

# SLCMA Catchment News



October 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

### Nursery Officer

Davina Wain

### Project Officer

Morgan Thomas

## Call us for information:

- ◇ Weed management
- ◇ Plant identification
- ◇ Land management
- ◇ FREE property visits
- ◇ Land for Wildlife

## Volunteer opportunities:

SLCMA Community  
Volunteer Program,  
Wednesday 9-12noon

**Native plants available  
for purchase \$3 each.**

## SLCMA Executive 19/20

**Chair:** Mark Evans

**Vice-chair:** Karen May

**Treasurer:** Kevin Plumb

**Secretary:** Grace Tipping

### Executive members:

Sandy Evans  
Lachlan McBride



## SLCMA News!

We are trialling a change in our approach to general meetings. The next **general meeting** is scheduled for **Wednesday 27 November** at 10.30am, to be held at the SLCMA Office. Landcare members and volunteers are welcome to attend.



The meeting will include a general chat about up & coming SLCMA activities and a focussed discussion about a specific Landcare topic—all over a cuppa and morning tea. The topic for discussion for this meeting will be the SLCMA Community Nursery — suggested improvements, future potential workshops and other feedback.

We look forward to seeing you there.

:~:

SLCMA will be attending the **Sarina markets** on Sunday 24 November. We will have a range of free land management resources available as well as plants, books and hats for sale. Please come in and say hi!

:~:



We would like to extend a **warm welcome our new staff** members who joined the SLCMA team recently.

- \* Davina Wain—Nursery Officer (*part-time*)
- \* Morgan Thomas—Project Officer (*part-time*)
- \* Alana Campbell—Revegetation Officer Leading Hand (*casual*)

They will be working on a range of projects — working along side and supporting our members, volunteers, project partners and landholders in the Sarina Catchment.

## Coordinated Feral Pig Control Program



Preparations are underway for the annual aerial feral pig control event in the Rocky Dam and Carmila Catchments. The event will be carried out towards the end of the year, after the crushing has completed (dependant on weather and tides). Over 50 landholders and stakeholders within the catchments participate and contribute financially to the event, which has been running since 2008. Over this time, over 1000 pigs have been controlled with a noticeable decrease in damage to cropping and grazing land, as well as natural areas such as mangroves & wetlands.

Those involved agree that **sustained pressure** through ongoing aerial control in conjunction with trapping and baiting is required, to keep the pig numbers and damage to a minimum. If you are in the control area and would like to participate or would like to know more, please contact us on 49561388.

## Introducing our new Nursery Officer, Davina

A Big Hello to everyone, my name is DAVINA WAIN, and I started part-time work as Nursery officer with SLCMA, in October 2019.

I am currently living in Mackay but have lived in Sarina, all my younger years. I totally enjoy being involved with our natural environment and helping others rehabilitate native vegetation, as well as working with the younger generation to keep our natural environment alive and thriving. I have always been passionate about our native fauna and flora.



Photo: S von Fahland

I have worked within Mackay Regional Council Horticulture sector for 8 years, working at Queens Park, helping in the Orchid House and I also spent 2 years of this time working at the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens.

I look forward to meeting everyone in the near future.

Cheers Davina.



**Weed Spotters Network** — Are you ready to start spotting weeds in our region? Members of the Weed Spotters Network aim to find, identify and document new occurrences of potential weeds at an early stage so that preventative actions can be taken. Download the Weed Spotters Handbook [here](#). If you are interested in learning more, come along to the free **Weed Spotter Workshop** in Mackay on 21 November, 10am-12pm. To register your interest, please contact Nathan.march@daf.qld.gov.au or phone 0427 603 328.

## SLCMA Community Volunteer Program *by Davina Wain*

As this is my first time working with the volunteers at the SLCMA Community Nursery, I would like to first of all to say, "Thank You", to all the volunteers who come and help, your enthusiasm is amazing and makes me know that working in this environment is where I am meant to be.

Together in my short three weeks we have started cleaning up the nursery, tidying up benches (on top as well as under), taking out old parts of benches and other debris that is no longer in use. The volunteers have also been working on potting up, seed propagation and propagating cuttings for more plants, as well as general weeding.



Photos: D Wain

L-R: Malcolm, Cath, Sue, Neil, Peter, Mick, Saskia, Sandy, Shirley & Vynka enjoying Hay Point

We also enjoyed a seed collecting and plant identification field trip at Hay point, where we collected some *Euroshinus falcate* (Ribbon wood), *Alphonia excelsa* (Red Ash), *Chionanthus ramiflora* (Native Olive) and other native plant species which are growing there.

