

# Annual Report 2007/2008



September 2008

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## Chairman's Annual Report

I have much pleasure in presenting this annual report of SLCMA activities for the 2007/2008 year. This is my 4th report & each year there are some regular happenings, but also others that are new, interesting and perhaps different, in our community involvement.



Chairman, Rod McFadzen

Membership is now close to 200. Meetings are held monthly (except January) and the December gathering—reflecting the seasons' festivities is often quite short. Guest speakers or items of special interest are included at most monthly meetings now being held at the earlier 7pm.

Green Corps The August 07 team finished in February 08 & covered many of the usual coastal & revegetation sites. A new team began in Jul 08, with new team leader Steven Geddes and has begun quite well.

Sustainable Landscapes Program (SLP) The SLP in its current form has now concluded & final land and water management workshop for cane growers & a grazing land management workshop were held throughout the February—April period, concluding the training part of SLP, which brought funds of over \$1 million to our area.

Community events A combined group of 60 people from the Smith Family, SLCMA, Conservation Volunteers Australia attended a planting at Campwin Beach. Coastcare Week saw a community working bee at Armstrong Beach and plant giveaway at Sarina Beach.

Sarina Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project was launched at Grasree Beach by Minister Tony Burke. There were 3 federal members of parliament present for the launch. A comment by Minister Tony Burke about the project comes to mind, "The project is iconic, it is what we want to accomplish nationally".

Schools Involvement continues at the High School Agricultural Plot, Alligator Creek Primary School with National Tree Day & at Sarina Primary School with a catchment & water quality activity day.

Bus trips proved to be popular this year, with two organised in celebration of our Local Landcare Award Winners—one to the beach projects within the Sarina Catchment and one to the prize winning organic banana farm at Calen. A third trip took our members up to Colston Park to see Ray Greaves' nature refuge and energy saving, solar powered home.

Our SLCMA vehicle again entered the Discover Sarina Festival Procession. The Sarina Show display this year included a working fishway which was a great drawcard for our display.

A friends of Plane Creek Revegetation Site morning was held with a view to maintaining & extending this monument to the early work of SLCMA.

A lot of the ambient water monitoring volunteers will be pleased to see the publication of their collection of sampling results in the "Water Quality Improvement Plan—Mackay Whitsunday".

A native garden section in the old Sarina Shire Garden Competition has been sponsored by SLCMA. The principle being to encourage native plants & trees which are often water efficient and don't escape to become pests.

The SLCMA Calendar was again produced. *Continued over page.....*

## Chairman's Annual Report continued...



*Pig trap on loan through Rocky Dam Creek Coordinated Feral Pig Project*

Pests A weed identification & control stand was provided at Mitre 10 in Sarina and also at Rogers Rural Open Day & BSES Field Day. We have taken the initiative in Lantana control by purchasing a splatter gun for hire to locals for its control. This gas operated machine is small enough for able bodied farm managers to use in rough country.

The Rocky Dam Creek Coordinated Feral Pig Project is in action and the bounty on undersized pigs has just started. It is expected this will reduce pig destruction of crops, pasture land, creek banks and native flora & fauna generally.

Volunteers A team of 20 walkers participated in the 18 hour cancer walk at the Sarina Show grounds. It was quite an enjoyable challenge & very community orientated.

In general, we do have a busy schedule of actions & achievements, very largely done by volunteers. The actual contribution in time, effort & travel by members who also give of their talents is what really makes SCLMA what it is.

The nursery volunteers are probably the most generous & I hope the friendship, achievement & satisfaction is some reward for your contribution.

To our corporate support thankyou & especially Sarina Shire & now Mackay Regional Council for your ongoing support. Also the State & Federal Governments & in particular the local members.

Thanks to our permanent staff for their conscientious efforts in keeping the show on the road, Saskia, Adam, Nadine & Marty.

To the Executive, your contribution in guiding the association is much appreciated & as Royce Bishop is not re-nominating a special thanks for your years of contribution. Rod McFadzen, SLCMA Chair

## Coordinator's Report



*Coordinator, Saskia von Fahland*

The 2007/2008 year seems to have flown by, but not without lots of memorable highlights!

