

SLCMA Catchment News



April 2019

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**Office
opening times:
Monday to Thursday
9-3pm
(other times, by
appointment only)**

Staff

Administration Officer

Kristy Thomsett

Coordinator

Saskia von Fahland

Project Officer

Adam Eaton

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

SLCMA Executive 18/19

Chair: Mark Evans

Vice-chair: Karen May

Treasurer: Jeff Burt

Secretary: Grace Tipping

Executive members:

Sandy Evans
Lachlan McBride



SLCMA News!

A big thankyou to Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal Pty Ltd (DBCT P/L) for their sponsorship towards a trolley and replacement cover for our quickshade. The quickshade cover is in desperate need of replacing so this will be a welcome addition for our displays and events. The trolley will allow for easier moving of the quickshade. Watch this space... for when the new cover arrives!



Above: SLCMA Display at Homebush Hoedown

Below: Kids searching for water bugs

Homebush Hoedown (30 March) — SLCMA enjoyed bringing our Landcare display to Homebush State School's community fundraising event recently. It was a great opportunity to chat with local farmers, community members and kids. We brought along some of our pamphlets and calendars to share as well as our aquatic display of macroinvertebrates (water bugs), fish tank with native fish and yabbies. The kids were in awe of the Mangrove Jack jaw and Mud Crab shell. Thanks Homebush State School for having us along.



We look forward to bringing the SLCMA display to other community events including the Alligator Creek State School Under 8's Day (23 May) and Sarina & District Community Kindergarten Open Day (25 May).

Thankyou Mackay Regional Council! SLCMA has been successful in applying for funds through the Mackay Regional Council Community Grant Program. The funding will support staff and volunteers of SLCMA and Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group (PCL) to undertake accredited CPR & First Aid training. The first aid training will improve the workplace health and safety of SLCMA and PCL. It will also provide staff and volunteers with basic first aid knowledge and the confidence to help others in the community as well as out in the field during Landcare events, should the need arise. A big thankyou to Mackay Regional Council – Community Grant Program.



FREE land management help for landholders

SLCMA is offering free land management assistance to eligible landholders. To be eligible, your property must be within the Sarina catchment and have a waterway/creek that you would like to rehabilitate. Landholders will receive:

- ⇒ Site visit from your local Landcare Officer
- ⇒ Land management and technical advice
- ⇒ Personalised Land Management Action Plan
- ⇒ Land manager information pack with other relevant land management resources
- ⇒ 40 local native plants to assist in the rehabilitation of a waterway/creebank on your property

Spaces are limited, to express interest in participating please contact us on 4956 1388 or admin@sarinalandcare.org.au For those of you who have submitted your EOI, we will be organising property visits shortly and we look forward to seeing you. *This project is supported by Queensland Government's Community Sustainability Action Grant Program.*

SLCMA Community Volunteer Program *by Adam Eaton*

It's hard to believe it is April already! The year is disappearing with the first month of Autumn over. Even though it has still been warm, the volunteers have been turning up week in/week out ready to help in the nursery. It has been a productive month working on a range of tasks including seed raising, potting-on, water treatment train maintenance, weed control and irrigation repairs.

We made use of the hotter days, finding a cool spot and sorting through all the seeds we have accumulated. As we went through the seed, box after box, it was surprising how quickly we had them sorted, labelled and put in alphabetical order.

One of our keen volunteers Calvin, has been helping out with the irrigation system in the nursery. With plenty of experience up his sleeve, in no time he had the 4 new frames welded to the benches, ready for new irrigation to be installed.

There is always plenty of weeding, and the volunteers do a great job making sure the tubestock are clean through weeding and topped up with soil. With up and coming projects it has been handy to have the volunteers assist with plant orders and stocktakes.

The water treatment train required a little maintenance. Thankyou to Peter and Neil who keep it running A1 with a clean of the pump and top up of water. The Sarina Community Native gardens are looking fantastic, thankyou to Peter who keeps things tidy chipping away even through the hot days.

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

Identifying plants accurately is an important aspect of land management. It allows landholders to know what is on their property—whether it be a native plant that needs to be protected or encouraged or a pest plant that needs to be controlled and monitored.

First of all, you are not alone, we often get enquiries from landholders about plant identification. Luckily, there are a number of ways you can ensure your plant is identified correctly. Your local Landcare Officer, Council Pest Officer and Biosecurity Officer, Weedspotter Network and Queensland Herbarium are all able to assist with plant identification. Before you contact the Officer, here are some tips of what you can provide to help with identifying the plant.

