

# SLCMA Catchment News



May 2019

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### Temporary Office closure: 3-23 June 2019

- \* please call to make an appointment
- \* check facebook page for updates on closure

#### 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!

**SLCMA Office temporary closure** - Please be advised that the SLCMA Office will be closed between 3-23 June while Mackay Regional Council undertake building maintenance and repairs. We will still be contactable via email and phone during this time and can organise to meet in person, if required. The SLCMA Community Volunteer Program will continue as per normal, Wednesday 9-12pm at the SLCMA Community Nursery.

**2019 Gallagher Landcare Fencing Grants** are now open. Eligible applicants (community groups, Landcare, individual landholders) can apply for an individual fencing project up to \$8,000 (ex gst). Grant submissions close 31 May. See [link](#) for guidelines and eligibility criteria or visit [www.landcareaustralia.org.au](http://www.landcareaustralia.org.au) If you would like assistance with a project application, please contact us on 4956 1388.

#### Thankyou to the Sarina Community Bank Branch!

SLCMA has been successful in our application to the Sarina Community Bank Branch Community Engagement Program for a marquee package. Through the sponsorship, SLCMA will receive a marquee, banner and tablecloth cover which will prove very useful for future displays and events.



Photo: contributed  
L-R: Kristy Thomsett (SLCMA) being presented the certificate by Karen May (Sarina Community Bank Branch) during the recent presentation night.

## Native Bee Workshop—a buzzing great time!

Thirty participants enjoyed an informative workshop facilitated by Dean & Helen Bryant (Brymac Native Bees) on 12 April. The workshop covered the social aspects of native stingless bees, rescuing, boxing and management of native bee hives. Native bees are highly efficient pollinators and are an asset for the productivity of our native plants, backyard vegetable gardens and fruit trees.

On the day, some participants brought their own native bees to be boxed as part of the demonstration. Our own native bees were lucky to be re-homed into a new timber OATH box. We identified that the black plastic hive the bees were originally in had serious heat issues during heat waves as indicated by the large empty brood mass and the thick insulation of stores around the brood. We will be watching our bees closely over the coming weeks to make sure they are happy with their new accommodation – which we are confident they will thrive and build much bigger. It was interesting to see the differences in the health and structure of the different beehives that were there on the day. In the process, we were able to tantalise our senses with our very own native bee 'sugarbag honey', which in this case had a lovely passionfruit flavour!

A big thankyou to Dean & Helen Bryant for travelling all the way from the Sunshine Coast, Mackay Regional Council who allowed us to utilise their training room, Sian Lawson for doing the vacuuming - of bees ;), Alcorn's Bakery Sarina for the yummy sandwiches, our little native bees for not being

too inquisitive on the day and most of all to all of you who came along and shared your knowledge, stories and questions.



Photos: S von Fahland

L: A recently divided hive



Dean demonstrating how to divide a native bee hive



Native stingless bee hive showing pollen & honey pots

# Land for Wildlife Program: What is Biodiversity?

The Land for Wildlife Program encourages landholders to protect and enhance the natural biodiversity within their property.....but what is biodiversity?

**Biodiversity** comes from two words *Bio* meaning life and *diversity* meaning variability. It is the scientific term for the variety of life on Earth - the different plants, animals and micro organisms; the genetic information they contain and the ecosystems they form. An ecosystem is a community of organisms and their physical environment interacting together. An ecosystem may be as large as the Great Barrier Reef or as small as the back of a spider crab's shell, which provides a home for plants and other animals, such as sponges, algae and worms.



Increased biodiversity improves the health and resilience of our natural environment. A wide variety of species will cope better with threats than a limited number of them in large populations. Even if certain species are affected by a threat eg. Pollution or human activities, the ecosystem as a whole may adapt and survive. But the extinction of a species may have unforeseen impacts, sometimes snowballing into the destruction of entire ecosystems. The best way to conserve biodiversity is to save habitats and ecosystems rather than trying to save a single species.

## How can you protect or enhance biodiversity on your property?

- Identify the natural assets and ecosystems on your property. These could be different vegetation communities, waterways, rocky outcrops, links to other natural assets on neighbouring land.
- Find out the benefits and values of the natural assets. For example, a healthy riparian zone (creek bank vegetation) can provide a wildlife corridor for a range of native animals to move along throughout the catchment and improve water quality or may support a particular native animal.
- Discover ways to enhance and protect those natural assets eg. Rehabilitate sections of degraded areas of vegetation to improve connectivity, fence out stock from sensitive areas such as riparian zones.
- Action on the ground (Prioritise and implement your actions), monitor progress and the health of your natural assets over time.

