

SLCMA Catchment News



June 2019

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Kristy Thomsett

Coordinator
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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: -

Secretary: Grace Tipping

Executive members:
Sandy Evans
Lachlan McBride



SLCMA News!

Thankyou to Jeff. Jeff Burt recently resigned from the SLCMA Treasurer position. From all the management committee and staff, we would like to thank Jeff for his contribution and support over the last 9 months.

SLCMA Office update - We would like to give a big thankyou (& thumbs up) to the Ted Malone Rural Skills Centre who provided us with temporary office space over the last 3 weeks, while Mackay Regional Council undertook maintenance and repairs to our Office on Beach Rd. We would like to thank all the staff at the Sarina Rural Skills Centre for making us feel welcome and particular thanks to Bob North for assisting us at short notice. It has been a pleasure being around the Rural Skills Centre and we look forward to working with them in the future.

Thankyou to our Landcare members and volunteers for being patient while we were away from the office and to Mackay Regional Council for giving the office some TLC. Many thanks!

SLCMA Annual General Meeting coming soon—The Annual General Meeting is coming up in September. Consequently, we would like to put the word out there, for any interested Landcare members, volunteers or community members who would like to nominate to be on the SLCMA Management Committee. The SLCMA Management Committee provides direction for the organisation and liaises closely with the staff. If you would like to know more about volunteering on the SLCMA Management Committee please contact us.

Goodbye to Adam. SLCMA would like let our members and volunteers know that Adam Eaton finished up with SLCMA on 30 June. We would like to thank Adam for his contribution towards SLCMA over the last 8 months, particularly in the SLCMA Community Nursery and revegetation projects. We wish Adam all the best for the future.

Sarina Community Native Gardens

A combination of a good wet season, ongoing help from Peter Whitehead (weed and mulching) and Council mowing; have the Sarina Community Native Gardens looking good.

If you visit the gardens keep an eye out for some of the natives in flower and our resident wildlife including Whistler ducks, herons, freshwater crabs and recently, a frilled neck lizard – who was trying very hard to camouflage itself against the trunk of the Silver wattle (*Acacia holosericea*).

Did you know the Sarina Community Gardens turn 10 this year! Back in 2008, our volunteers came up with the fantastic idea of the native gardens and after discussion with Council and other stakeholders, the *Sarina Community Native Gardens project* was developed. Ongoing works began in 2009 through a community planting day. Over the years and with assistance from volunteers, Green Corps teams and Council, we have included a seasonal wetland, themed gardens and walking track. The big highlight for the gardens was the official opening in 2013, by Gardening Guru Costa Geordiadis.

The purpose of the gardens is to demonstrate the use and benefits of native plants in gardens. It also serves as an educational resource for community members and school students such as for plant identification, learning about local habitats.



Costa Geordiadis at Sarina Community Native Gardens Open Day, 2013



Top: Peter helping in the gardens
Below: Frilled neck lizard



Land for Wildlife Program—Biosecurity obligations



As a Landholder, do you know your Biosecurity Obligations? The *Biosecurity Act 2014* (the Act) commenced on 1 July 2016, replacing many separate pieces of legislation that were previously used to manage biosecurity in QLD.

Under the Act, all Queenslanders have a '**General Biosecurity Obligation**' (GBO). This means that everyone is responsible for managing biosecurity risks that are:

- Under their control and
- that they know about, or should reasonably be expected to know about.

Under the GBO, individuals and organisations whose activities pose a biosecurity risk must:

- take all reasonable and practical steps to prevent or minimise each biosecurity risk
- minimise the likelihood of causing a 'biosecurity event', and limit the consequences if such an event is caused
- prevent or minimise the harmful effects a risk could have, and not do anything that might make any harmful effects worse.

'**Biosecurity risks**' is the risk that exists when you deal with: any pest, disease or contaminant; something that could carry a pest, disease or contaminant (eg animals, plants, soil, equipment).

'**biosecurity events**' is an event that: has, or may have, a significant harmful effect on human health, social amenity, the economy, or the environment and is caused by a pest, disease or contaminant.

What biosecurity risks can you be expected to know about? You are responsible for managing biosecurity risks that you know about or could reasonably be expected to know about. You are not expected to know about all biosecurity risks, but you are expected to know about risks associated with your day-to-day work and your hobbies. For example:

- If you are a landowner, you are expected to stay informed about the weeds and pest animals (such as wild dogs) that could be on your property. You are also expected to manage them appropriately.
- If you are a livestock owner, you are expected to stay informed about pests and diseases that could affect or be carried by your animals, as well as weeds and pest animals that could be on your property. You are also expected to manage them appropriately.
- If you are a residential gardener, you are not expected to know about all the biosecurity risks that

might affect plants. However, you are expected to know basics information about how to reduce the risk of spreading a pest or disease, as well as the problem pests in your local area.