Find a good specimen— Take the time to ensure the specimen includes up to 50cm of leaf and stem (*where possible*) as well as fertile material such as seeds, flowers, fruit. For long grasses—pick an entire length of the grass including roots.

Record information— Date collected; location (including GPS); habitat eg. along creek, near dam, in paddock; surrounding vegetation—list other known plants growing in the area (*use botanical names if possible*); Type of plant eg. tree, shrub, herb, groundcover, if you are unsure describe the height and form; description of bark or other distinguishing features, colour of flowers or fruit; abundance of the plant (common or uncommon).

If you will see the Officer within the same day of collection you can place your sample in a sealed plastic bag. If not, to ensure the sample remains usable for identification, the specimen will need to be preserved by being dried and pressed.

Preparing your specimen for drying and pressing— Lay the specimen between several pieces of newspaper and arrange in a way that leaves, fruit, flowers and stem are separated as much as possible. Fold long grasses into N,Z or W shapes. Put several pieces of newspaper or a piece cardboard on top and bottom and, press down with a heavy object such as a phonebook. Allow to dry for 1-3 weeks depending on the humidity, temperature and type of plants being pressed. The paper may need to be changed during the first few days to prevent mould developing.

Your plant sample is now ready for identification and if needed can be forwarded to Queensland Herbarium for verification.



Above: Calvin welding tops on benches
Below: Volunteers sorting seed



Photos: A Eaton



Photo: Florida museum

Land for Wildlife Programcontinued..

SLCMA delivers the Land for Wildlife program within the Sarina Catchment area of Mackay Regional Council, on behalf of Mackay Regional Council. If you would like to find out more about the Land for Wildlife program and how to become involved, please contact us on 4956 1388 or admin@sarinalandcare.org.au

SLCMA Community Nursery "Plant of the Month"

This month's 'Plant of the Month' is ***Falcataria toona***, Mackay Cedar (previously known as *Paraserianthes toona*)

Family: Mimosaceae

What is in a name? **Toona** after the genus Toona; referring to the similar timber colour and quality

Form: A medium to large spreading tree with grey-brown rough and somewhat scaly bark and dark green ferny canopy which may be deciduous in winter.

Leaves: Branchlets have numerous lenticels and bipinnate leaves have a large gland at the base of the primary axis, up to 20 pairs of secondary axes to which are attached numerous small paired leaflets, about 4 x 1mm.

Inflorescences: Creamy flowers with showy stamens are arranged in spikes which are borne in terminal clusters in spring. Heavy flowering does not occur every year.

Fruit: The flattened pods, up to 12 x 3cm, contain 4-6 oval seeds.

Habitat: It is a common species of lowland rainforests and also extends into open forests where its distinctive dark green canopy is easily recognised.

Distribution: From central to north eastern QLD.

Other notes: The red and yellow streaked timber is highly prized for cabinet work. It makes a great ornamental shade tree for larger gardens.

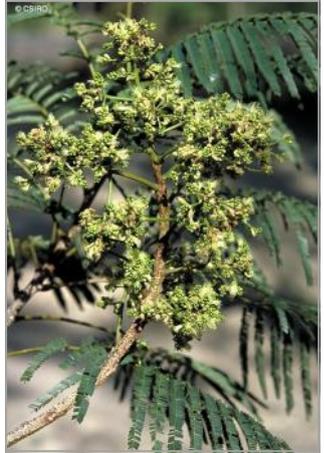
The "Plant of the Month" is currently available from the SLCMA Community Nursery. Landcare members are eligible to receive 1 free "Plant of the Month", throughout that month, please contact SLCMA for more information.

Information was sourced from: Cooper & Cooper (2004) Fruits of the Australian Tropical Rainforest. The Mackay Branch of the Society for Growing Australian Plants (1989) One Hundred and One Trees of Mackay

Images: CSIRO



Flowers & leaves of Mackay Cedar



Sarina youth make seed 'bombs'

SLCMA in partnership with Mackay Regional Council invited Sarina youth to learn about seed bombs, recently. The school holiday event, saw ten youth learn about the uses and benefits of seed bombs. As well as enjoy getting their hands dirty to make their very own Basil & native Paper Daisy seed bombs.

