

Annual Report 2011/2012



September 2012

Chairman's Annual Report

This is an opportunity to present a progress report on SLCMA's activities and recognise the people, actions and events that have contributed to the community's awareness of the Sarina district environment.

Our year started with the celebration of 10 years since *Sarina Integrated Catchment Management* and *Sarina and District Landcare* organisations amalgamated. Foundation member Jack Langdon gave a colourful address at the celebration dinner on the formative years, and Councillor Karen May outlined more recent corporation and progress in a coordinated approach to improving community uptake of attitude and action in environmental matters.

We are starting early by working with primary schools students with activity days and encouraging school native plant gardens. Other activities included High School students having training and assistance at the SLCMA Community Nursery, through a community program supported by Hail Creek Mine.

The Agricultural students at the Sarina Rural Skills Centre provided assistance in constructing floating frames for the blue green algae remediation project in Middle Creek Dam.

National Tree Day was acknowledged this year, by working with Sarina Athletic Club in planting appropriate native trees for a windbreak and shade at the Sarina Athletic Oval.

In the future, our plants propagated in the SLCMA Community Nursery, should be even more successful with the addition of worm castings from the nursery's own worm farm and protection of the now enlarged area with a new fence and shelter.

Conservation Volunteers, National Green Jobs Corps and the Green Army teams were of great assistance in the Sarina Community Native Gardens, helping with maintenance, constructing pathways and planting on mounds and wet areas.

There have been courses on horses, soil erosion control and sustainable land management held throughout the year as well as re-invigorating the Rocky Dam Creek Feral Pig Program by coordinating loaning traps and aerial control methods involving landholders.

Guest speakers at meetings covered a range of subjects on biodiversity, animal and plant pests, biosecurity, fungi and bats.

The lantana splatter gun is still available for hire and the African Tulip Tree Trial Project is nearing completion.

The Relay for Life (a cancer support effort) was quite popular again.



Rod McFadzen supporting the SLCMA Gumnut Relay for Life Team



The calendar is still proving useful and I have heard it referred to by others as a useful resource.

Many thanks go to our support and funding sources; local, state and federal governments, BMA, DBCT Management and Reef Catchments for their varied support. Our nursery volunteers and the office staff; Saskia, Margaret and Nadine for keeping the show on the road and the executive for their time and support.

Rod McFadzen, Chair

Rod McFadzen, Cr Karen May & Saskia von Fahland cutting of SLCMA's 10th Birthday cake

*Happy 10th Birthday
Sarina Landcare
Catchment Management
Association
~ 2001 to 2011 ~*

Sarina Catchment Landcare Coordinator/ Regional Landcare Facilitator Report

Saskia von Fahland doing some maintenance on the aquaponic units at Middle Creek Dam

The last 12 months has once again flown by... but not without lots of highlights and achievements. Thankyou to all of you that helped celebrate SLCMA's 10th birthday in October last year. It was a good opportunity for our members and volunteers to celebrate SLCMA's achievements and hear from some of our founding members talk about the earlier years.

It is great to have continued to work alongside our other two fellow Landcare/Catchment groups through the *Central QLD Coast Landcare Network*, with the launch of our website (visit www.cqclandcarenetwork.org.au).

A big thankyou to our nursery volunteers who continue to come along every week and have some fun in the nursery or out seed collecting. We are now the proud carers of a worm farm, thank you to the knowledge and expertise from Marjorie Ross for helping set it up.

A special mention to Gail and Neil Bradley who after nine years of water quality monitoring along Plane Creek, they decided to hand over the reins to new volunteers. The information they collected has been invaluable, providing a greater understanding of the health of Plane Creek. Sharon Allen has since been trained up by our Project Officer, Margaret and is now continuing to build on the existing data for Plane Creek.

We have had a good opportunity to work alongside landholders within the Rocky Dam Creek catchment again. SLCMA, Mackay Regional Council and Reef Catchments are assisting landholders in the catchment with a coordinated pig control program, so far with some good successes.

It has been a pleasure to work in partnership with Conservation Volunteers, together through their volunteer team and our two traineeship teams (National Green Jobs Corps and Green Army) we have been able to achieve some great on-ground results at our numerous project sites.