The Property Management Plan you receive through the LfW program will help identify the natural assets of your property, provide recommendations on how to protect or enhance them as well as provide onground support and advice. SLCMA delivers the LfW 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](mailto:admin@sarinalandcare.org.au)

## SLCMA Community Volunteer Program *by Adam Eaton*

Now that Autumn is nearly over we have been treated to some nice weather along with decent rainfall. Over this month, the temperature has been slowly dropping, making it most pleasant to be working in the nursery. This month the team of volunteers have been turning up in numbers and over the school holidays had some of the local scouts come along and help out. Stephanie from the scouts group is a keen baker so there was plenty of fresh baked goods for smoko.

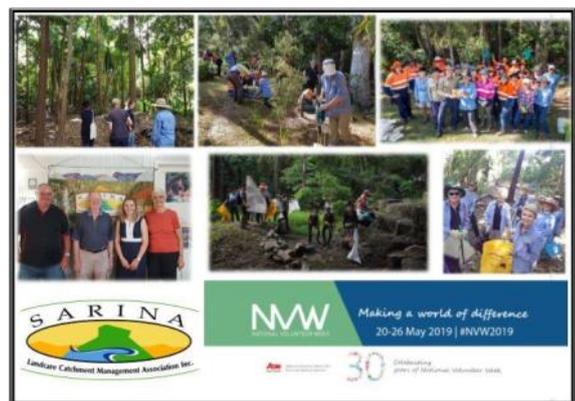
After all this nice rainfall there has been plenty to do and with everything actively growing the team have been busy seed raising, potting on seedlings, pruning, and the beloved weeding. There has been plenty of plants going out this month for revegetation projects and it has freed up some space to bring some of the seedlings out for sun hardening.

SLCMA held a native bee workshop recently and what a great day it was. There are a few volunteers keen on native bees so it has been great viewing the progress of our new native bee box each week. The team have welcomed a new member Maree who has recently moved to the area and has fitted right in with team. We are always looking for new volunteers to join our team. Our activities are quite varied and you never know what you will be doing...sowing seeds, cleaning seeds, potting seedlings on, weeding, seed collecting, washing pots...and much more!

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.

**Happy National Volunteer Week!  
(20-26 May)**

A big thankyou to all our wonderful volunteers for your support. Our volunteers help SLCMA immensely from our management committee and nursery volunteers; to those who come along to our community working bees: planting, weeding, rubbish clean-ups. This year's theme is ***Making a world of difference***, which is just what our volunteers do—thankyou :)



## SLCMA Community Nursery “Plant of the Month”

This month's 'Plant of the Month' is ***Pipturus argenteus* Native Mulberry**

**Family:** Urticaceae

**What is in a name?** *Pipturus* from Latin *Pipto* to fall and *ures* a tail – refers to the tail-like stigma; *argenteus* from Latin *argenteus* silver – refers to the silvery colour of the underside of the leaves.

**Form:** A shrub or small tree, to 6m

**Leaves:** Simple, alternate, elliptic soft leaves; finely and bluntly toothed; lower surface whitish with hairs.

**Inflorescences:** Green, white or cream flowers on separate plants

**Fruit:** Fleshy, white mulberry-like, 4-6mm diameter.

**Habitat:** Found in a variety of forest including rainforest, riparian areas, vine thickets, woodland and open forest.

**Distribution:** From Lismore NSW to Torres Strait Islands

**Other notes:** Fruit eaten by many birds and are food plant for the White Nymph butterfly. Hardy plant, useful for revegetation and rainforest gardens. It is fast growing and brings in many birds.

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: CQCLN Website – Plant database [www.cqclandcarenetwork.org.au](http://www.cqclandcarenetwork.org.au) ; Melzer & Plumb (2007) Plants of Capricornia*



Above: Leaves

Below: Fruit



Photos: C Peterson

## Plane Creek Farmers Action Group & SLCMA: Feral Pig meeting

A meeting was organised through the Plane Creek Farmers Action Group and SLCMA recently, to discuss the Coordinated Feral Pig Program in Rocky Dam and Carmila Creek catchments. Attending the meeting were graziers, canegrowers, Mark Oswald (Mackay Regional Council), Andrew Jenkinson (owner of Stockair Heliworks), Peter Albertson (Plane Creek Productivity Services) and Saskia von Fahland (SLCMA).

