

Annual Report 2005-2006



13 September 2006

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Chairman's Annual Report

It is with great pleasure that I present this annual report of SLCMA. As a group I feel that we have grown considerably in what is being achieved in our community involvement. We have increased our executive from 4 to 5 during the year as other demands on our members time became more demanding. Ray Greaves stepped in as secretary when John Aroldi relinquished that responsibility, and Nick Kenyon returned as treasurer in the New Year. Joel Rawlins has taken the extra executive position.



Chairman, Rod McFadzen

Jon Graftdyk started as project officer in September 2005 and was upgraded to full time when additional funds for the Healthy Waterways Integrated Monitoring Program became available, in January. Monitoring of water quality during events is now in place in Plane, Rocky Dam, Basin and Carmila Creeks as well as an urban site in Sarina. Thanks to all volunteers who are now trained and operating in all the various sub-catchments. This information will contribute to the substantial database for the Sarina Catchment and Mackay Whitsunday Region. The Sustainable Landscape Program (SLP) is now operating, after a slow start, but we are pleased with the response (over 40 initial expressions of interest) and results.

Information and training days have been held as an ongoing or needs basis. SLP courses, water event monitoring, farm forestry, sea grasses, local solutions for community healthy waterways and a weed information day is scheduled for late September.

The SLCMA Community Volunteers are still doing a great job and I think enjoying their contribution towards the SLCMA Community Nursery. Plants were used at the National Tree Day at Sarina Inlet Trail, Green Corps projects, Sarina Show promotions and to members. Congratulations to Gail and Neil Bradley being named Mackay NRM volunteers of the year.

Other highlights include:

- The new SLCMA vehicle was effectively used for our float display for the Discover Sarina Festival Sarina street procession.
- The coastal management guidelines have passed the community consultation stage and now await implementation.
- The newsletter, also available online, has circulated regularly and proves a good medium for contact information, reporting events and programs coming. Even a rainfall report, but no predictions.
- A Green Corps team led by Belinda Webber graduated after 6 months at Armstrong Beach, the site of one of their many achievements.
- Ray Greaves farm forestry segment is a popular new edition to our newsletters, as is his availability for individual advice on a monthly schedule which is both local and practical.
- Guest speakers and presenters at most meetings have proved useful and informative.
- We were represented at the State Water Symposium, Queensland Landcare Conference and the Mackay Whitsunday Healthy Waterways Science forum.
- Our best supported activity is still the Christmas party!

In conclusion I would like to thank Sarina Shire Council for their support and our accommodation. Local organisations, businesses and members for their contributions. A voluntary organization is only as strong as its support.

To Saskia, Jon and Nadine, thanks for the sincerity of your approach to keeping the show on the road. Finally thanks to the executive deputy Royce Bishop who is also our MWNRM representative, Ray Greaves as secretary, Nick Kenyon as treasurer and Joel Rawlins. Rod McFadzen



Coordinator's Report

Wow, another year gone by! The 2005/2006 financial year has certainly been both busy and rewarding for all involved, from the staff and executive committee to our members and volunteers. Although we have seen a few changes in faces over the past year, in both the executive committee and staff, I believe we have worked well as a team, making decisions and organising events, all to the benefit of the organisation.

This is reflected in the past year being jam packed with organising and attending meetings and workshops, providing technical advice to Land Managers and coordinating and implementing a variety of programs such as Sustainable Landscapes, SLCMA Community Volunteer, Healthy Waterways Integrated Monitoring and Green Corps Programs.

SLCMA Coordinator, Saskia von Fahland

I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the SLCMA Community Volunteers who participate in the volunteer mornings and support the SLCMA Community Nursery. They are a great team of volunteers that are always enthusiastic whether it be in the nursery or out on seed collection field trips. Over the last year, we have seen our regular volunteers continue to attend as well as quite a few new volunteers—which is great to see.

There has been a variety of other achievements throughout the year, some of these include:

- Development of the “Sarina Shire Beaches Management Guidelines for Coastal Zones” which will be a great tool to implement coastal management activities at the Sarina Beaches as well as an opportunity to build on partnerships with the Local Progress Associations and Sarina Shire Council
- Improved partnerships with local schools through providing technical knowledge, donation of native seedlings, resource materials, water quality monitoring and supporting the work experience student program
- Introducing the service for SLCMA members to receive the monthly mailout by email
- Sarina Green Corps team delivering a variety of onground works throughout the catchment
- The SLCMA Office becoming a “resource” centre for Members and the community to utilise. Consequently, we have seen an increase in volunteers and interested Land Managers visiting the office and becoming members.

I have had the opportunity to update my skills through attending a variety of short courses such as Senior First Aid, Agricultural Chemical Licence Course, Seagrass Course and Groundwater Course and for that I am thankful. I would also like to thank the Executive Committee: Rod McFadzen, Royce Bishop, Nick Kenyon, Ray Greaves and Joel Rawlins for their support, efforts and advice throughout the year. Finally, my thanks goes out to the SLCMA members and volunteers for your help with SLCMA activities, community events, attendance at meetings and promoting SLCMA in the Community. Saskia von Fahland.

Project Officer's Report

This is the first annual report that I have had the opportunity of presenting since my appointment to the Project Officer position in August 2005. The last year has seen significant on ground achievements including; the implementation of the Sustainable Landscapes Program (SLP) in the catchment and the development and implementation of the Healthy Waterways Integrated Monitoring Program. With the expansion of the Healthy Waterways IMP at the start of 2006, so to my position increased from 3 days a week to full time.

Through Sustainable Landscapes Program, strong relationships continue to be forged with Land Managers in the catchment. The program has been very successful at not only assisting Land Managers to implement sustainable landscape activities and improve water quality, but has also enhanced our reputation and involvement with Land Managers in the catchment. There are now 64 Land Managers in the catchment who are implementing approximately 237 on ground projects. The Sustainable Landscapes Program has also been successful tool to promote SLCMA and we have seen a subsequent rise in the number of Land Managers become members of the organisation.

A close association is also currently being developed with Sarina State High School. A SLP project has been developed with the Sarina High School agriculture department and we have developed close ties with the Science department providing assistance in monitoring water quality in their aquaculture projects.

The scope of the Healthy Waterways project continues to expand. New sites have been added to the event monitoring project. Three new volunteers have come on board in the ambient monitoring project so that now we have monthly water quality data being collected on 3 of the major creeks in the catchment. With the development of the baseline monitoring project I am now collecting data on water chemistry, pesticides, nutrients, TSS and bacteria on a monthly basis at selected creeks in the catchment.

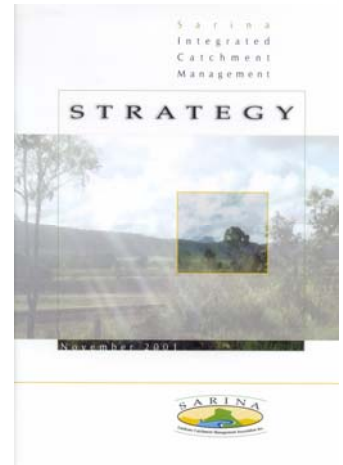
Jon Graftdyk



SLCMA Project Officer, Jon Graftdyk

Organisational Objectives

The objectives of Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association Incorporated are:



- a) To promote a strategic and integrated approach to natural resource management and biodiversity conservation in the Sarina Catchment area.
- b) To foster coordination and cooperation between land managers, community groups, industry and government agencies in their natural resource management activities.
- c) To promote understanding and awareness of the interactions and relationships between the natural systems and resources of the catchment.
- d) To identify and prioritise natural resource management issues within the Sarina Catchment Area.
- e) To prepare, coordinate and implement priority action plans identified in the Sarina ICM Strategy.
- f) To promote sustainable solutions and actions through strong community, industry and government partnerships in catchment management strategies.
- g) To provide a forum for community and government discussion on natural resource and catchment management issues.

SLCMA's Vision and Goals

Vision for the Sarina Catchment

The Sarina Catchment Area is an economically viable region, which is ecologically sustainable and well regarded as a healthy place to live and work

Goals

Land Use Planning: The land resources of the Catchment are managed in an ecologically sustainable manner.

Land Management: The most appropriate ecologically and economically sustainable land management practices are adopted throughout the catchment.

River/Creek Management: The creek systems are managed in such a way as to enhance and maintain their natural values while providing for the needs of the catchment community.

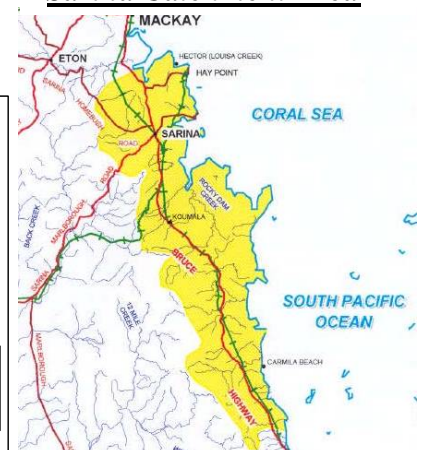
Water Management: The integrity of the natural systems within the catchment are enhanced and maintained while providing water of a suitable quality and quantity to meet the needs of the community.

Coastal Management: Management of the coastal area in a way that will ensure the sustainable use of the natural resources

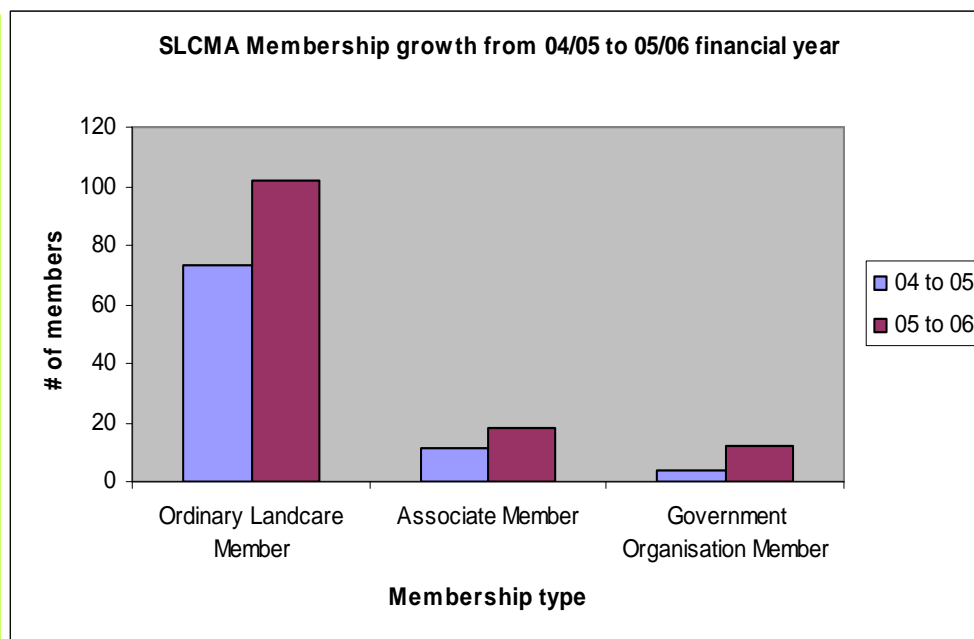
Vegetation/Biodiversity: The native vegetation and biodiversity values of the catchment are enhanced and maintained and the natural systems are not further degraded.

Community Awareness and Involvement: A community that is aware of the need to maintain and improve the natural resources of the catchment and is actively involved in doing so.

Sarina Catchment Area



SLCMA Membership on the rise



This year, SLCMA membership changed slightly with the endorsement of "Ordinary Landcare Member" to replace "Landcare member" which allows Ordinary Landcare Members to full voting rights (ie. One vote per member).

SLCMA Membership and Members

Class of Membership	Is membership of the class to be limited or unlimited in number?	If the class of membership is to be limited in number, how?	Limitations relating to the class of membership	Entry requirements for class of membership	Current members
Ordinary Landcare Member	Unlimited	N/A	1. Open to any adult owners or occupiers of land. 2. Full voting rights	1. Must be over 18 years of age 2. Annual fee for membership, the amount to be decided at an annual general meeting	<p>L Armitage H Bienke R Bilney R & J Bishop M Bloor R & M Botterell N & G Bradley M Brown M Burkett S Cameron G & J Canning J Canning R Cliffe J Corrie W & V Cowen P Creber P Dempsey R Donovan J Dunbar A & D Dunnet D & C Edwards R & C English S English</p> <p>R & P Faulkner B Fielder K & R George A Gibbs R Greaves J Gunn C Guy V & A Haines J Halat N Hamill V Hansen E & G Hoare W & M Horne I Howland D Howland P Joel B Jones A Kenny N Kenyon J Kippen J Knight M Lane J Langdon</p> <p>C N & C Loeskow J Long S Lorberg C Maclean T Malone M Matton B McCarthy K McCarthy AR McFadzen D Mifsud C & L Milne J Mitchell G Murray A & G O'Hara S Parks S & R Perna B Plate R Pratt J & L Rawlins T & G Reed R & B Reid J Richards E & J Richardson</p> <p>M Ritchie J Ross A Russell J & H Ryder K Schmidtke P Schulte J Senini L Stevens G & L Stonehouse A & C Trembath M S & H Trindorfer J Vella K Vella T Walker B Weisse C Westhead J Whitaker S Wiblen N Wolfe D & G Wray</p>
Junior Member	Limited	There are to be no more than 50 junior members at any time	1. May not vote 2. Not eligible for election to management committee positions	1. Must be under 18yrs of age. 2. Must be a registered junior Landcare member	
Government Organisation Member	Unlimited	N/A	1. Full voting rights	Open to nominated Councilors of local authorities within the Association's catchment area, and nominated officers of State Government departments or authorities, or divisions or branches within them.	<p>Sarina State High School (B Pickering) Sarina Shire Council (J Airoidi, C Hutton, P Steindl) Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service (T Ball) Ports Corporation of Queensland (S Trimarchi) QLD Dep. Of Main Roads (L Christiansen) Dep. Natural Resources, Mines & Water (B Masters) Swayneville State Primary School (W Robinson) Broasound Shire Council (G Webley, M Walker)</p>
Associate Members	Unlimited	N/A	1. Full voting rights	<p>Shall be opened to nominees of Companies and Co-operatives carrying out activities within the Catchment area.</p> <p>Local organisations and institutions</p> <p>Local groups with a direct interest in land use</p>	<p>Armstrong Beach & Freshwater Point Progress Assoc. Inc. Coalport Community & Recreation Assoc. (B Hobbs) Mackay & District Turtlewatch (D Clarke) BMA Hay Point Services (P York) CSR Liquid Fertilisers (P Hayes) Mackay & Whitsunday Branch Bird Observers Club of Australia (M Andrews) Grasstree Beach Progress Association Inc (A Smith) Society for Growing Australian Plants (I Champion) Conservation Volunteers Australia (T Peaty) Koala Research Centre (G Tucker) Central Queensland Forest Association (R Bell) Mackay Whitsunday Natural Resource Management Group (R Allan) Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group (J Eales) Sarina Beach Progress Association Inc. (N Kane) Whitsunday Catchment Landcare (C Peterson) Campwin Beach Progress Association Inc. Grasstree Beach Progress Association Inc. (Anne Smith)</p>

Programs

Healthy Waterways Integrated Monitoring Program

Ambient Water Quality Monitoring:

Over the last year, the monthly ambient water quality monitoring program has continued to develop in the Sarina Catchment. Fully trained volunteers are now taking monthly water quality readings in the three of the major creeks Plane, Rocky Dam and Carmila. More than 6 data sets have been collected for each of these creeks which will become a great resource of information for gaining a better understanding of what is happening within our local waterways.



The ambient monitoring is only possible due to the dedicated volunteers that are a part of the Healthy Waterways Community Monitoring Network. The network is stronger than ever and has continued to grow with another 3 volunteers joining over the past year.

A new volunteer has already undergone training and is now conducting monthly monitoring on Rock Dam Creek. Two other new volunteers are currently undertaking their training and will shortly be collecting water quality data unsupervised. A social BBQ earlier this year brought all the Healthy Waterways volunteers in the Mackay-Whitsunday region together and the capacity of the volunteers continues to be developed with a biological training day being organised for October this year. Healthy Waterways signs have been installed at the sampling sites informing the public that water quality sampling is being undertaken at these sites.

Event (flood) Water Quality Monitoring:

The event monitoring program has also continued to develop in the Sarina Catchment. With some rainy weather at the beginning of 2006 creating some good flows in Plane, Rocky Dam, Basin and Carmila Creeks. Samples were collected over at least one event for all of the creeks. Following my appointment an urban site in Sarina has also been included in the event monitoring program. Several samples collected from the urban site over the last wet season.

A climate workshop was held in March 2006 to continue the capacity building of the event volunteers. The workshop provided training in the fundamental principals of meteorology and an insight into the complex world of long-term climate prediction.

Baseline Monitoring Program

Recently, reference monitoring sites have been established across the Mackay Whitsunday Region. This monitoring is undertaken by the Project Officer in each catchment. This program compliments the existing ambient and event monitoring to provide a complete picture of the condition of water quality in the Sarina catchment and Mackay Whitsunday Region. The monthly collection of samples at the reference sites has been designed as a quality assurance for the ambient monitoring as well as investigates a variety of other parameters including pesticides, nutrients, TSS and other chemical parameters.

Sustainable Landscape Program

2005-2006 has seen the implementation of the Sustainable Landscapes Program. In the Sarina Catchment we have 64 land managers with active projects, comprising a total of 202 subprojects and 33 grazing land managers have attended pasture & stock monitoring workshops.

A total of \$427,897 has been distributed to Land Managers involved in the SLP project in the Sarina Catchment. This amount represents 40% of the total cost, contribution by MWNRM another 60% (approximately \$1,069,742) has been contributed by Land Managers in the Sarina Catchment. The table below provides a summary of the funding provided to Land Managers within the Sarina Catchment, for the various activities.

Project	Cane		Grazing				Native Vegetation				Storm-water activities
	Control Traffic & Min Till Plant Cane	Min Till Legume Fallow & Plant Cane	Monitoring sites	Strategic fencing	Coastal Fencing	Training workshops	Revegetation	Stock Fencing	Watering Points	Weed Control	
Number of projects	12	21	16	6	11		19	33	9	10	39
Incentive	\$27,362	\$63,882	\$6960	\$8,830	\$9400	\$58150	\$44,550	\$71,588	\$31,147	\$12,060	\$93,272
Scale	267 ha	535 ha	87 sites	7.1km	6.2 km	33 Land Managers	16.6 ha	66.3 km	9	62.2 ha	965 ML

Seagrass Watch Program

The Sarina Community contributes to the Seagrass Watch program, which is the largest scientific, non-destructive seagrass assessment and monitoring program in the world. The program is coordinated in the Mackay Whitsunday region by Matthew Bloor (Coast and Marine Coordinator, MWNRM).

Seagrass monitoring has continued throughout the year with a group of volunteers from Sarina Beach monitoring seagrass beds in Sarina Inlet on a quarterly basis. The information collected contributes towards awareness raising on the condition and trend of nearshore seagrass ecosystems and provides an early warning of major coastal changes.



Community members monitor the seagrass at Sarina Inlet



Eddie & Sarah identify some seagrass

A free Seagrass Watch training course held in Sarina in April 2006, was well attended with 20 people participating. The course involved an information session and field trip. The information session covered aspects such as seagrass biology, ecology and monitoring as well as a hands-on identification activity. The field trip provided an introduction to monitoring techniques such as general health, species diversity and abundance, seed bank.

In the near future, SLCMA with the assistance of Matthew Bloor and some keen volunteers is aiming to establish a seagrass monitoring site and associated group of volunteers to monitor some of the extensive stands of seagrass beds at Armstrong beach.

Sarina Community Volunteer Program

Throughout the 2005/2006 year, the Sarina Community Volunteer Program has created a lot of interest within the community with a total of 15 regular volunteers attending the volunteer mornings. The volunteers, as always have put in a tremendous effort to assist the community nursery and hence deserve a big THANKYOU.

The volunteers have had the opportunity to visit a variety of great sites within the Sarina Catchment for seed collecting and plant identification such as Greenhill, the Sarina Beaches and some private Land Manager properties. I believe the volunteer program has been an opportunity for the volunteers to learn about propagating native plants as well to visit some of our beautiful areas of remnant vegetation and of course, create friendships with other volunteers.



Some seed collecting and plant identification trips with the volunteers — also enjoying some well earned morning tea :)

SLCMA Community Nursery

The SLCMA Community Nursery has been a great resource to community volunteers, school students and Green Corp participants as a training facility for the propagation of local native plants as well as to promote the use of local native plants within the Sarina Catchment via environmental days & annual Landcare member seedling allocations.

Throughout the year, approximately 320 seedlings were handed out on environmental awareness days (such as National Tree Day, Annual Show & displays), 540 seedlings were given to Landcare members and 360 seedlings were planted at community rehabilitation sites.

The future aim for the SLCMA Community Nursery is to look at a more water efficient watering system, to continue to promote the use of local native plant species and enhance the nursery as a community training facility for volunteers, Green Corps & Landcare Members.



Green Corps

SLCMA was successful in hosting a Green Corps team between October 2005 and April 2006. The Sarina Green Corps team with new Team Leader, Belinda Webber achieved some great on-ground outcomes within the Sarina Catchment.

The major project saw the team working with Broadsound Shire Council on the “Carmila Beach Rehabilitation Project”. This project involved constructing pedestrian access points along Carmila beach, bollarding to designate between recreational and conservation zones and revegetation of local natives on sensitive foreshore areas.

The minor projects included maintenance of the Plane Creek Revegetation Site, modifying access points and lantana removal at Armstrong Beach (Sarina Shire Council and Armstrong Beach Progress Association), planting and maintenance activities at Sarina Inlet Trail (Sarina Beach Progress Association), building nesting boxes for the Australian Wildlife Rescue Service, weed control at Hay Point Coastal foreshore (BMA/Hay Point Services) as well as plant propagation in the SLCMA Community Nursery.

The team participants also completed accredited training modules in OH&S, First Aid, Weed control, Fencing and plant propagation. Overall, the team successfully completed a variety of important community projects within the Sarina Catchment. They were well supported amongst the community and it was a pleasure to have the team on board over the 6 months. We look forward to having another Sarina Green Corps team on board in 2007.



Sarina Green Corps team launch, October 2005—April 2006



Revegetating at Carmila Beach

Coastal Management

Coastal Management has been the hot topic throughout the past year, with the development of and, public consultation for the “Sarina Shire Beaches Management Guidelines for Coastal Beaches” and other issues such as motorbikes on beaches, loss of vegetation and erosion of front dunes being discussed with Local Progress Associations, Council and other organisation’s representatives. It has been a good opportunity to enhance partnerships with the beach communities and the Local Councils and to highlight and prioritise on-ground activities required to enhance and protect the sensitive coastal areas.

There is a number of Sustainable Landscapes Program demonstration projects occurring at beaches throughout the Sarina Catchment. These are both with private Land Managers bordering the esplanade, Local Progress Associations and Local Councils.

The plan for the next year is to officially launch and begin to implement the coastal guidelines, in consultation with the Local Progress Associations & Council and to develop further onground projects such as installing interpretative signage, information brochures, fencing, revegetation with assistance from a future Green Corps team and community involvement.

Conference, Workshops and Forums attended

- QLD State Landcare Conference 2006 (Brisbane)
- Capacity Building Workshop—Volunteer Risk Management 2006 (Mackay)
- 4th Annual Healthy Waterways Forum (Mackay)
- Pasture Stocktake Monitoring Workshop (Sarina)
- QLD State Community Water Quality Monitoring Workshop (Brisbane)
- Groundwater Conference (Rockhampton)
- Climate and weather forecasting workshop (Mackay)



Pasture Stocktake workshop

Successful Funding applications for 2005/2006

- Community Natural Resource Awareness Activity Grants: \$2,500 towards the “Sarina Healthy Waterways Community Forum” (funded by Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water)
- Catchment Communication Sector Project: \$1,500 to improve awareness of SLCMA through communication activities (funded by MWNRM Group)
- Seed Bank Establishment Sector Project: \$5,000 to establish a seed bank (funded by MWRNM Group)
- Schools’ Water Testing Kit, donated by Dilmah & Landcare Australia (to the value of \$1,500)
- 1 Green Corps team: working on coastal management rehabilitation projects within the Sarina Catchment (through Greening Australia)

Presentations & Communication



- SLCMA's monthly Catchment Newsletter provides regular updates on programs, highlighting up & coming events and other information such as rainfall data and of course who could forget those jokes.
- 4 public meetings at the Sarina Shire Beaches provided an opportunity for public consultation during the development of "Sarina Shire Beaches Management Guidelines for Coastal Zones"
- Stanford University overseas students—Healthy Waterways Community Monitoring Program
- Regular media articles in the local newspaper including "Envirochat Articles" in the Bush Telegraph
- SLCMA purchased 500 printed calico bags (with SLCMA, MWNRM, NHT logos) for Landcare Members and to be used at promotional events
- Clairview Progress Association—Presentation: Overview of SLCMA & MWNRM

Supporting Community Events

- **Sarina Show**—display including pamphlets, SLCMA calico bag and native seedling giveaway
- **National Tree Day** at the Sarina Inlet Trail (with Sarina Beach Progress Association Inc. & Sarina Shire Council) saw 120 seedlings planted, mulched, watered and tree guards installed.
- **Discover Sarina Week Celebrations**—The SLCMA mascot "Mt Funnel" came out of the closet & became part of the SLCMA Float in the street parade
- **Live Life Expo**—SLCMA display and activities for school students
- **Green Reserve Program**—1 participant assisted the SLCMA Community Volunteer Program & Nursery 1 day/week
- **Caring for Nature: Local Solutions by Local People Workshop**—Sarina Capacity Building workshop promoted both regional and local programs available to the community as well as highlighted some of the research that is being undertaken in the area such as the False-water rat, Squirrel glider, mangrove dieback studies.
- **Seagrass-Watch Training Workshop**—provided a background to seagrass identification and value to the marine ecosystem as well as hands-on introduction to seagrass monitoring techniques
- **Healthy Waterways Month of May**—was packed with activities throughout the whole Mackay Whitsunday Region from photo and poem competitions to guided tours, water quality monitoring and the Sarina Community Healthy Waterways Forum and which culminated into the 4th Annual Healthy Waterways Forum held in Mackay.
- **Local Schools** such as Sarina State Primary & High School, Swayneville, Alligator Creek and Chelona—by providing presentations on coastal processes, water quality, riparian assessment, native plant propagation
- **Native Forestry Information BBQ**—provided an opportunity for the community to have access to forestry related technical people in a relaxed atmosphere
- **Wildlife Awareness Month**—SLCMA in partnership with Australian Wildlife Rescue Service, QPWS, Mackay and District Turtle Watch, provided a week long display for the people of Sarina at IGA shopping centre



Community members enjoy a bird-watching & plant identification trip to Lake Barfield

2005-2006

SLCMA Management Committee

Chair	Rod McFadzen
Vice Chair	Royce Bishop
Secretary	Ray Greaves John Airoidi (previous)
Treasurer	Nick Kenyon John Gunn (interim)
Other	Joel Rawlins
<u>SLCMA Staff</u>	
Coordinator	Saskia von Fahland
Administration Officer	Nadine Hamill Joanne Thompson (previous)
Project Officer	Jon Graftdyk

Working Groups supported

- Mackay Whitsunday Regional Pest Management Group
- Healthy Waterways Working Group
- Reference Committee for CQFA Farm Forestry Group
- Broadsound & Sarina Coastal Advisory Group
- Mackay Whitsunday Natural Resource Management Stakeholder Group
- GBR Community Monitoring Reference Panel Group
- Regional & Local Assessment Panels for the Sustainable Landscapes Program



SLCMA is supported by:



Natural Heritage Trust

A Commonwealth Government Initiative