I would like to thank Mackay Regional Council, BMA Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance, Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal Management as well as our members and volunteers for your ongoing support towards SLCMA. It is through this support that we are able to continue to work with the community to encourage sustainable land management and protect our catchment into the future.

A bit about my Regional Landcare Facilitator role:

As most of you are aware my position is hosted by Reef Catchments and includes sharing the Regional Landcare Facilitator role with the coordinators in the other two Landcare/Catchment groups. Our role, in a broad sense, is to support Landcare and production groups to adopt sustainable land management practices and to protect Australia's landscape. As part of this we are also a conduit for information about the Australian Government's funding programs and the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI).



In addition to assisting the Central QLD Coast Landcare Network with workshops and events for land managers, we are available to assist the peri-urban community (rural residential) with land management advice and planning. Community groups or individuals wishing to submit funding proposals to the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country are also encouraged to contact us for queries. While we are not experts on carbon farming, we can provide information on the Australian Government's Carbon Farming Initiative or refer land managers onto sources of more detailed information.

We are part of an Australia-wide network of approximately 70 RLFs covering each of the country's 56 natural resource management regions. The Regional Landcare Facilitator program is funded by the Australian Governments Caring for Our Country.

Saskia von Fahland, Sarina Catchment Coordinator/Regional Landcare Facilitator

Project Officer's Report

*Margaret Meng checking out
Octopus bush at Salonika Beach*

I am pleased to present my second SLCMA Project Officer's annual report. My role of Project Officer has continued to be both exciting and challenging with partnerships with landowners and local organisations strengthened as I continue to work on many innovative SLCMA projects. I enjoyed meeting many new people through out the year as I attended community events like the Sarina Markets, Relay For Life and National Tree Day. Working beside SLCMA Community Nursery volunteers will always be a highlight of my week and assisting Conservation Volunteer's National Green Jobs Corp and Green Army teams and admiring the achievements accomplished by the participants was very rewarding.

The Healthy Waterways program has always been an important program for our catchment providing important data through ambient monitoring. This year we welcomed Sharon Allen into the SLCMA Healthy Waterways volunteer network.

Other projects which have made significant progress over the last 12 months include the Sarina Native Community Gardens on Beach Road, the Land for Wildlife Program,



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Project Officer's Report ...continued

African Tulip Tree Pilot Project and the new project, Landholder engagement and on ground activities for improved water quality at Middle Creek Dam. SLCMA was also successful in gaining funding through the Mackay Regional Council's Natural Environment grants for rainwater tanks and new equipment for the nursery.

During the last year, partnerships with local schools were reinforced with SLCMA assisting local primary school staff and students with school's tree day and other environmental activities. I enjoyed working together with SLCMA and Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority staff and Sarina State High School's agricultural department's staff and students to deliver a school activity day in term 2. I am pleased to announce SLCMA now has some very comprehensive Macro Invertebrate and River Story kits available for loan to local school's and organisations. Sarina State High school students participating in the Hail Creek Community Program have continued to work alongside the SLCMA Community Nursery volunteers this year, helping out with nursery maintenance and attending seed collecting field trips.

2012 has been a very eventful year and I am looking forward to continuing to work alongside SLCMA staff, volunteers and partners and to assist the residents within the Sarina catchment with Landcare advice over the coming year.

Margaret Meng, SLCMA Project Officer

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.

Landholders attending the Sustainable Land Management Walk & Talk at Sarina Rural Skills Centre



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 benefits!

Stuart (SLCMA Volunteer) with some of the native seedlings, available to Landcare Members.

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 20 free local native seedlings from the SLCMA Community Nursery each year
- ◇ Invitations to Natural Resource Management bus tours, field days and workshops
- ◇ Copy of the SLCMA Annual Report



SLCMA Membership 2011/12

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	Number of members
Government Organisation Member	Unlimited	N/A	1. Full voting rights	Open to nominated Councillors of local authorities within the Association's catchment area, and nominated officers of State Government departments or authorities, or divisions or branches within them.	18
Associate Member	Unlimited	N/A	1. Full voting rights	Shall be opened to nominees of: Companies and Cooperatives carrying out activities within the Catchment area. Local organizations and institutions. Local groups with a direct interest in land use	21
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	164
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 18 years of age 2. Must be a registered Junior Landcare member.	20

2011/12 Management Committee Members & Staff

Management Committee Members:

Chair	Rod McFadzen
Vice Chair	Duane Brown
Secretary	Ray Greaves
Treasurer	Nick Kenyon (since resigned)
Acting Treasurer	Cr Theresa Morgan
Other	Roger Van Der Veen Cath Hutton

Staff:

Sarina Catchment Landcare Coordinator/ Regional Landcare Facilitator	Saskia von Fahland
Administration Officer	Nadine Hamill
Project Officer	Margaret Meng



Calendar 2012



Australian Year of the Farmer

Communication & publications

- **SLCMA Catchment News** (your local newsletter) is distributed monthly to approximately 280 recipients. 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 2012** was well received by members, schools and volunteers. It is a great opportunity to showcase some nice spots around the catchment. It also includes important dates such as meetings, environmental awareness events and cattle sales.
- **SLCMA General meetings** are held monthly and, are an opportunity for members and the community to discuss and learn more about Landcare related topics, local issues and solutions. Thankyou to our guest speakers throughout the year including:
 - Andrew Houely (RC) - Applying fire in the landscape
 - Michelle Field (RC) - Mackay Regional Pest Management Group
 - Marie Cali (QPWS) - Coastal Sheath-tailed bat
 - Saskia von Fahland (SLCMA/RC) - Rocky Dam Creek Feral Pig Program
 - Kate Steel (GBRMPA) - Reef Guardian Farmer and Schools Program
 - Peter Alden (Biosecurity QLD) - Giant Rats Tail and other weedy *Sporobolus* grasses

Program & project updates:



SLCMA is now online!

SLCMA has continued to work closely with Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group (PCL) and Whitsunday Catchment Landcare (WCL) through the *Central QLD Coast Landcare Network*. Through this partnership and with funding from Australian Government Caring for Our Country, we have been able to create an interactive website for the community. The website hosts information on each of the groups, our projects, a plant and animal database and much much more. Check it out at: www.sarinalandcare.org.au or the main page at www.cqclandcarenetwork.org.au

SLCMA Community Volunteer Program

Did you know that the SLCMA Community Volunteer Program has been operating for nine years! What an achievement for our volunteers, some of whom have been there since the start. Our fantastic volunteers come along every Wednesday morning to help out in the SLCMA Community Nursery and keep all of our young native plants weed free and healthy.



Some of our SLCMA Volunteers including Patch, celebrate Landcare Week with a Morning in the Gardens

We have had a few extra volunteers this year, including the lovely ladies from The Body Shop and enthusiastic students from Sarina State High School. We thank you all for your contribution.

The volunteer program is a great opportunity for community volunteers and students to learn about native plants, their propagation and general nursery processes. The seed collection field trips are also a good opportunity to brush up on your plant identification skills. And our well-deserved morning teas are a chance to catch up and share our stories.

Our volunteers are an integral part of the success of the SLCMA Community Nursery, helping SLCMA to provide local native tubestock back to the community. Thankyou to Mackay Regional Council—Natural Environment Program for your support towards the program.

SLCMA Community Nursery

The SLCMA Community Nursery continues to be a useful training facility for our volunteers, students and trainees to learn about general nursery practices, hygiene and native plant propagation.

Through this process we have been able to provide approximately 4,000 local native plants this year, for revegetation projects, Landcare members, landholders and schools.

The nursery renovations have progressed with assistance from the Sarina Green Army team and SSHS Agricultural students. The team, under direction from Frank Langfield (SSHS), brushed up on their fencing (and measuring) skills to dismantle the old security fence and install a new security fence. The new fence has expanded the nursery grounds to allow for new nursery benches and rainwater tanks (*which are on the way*).

We would like to thank Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal Management for funding towards the nursery expansion and Mackay Regional Council for their ongoing support for the training facility. The SLCMA Community Nursery is greatly supported by our SLCMA Community Volunteer Team as well as general maintenance by the SLCMA staff.

L-R: seedlings in the nursery, Sandy Evans watering, Shirley Sidey washing pots, Marjorie Ross talking 'worms' with our volunteers



SSHs students, Sarina Green Army and Frank Langfield installing the new security fence



Sarina Community Coastcare

The *Sarina Community Coastcare Program* has progressed into its second year, continuing to raise community awareness about the importance and sensitivity of our coastal environments as well as encourage and facilitate onground rehabilitation projects to help protect and restore our foreshores.