Seed bombs, seed balls, earth balls, green grenade...are just some of the names used that refers to creating a ball shape growing medium with seed, that can be used to grow plants; particularly where growing plants can be a challenge. Shallow or stony soils, difficult terrain and watering restrictions can all make it difficult to get a plant from a seed into an adult. But, there is a solution - seed bombs. Seed bombs are a set and forget planting method that's been used for centuries and they're easy to make. There are a variety of recipes out there - but here is one to get you started.

What you will need:

- 1 cup Potting mix or compost
- Seaweed solution
- 1 cup Potter's ball clay (available from art/craft stores)
- Mixing bowl and measure
- Seed: The amount will vary depending on size of seed eg. fine seed approx. 1/2 cup, large seed approx. 1 cup

Mix dry ingredients together: potting mix, clay, seed. Drop by drop, add the seaweed solution to make a dough like consistency that allows you to mould them into a small ball about the size of a large marble or ping pong ball.

Once you have rolled them into shape, they're ready to dry. They need to be completely dry so that the moisture doesn't start them germinating. Put them in a warm, dry place - like a windowsill. Alternatively, you could use a dehydrator.

The seeds now have got everything they need for a good start in life. The clay binds the seed while they wait for rain. Once it does, the organic matter expands, crumbling the bombs as the seed germinates. The seaweed gives the seedlings their first feed. (*Information sourced from Gardening Australia, 2011*)

Photo: www.sprig.co.za





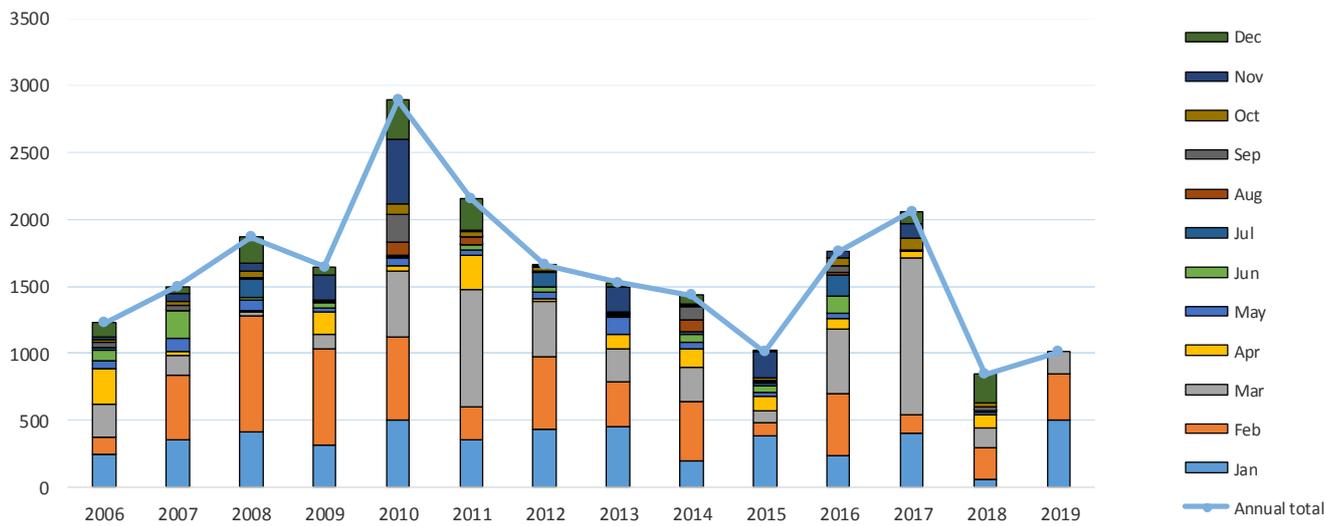
What SLCMA Membership does for you !

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

Monthly rainfall for SLCMA Office, 2006 -2019 (inc annual total)



Just for fun!

A dung beetle walks into a bar & says, "Is this stool taken?" ;)

Is your teen texting about sustainable farming?

- OMG = Organic Mushroom Gardening
- WTF = Where's The Fertiliser
- LMAO = Left My Axe Outside
- LOL = Lots of Lettuce
- DTF = Down to Farm
- WYD = Weed Your Dandelions
- BRB = Better Results than Borlaug
- TBH = This Bountiful Harvest
- SMH = Share My Harvest
- BTW = Bring the Wheelbarrow
- ILY = Increased Land Yield
- BS = Big Snail



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

SLCMA is proudly supported by:



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If you have any issues, don't hesitate to contact my office

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