

SLCMA Catchment News 2020



January 2020

Office: 101 Sarina Beach Rd
Postal: PO Box 682
Sarina QLD 4737
Phone: (07) 4956 1388
www.sarinalandcare.org.au
Email:
admin@sarinalandcare.org.au

**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 9-12 noon

SLCMA Executive 2020

Chair: Mark Evans

Vice-chair: Karen May

Treasurer: Kevin Plumb

Secretary: Grace Tipping

Executive members:

Sandy Evans



Happy New Year to all!

On behalf of all SLCMA staff and our Management Committee we hope that you all had a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!

The SLCMA Office re-opened on 6 January 2020 and we are looking forward to working with current and new volunteers, members and project partners throughout the year, as we work together on projects and land management solutions throughout the Sarina Catchment. We are excited to continue working on current and new projects, in what we hope will be a very successful year for the community.



Photos: S von Fahland

Staff, volunteers & members celebrate a Landcare Christmas, Dec 2019

We have several projects being delivered throughout 2020, some of which include:

- **Land for Wildlife Program** funded by Mackay Regional Council Natural Environment Levy. We are currently seeking expressions of interest from landholders to participate in the Land for Wildlife Program. So if you know of anyone who maybe interested, encourage them to contact us to find out more.
- **Landcare Support Program** funded by Mackay Regional Council Natural Environment Levy. We are grateful for the support from Mackay Regional Council for this program. The program allows us to undertake a range of activities including supporting local schools, community groups, technical working groups, volunteers, landholders and raising community awareness of Landcare within the Sarina Catchment.
- **Riparian Rehabilitation after Cyclone Debbie Project** funded by Community Sustainability Action Grants, Queensland Government. This project is in its last year and is providing advice and plants to landholders to assist with streambank stabilisation as well as undertaking onground works at the Plane Creek Revegetation Site. We only have 5 vacancies left for landholders to participate in the program. Contact us for more information.

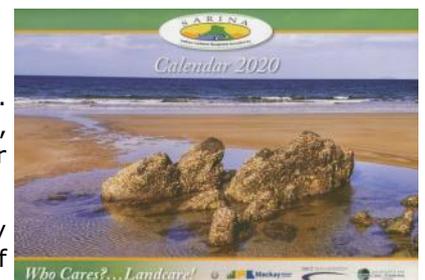
These projects present SLCMA and the community a wide range of benefits to the natural environment as well as a range of fun activities such as: awareness raising events (school activity days, workshops, field trips etc.), market days, volunteer opportunities (SLCMA Community Volunteer Program), Landholder support (property visits, resources and land management planning, feral pig control), NRM planning and networking with stakeholders, supporting working groups and much much more!

New Calendars for 2020

The 2020 SLCMA Calendars are now available. Members are eligible to receive **one free calendar**, with subsequent copies available for purchase for \$10 each.

The calendar showcases photographs taken by Landcare staff, members and volunteers of landscapes, wildlife and projects within the Sarina Catchment; as well as including important dates such as SLCMA Volunteer Program mornings, Sarina Cattle Sales, and environmental awareness days.

A big thankyou to photographers for their contributions and to Mackay Regional Council, DBCT PL and DBCT Management for their support towards the printing of the calendar.



Aerial Feral Pig Control Program

The Aerial Feral Pig control event was conducted between 19-22 December 2019. The event was a success with the following feral animals controlled:

- Rocky Dam Catchment: 103 feral pigs, 1 wild dog controlled
- Carmila Catchment: 52 feral pigs, 1 wild dog controlled
- Clairview Catchment: 121 feral pigs controlled.

Thankyou to the following for their financial contributions towards the program, without these contributions, the control event would not be possible:

- Landholders
- Reef Catchments
- Plane Creek Productivity Services through the Plane Creek Farmers Action Group with funding from Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

A big thankyou also to the team of people involved in coordinating and assisting with the event including Mark Sant, Trudy Johnson, Andrew Jenkinson and SLCMA staff.

We are currently planning a follow-up event over 2-3 days from 23 January 2020 (weather dependent). If you know of current pig hot-spots or areas of pig damage, please contact us.