SLCMA continues to work in partnership with Council to ensure a strategic approach to coastal activities continues across the region and aligns with the *Sarina Shire Beaches Management Guidelines for Coastal Zones (2006)* and individual beach plans (2008).

We also work in partnership with Conservation Volunteers Australia, National Green Jobs Corps, Green Army, Mackay Regional Council (Sarina) Beach Team, Coalport Community and Recreation Association and local residents to rehabilitate our sections along our foreshores.

Throughout the year we have focused on progressing the “resident support program” with assistance from Dallas Milburn (PC&L). The procedures for the program are almost complete, with some site visits already undertaken and project plans in development. The program recognizes that residents are keen to rehabilitate areas of Council managed coastal land however in doing so, activities need to align to the current beach plans and their volunteer work needs to be carefully managed. Through the program SLCMA is able to provide this support as well as materials for rehabilitation activities.

We have continued to undertake 6 monthly coastal monitoring as per the *Sarina Shire Beaches Management Guidelines for Coastal Zones*. The monitoring has been undertaken since 2007 and is a great way to show how the coastal zones are changing over time. A range of other highlights include:

- Replacement of the Marine turtle sign at Sarina Beach, with Mackay and District Turtlewatch.
- Organisation and facilitation of *Caring for Our Coasts* School activity Day which saw 385 students participate in three educational activities: Sustainable fishing (by GBRMPA), Ecosystem interactions (by SLCMA) and Landcare in the landscape (by SLCMA). *See the school support section for more details.*
- Opportunities to discuss coastal awareness at the Sarina markets

The three year *Sarina Community Coastcare Program* is supported by BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance—Community Partnerships Program.

Sarina Community Native Gardens

Hopefully many of you have had the chance to visit the Sarina Native Community Garden on Beach Road. There has been considerable progress this year with many new garden beds constructed and planted in the coastal and rainforest sections. The final layer of gravel on the walking track has been finished and visitors can now take a stroll along the path to look at the native plants and enjoy the sound of many birds which now inhabit the gardens. Labels can be viewed throughout the gardens identifying the plants with their botanical and common names and, in the sensory gardens, additional information about their uses or unusual features.

The National Green Corps and Green Army teams continued to be an integral part of the project doing lots of on-ground preparation of the garden beds, planting and maintenance work. Community volunteer days held in partnership with Conservation Volunteers Australia have been successful with volunteers from Sarina and Mackay joining in to learn about the gardens and assist with planting, weeding and garden maintenance.

Unfortunately the gardens also played host to Myrtle Rust recently. However, through quick identification and response by SLCMA staff, we managed to contain the outbreak. Ongoing monitoring and prevention control is now part of the regular maintenance procedures for the gardens.

SLCMA is continuing to work with staff from Mackay Regional Council, Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens and volunteers from Society for Growing Australian Plants to identify suitable plant species and groupings for additional plantings.

Work will continue in the gardens throughout the remainder of 2012 with future community days planned. Volunteers can assist with additional planting, mulching, installation of the ‘all weather’ Permacrete track, garden maintenance.

We also would like to express a big thankyou to BHP Mitsubishi Alliance, who have kindly donated 12 mature grasstrees for the gardens and to Starlight Palm Plantations for looking after them for us while we are getting undertaking site preparations.

The main aim of the Sarina Community Native Gardens is to demonstrate the use of native plants in gardens and landscaping as well as be utilised as an educational resource by the community, volunteers and students. SLCMA would like to thank Mackay Regional Council – Natural Environment Program for providing financial support for this current stage of the project.



Sarina Green Army team install an educational Marine Turtle sign with Mackay and District Turtlewatch volunteer, Diane Clarke at Sarina Beach



Some of the walking track and new sections of the gardens

Middle Creek Dam Catchment: Water quality monitoring, remediation works and landholder engagement..



The original and new aquaponic units in Middle Creek Dam

This year SLCMA completed the *Monitoring and remediation of blue green algae outbreaks in coastal ecosystems* project which began in 2009 (funded by Australian Government, Community Coastcare). This project provided the foundation for SLCMA to work with landholders and project partners to monitor and improve water quality in the Middle Creek Dam catchment. It also played an integral role in gaining an understanding of water quality in Middle Creek Dam, assess the usefulness of aquaponic units in remediating blue green algae outbreaks, created initial contact with landholders and helped inform management decisions by Mackay Regional Council.

Fortunately, we have been able to build on the initial project through ongoing support from Mackay Regional Council and through a successful application through the Australian Government, *Community Action Grants Program* for the *Landholder engagement and onground activities for improved water quality project*.

Through this new project we aim to increase the interest and knowledge of landholders within the Middle Ck Dam catchment about the interaction between land management practices and water quality. To date, we have been able to encourage some landholders to implement on-ground practices such as fencing off waterways from stock, revegetation and off-stream watering points, through a devolved grant program.

We have continued to undertake regular water quality sampling and liaise with Mackay Regional Council in monitoring the dam for blue green algae outbreaks; and are currently developing an "information and warning indicator" sign for Middle Creek Dam that will be able to be viewed by residents and users of the dam.

We continue to undertake maintenance of the seven aquaponic units currently installed and are preparing for a further four to be installed, when seed becomes available. These units work by using native plants to absorb (& thus, reduce) available nutrients from the water column. The Sarina State High School Agricultural staff and students have played an integral role in constructing the units.

A big thankyou to our project partners, Mackay Regional Council (MRC), Water and Waste Laboratory (MRC), Central QLD University, Sarina State High School Agricultural Department and SLCMA Community Volunteers for their ongoing support and assistance with the project.

The long term goal is to continue to work with landholders and project partners to monitor and improve water quality in the immediate and downstream aquatic habitats, particularly to reduce the frequency & intensity of blue-green algae outbreaks.

L-R: Algae bloom, Community Information Session, Dam Closed, Community Information Session, Middle Ck Dam



L-R: Frank Langfield and students Shaun McDowall & Tyrone Baulch working on the Mobile aquaponic unit

Mobile Aquaponic Project

SLCMA is working with Sarina Rural Skills Centre (SRSC) and Sarina State High School to build a mobile aquaponic unit. What is this? You might ask.

Well, the mobile aquaponic unit is an interactive, transportable, self-sufficient unit that demonstrates the integration of hydroponics and aquaculture to provide quality foods such as fish, vegetables and herbs. The aim of the project is demonstrate the ease and suitability of aquaponics for use on varying property sizes from urban backyards, hobby farms to bigger production based properties and, promote and encourage sustainable food production, water re-use and efficiency within the community.

The concept of aquaponics is working successfully as a 'immobile' unit within the SRSC facility however the need for a self-sufficient, easily transportable unit was identified as a good

opportunity to bring aquaponics to the community.

The mobile aquaponic unit is being constructed by agricultural and engineering students at the SRSC facility, with assistance from Frank Langfield. A much anticipated *Aquaponic information session* will be held later in the year, as an opportunity for the community to find out more about the ins & outs of aquaponics and have a look at the mobile aquaponic unit. This project is funded by the Gambling Community Benefit Fund.



National Green Jobs Corps and Green Army Programs



L-R: Ashley Coyne, Caleb Roberts, Abby Pollard, Simone Emery-Grant, Catherine Sanot, Caleb Dovoren

SLCMA in partnership with Conservation Volunteers Australia was fortunate to host two consecutive on-ground teams this year.

The first was the *Sarina and Mackay National Green Jobs Corps team (NGJC)*, between September 2011 and February 2012. The NGJC team, with Team Leader Jude Wood, assisted with quite a few community projects including rehabilitation activities at Louisa Creek Reserve, Armstrong Beach Community Site, Apex Park and the bund wall.

The NGJC participants gained practical experience in natural area restoration, plant identification and weed management which was supported by accredited training in Senior First Aid, OH&S and modules towards Certificate 2 in Land Conservation. The National Green Jobs Program was a 6 month environmental youth traineeship for 17 to 24 years, funded by the Australian Government.

The second team, the *Sarina Green Army team*, included 10 enthusiastic trainees with Team Leader, Richard Brown. The 4 month environmental traineeship operated from March to June 2012.

The Green Army team extended on-ground works undertaken by previous teams and volunteers at community sites such as Louisa Creek Reserve, Armstrong Beach and the bund wall as well as activities at the Sarina Community Native Gardens and the SLCMA Community Nursery expansion. The projects gave participants practical experience in natural area restoration, debris removal, native plant propagation, fencing and track construction. All of which was complimented by accredited training in Senior First Aid, OH&S, Chainsaw and Agricultural Chemical and Distribution Act (ACDC) certificates.

Trainees also gained an insight into various industries such as Sugar, Council and Landcare and through the experience developed an appreciation for our regions unique ecosystems and an understanding of the importance of building resilience within the environment.

The Green Army program was funded by QLD Government, Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) through the *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* initiative.

SLCMA has a long history of hosting successful on-ground teams (since 2000); the traineeships have proven to be a positive way to engage local youth within the community and showcase their skills and enthusiasm in looking after our catchment. The trainee programs provide benefits to the participants, the community and the environment by providing opportunities to support the community with local environmental projects and provide practical and accredited training to improve the skills and employability of participants. At present, both trainee programs have since ended – so hopefully the new year brings some new opportunities.



St Annes students participate in the "Sustainable Fishing" activity delivered by GBRMPA

Supporting our local schools

SLCMA continues to provide support to our local schools, assisting classes with resources and information; conducting school activity days as well as technical advice and plants for onground projects. Some highlights include:

Schools Tree Day — Provision of plants and technical advice for Sarina Primary and Dundula State Schools.

"Catchment Care" School Activity Day: Over two days, 265 students from Alligator creek, Swayneville and St Annes primary schools came together at the Sarina State High School Agricultural Department/Sarina Rural Skills Centre, to participate in the event. Students were treated to a guided tour of the innovative farm practices at the SRSC (by students and teachers at the SSHS Agricultural Department, gained an understanding of how catchments work (by GBRMPA) and ways to keep our waterways healthy and an up close & personal look at waterbugs (by SLCMA). Funded by QLD Government's

Natural Resource Awareness Grants and Mackay Regional Council Natural Environment Levy.

"Caring for our Coasts" School Activity Day: Over three days, 385 students from Alligator Creek, Sarina, Swayneville, St Lawrence and St Anne's Primary schools came together at Campwin Beach and participated in a variety of activities which aimed to create a greater understanding of and provide practical ways to look after our local coastal environments.

Participants learnt about Landcare and the importance of local habitats. They also got caught up in a web of interactions between living and non-living things in coastal ecosystems. A favourite of the day was the interactive sustainable fishing game, where students learnt about the importance of why we need green zones, size and bag limits. The activities were delivered by dedicated and enthusiastic staff from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and SLCMA.

The activity days were funded through BMA Community Partnership Program and Mackay Regional Council Natural Environment Levy.

Continued...



Dundula Primary School students: Luke Attard, with Ben Tuelstrup & Hale Campbell wearing their Lorax moes for Schools Tree Day

Supporting our local schools ...continued



St Annes school students practice their "Landcare" hands

involved in nursery activities at the SLCMA Community Nursery, assisted in the construction of aquaponic units for Middle Creek Dam and the mobile aquaponic unit and participated in educational activities focussing on native plants and water quality.

L-R: Margaret Meng congratulates Land for Wildlife property owner, Jeane Gearing with a certificate and sign.



Land for Wildlife Program

SLCMA has continued to deliver the Land for Wildlife Program within the Sarina Catchment, on behalf of Mackay Regional Council. The program has continued to create strong relationships with landholders within the catchment, with 6 new landholders welcomed into the program this year.

Along with new landholders, comes the pleasure of visiting existing Land for Wildlife properties. These landholders are an inspiration with their ongoing commitment to preserve the natural values on their property.

The Land For Wildlife program identifies and recognises landholders who make a significant effort to conserve and manage native vegetation on their property to support local wildlife. The program assists landholders with plant identification and weed management, advice on good land management practices and the supply of local native plants. The Land For Wildlife Program is delivered by SLCMA in the Sarina area and Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group in the Mackay area and is funded by Mackay Regional Council's Natural Environment Levy.

Landholder Support



Helping landholders with land management advice

SLCMA provides a wide range of support to Landholders within the Sarina Catchment including providing property visits and land management advice for a range of topics such as property planning, pest, vegetation, waterway, stock and pasture management.

It is great to see existing and new landholders continue to keep in touch with SLCMA. Throughout the year, we have had lots of questions about plant identification, weed control and selecting the right type of native plants for specific sites. Landholders are also making the most of loaning equipment such as the pig traps and the lantana splatter gun. And it is definitely rewarding when we hear back from the landholders on how their property is progressing.

Other projects underway

- **African Tulip Pilot project** *funded by Mackay Regional Council—Natural Environment Program*
This project is due for completion by December 2012, it has involved mapping of African Tulip Tree infestations within the Sarina Catchment and a trial control program.
- **Administration support** *funded by the Australian Government, Grants to voluntary Environment & Heritage Organisations.* This grants program has provided essential support towards some of our administration and operational costs as well as the purchase of a new computer.
- **Sarina Landcare Support Project** *funding from Mackay Regional Council—Natural Environment Program*
This project supports SLCMA to provide ongoing services to landholders and the general community through activities such as the SLCMA Community Volunteer Program, environmental awareness events, displays at local events, working with stakeholders, coordination of projects and workshops.

Working Groups supported

SLCMA is proud to support the following working groups and projects:

- Central QLD Coast Landcare Network
- Mackay Whitsunday Regional Pest Management Group
- Mackay Regional Council — Natural Advisory Committee
- Rocky Dam Creek Coordinated Feral Pig Working Group



Supporting Community Events

Weedbuster Week: L-R Peter Alden (Biosecurity QLD), Jo Mitchell (landholder) and Michael Tuckett (Mackay Regional Council) talk weeds!

- **Relay for Life** — SLCMA volunteers, staff & members once again joined the "Gum-nut" team to participate in the annual Sarina Relay for Life, a fundraising event for cancer research. In total, the Sarina Community raised around \$60,000—well done!
- **BSES Field Day** — SLCMA assisted Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group (PCL), Whitsunday Catchment Landcare and the Mky Regional Pest Management Group with a display at the annual BSES Field day. It is always a great opportunity to chat with landholders & promote some of our projects & programs available.
- **EcoMackay Expo**—SLCMA joined PCL with a Landcare and pest display at Mackay Regional Council lawn, Mackay. The event is an opportunity to provide information to the community about sustainability living.
- **Sarina markets** — We have continued to waive the Landcare flag at the local markets each month, it is a great opportunity to chat with the community, encourage the use of native plants, provide information to landholders and highlight some of the projects and programs that are available.
- **Weedbuster Week**— SLCMA joined Mackay Regional Council Pest Officer, Michael Tuckett and Biosecurity QLD Officer, Peter Alden for a FREE weed identification day at Farm HQ.
- **Great Northern Clean Up**—SLCMA coordinated a clean up at Grendon Park/Salonika Beach with support from Mackay Regional Council Natural Environment Levy and BMA Community Partnership Program.



Some of our SLCMA Gumnuts: Rod Mcfadzen, Mark & Sandy Evans, Nadine Hamill



Ruth Cliffe, National Tree Day

- **National Tree Day**—SLCMA joined forces with Sarina Athletic Club to plant native plants around Brewers park Athletic oval.

- **Community Planting days.** In partnership with Conservation Volunteers Australia, we have been able to offer weekend community days for volunteers. Sites include Grasstree Beach, Louisa Creek Reserve and Sarina Community Native Gardens.

Landholder workshops and field days



Peter Pearce, Soil Conservation Officer discussing soil erosion

SLCMA facilitated a range of community awareness raising events throughout the year. A big thankyou to our funding providers, project partners, volunteers and those who attended, to make these great events.

- **Managing horses on small properties workshop.** This workshop was delivered by Jane Myers with assistance from Stuart Myers. Janes' wealth of knowledge and experience in horse management is incredible—as is Stuart's innovation in property planning and design.

- **Walk and Talk: Practical, innovative land management solutions**—Frank Langfield and SLCMA provided a well-received guided tour of the Sarina Rural Skills Centre. The morning aimed to provide practical, innovative ideas for landholders to achieve sustainability and productivity for all property sizes. These included animal husbandry (chook, goats, cattle), aquaponics, hydroponics, permaculture, pasture and weed management and encouraging biodiversity.

- **Soil Erosion Walk and Talk.** Participants were able to see and discuss overland and gully erosion along with potential causes and solutions with visiting Soil Conservation Officer, Peter Pearce.

SLCMA is supported by:

