farm.

Both David and Peter now have at least 40 + years' experience in Dairying. They have witnessed first-hand the demise of the dairy industry post de-regulation and felt the effects from large processing companies 'milking the industry dry' leaving nothing for the hardworking farmers at the end of the line. This financial struggle in the industry has seen Eungella's Dairy Farm numbers decimate to just 2 dairy farms, compared to the 30+ farms when David and Peter were growing up. Witnessing this decline of the industry has inspired their and other farmers to start Whitsunday Dairy Fresh under the umbrella of CQ United Dairies which is a central Queensland farming co-operative. Peter and David's history with supplying Port Curtis led to their interest in this new venture. CQ United Dairies looked to people that had already entered the fight against the big processing giants, welcoming the assistance and advice from Richard Schroder,

co-owner and operator of Coolala Milk near Gympie, QLD. With dairy farmers feeling the pinch and financial strain, Coolala's offer a price per litre for processing meant Whitsunday Dairy Fresh were able to launch their product with little to no affect to on-going farming operations. It also allows for a full range of white milk for consumer availability.

Looking to the future, they both would love to see the dairy industry rejuvenated; bringing young keen farming families back into the industry. Cory Christopher a young aspiring dairy farmer has been welcomed into the industry by David and Peter and one day sees himself owning his own herd and supplying Whitsunday Dairy Fresh. Now with the alliance of CQ Dairy Fresh and Whitsunday Dairy Fresh working together, we are able to supply fresh local products to our consumers. With the support of the people of the Whitsunday region, CQ United Dairies would hope to one day work towards their own processing capabilities supplying the whole region from farming shareholder money earned from receiving a fair price for their milk.

Article taken with permission from Whitsunday Dairy Fresh

Project Profile: Landholder Support Program (Sarina Catchment)

Project Profile: Stabilising Willie Creek
Funding Program: Aurizon Community Giving Fund
Project Duration: January 2018 –December 2018
Project Partners: Landholder and Aurizon

Background: A Landholder contacted Landcare after the high flow event in March 2017, after Cyclone Debbie regarding damage to creekbank and vegetation along Willie Creek. The project will help improve the health of riparian vegetation, build resilience to future events and act as a demonstration to neighbouring landholders and the wider community about riparian rehabilitation.



Images: S Whittington-Shaw
Infill planting along sections of Willie Creek

Aim:

- Stabilise creek bank along section of Willie Creek through revegetation
- Demonstrate benefits of healthy riparian vegetation to neighbours & community
- Reduce sedimentation and improve water quality of Willie Creek and downstream.

How can you be involved?

SLCMA is working with the Landholder and Aurizon staff to hold a community planting event in May. This will be an opportunity for community members and nearby landholders to 'get your hands dirty' and assist with the planting as well as find out what onground works have been carried out to help stabilise the creekbank. If you would like to be involved in the project and to find out more, please contact SLCMA.

Have you seen Rubbervine in our region?

SLCMA is working alongside Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group, Mackay Regional Council and Reef Catchments to identify and control local infestations of rubbervine, with the aim to control its spread and eradicate where possible. Please contact us if you know of any infestations locally or suspect a plant to be rubbervine, that you would like identified.

Rubbervine is native to Madagascar and was introduced to Australia as an ornamental shrub in 1875. Weedy infestations were recorded around Charters Towers early this century and is now found throughout Queensland to the Northern Territory border and isolated infestations in Western Australia. Only a few isolated infestations have been identified in our region to date.

Rubber vine's ability to quickly spread and colonise areas makes it a threat to many areas of northern Australia. It generally invades waterways first, smothering riparian vegetation and forms dense, sometimes impenetrable, thickets.

This decreases biodiversity and prevents access to both stock and native animals. It also creates habitat for feral animals. Infestations expand outward from waterways, hillsides and pastures, resulting in loss of grazing land and increased difficulty in mustering stock.

Rubber vine is poisonous to stock, though seldom eaten. Most deaths due to rubber vine occur after stock have been stressed, or when other feed is scarce.

Description: Rubber vine (Leaves are dark green and somewhat glossy, 6–10cm long, 3–5cm wide, and in opposite pairs. Flowers are large and showy, with five white to light purple petals arranged in a funnel shape.

Seed pods are rigid and grow in pairs at the end of a short stalk. The pods are 10–12cm long, 3–4cm wide and each can contain up to 450 brown seeds. Each seed has a tuft of long, white, silky hairs, which enable easy dispersal by wind and water.

Ornamental rubber vine (*Cryptostegia spilanthisoides*) is a shrub, to 3m tall if unsupported and stems can climb to 10m if supported. Bark is sparsely dotted with corky patches.

Leaves are dark green, glossy, with pale underside, 2–11 cm long, 1.5–5.5 cm wide, arranged in opposite pairs. Plant produces milky latex sap when leaves, fruit or branches are cut.

Flowers are pink-purple, 4–6 cm long, found near branchlet ends. Pods are 7–9 cm long, contain seeds 5–5.9 mm long, 1.8–3.5 mm wide, topped with silky tuft of white hairs.

Life cycle: Rubber vine flowers at any time of year if sufficient moisture is available. Plant stem diameter must be approximately 20mm before flowering can occur.

Seed pod formation occurs from spring to late autumn, with peak seed production corresponding to maximum flowering. Eventually, pods dry out and split open, with pod-splitting occurring approximately 200 days after formation. Seeds are scattered by wind, but also carried downstream by water. Approximately 95% of seed is viable, although germination requires favourable temperature and soil moisture conditions.

Rubbervine (*Cryptostegia grandiflora*) and ornamental rubber vine (*Cryptostegia madagascarensis*) is listed as a Weed of National Significance and are restricted invasive plants under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. They must not be given away, sold, or released into the environment without a permit. The Act requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with invasive plants and animals under their control. For more information visit www.daf.qld.gov.au or contact your local Landcare, Biosecurity or Council Pest Officer.



Image: www.daf.qld.gov.au

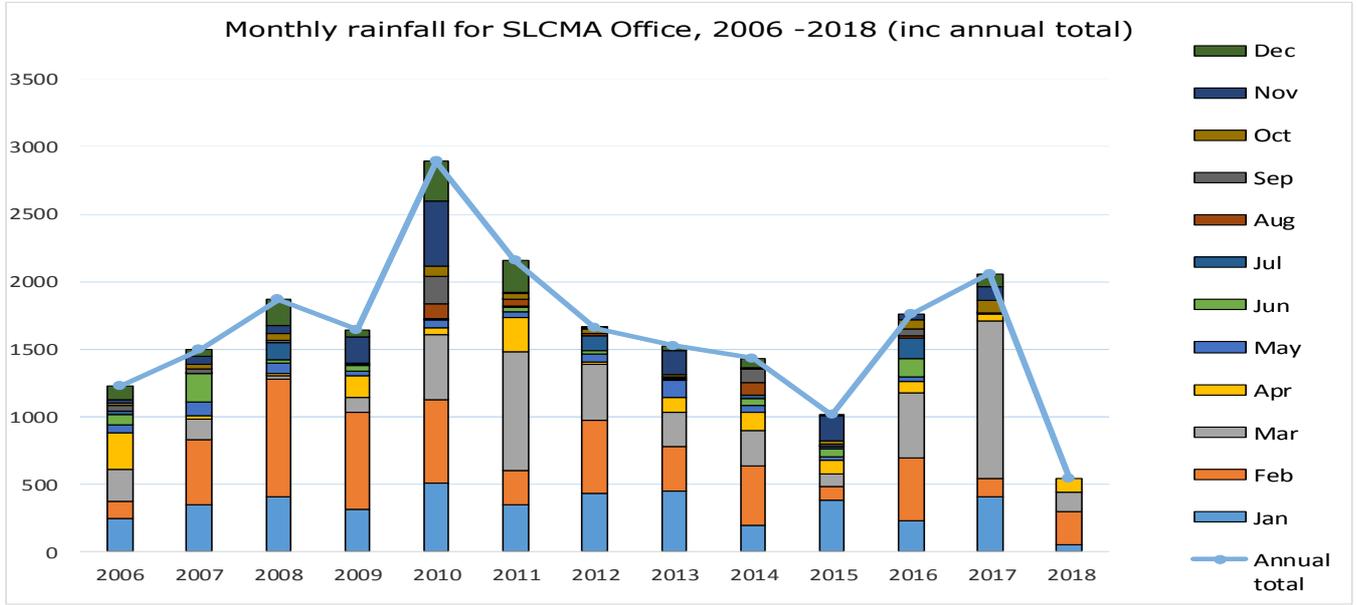


What SLCMA Membership does for you !

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



Join us for a tour of the Water Treatment Train

Image: contributed



Join us for a tour of the Water Treatment Train with guest speaker Phil Trendell (DAFF). It will be a great opportunity to see how the water treatment train works to filter water and discuss similar processes within natural wetlands to improve water quality. Meet Tuesday 22 May, 12 noon at the SLCMA Office, for our General Meeting followed by the tour with the Wetland Working Group.

Find us on [facebook](#)



Central QLD Coast
Landcare
Network

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



SLCMA is calling for Expressions of interest from Landholders interested in participating in the **Land for Wildlife Program**. The program provides support to landholders to protect and enhance native habitat on their property and includes a free property visit, land management plan, quarterly newsletters and much much more. The program is funded by the Mackay Regional Council Natural Environment Levy and delivered by SLCMA and Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group. For more information please contact SLCMA or PCL.

SLCMA is proudly supported by:



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 Federal Member for Capricornia
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