The main focus of the meeting was:

- the importance of the annual aerial control program
- maintaining it at current levels by identifying possible funding sources
- links to complementary control measures such as trapping and baiting
- potential for smaller, targeted aerial control in hot spot areas throughout the year.

It was clear that landholders considered their financial contribution towards the program an effective insurance against pig damage on their farm. As feral pigs have a large range, the landholders acknowledged that although during the control event, they may not have chopper activity immediately above their property, any pigs controlled will be of a benefit to them.

It was evident from the meeting that the aerial feral pig control program, managed by SLCMA over the past years, has been an extremely successful control program and has strong support from landholders in the region for it to continue. However, further work is required to generate additional funding sources to ensure that the level of the shoot in past years is maintained into the future. The project currently receives funding through landholder contributions and Reef Catchments. PCPSL in conjunction with SLCMA will aim to identify further potential funding sources to leverage further funding for the program.

## FREE land management help for landholders

SLCMA is currently offering free land management assistance relating to creekbank stabilisation, 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
- ⇒ Land Management Plan, information pack with other relevant land management resources
- ⇒ 40 local native plants to assist in the rehabilitation of a waterway/creekbank on your property

Spaces are limited, to express interest in participating please contact us on 4956 1388 or [admin@sarinalandcare.org.au](mailto:admin@sarinalandcare.org.au) This project is supported by Queensland Government's Community Sustainability Action Grant Program.



Photo: M Sant

**Above:** Feral Pig controlled in cane

**Below:** Damage to wetlands by feral pigs.



Photo: Reef Catchments



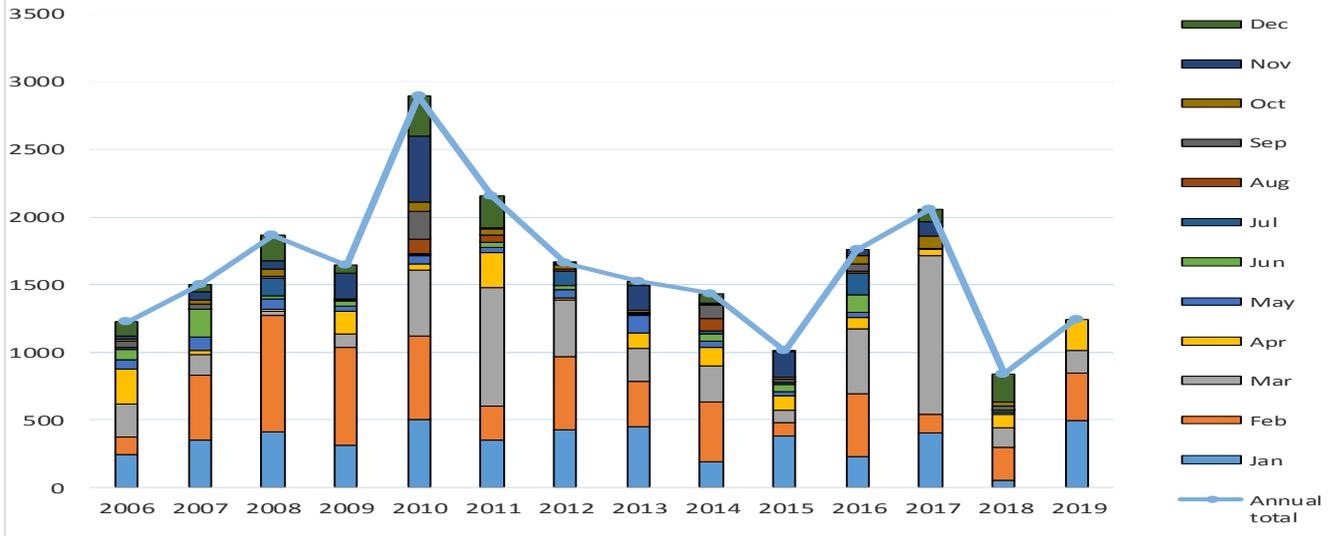
# What SLCMA Membership does for you !

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
- ◇ Copy of the SLCMA Annual Report
- ◇ Discounts on purchases of books for sale

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



## Just for fun!

Farmer Evans was driving his John Deere tractor along the road with a trailer load of fertilizer.

Tim a little boy of eight was playing in his yard when he saw the farmer and asked, 'What've you got in your trailer?'

'Manure,' Farmer Evans replied.

'What are you going to do with it?' asked Tim.

'Put it on my strawberries,' answered the farmer.

Tim replied, 'You ought to come and eat with us, we put ice-cream on our strawberries.'

:~:

What can you make from baked beans and onions?  
 Tear Gas ;)



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

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