What are reasonable and practical steps? The steps that are considered 'reasonable and practical' will vary depending on the situation and the risks involved. Key factors include:

- how likely an activity is to pose a risk—the more likely it is, the more action you are expected to take
- how harmful an activity could be (e.g. whether it could cause human deaths, extensive productivity losses or other significant economic or community losses)—the more potentially harmful it is, the more action you are expected to take
- how much the person managing the activity knows, or should reasonably be expected to know, about the risk (e.g. how dangerous it is and how it is spread)—the more you know, or should be expected to know, the more action you are expected to take
- what methods are available to minimise the risk (e.g. equipment and work practices)—the more readily available a method is, the more action you are expected to take.

How can you reduce biosecurity risks? In most cases, you can reduce biosecurity risks by following simple steps. For example:

- Manage pests (e.g. weeds and wild dogs) and diseases on your property that could have negative impacts on neighbouring properties.
- Carefully examine animals before moving them. Moving animals will pose a biosecurity risk if they are carrying pests or diseases that could affect agricultural industries. Check for animal diseases that could be spread by contact with other animals, and for weed seeds.
- Closely inspect pot plants and potting mix before taking them home. They will pose a biosecurity risk if they are carrying fire ants or electric ants, or plant pests, weeds or diseases that are not already present in your suburb or region.

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

The latest on Giant Rats Tail control *taken from WCL Newsletter*

The following is the latest control recommendations based on research trials carried out by Wayne Vogler from DAF at the TWRS Charters Towers over the last 2 years. These were presented at a GRT Field Day at Mirani on the 30th May.

Giant Rats Tail (GRT) have a high seed load which disperses widely by animal, vehicle or gravity. Research has shown that the one factor that inhibits germination is competition and shade. So to reduce germination of GRT it follows that it germinates less in a paddock that has a good standing crop of other grasses.

There is a dedicated chemical for GRT (in fact for all clumping grasses) called Flupropanate, sold as the chemical Taskforce® or Tussock®. The chemical is in 2 forms, liquid or pellet, and should be applied to the paddock or clump so that the next rain washes the chemical in to the roots of the grass for it to be effective. This kills the GRT but keeps the remaining grasses standing. Successful application of Flupropanate will selectively remove GRT but other grasses remain, and if thick enough will reduce germination of new seeds. *Continued over page...*

GRT Control continued.... It has been found that Glyphosate will kill GRT but also other adjacent grasses, leaving a bare patch for more GRT to germinate. So the general best practice application of Glyphosate is to use a little as possible, being careful of overspray of other adjacent grasses, and the addition of a little fertilizer to promote the growth of these adjacent grasses to hasten the covering of the bare section caused by the spraying. But Best Practice control of small areas of GRT is still to remove seed heads and bag for disposal, and chip out the base of the plant with a hoe. For further information please go to:

https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/69616/IPA-Giant-Rats-Tail-Grass-PP48.pdf

SLCMA Community Nursery “Plant of the Month”

This month’s ‘Plant of the Month’ is **Gold tipped bottlebrush** *Melaleuca polandii* prev. *Callistemon polandii*

Family: Myrtaceae



Top: Flower
Below: New growth

What is in a name? Named *Melaleuca polandii* in 2006, when *Callistemons* were transferred to *Melaleuca*. Previously *Callistemon polandii*. *Polandii* honours Wilhelm Poland, a missionary at Wujal Wujal (formerly the Bloomfield River Mission) who collected the specimen. *Callistemon* Greek for ‘beautiful stamens’.

Form: Medium to tall shrub, 2-5m

Leaves: Lance-shaped, bright green, bronze-red new growth.

Flowers: Spikes 6-10cm x 4-5cm, of bright red with yellow tips.

Fruit: Globular woody capsules 0.6cm diameter, with fine brown seed.

Distribution: Two forms occur: north of Cooktown; Port Curtis district of Central QLD.

Notes: Attractive species useful as a screen or windbreak, attracts nectar feeding birds and insects.



Photos: M Meng

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.

This and other native plant species are also available for purchase at \$3 each. All plants are grown from locally collected seed in the SLCMA Community Nursery by SLCMA staff and the SLCMA Volunteer team. Please contact SLCMA on 49561 388 for more information. **Information sourced from:** Townsend (1994) *Across the Top*

SLCMA Community Volunteer Program

Our volunteers have had the chance to work alongside all three SLCMA staff at various times recently and, participate in a range of activities.

On 22 May, our dedicate volunteers were treated by Kristy with a thankyou morning tea during **International Volunteer Week**, to celebrate their contributions to Landcare. A big thankyou to all our Landcare volunteers both in the nursery and the Management Committee for your ongoing support and contribution.



Photo: K Thomsett
Volunteers enjoying a ‘thankyou’ morning tea for International Volunteer Week

On 5 June, our volunteers joined in our Nursery open morning and plant giveaway to celebrate **Climate Week**. We had a couple newcomers join in the nursery fun, pick up a couple free native plants and enjoy a lovely morning tea under the trees. This event was supported by QLD Government, QLD Water and Landcarers and Mackay Regional Council.

We were also fortunate to get nice weather (phew!) on 19 June to enjoy a well-overdue plant identification and seed collection field trip to Hay Point. We all enjoyed getting out and about and looking at the variety of native coastal plants that the Hay Point foreshore has on display. It was great to see a variety of coastal groundcovers displaying masses of seed pods. Our field trip ended with morning tea and what better place to do this than the Hay Point Hotel – what a treat!

Thankyou to our volunteers for joining us for these events and for your ongoing support in the SLCMA Community Nursery. The plants are looking healthy and it has been great to see them going out and being used for local revegetation projects over the last few months. 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.



Photos: S von Fahland
Volunteers at Hay Point Beach and coastal scrub and in the nursery during Climate Week



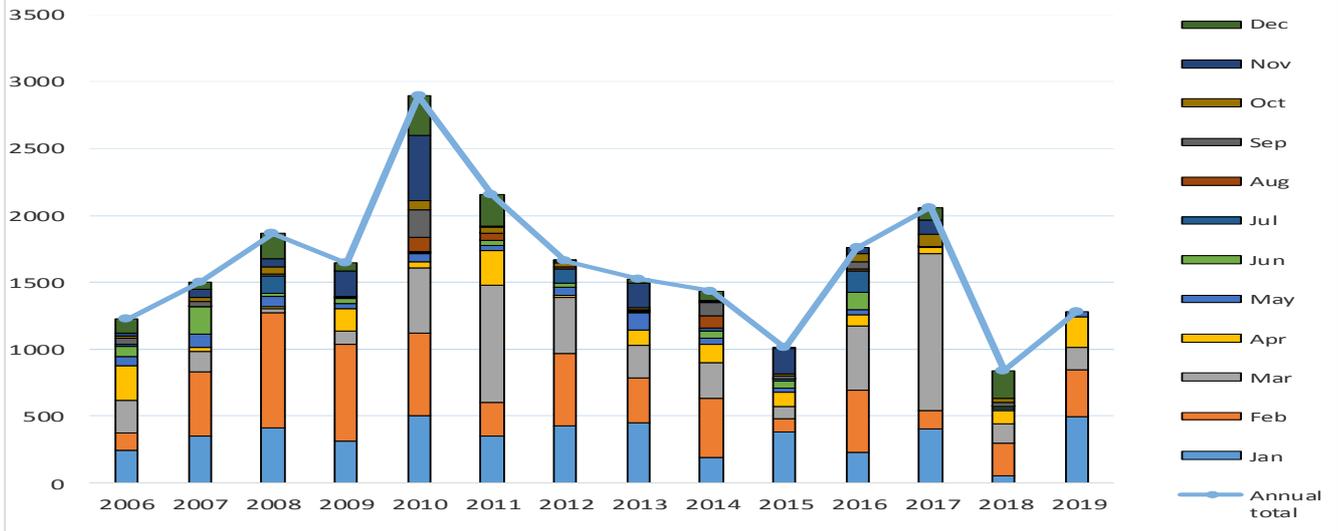
What SLCMA Membership does for you !

A membership with SLCMA has many rewards:

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 Email:
 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

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



Just for fun!

The real meaning of plant catalogue terminology:

- * "A favourite of birds" means to avoid planting near cars, sidewalks, or clotheslines.
- * "Grows more beautiful each year" means "Looks like roadkill for the foreseeable future."
- * "Zone 5 with protection" is a variation on the phrase "Russian roulette."
- * "May require support" means your daughter's engineering degree will finally pay off.
- * "Moisture-loving" plants are ideal for landscaping all your bogs and swamps.
- * "Carefree" refers more to the plant's attitude than to your workload.
- * "Vigorous" is code for "has a Napoleonic compulsion to take over the world."
- * "Grandma's Favourite" -- until she discovered free-flowering, disease-resistant hybrids.

When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant.



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

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