

SLCMA Catchment News



September 2019

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**Office
opening times:
Monday to Friday
9-2pm
(other times by
appointment only)**

Staff

Administration Officer

Kristy Thomsett

Coordinator

Saskia von Fahland

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

Native plants available for purchase

SLCMA Executive 19/20

Chair: Mark Evans

Vice-chair: Karen May

Treasurer: Kevin Plumb

Secretary: -

Executive members:

Sandy Evans
Lachlan McBride



SLCMA News!

The **SLCMA Annual General Meeting** was held on 24 September. **Thankyou** to our outgoing management committee members Mark Evans (Chair), Karen May (Vice-Chair), Grace Tipping (Secretary), Sandy Evans (Management committee member), Lachlan McBride (Management Committee member) and also to Jeff Burt who was the Treasurer until May 2019. The Annual Report for 18/19 has now been sent out to our members, we hope you enjoy the read and discover the diversity of projects and activities that SLCMA has been involved in over the last 12 months.

A big thankyou to the new management committee members who nominated and were elected for 19/20. The 19/20 management committee is the same as the previous year (as listed above) apart from we would like to welcome Kevin Plumb as our new Treasurer.



SLCMA Calendar 2020! We would love to see your photos of local landscapes, wildlife, plants; for next years SLCMA Calendar. Photos need to be of good quality/size. Please send your photos to admin@sarinalandcare.org.au with the name of the photographer & location by 31 October 2019. If you need assistance to download photos, feel free to give us a call and arrange a time to meet at the office. Thankyou to Mackay Regional Council, DBCT Management and DBCT PL for supporting the production of our annual calendar.

Out & about with SLCMA



Photo: S von Fahland

In September, we joined Mark Oswald, Mackay Regional Council Pest Officer to attend the **Sarina Cattle Sales** with the regional Pest Education Trailer

It was a good opportunity to talk with local landholders, hear their stories. The main topics discussed were identification of plants and weed management in pastures.

Mark Oswald (MRC Pest Officer) with Pest Education Trailer at Sarina Cattle Sales

SLCMA participated in an **Intrepid Way Workshop** recently. Supported by Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group and Mackay Regional Council; Intrepid Landcare delivered the workshop to support volunteers, staff and the broader community to engage young people in Landcare and similar activities. The workshop focussed on developing a collaborative approach to co-designing and delivering projects that are appealing to a younger generation. It was a great chance to discuss, network and brainstorm local ideas and opportunities.



Attendees at Intrepid Way Workshop



Photo: contributed

Kristy Thomsett (SLCMA) & Selwyn McKewen (Racecourse Projects) at Southern boundary catchment sign

Thankyou to **Racecourse Projects** for allowing us to install our Sarina Catchment sign on their property, at the Southern Boundary of the Sarina Catchment. A big thankyou to **Sarina Community Bank Branch**—Community Engagement Program, for making the project possible. Through the project, we now have new signage for the Sarina Community Native Gardens (on Beach Road) and catchment signs on our North & South Boundaries.

30 years of Landcare celebrated



SLCMA volunteers and members helped celebrate '30 years of Landcare across Australia' on 4 September (during Landcare Week). The enthusiastic group of 11, enjoyed a walk along the Sarina Inlet Trail to Johnson's Beach – discussing the history of the trail, admiring the variety of native plants and collecting some seed for the SLCMA Community Nursery. We also enjoyed a picnic morning tea. It was a great opportunity to celebrate Landcare locally and 30 years of Landcare across Australia.

Left: Start of the Sarina Inlet Trail Right top: Seed collecting at Johnsons Beach
Right bottom: Morning tea



Great Northern Clean Up—Sarina Beach, a success!

A big thankyou to the 13 volunteers who joined in the Great Northern Clean Up on 31 August, at Sarina Beach. The volunteers covered a large area including Sarina Beach, Sarina Inlet Trail and surrounding streets including the boat ramp (which was a hot spot!). We collected half a skip of rubbish including lots of small pieces of plastic and some odd items...broken shovel, rope, chairs and underwear (yes, we all had gloves). Thumbs up to the locals who do their bit every day on their daily walks...every bit makes a difference! Thankyou to Mackay Regional Council for their support for the event.