Thankyou to Neil and offsiders Mick and Malcolm for putting together the new bench tops for our trays to sit more securely. Peter and Neil are also doing a wonderful job looking after our water treatment train. We have recently had some plumbing and irrigation works done to allow for more adequate water supply water to our new benches, that have previously not been able to be used. Thankyou to *DBCT Management* for their sponsorship towards upgrading the plumbing and irrigation within the nursery and for *Solli Plumbing* for undertaking the works. So in all, it has been a busy time adjusting to my exciting new role and we have been all hands on deck. (What a Team).

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.

L-R: Malcolm, Sandy & Shirley collecting seed; Kaitlyn & Malcolm cleaning up under benches; Laurie & Ray weeding; Gail & Cath tending to seedlings.



## New podcast about regenerative agriculture is set to ignite change

A new podcast, produced by the Regenerative Agriculture Alliance and Southern Cross University, is set to ignite a much-needed national conversation about resilient farming practices in the face of climate change and drought.

The 'Ground Cover' podcast launches with an episode from 'revolutionary farmer' and author of 'Call of The Reed Warbler', Dr Charles Massy. Hosted by the veteran voice of agriculture, Kerry Cochrane; Ground Cover is a podcast for farmers by farmers. It is a uniquely Australian series exploring real-life stories of land managers who have undertaken the transition from conventional farming to regenerative agriculture. Each week the Regenerative Agriculture Alliance will share a unique and honest conversation about the challenges and opportunities of regenerative agriculture so farmers can make informed decisions about how best to manage their land. In this Australia-first podcast you will hear from nine leaders in this space. You will hear them speak about the technical changes in their landscape but you will also hear them speak about deeper unexpected changes --in their values, in their connection to land and their economic, environmental and social wellbeing.

Listen on your preferred device:

Apple itunes: <https://podcasts.apple.com/au/podcast/ground-cover/id1479675823>

Stitcher (android): <https://www.stitcher.com/s?fid=464736&refid=stpr>

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/show/5IFJx5g7A7FTVedsYIItgN>



**Containers for Change:** Thankyou to those of you who have generously and kindly donated your container refunds to SLCMA. To date we have had **\$46.51** donated. 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 **Mackinlaya macrosciadea**, Blue Umbrella tree.

Family: Araliaceae

**What is in a name?** **Mackinlaya** is named after John McKinlay (1819-1872) a South Australian explorer who led one of the expeditions to search for Burke and Wills and later explored the Northern Territory, **macrosciadea** from the Greek *macro* large and *sciadion* umbel, parasol—refers to the leaves.

**Form:** Slender, often multi-stemmed, open shrub with umbrella-like leaves.

**Leaves:** 7-18 x 2-7cm, glossy green.

**Inflorescences:** Large, branched umbels of small white, cream, green or yellowish flowers; any month.

**Fruit:** Berries, spherical, fleshy, green turning to a greyish blue when ripe; May to November.

**Habitat:** Well shaded areas in or near rainforest and riparian rainforest in particular.

**Distribution:** Queensland and Northern Territory.

**Ecological Notes:** Fruit eaten by the southern cassowary.



Flower (above) and fruit (below) of Blue Umbrella tree



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: Plants of Capricornia 2007, Rhonda Melzer and Joel Plumb.*

## Come along to the Soil Symposium and Field Days

The annual **Reef Catchments Soil Symposium** on Wed 27 November will feature Dr Christine Jones, internationally renowned and highly respected ground cover and soils ecologist. Dr Christine Jones will present on:

- ◆ A fresh look at Microbes - the symbiotic relationships that take place in the soil microbiome
- ◆ The extraordinary power of diversity - learn how to replicate a productive and resilient farm ecosystem
- ◆ Biostimulants for regenerative agriculture - replacing detrimental synthetic N and P with biostimulants.

Complimentary field days will be held on 28 & 29 Nov, at Marian and Proserpine, respectively. Field day 1 will include rainfall simulation, soil pit demonstrations, plenty of insights and in field discussions with Dr Christine Jones on regenerative cropping and, field day 2— Dr Christine Jones together with Farm HQ will discuss on-farm multi-species cover crop strategies, manufacturing compost, soil inoculations and bio-fertiliser applications.



## Reminder: Turtle nesting season is happening now!



Marine turtle tracks at local beach

Marine Turtle nesting season is happening now at our local beaches. Nesting begins around mid-October through to January, with hatchlings emerging through to April. The main species of sea turtle nesting on mainland beaches in our region are the Flatback turtle, with fewer recordings of Green and Loggerhead turtles nesting.

### Major threats to the survival of marine turtles are:

- The destruction of nesting habitat by clearing natural vegetation through beach development
- Uncontrolled vehicle access destroying dune profiles and vegetation
- Uncontrolled beach lighting
- Ingestion of synthetic materials (nets, fishing line, plastic bags)
- Boat strike
- Predation of eggs or hatchlings by domestic and feral animals

### How can you help?

- Assume all beaches are nesting beaches
- Never throw plastic bags, fishing lines or other rubbish on the beach, in any waterways or into the sea
- Keep dogs on a leash on the beach
- Keep vehicles off nesting beaches
- When boating, watch out for turtles
- Protect nesting beaches
- Do not light fires on nesting beaches
- Leave nesting sites undisturbed
- Keep all lighting to a minimum in beach areas
- Report dead, sick and injured sea turtles to the marine stranding hotline

To become involved, volunteer or find out more contact the [Mackay & District Turtle Watch Association](#) (MDTWA), click the link or phone 4954 9613. This dedicated group of volunteers, monitor beaches and care for our Mackay turtle visitors covering an area from Repulse Bay in the north of the region, to Stange Bay in the south. MDTWA operate under the guidelines of the Queensland Sea Turtle Project.

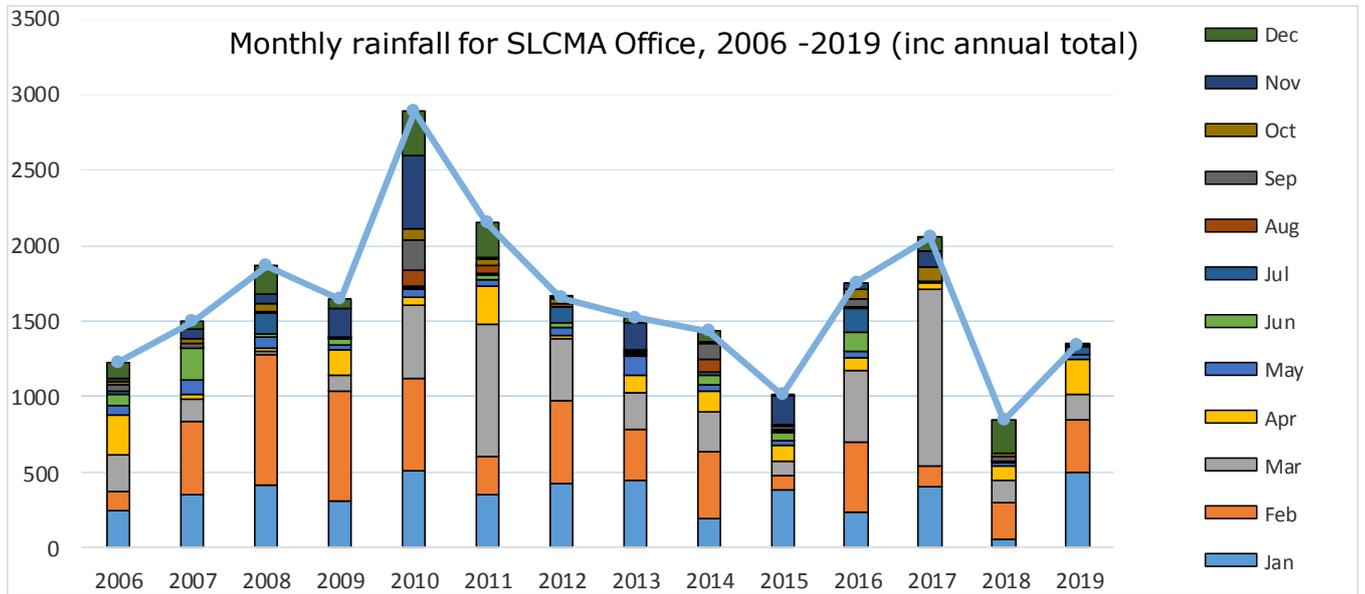


# What SLCMA Membership does for you !

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[www.sarinalandcare.org.au](http://www.sarinalandcare.org.au)  
 Email:  
 admin@sarinalandcare.org.au

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!

A mum texts: "Hi! Son, what does IDK, LY, & TTYL mean?"  
 He texts back: "I Don't Know, Love You, & Talk To You Later."



The mom texts him: "It's ok, don't worry about it. I'll ask your sister, love you too."

Teacher: "What is the chemical formula for water?"  
 Student: "HIJKLMNO."  
 Teacher: "What are you talking about?"  
 Student: "Yesterday you said it's H to O!"



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

**Did you know?** There are opportunities for you to help scientists gain a better understanding and guide future activities on a particular topic, animal or plant. There are a range of 'citizen science' projects underway, some of which include:

**Roadkill Reporter app**, developed by Mr Bruce Englefield, is designed to take a photograph of roadkill anywhere in Australia with a GPS-time-and-date -stamp. Users can then upload the image to a website. This will enable a reliable estimate of yearly Australian roadkill to be calculated and roadkill hotspots to be identified.

**Echidna CSI** - University of Adelaide and Atlas of Living Australia are on a mission to learn more about echidnas! Where they are, what they are doing, if they are healthy - so they can work towards their conservation. How can you help? By taking photos and collecting scats (eg. poo).

**SLCMA is proudly supported by:**



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