I would like to thank all of our project partners, landcare members and volunteers for your ongoing support and contributions towards SLCMA, our projects & programs. By working together, we have been able to achieve some great outcomes.

SLCMA has been recognised in recent times for our work along the coastal zones within the Sarina Catchment and I am proud to say that we have been able to continue these activities throughout the year, with the assistance of the Local Councils, Progress Associations, residents, Green Corps and volunteer teams. One of the coastal projects, the *Sarina Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project* has now been running for one year, was officially launched by Minister Tony Burke in May and has gained great support & sponsorship from BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance, Sarina Shire Council/

Mackay Regional Council & Reef Catchments.

The SLCMA Community Volunteers also need a special thankyou, their dedication to propagating & looking after the native seedlings in the SLCMA Community Nursery has been fantastic! The SLCMA Community Nursery has been utilised as a training facility for our volunteers and Green Corps teams and has been able to provide around 4000 plants for community revegetation sites, school plantings & for landcare members and environmental awareness events.

We have also been fortunate to have a new Sarina Green Corps team & team leader, Steven Geddes, on board again this year. The team is a few months into their project and they are making the most of being able to work alongside the community to assist with their high priority projects. It is a great opportunity for the Sarina youth to gain work experience and learn new skills.

It was great to see our members and volunteers get together and be a part of the SLCMA "Relay for Life" team— at the time, some would probably say it was "character-building" (due to the weather conditions) but looking back—it was fun and it definitely was for a good cause.

I would like to thank our executive committee members Rod, Glenn, Nick, Ray, John & Royce for their support and to the rest of the SLCMA team, Nadine & Adam for keeping us all on track. I am looking forward to the year ahead, as we continue to engage with the community in projects and programs that will protect and enhance our natural resources within the Sarina Catchment.

Cheers Saskia von Fahland



Project Officer, Adam Folkers

## Project Officer's Report

It is with great pleasure that I present my first annual report since my appointment to the role of Project Officer in October 2007. The past 11 months have been an extremely busy period adapting to the new role and helping to provide the diverse range of support SLCMA provides to the people of the Sarina Catchment.

2008 has seen through the completion of the current SLP. The program has been immensely successful providing land managers with a diverse range of sustainable land management options, support and funding. Collectively government funding and landholder contributions have seen the program deliver over \$2.2 million of on ground works over approximately 270 projects within the Sarina Catchment.

The Healthy Waterways program remains to be a very successful and valuable resource for the health of our catchment, providing a wealth of data through our magnificent healthy waterways volunteers who play a vital role in the programs success. The baseline water quality monitoring program has also proved its value with the baseline data playing a pivotal role in providing water quality data for the regions new water quality improvement plan.

The new year has also seen SLCMA implement a number of new pest management options including the Feral Pig bounty scheme and the implementation of an aerial feral pig shooting program.

Adam Folkers, SLCMA Project Officer

## Programs Update

### • Healthy Waterways Integrated Monitoring Program

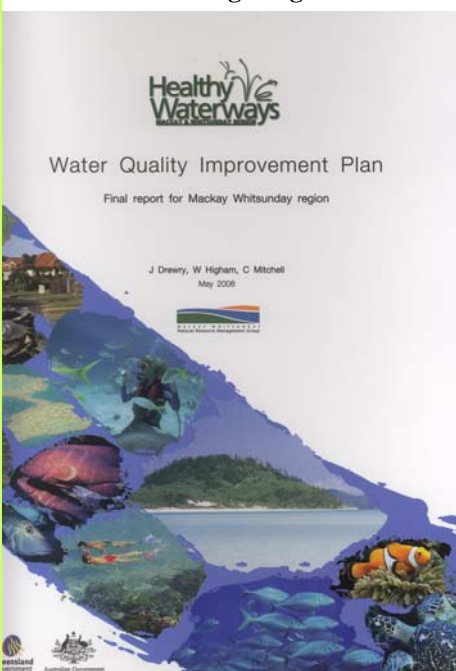
**Ambient Water Quality Monitoring** - The ambient monitoring program has continued throughout the year, with the help of our dedicated volunteers Richard Mills, Gail & Neil Bradley, continuing to monitor our local creeks (Plane, Rocky Dam and Carmila Creeks) on a monthly basis. The water quality parameters collected include: ph (acidity), temperature, dissolved oxygen (vital for aquatic life), turbidity (suspended solids—a measure of erosion), electrical conductivity (dissolved salts) and phosphate (fertilisers).

The data collected for each of the creeks has been collated & analysed by Natural Resources & Water, to compile the *Ambient Monitoring Program Regional Report 2008*, which provide a summary of the results for each creek monitored. The data has helped to build our understanding of health of our catchment as well as being used to inform the development of the *Mackay Whitsunday Water Quality Improvement Plan*.



Middle Creek Dam, Plane Ck monitoring site—May 08

**Baseline Monitoring Program**—has now been completed, with the SLCMA Project Officer collecting 18 months worth of valuable water quality data at 4 of the major streams within the Sarina Catchment. The baseline monitoring program has guided the development of the water quality guidelines for the region and the Mackay Whitsunday Water Quality Improvement Plan.



**Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP)** – Throughout the last two years, staff from Reef Catchments have been developing the Regional Water Quality Improvement Plan. Community members within the Sarina Catchment were involved in the Local Catchment Reference Panel meetings focusing on attributes such as environmental, agricultural, recreational, drinking, industrial and cultural water uses on a catchment by catchment basis. The water quality monitoring undertaken by SLCMA and our volunteers also informed the development of the plan.

The WQIP was launched at the Healthy Waterways Forum, by the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries, Tim Mulherin MP. The plan aims to provide water quality suitable for human uses and aquatic ecosystem protection.

The plan defines a way forward for improving the water quality in our creeks, rivers and in the Great Barrier Reef, involving both rural and urban adoption of improved land management practices. It sets out a strategy for achieving healthy waterways across the region and to maintain the ecological and human use values for our creeks. There are report cards detailing current water quality and future targets for streams located from Eden Lassie to Flaggy Rock.

*“Sustainable Landscapes has given us the tools to improve our farming knowledge and the money incentive to be able to put these improvements and new practices into place”, Cane farmer*

## Sustainable Landscapes Program

June 2008 saw the completion of the Sustainable Landscapes Program, an incentive based program that offered funds to land managers to implement a range of best management activities to assist in protecting and improving the condition of our natural resources.



*Fence to protect remnant vegetation*

The program was a regional program coordinated by Reef Catchments (prev. Mackay Whitsunday NRM Group) and delivered locally by the catchment/Landcare Groups. SLP began in 2006 (funded through the National Landcare Program and Natural Heritage Trust) and within the Sarina Catchment engaged over 100 land managers to deliver approximately 270 projects.



## SLCMA Community Nursery

The SLCMA Community Nursery has been a great resource to community volunteers, schools and Green Corps 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 awareness days and annual Landcare member seedling allocations.

Throughout the year, approximately 4000 seedlings were provided by SLCMA for community projects, Schools, Environmental Awareness Days and Landcare Members (max 40 seedlings per member per year).

Thankyou also to the land managers that allow us to collect native seed on their property—it is always a great opportunity to collect a diverse range of seed.

## SLCMA Community Volunteer Program



*Lyn, Neil, Adam, Margaret, Mick, Terry & Stuart collecting seed at Castrade Hill*

The SLCMA Community Volunteer team are an essential part of the successfulness of the SLCMA Community Nursery—they take part in the whole process from plant identification & seed collection to seed cleaning, propagation and general nursery activities. Three cheers for our volunteers!

The SLCMA Community Volunteer Program provides an opportunity for community members to gain knowledge about our local native plants and skills in plant propagation. It is also a great opportunity to meet other like-minded people.

Over the last year, the volunteers have enjoyed seed collection trips through coastal beach scrubs, riparian rainforests and open woodlands—we have also had some informative tours around the Mackay Regional Botanical Gardens & looking at the principles of permaculture at the Mackay Community Gardens.

## Supporting our local schools



*Green Corps helping Alligator Creek School establish native shade plants around the school grounds*

SLCMA has been working with our local schools on a range of projects. This has included providing plants & advice to establish native plants around the school grounds—for shade as well as to attract native wildlife.

SLCMA has also held activities days for students—looking at catchment management & land use effects on water quality and coastal awareness.

The students at Sarina State High School Agriculture Centre are continuing to monitor the water quality in the sediment basin and are in the process of establishing native plants around the basin.

SLCMA is looking forward to developing more activities for the schools in the Sarina Catchment to be a part of.

## Organisational Objectives

The objectives of Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association Incorporated are:

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



Sarina Coastal Field Trip

## 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.

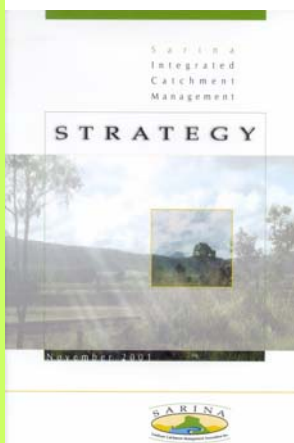
**River/Creek Management:** The creek systems are managed in such a way as to enhance and maintain their natural values while providing for the needs of the catchment community.

**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.



## SLCMA Membership & 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	07/08 members
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.	Broadsound Shire Council Department of Main Roads Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Natural Resources Mines & Water Ports Corporation of Queensland Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service Sarina Shire Council/Mackay Regional Council

## SLCMA Membership and Members ..Continued ..

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
<b>Ordinary Landcare Member</b>	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	Ackroyd K, Airoldi J, Alden P, Anderson B&S, Axiak F&J, Bailey J, Bailey R, Belfrage M, Bella A&C, Benson D&J, Bienke H, Bilton K, Bird L, Bishop R&J, Booth M, Bradley N&G, Brazier I&M, Brown D, Brown J, Brown M, Burkett M, Bushell J, Cameron C, Cameron M, Cameron S, Canning G, Cliffe R, Cooke I&C, Corcoran A, Cowe V, Creber P, Cunningham N&Y, deKnock A&P, Dempsey P, Dixon T&G, Donovan R, Drinkwater B&P, Drummond P&J, Dunbar J, Dunnett A&D, Ferrington E&N, Fielder B, Fielding J, Flynn D&M, Gardener A, George R&K, Gleghorn D, Gordon R, Graftdyk J, Gray B, Gray M, Greaves R, Greenhill L, Gunn J, Gunthorpe F, Guy C, Haines V&A, Halat J, Hamill N&M, Hamilton C, Hauwert A, Hill K, Hoare E&G, Hodgetts, Holmes I, Horne W&M, Howland D&D, Howland R, Hunter N, Hunter W, Hutton C, Johnson S, Joiner J, Jones M, Kane B&K, Keating S, Keleher P, Kendall S&K, Kenyon N, Kippen J, Klingner L, Kruse P, Lane M, Langdon B, Langdon J, Loeskow C&R,C, Long G&J, MacDonald K&S, Maclean C, Madden T, Maidment D&C, Malcolm E, Malone T, Mansfield G&G, Marteene W, Martin R, Matton M, McFadzen G, McFadzen R, McNicol L, McWaters, Meyer M, Micallef J, Mifsud L, Mills R, Mitchell J, Murray G&M, Muscat M&S, Neil S&J, O'Hara A&G, O'Neill G&P, Pantlitz J, Patroni M, Petersen J, Peterson D&J, Phillips C, Plate B, Plath T&P, Plumb K, Plumpton L, Read I, Reed M, Reed T&G, Renehan J, Rhule G&D, Richards J, Richards R, Robinson T, Robinson B&K, Ross J, Ross M, Rowe M, Russell A, Ryder J&H, Scanland K, Schwarz M, Seehusen J, Senini J, Sluggert R&M, Smith G&I, Stevens L, Swan J, Taylor P, Thomsett D, Thomsett D, Tompkins K&R, Trembath A&C, Trindorfer H&S, M, Tucker G, Tuckett S, Van de Hatred M&A, Vella J, Vella K, Weir J, Wheeler J&B, Whitaker J, Wiblen S, Wray D&G
<b>Junior Member</b>	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	S Clark B Flynn T Hamill K Hamill J Hamill B Kendall L McNicol A Snedden
<b>Associate Members</b>	Unlimited	N/A	1. Full voting rights	Shall be opened to nominees of: Companies and Co-operatives carrying out activities within the Catchment area.  Local organisations and institutions  Local groups with a direct interest in land use	Mackay Regional Pest Management Group Armstrong Beach Progress Association Inc. BMA/Hay Point Services Coalport Community & Recreation Association Conservation Volunteers Australia CSR Ethanol Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal Pty Ltd Grasstree Beach Progress Association Inc. Koala Research Centre Mackay and District Turtlewatch Mackay & Whitsunday Branch Bird Observers Club of Australia MWNRM Group  Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group Inc. Sarina Beach Progress Association Inc. Sarina State High School Society for Growing Australian Plants  Swayneville State School The Association for the Improvement of Campwin Beach Whitsunday Catchment Landcare Sarina State Primary School

## Sarina Green Corps

SLCMA is currently host to a new Sarina Green Corps team, which started in July 08, the team is under the guidance of Steven Geddes, a new team leader. The new Green Corps team has already begun work on local projects, assisting some of our Progress Association's, local schools and Councils with onground activities such as weed control, revegetation and coastal fencing.



Weed control at Louisa Creek

The Green Corps program is highly regarded within the Sarina Catchment for its ability to assist

the community in high priority conservation projects as well as providing training & employment opportunities for our local youth. SLCMA would like to wish the team all the best throughout their 6 months and would like to extend their thanks to all of our project partners, for their ongoing support towards the Green Corps program. SLCMA has submitted an application for a new Green Corps team & if successful will begin in early 09.



Sarina Green Corps team launch, Jul 08 to Jan 09

## Coastal Management

SLCMA has continued to work with the community to develop and implement strategic coastal projects and facilitate awareness raising events. SLCMA is a nominee in the Coastcare category for the National Landcare Awards in October 2008.

One of the coastal programs SLCMA is involved with, is the *Sarina Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Program (SCSLP)*. This is a 3 year coastal program in partnership with Mackay Regional Council & Reef Catchments. The project aims to enhance & protect the coastal foreshores of the developed beaches within the old Sarina Shire boundaries and has just completed its first year of operation. Milestones achieved throughout the year include:

- Obtaining corporate sponsorship & support for the project, from BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance to assist in the delivery of the project
- Community consultation meetings at each of the 7 beaches
- Development of individual beach fact sheets & booklets—outlining the activities to be implemented
- Official launch of the project by Minister Tony Burke.
- A variety of community awareness events eg. National Tree Day, Smith Family Planting day, Coastcare week
- Employment of a Council 3 person beach team to implement strategic onground activities such as bollard fencing, sandladders, weed control & revegetation over the 7 beaches.
- Continuation of the *Sarina Coastal Steering Group*
- Opportunities for similar projects to be developed for other areas

There is a number of other community coastal demonstration projects out there, that SLCMA has continued to support. These include sites at Louisa Creek, Hay Point, Grasstree, Campwin, Sarina and Armstrong Beaches and the re-monitoring of sites (as per the *Sarina Shire Beaches Management Guidelines for Coastal Zones*). SLCMA has been able to offer these projects technical support, links to funding opportunities, native seedlings (through the *SLCMA Community Nursery*), assistance through Green Corps & Conservation Volunteers Australia teams.



## Presentations & Communication

- *SLCMA News* (your local newsletter) is distributed monthly to approximately 200 members. The newsletter is a great way for land managers to keep up-to-date with available funding, workshops, field days, volunteer opportunities and the latest natural resource management news.
- *SLCMA Calendar 2008* was again a hit—showcasing some scenic spots throughout the Sarina Catchment. It also includes important dates such as general meetings, environmental awareness events and cattle sales.
- *Sarina Coastal Field Trip*—was a series of field trips, sponsored by Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group, to celebrate local Landcare Award Winners. The field trip was well attended with 40 people enjoying the day.
- *Dave & Janet Hunter Field Trip*—Land managers of a local organic banana farm won the Rural Press Primary Producer's Award. A full bus of interested people were given a grand tour of the property, that created lots of interest & discussion.
- *Sustainable Living Field Trip*—showcased the use of aquaponics, vegetable growing and harnessing solar energy to run a household.



Tony Burke, Kirsten Livermore, James Bidgood & Jack Langdon—planting a tree for the launch of SCSLP

## Supporting Community Events

- **Sarina Show**— The main attraction in the SLCMA display at the show was the working model of a fishway & fish tank of native fish, many thanks to DPI&F & Carl Mitchell for this. There was also lots of information about pests, land management & native plants to giveaway.
- **BSES Field Day** — SLCMA assisted Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group at the annual BSES Field day. It is always a great opportunity to chat with landholders & promote some of our projects & programs available.
- **National Tree Day**— Community volunteers enjoyed a planting morning at Grasstree Beach, where they planted native coastal shade trees as part of the Grasstree Beach Envirofund project & Sarina Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Program. The planting was followed by a sausage sizzle!
- **Schools' National Tree Day**— Our local schools didn't miss out on National Tree day—we were able to provide native seedlings to Sarina Primary, Sarina High School & also the assistance of the Sarina Green Corps team to Alligator Creek School.
- **Discover Sarina Week Celebrations** — The procession would not be complete without the iconic "Mt Funnel" on the back of the SLCMA ute! We even got 4th prize :)
- **Local Schools**—SLCMA staff have continued to provide information relating to catchment and natural resource management to our local schools.



Above: SLCMA team—Relay for Life event  
Below: SLCMA Display at the Sarina Show



Armstrong Beach working bee—Coastcare Week



Kirsten, Nadine & Jade Hamill planting on National Tree Day

SLCMA Display—Discover Sarina Week



Three classes from Sarina Primary School participated in activities at Plane Creek, looking at water quality & riparian health and then a field trip to Sarina Beach to learn about coastal processes, marine turtles (thankyou to Diane & Fran from Mackay & District Turtlewatch). SLCMA has also provided support to other schools in the catchment including, Sarina High, Alligator Creek Primary and Carmila Primary Schools.

- **Weedbuster Week**— had the theme "grow me instead" & what better way to get the word out there, then by setting up a display, including the pest trailer, at Mitre 10 & talking weeds (& their native alternative).
- **Coastcare Week**—An information session & plant giveaway was organised for Sarina Beach & a well-attended working bee at the Armstrong Beach Community Revegetation Site. Journalists from "the hub" (Australian Government) came along with their video cameras & put a piece together about the coastal projects with the Sarina Catchment.
- **Relay for Life** — For the first time, SLCMA volunteers, staff & members got together a team to participate in the Relay for Life, a fundraising event for cancer research.

### 2007/2008

#### SLCMA Management Committee

<b>Chair</b>	Rod McFadzen
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Glenn McFadzen
<b>Secretary</b>	Ray Greaves
<b>Treasurer</b>	Nick Kenyon
<b>Other</b>	John Airoldi Royce Bishop
<u>SLCMA Staff</u>	
<b>Coordinator</b>	Saskia von Fahland
<b>Administration Officer</b>	Nadine Hamill
<b>Project Officer</b>	Adam Folkers
<b>Landcare Extension Officer</b>	Marty Burkett (previous)

SLCMA is supported by:



Australian Government