Photos: S von Fahland

L-R: Peter, Ray, Jaylan & James; a large mess of old rope found along Sarina beach;
Randall & Margaret; "Great Northern Clean Up Australia" in leaves...ha ha!; Anne & Noel; Pam & Terry :) :)

SLCMA Community Volunteer Program

The warmer weather has kept the volunteers busy with lots to do in the nursery as well as some fruitful seed collection trips. Thankyou to our volunteers for keeping the nursery plants weeded and fertilised; and for those keen 'pot washer-upperers' for cleaning the dirty pots (all much needed & appreciated tasks). It has been awhile since we have done cuttings, but we had an opportunity to create cuttings from two *Macaranga* species (*M. tanarius* & *M. involcrata*) and lily pilly (*Syzygium austral*) recently. We look forward to watching them grow.

Our volunteers enjoy the opportunity to clean seeds especially the fleshy, juicy purple ones like Blue Umbrella (*Mackinlaya macrosiadea*), it definitely makes you appreciate gloves ;) Over the school holidays it was nice to see some junior members along and helping out. Our volunteers have been keeping an eye out on the sustainable food garden, with the vegetables and herbs almost ready for the picking. Thankyou to Peter who has been keeping the water up to the gardens during the dry weather. As always we have enjoyed some nice morning teas. We would like to welcome Davina Wain as our new Nursery Officer, who joined the SLCMA team, very recently. Watch this space for the next issue, when we officially introduce Davina :)

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

Containers for Change: Thankyou to those of you who have generously and kindly donated your container refunds to SLCMA. To date we have had **\$27.00** donated. That is 270 containers! Please consider using SLCMA's Containers for Change ID number **C10002138**, to include in your bags. Alternatively, you can bring your containers to the SLCMA Office.

SLCMA Community Nursery "Plant of the Month"

This month's 'Plant of the Month' is ***Hakea actites* (Wallum Hakea)**

Family: Proteaceae

What is in a name? *Hakea*: honour Baron von Hake 1744-1818, German patron of Botany and councillor;
actites: Greek meaning 'coast-dweller'

Form: Small to tall shrub, to 2m with a lignotuber.

Leaves: Cylindrical, light green, up to 10cm long and crowned with a sharp point.

Flower: Clusters of conspicuous 1-6 white flowers along stem, May to September

Fruit: Woody, egg-shaped fruits, containing two winged seeds

Habitat: Swampy and coastal areas

Distribution: Coastal south-eastern Queensland to just north of Coffs Harbour, northern NSW.

Notes: The prickly foliage provides shelter and nesting sites for small native birds.

Flowers of *Hakea actites*



Photo: S von Fahland

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 sourced seed in the SLCMA Community Nursery by SLCMA staff and the SLCMA Volunteer team.

Information sourced from: www.noosasnativeplants.com.au; www.austplants.com.au

Cats Claw Creeper - a Weed of National Significance

It's that time of year, when Cat's Claw Creeper *Macfadyena unguis*, an aggressive weedy climber, is in flower. While its distinctive leaf arrangement (two leaflets and a three-clawed tendril) is visible throughout the whole year; the bright yellow bell-shape flowers scrambling throughout the tree canopy is a clue that sends alarm bells and should bring you in for a closer look.

Cat's claw creeper is a native of tropical America and is an aggressive climber that was used as an ornamental in older-style Queensland gardens. This vine has the ability to completely smother native vegetation, even growing up over trees, and many bushland areas already have serious infestations of this weed. The vine has a vigorous root and tuber system, which adds to difficulties in controlling the weed.



Cat's claw creeper has been recognised as a Weed of National Significance due to its invasiveness and potential impacts. It is also a restricted invasive plant under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. It 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. This is called a general biosecurity obligation (GBO).



Description:

Form: Aggressive climber/vine with long slender stems. Old stems become woody.

Leaves: Two leaflets, with a three-clawed tendril (the cat's claw) growing between them.

Flower: Large, bright yellow, bell-shaped flowers in spring.

Fruit: Long, narrow, flat pods containing many papery seeds; mature approximately 8-10 months after flowering (late May to August).

Spread by: Wind & water – numerous papery seeds; vegetatively from tubers and creeping stems. Roots start to develop tubers in their second year; Contaminated soil.

Habitat and Distribution: Native to Central and South America, West Indies. Weed in Australia: occurring in a range of soil types, found in gardens, over fences, along roadsides, waterways and disturbed rainforests of coastal and sub coastal areas of south-eastern QLD and in central and northern QLD.

Control options:

Physical control – Cut all stems growing up trees. All above the cut will die, but regrowth will occur from underground tubers. Digging tubers out is not practical in most cases.

Herbicide control – Regrowth is best treated with a foliar spray. Cut-stump method such as Glyphosate 360 (mixed at a rate of 83 mL to each 1 L of water) can be used to control the tuber. Cut the stem as close to the ground as possible and spray/paint on herbicide. Herbicide must be applied within 15 seconds of cutting – while the sap is running – to take the poison down into the roots and tubers. Because of the multitude of tubers the herbicide tends to knock them down one at a time with a new regrowth coming from the next tuber. Continue to control over the next five years.

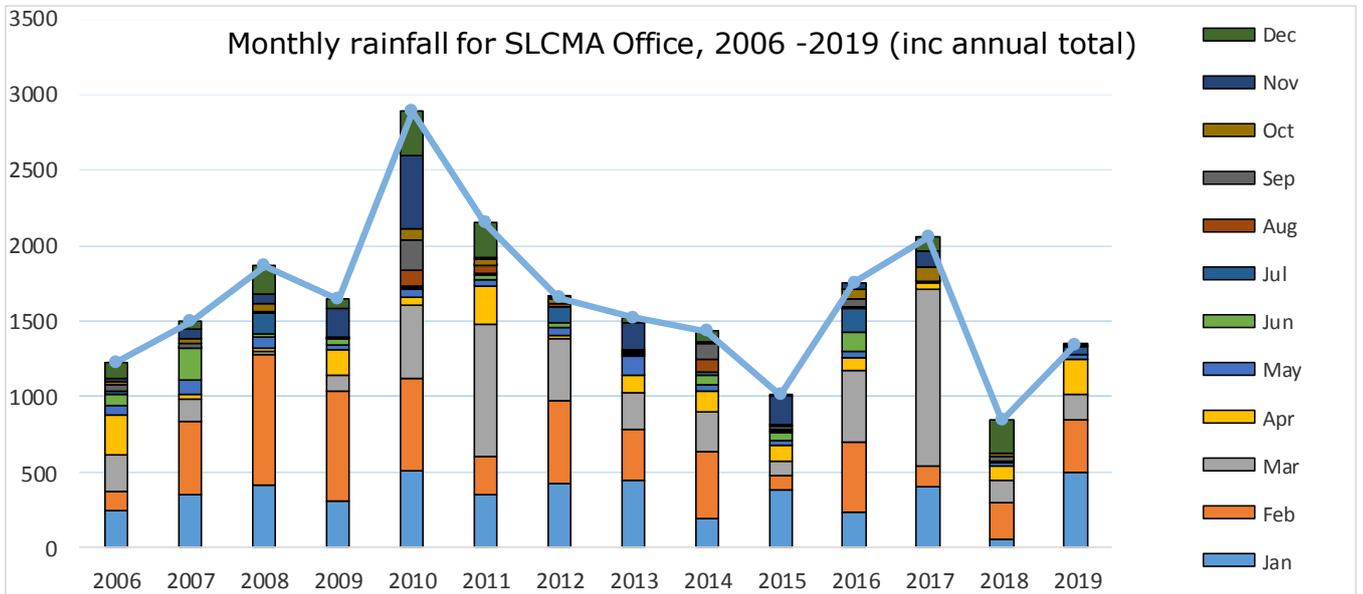
Biological control – The tingid bug *Carvalhothogis visenda*, the moth *Hypocosmia pyrochroma* and a leaf-mining jewel beetle *Hylaeogena jureceki* have been released. The tingid is widely established in majority of release sites and cause visible effects in some areas.

Within the Sarina-Mackay region, there are known infestations of Cats Claw Creeper at Carmila Creek, Plane Creek, Sarina township, Sandy Creek and Reliance creek. For more information about Cats Claw Creeper and its control visit the [Biosecurity QLD website](http://www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au). (Click link or visit www.biosecurity.qld.gov.au)

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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



Just for fun!

Bob goes to see his friend Pete. He finds Pete in his shed dancing naked around his John Deere.

"What are you doing!" asks Bob.

Pete stops dancing & says, "My wife has been ignoring me lately so I talked to my psychiatrist and he said I needed to do something sexy to a tractor."



On the night of 7 September 1936, the last Tasmanian Tiger died in Hobart Zoo.

With the death of this animal, the thylacine species became extinct. In 1996, on the 60th anniversary of the last Tasmanian Tiger's death, 7 September was declared **National Threatened Species Day**—a time to reflect on how we can protect our threatened plants and animals into the future including ongoing threatened species recovery work. *Thankyou to local artist, Vynka Von for sharing her 'thylacines' with SLCMA for the occasion.*

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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



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

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