Feral pig controlled near cane

Hard work pays off for Project Officer, Morgan Thomas

Congratulations to Morgan Thomas, SLCMA Project Officer who after a lot of hard work, has recently had his honours study published in the journal 'Ecology and Evolution'. Morgan's study looked at the most effective ways to detect cryptic and rare species in a landscape. This is useful and imperative for the effective management and therefore conservation of that species. The study demonstrates the importance of white flash camera traps and conservation detection dogs, which allowed the detection of the target species, Black-tailed antechinus (*Antechinus arktos*), within the Border Ranges National Park, NSW; where it has not been observed for over 30 years (even after intensive trapping in the last 3-5 years)." If you would like to see more information, visit: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ece3.5972>



Black-tailed antechinus

Streambank Restoration Workshop by Morgan Thomas

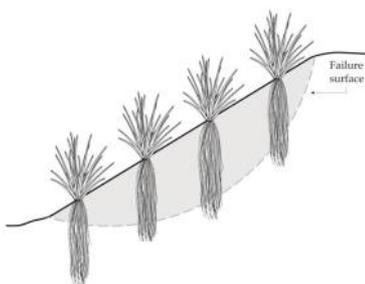
Thanks to Reef Catchments, SLCMA staff and landholders from the Rocky Dam Creek Catchment recently attended a Streambank restoration workshop. The workshop provided practical ways to protect and enhance wetlands and streams, reduce erosion and provide fish habitat and passage. Misko Ivezich from Alluvium Consulting provided an in-depth presentation of how to accomplish these key elements, essential for a healthy waterway, as well as examples of practical successful onground projects.

Misko's key message was to **increase your diversity of "geomorphically effective" vegetation**. That is, increasing the structure, age class and diversity of vegetation present (eg. Groundcovers, grasses, shrubs and trees), to 'fulfill the roles' that vegetation types play in stabilising soil and creekbanks eg. shallow fibrous roots, deep tap & side roots; and thus reduce erosion and improve the successfulness of revegetation and natural regeneration.

For effective revegetation against erosion, sites should include the following types of plants:

- **Grasses and groundcover** plants along the streambank help to "armour" the bank because when water flows across them, they typically lay flat along the surface and thus reduce any friction of the water on the soil, leading to less erosion. These plants can also protect from the force of raindrops and also reduce water flow velocity.
- **Shrubs** provide "frictional resistance" through their trunks, branches and roots, which act to slow the water down and thus reduce the force of water on your streambank.
- **Trees** provide root reinforcement to strengthen your streambank (similar to steel in cement). Trees also have deep roots which penetrate beyond the "failure surface" and further reinforce your streambank. The further down the roots reach, the more protection that they provide

The image below is a simplified diagram to show the effectiveness of roots to hold the failure surface. Roots penetrate beyond the failure zone to effectively secure the failure zone to the soil below and reduce the risk of that zone failing and eroding. Please note – this diagram is simplified, and a variety of different vegetation types should be used (trees, shrubs and grasses/groundcover etc.), not just a single type.



Although planting is one of the most effective means of strengthening a streambank and reducing erosion, effective alternatives do exist, such as jute matting. Jute matting acts as an instant ground cover, which helps to retain moisture and reduce any erosion. Jute matting can also be used in conjunction with planting to act as a ground cover while plants establish, and as a weed control. Engineered structures using rock and wood can also be used but are often costly.

SLCMA Community Volunteer Program *by Davina Wain*



Seedlings & plants growing nicely

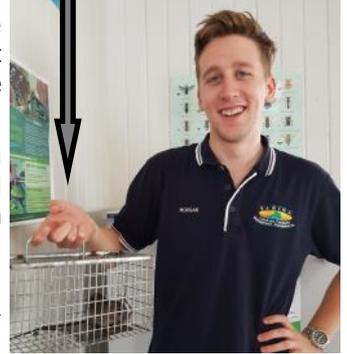
It's that time of year where we have had our Christmas pudding, made our New Year Resolutions and are ready to take on the new year. We look forward to seeing everyone back on our first volunteer day on Wednesday the 15th of January.

With all our rainfall we have had a definite growth spurt in all our plants and they are looking very healthy. We have had a good 135mm so far recorded here at the nursery, keep it coming Mother Nature, no-one minds. Most of our seed we have sown are popping their little heads up already.

Just before Christmas we had a friendly night time visitor nibbling our seed and tops of seedlings (we caught our visitor on candid camera). Thankfully, Morgan our Project Officer has been successful in catching the culprit ...mr or miss rat, has now been relocated!

Thank you to all the other staff who helped look after our nursery during our Christmas break.

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.



Above: Culprit caught on candid camera

Below: Morgan proud of his catch — and hopefully no more chewed up seedlings in the nursery!

Land for Wildlife Program

Land for Wildlife is a voluntary program which aims to encourage and assist private landholders to provide habitat for wildlife on their property. Properties in the program can be devoted to habitat protection or may be managed for other purposes, such as farming and agriculture, whilst incorporating nature conservation.



The retention of habitat for native wildlife can play a major role in sustainable land management. It can provide a natural means of pest control, help with erosion and salinity management and provide shade and shelter for livestock. Whilst National Parks and other reserves protect natural areas, they only cover four percent of Queensland. The protection of habitat on private land can therefore play a critical role in helping maintain the survival of our native plants and animals. It can also contribute to providing habitat links between isolated pockets of vegetation or nature reserves.

Benefits of joining the program: A visit will be made to properties nominated for inclusion in the Land for Wildlife program (subject to meeting certain criteria) and advice will be given on:

- How wildlife habitat can be integrated with other uses on private land, to benefit both the landholder & wildlife
- Management and protection of habitat areas
- Weed control
- Incentives and assistance available to landowners

Property assessments are a key component of the Land for Wildlife Program. Individual property assessments provide landholders with personalised advice, feedback, support and encouragement. The program also provides contact with like-minded landholders and offers a chance to share ideas and experiences through field days, workshops and other activities. Landholders are provided with land management resources, regular newsletters, opportunities for re-visits, 20 free native plants annually as well as a Land for Wildlife sign to acknowledge their contribution to wildlife conservation. SLCMA delivers the program within the Sarina Catchment area of Mackay Regional Council, on behalf of Mackay Regional Council.

How to become involved: Contact us on 4956 1388 or admin@sarinalandcare.org.au—to express interest in the program and check your property's eligibility to be involved. If eligible, we will organise a free property visit at a time that suits you.

Already a member?

- Organise to pick up your free 20 native plants throughout this wet season.
- Join our closed facebook page to share your story and ask questions.
- Help us spread the word and encourage your friends, neighbours to become involved.



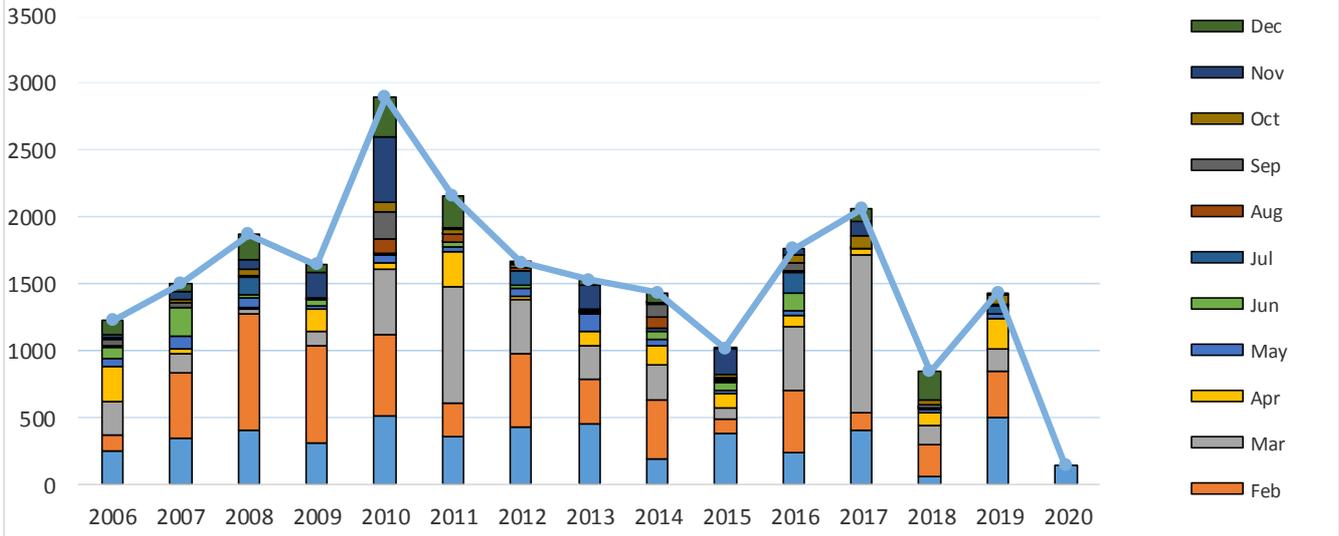
What SLCMA Membership does for you !

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

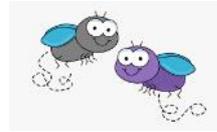
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Monthly rainfall for SLCMA Office, 2006 -2020 (inc annual total)



Just for fun!

A small fly asks his mother:
 "Mom, can I go to the circus?"
 "Yes, honey, but be very careful when people applaud!"



Last night i opened my window and let all mosquitoes in. Then I slept outside.
 This is called confusing the enemy.

[Find us on facebook](#)



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

Containers for Change

SLCMA has registered with Containers for Change for virtual donations and we are hoping that you will consider using our identifier code—**C10002138**. We also welcome physical donations of eligible containers to our office, feel free to contact us on 4956 1388, to arrange drop-off.



SLCMA is proudly supported by:

