

# Annual Report 2017/18



September 2018

## Chairperson's Annual Report

This is my 3rd and final Report as Chair of Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association Inc.

I feel sad, yet very proud to have been Chair of such an incredible SLCMA Management Committee. We bonded as a Team with positive energy and completed every action that was asked of us by the staff through the passage of our term.



Gloria Murray

**Governing:** SLCMA is a not-for-profit Community Group who is governed by a Management Committee, who has the power of an individual that may:

- Enter into contracts
- Acquire, hold, deal with & dispose of property
- Make charges for services & facilities it supplies
- Do other things necessary or convenient to be done in carrying out its affairs

The SLCMA Community Nursery offers a central meeting/training location for the SLCMA Volunteer Program & Sarina Community Native Gardens. Within the volunteer program, volunteers are educated in general nursery practices, native plant identification and the propagation of local native plants as well as health & safety.

The Management Committee recognizes our faithful volunteer "Peter" for all of his passion and dedication to SLCMA. He is always happy in his work with other volunteers or by himself in the Sarina Community Native Gardens. He will be a huge asset to SLCMA if "The Friends of the Garden" concept is implemented in the future.

**Funding:** On behalf of SLCMA, I along with the other Management Committee members recognize and appreciate the following for their support in funding:

- Mackay Regional Council
- Sarina Community Bendigo Bank
- Dalrymple Coal Terminal
- Aurizon
- Reef Catchments

I and the other Management Committee would also like to thank all sponsors and supporters including Tuka Austin, Mackay Regional Council for his support with the Sarina Community Native Gardens.

**Membership:** Our total Membership is 198 and still climbing. Membership is only \$10 per person per year which includes 10 free native plants plus one free "plant of the month" each month. SLCMA's newsletter is produced each month. If you are interested in joining SLCMA and receiving the newsletter, please contact admin@sarinalandcare.org.au

**Milestones:** as per Coordinator's Report 02/11/2017

- Carmila Beach (weed control) - funded by Reef Catchments
- Cats Claw Creeper project—funded by Reef Catchments
- Community Engagement Project—funded by DBCT
- Revegetation projects at DBCT—funded by DBCT
- Environmental Educational Support—Aurizon Community Grant
- Environmental Educational Display—Hail Creek Mine Community Development Fund

*Continued over page....*

<i>Inside this issue:</i>	
<b>Chairperson's Annual Report</b>	<b>1 – 2</b>
<b>Coordinator Report</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>SLCMA:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Organisational objectives</li><li>• Vision and Goals</li><li>• Membership Benefits</li></ul>	<b>3</b>
<b>17/18 Management committee members &amp; staff</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Membership 17/18</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Communication &amp; publications</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>SLCMA Community Nursery</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Program/ project updates</b>	<b>5-8</b>
<b>Supporting Local Schools</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Community Partnerships</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Working Groups Supported</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Supporting Community Events</b>	<b>10</b>

# Chairperson's Annual Report.....continued..

- Coordinated Feral Pig Control Project—funded by Reef Catchments & Landholders
- Land for Wildlife Program—funded by Natural Environment Levy, Mackay Regional Council
- Landcare Support Program—funded by Natural Environment Levy, Mackay Regional Council
- Landholder Support Program—funded by Natural Environment Levy, Mackay Regional Council
- Nursery Optimisation Equipment—funded by DBCT
- Rainbow Rocks field trip—funded by Discover Sarina Festival
- Rubber Vine Control Project—funded by Reef Catchments
- Riparian Rehabilitation after Cyclone Debbie—funded by Community Sustainability Action Grants, QLD Government
- Stabilisation of Willie Creek—Aurizon

## Activities:

- Fiberglass model of Mt Funnel donated to Koumala State School
- Viewing platform constructed for Native Bee hive
- Working bee at Plane Creek Revegetation Site
- Clean Up Australia Day with Sarina Scouts Club
- SLCMA Display at Bendigo Bank, Porters Mitre 10, Sarina Kindy Open Day
- Community Tree Planting event—Willie Creek
- Under 8's display & activity at Alligator Creek School
- ABC Radio interviews—Free Plug Friday
- Community Strengthening Conference (Bendigo Bank)
- Healthy River to Reef—pledge to reduce waste

## Ongoing Projects:

- Upgrade of SLCMA Community Nursery irrigation system
- SLCMA signage for highway (southern boundary)



In closing, I'd like to say that it has been a very busy year for all of us. Both I and the Management Committee would like to thank you all for your patience and support throughout the past 12 months. There have been a few ups & downs, a few staff changes but still we soldiered on with a positive attitude.

I wish the new Chairperson and the newly elected Management Committee all the very best of luck with the future of SLCMA. We all hold our heads high and feel very proud of our achievements thus far and we know in our hearts that we are handing over SLCMA in much better condition than we found it,

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and safe new year. May you all find peace and happiness with your families.

Gloria Murray, Chairperson.

## Coordinator's Report

In July 2017, I stepped back into the role of Coordinator, after being away 2013 -2016. Being part-time has been challenging but with the support of our small team and the management committee, we have been able to deliver a diverse range of programs and projects within the Sarina Catchment. Ranging from support programs for our local landholders and volunteers and, educational programs for schools, to onground rehabilitation and pest control projects and much more. These projects can only happen by working together as a team and maintaining our strong partnerships with local Councils, working groups, project partners, other community and special interest groups and local businesses.

Thankyou to our volunteers, members and community for your ongoing support and interest in participating in Landcare activities and events. A big thankyou also to our project partners Mackay Regional Council, Reef Catchments, Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal Pty Ltd and Sarina Branch Bendigo Bank for your ongoing support.

We have had some staff vacancies throughout the year, with Nursery Officer Sandy leaving in June 2018 and Administration Officer, Nadine leaving in August 2018. I would like to thank them both for their contributions to SLCMA and our time working together. I would also like to thank the current management committee members for their contribution to SLCMA, as they step down at this pending AGM.

In addition, I would like to welcome the new year ahead with new staff and management committee joining the SLCMA team.

All the best,

Saskia von Fahland, Coordinator.



# Organisational Objectives

The objectives of Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association Inc. 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.



## 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.

## 2017/18 Management Committee Members and Staff

### Management Committee Members:

<b>Chair</b>	Gloria Murray
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Greg Melvin
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jen Price
<b>Secretary</b>	Chris Brown

### Staff:

<b>Coordinator</b>	Saskia von Fahland
<b>Administration Officer</b>	Nadine Hamill (to 30 July 2018) Kristy Thomsett (from 17 September 2018)
<b>Nursery Officer</b>	Sandy Whittington-Shaw (to 30 June 2018)



L-R: Greg, Jenny and Gloria

L-R: Saskia, Nadine and Sandy





## SLCMA Membership benefits!



A membership with SLCMA has many rewards:

- ◇ Easy access to Natural Resource Management information and extension
- ◇ Monthly newsletter, meeting minutes, progress and project reports
- ◇ A vote on issues in your catchment
- ◇ A say in the types of projects applied for
- ◇ Up to 10 free local native seedlings from the SLCMA Community Nursery each year
- ◇ Invitations to Natural Resource Management bus tours, field days and workshops

## SLCMA Membership 2017/18

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 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.	16
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	38
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	98
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.	6

## Communication & publications

- **SLCMA Catchment News** is distributed monthly to approximately 300 recipients. The newsletter is a great way for members to keep up-to-date with available funding, workshops, field days, volunteer opportunities and the latest in natural resource management news.
- **SLCMA website and facebook page** are a great way for the community and members to keep up-to-date with what is happening in our catchment.
- **SLCMA Calendar 2018** was well received by members, schools and volunteers. It is a great opportunity to showcase places of interest and critters from around the catchment. It also includes important dates such as meetings, environmental awareness events and cattle sales. *Thankyou to Mackay Regional Council, Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal PTY LTD and Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal Management for their contribution towards the printing costs.*
- **SLCMA General meetings** were held throughout the year. The meetings are an opportunity for members and the community to discuss and learn more about Landcare related topics, local issues and solutions. A big thankyou to our guest speaker, Phil Trendell who provided an informative talk about the "Water Treatment Train" at our May meeting.



## SLCMA Community Nursery

The SLCMA Community Nursery (established in 2003) is utilised as a training facility for the community and a base for the SLCMA Community Volunteer Program - to learn about native plants, plant propagation and general nursery practices. It also allows for the propagation of local native plants for local and regional rehabilitation projects, community projects, gardens and landscaping. The facility includes a water treatment

Throughout the year, the facility has been utilised by a number of groups including:

- ◆ Sarina Scouts Club to assist Scouts members to achieve their environmental badge
- ◆ Sarina State High School Conservation Club to learn about the Sarina Catchment and native plants
- ◆ SSHS Biology classes to provide hands on experience in a range of propagation techniques.



With the assistance of our volunteers, the nursery has produced over 8000 native plants throughout the year, which has provided plants to our Landcare Members plant allocations (up to 10 free native plants per member per year), Land for Wildlife program and projects such as rehabilitation of Willie and Westhill Creeks. We also continue to sell plants to the community, with the funds raised, put back in, to support the running costs of the nursery.

We continue to seek as many new local species to propagate and further diversify our species list. Our aim is to keep increasing our species availability and to keep supplying demand for quality, locally adapted plants. Thankyou to the Landholders who have given us permission to collect seed on their property and to some of you who have brought seed in throughout the year.

The facility also includes a demonstration "Water Treatment Train" which has been used as an educational tool for stakeholders and school students throughout the year to demonstrate how wetlands (both constructed and natural) can be used to 'treat' water. The "Water Treatment Train" was installed in 2017 in collaboration with Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF). It consists of 4 connected chambers with local native water plants and educational signage.

A big thankyou to our volunteers who assist staff on a weekly basis to keep our seedbank full and tend to the plants in the nursery. Also thankyou to volunteers Merv Murray, Greg Melvin and BJ who have assisted with various improvements such as mending the shadehouse, installing ventilation into the shed and modifying the gate to the Water Treatment Train.

We have had many visitors to the nursery throughout the year all of whom have provided positive feedback about the facility and are impressed with the opportunities it provides for the Sarina community, both socially and environmentally.



## Program & project updates:

### SLCMA Community Volunteer Program

The SLCMA Community Volunteer Program is now in its 15th year. A big thankyou to all our volunteers past and present. This year we have welcomed a few new volunteers and continued to enjoy the company of our long-standing volunteers. A big thankyou to our volunteer team who have continued their dedication, coming along every Wednesday, 9am—12noon.

The volunteers mainly operate in the SLCMA Community Nursery undertaking cleaning and sowing seeds, potting up seedlings and of course, weeding. They have also been on a number of plant identification and seed collecting trips around the catchment including Freshwater Point, Salonika Beach, Plane Creek and to landholder properties.

A particular highlight for the year was joining Aurizon staff and landholders for a community planting event along the banks of Willie Creek. This was a great opportunity for the volunteers to be a part of the whole process from seed collection and propagation to planting, as well as work alongside other community members.

The volunteer program continues to be a great opportunity for volunteers to meet new people and learn about native plants and their propagation. Thank you to Sandy, our Nursery Officer who finished up with SLCMA in July and to Nadine for being our interim Nursery Supervisor - for looking after the SLCMA Community Volunteers, throughout the year. The SLCMA Community Volunteer Program receives much appreciated support from the Mackay Regional Council, Natural Environment Levy.





## Sarina Community Native Gardens

In 2009 we began the journey of transforming an area of lawn adjacent to the SLCMA Office, into the Sarina Community Native Gardens. The purpose of the gardens is to demonstrate and promote the use of native plant in gardens and landscaping situations as well as provide an educational opportunity for locals & visitors to learn about local native plants, their benefits & uses in various situations.

The changes over the last nine years have been amazing with many of the plants now flowering, seeding and providing habitat for a variety of native birds and wildlife. Over the time, we have achieved many milestones including the installation and extension of a seasonal wetland, walking track, boardwalk and themed gardens including the sensory gardens and local habitats. A highlight was the official opening in 2013 by gardening guru, Costa Georgiadis.

This year has also had its highlights including the installation of a small sitting knoll for when we give tours to visitors and school groups and, the levelling of parts of the gardens to help with accessibility and maintenance during the wet season – a big thankyou to Tuka and the Mackay Regional Council Revegetation Team for making this happen.



Despite the dry weather lasting for the majority of the year, the gardens are looking good with assistance from volunteer Peter, who continues to dedicate his time to maintaining the gardens particularly keeping up with regular pruning, weeding and mulching.

We have had a few visitors to the gardens this year including the Sarina Scouts Club, Sarina State High School students and landholders. We look forward to the possibilities and opportunities to develop the gardens further into the future and utilise it to its full potential.

## Land for Wildlife Program

The Land for Wildlife program is a voluntary program that recognises landholders who are making a significant effort to encourage and provide habitat for wildlife on their properties. This is achieved by conserving and actively managing habitat as well as integrating nature conservation with other land uses such as agriculture, grazing or tourism.



This year we have welcomed new members to the program and supported existing members through property visits. Landholders participating in the program, receive a number of benefits including; 20 free native plants per year, land management advice and links to resources, re-visits to registered properties, invitations to field days and workshops, quarterly regional newsletter and opportunity to communicate with other members of the LfW program via a 'closed' facebook page.

The Land for Wildlife program is delivered within the Mackay Regional Council boundaries of the Sarina Catchment by SLCMA and the Pioneer Catchment by Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group (PCL); on behalf of the Mackay Regional Council Natural Environment Program. This coordinated approach provides consistency across the region and beneficial linkages to other complimentary projects and programs.

## Coordinated Feral Pig Control Program

SLCMA delivers the Coordinated Feral Pig Control Program across the Rocky Dam and Carmila Creek Catchments which is co-funded by Reef Catchments and private landholders. The success of the program is attributed to a coordinated approach with landholders and stakeholders including Plane Creek Productivity Services, Council, Mackay Regional Pest Management Group, Department of Agriculture & Fisheries. It also compliments and aligns with other similar control programs across the wider Mackay Whitsunday region.

The program engages with over 50 landholders across a range of landuses (cane, grazing & horticulture), who participate voluntarily in one or more of the control methods, at different times of the year and at varying levels. The different control methods include trapping (available for loan from SLCMA), baiting (with Council) and an annual aerial control event. The annual aerial control event was held in December 2017 with a follow up event one week later. Forty landholders across over one hundred properties and resulted in 179 feral pigs being controlled.

This year a survey was conducted with 40 landholders involved in the program. All the landholders involved agreed that over the last 9 years since the program started that there has been a reduction in pig numbers, reduction in damage to crops & sensitive environmental areas and that it is important to continue with 'sustained pressure' to keep the numbers as low as possible.

It is great that landholders are working together and recognise that a pig controlled a few kms away is still of benefit to them and their property. The coordinated approach allows for a large area of the catchment to be covered in a short space of time, increasing the potential to reduce feral pig numbers and hence reduce negative impacts on farming land and natural areas.



## Carmila Beach Reserve Weed Control

SLCMA has continued weed control activities at Carmila Beach Reserve in 17/18, with the intent to build on previous weed control and improve the condition of 14 ha of endangered coastal habitat within the reserve. There has been a significant improvement to the area with Prickly Pear and Lantana infestations almost eradicated and ongoing control of herbaceous and woody weeds being undertaken. The project also included photopoint monitoring and survey of the area. The area is significant as it contains two 'endangered' and one 'of concern' Regional Ecosystems and provides essential habitat for a number of listed 'endangered' and 'vulnerable' species. The project was funded through Reef Catchments.



## Cats Claw Creeper Project

SLCMA has continued to undertake monitoring and control measures to combat four known infestations of Cats Claw Creeper (*Dolichandra unguis-cati*) within the Sarina Catchment including Oakenden, Sarina township, sections of both Plane and Carmila Creeks. Control methods have included chemical, manual control. Monitoring has indicated that previous biocontrol used previously on one of the sites has made little difference to the health of the Cats Claw Creeper. The project aimed to increase local knowledge of the extent and impact of Cats Claw Creeper in the Sarina Catchment and help prevent its spread. This project was funded through Reef Catchments.



## Landholder Support Program

Through the Landholder Support Program, SLCMA was able to provide land management advice and extension support to local landholders, within the Sarina Catchment area of Mackay Regional Council. The aim of the program was to assist landholders make informed land management decisions and undertake onground works that will protect and enhance land capability, biodiversity, water quality and the natural environment.

The 12month project allowed for 5 new property visits including development of a property plan, provision of technical advice and/or links to other resources and programs including plant identification, weed management and biosecurity and follow-up support to 5 participating landholders through a 're-visit' including review of property plan and further technical advice.

SLCMA worked collaboratively with Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group who delivered the program within the Pioneer Catchment. The project was funded through Mackay Regional Council – Natural Environment Program.

## Riparian Rehabilitation after Cyclone Debbie

This three year project seeks to address damage to riparian areas within the Sarina Catchment, in particular areas affected by Cyclone Debbie in March 2017. The project aims to improve:

- ◆ The health of riparian areas and build resilience within the landscape
- ◆ Community awareness of the importance of riparian areas including habitat value, role in streambank health and water quality
- ◆ Community and landholder participation in rehabilitation activities along local creeks
- ◆ Landholder knowledge and capacity to protect and restore riparian areas

To date the project has included include SLCMA working alongside Mackay Regional Council and volunteers to undertake rehabilitation activities and community working bees at the Plane Creek Revegetation Site. The project site and associated works will be utilised to demonstrate the 'importance of riparian zones and use of rehabilitation techniques'. The other aspect of the project will involve engaging with local landholders and providing land management advice and native plants to assist with the stabilisation of local creeks on private property.

## Stabilising Willie Creek

The project was developed after landholders, Greg and Lynne Melvin contacted Landcare requested advice regarding damage to the banks of Willie Creek (which surrounds their property), from high water flow events. The project involved the planting of 1000 plants along vulnerable sections of the creek, with the aim to build resilience into the creekbank.

The site was also utilised as a demonstration site for creek bank stabilisation during a community planting event attended by volunteers, landholders and Aurizon staff. The event included a 'walk and talk' along the creek, touching on the history of the site and the role of native plants in creekbank stabilisation as well as planting over 100 plants. The project funded through Aurizon's Community Grant Giving Fund.





## Other projects and grants

- **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, support for local schools.
- **Solar and shade sails** *funded through Queensland Government Community Sustainability Action Grant.* The installation of a solar system for the SLCMA Office has made a big difference to the sustainability and energy efficiency of the SLCMA office. Thankyou to Energybase for working with us on the project. We also worked with Mackay Shade Sails to provide a sun-safe area for our volunteers, youth and community members while visiting and utilising the educational precinct.
- **Rubber vine Project** *funded through Reef Catchments.* SLCMA worked alongside Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group, Mackay Regional Council to identify and control local infestations of rubbervine, with the aim to control its spread and eradicate where possible.
- **Rehabilitation projects** at Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal facility. Throughout the year, we have continued to maintain a number of rehabilitation sites within the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal facility. It is great to continue our involvement in the projects and be able to see plants grown in the SLCMA Community Nursery, go back into the local environment. It has also been a great opportunity to strengthen our partnership with DBCT staff.
- **Raising awareness of Landcare within the Community** funded through Sarina Community Bank Branch Bendigo Bank Engagement Program. The project allowed us to design, purchase and install roadside signage to raise the profile of the Sarina Community Native Gardens and of SLCMA by defining the northern and southern boundaries of the Sarina Catchment area, in which we operate. To date, all signs except for the catchment sign for the southern boundary has been installed.
- **Rainbow Rocks Tour** *funded through Sarina Festival Committee.* SLCMA provided a guided walk to Mt Hector Conservation Park—an area known for its high scenic and natural values including: native vegetation, impressive coastal cliffs and 'rainbow' rock formations. The motto for the event was "take nothing but photos (& rubbish) and leave nothing but footprints".



## Supporting our local schools

SLCMA continues to provide support to our local schools, through the Landcare Support Project funded by Mackay Regional Council Natural Environment Program. This foundation funding provides SLCMA the capacity to support local schools for up to 5 days per year with support such as providing technical advice, delivering educational activities, assist teachers and students with resources and information and, seeking opportunities for additional funding for complimentary projects.

We were successful in seeking complimentary projects including:

- **Plants for schools** - funded through Bendigo Community Bank. SLCMA has been able to provide local schools with native plants and tree guard kits to enhance their school grounds &/or local community revegetation project; with the aim to improve biodiversity and our natural environment.
- **Green classroom** – funded through Aurizon Community Giving fund. Fifteen students from the Sarina State High School Conservation Club participated in Landcare activities across the catchment, over 10 weeks. The students from grades 8 through to 12, participated in rehabilitation activities including:
  - ⇒ Plant identification, seed collection, cleaning and propagation alongside the SLCMA Community Volunteers
  - ⇒ Guided tours of the SLCMA educational precinct including sustainable food garden, native bee hive and Sarina Community Native Garden and, Louisa Creek Reserve highlighting the importance and role of coastal vegetation and rehabilitation process
  - ⇒ Ongoing works at Sarina Beach with the Mackay Regional Council Revegetation Team and the Sarina Community Native Gardens.

Some highlights of the year include:

- **Sarina and District Community Kindergarten:** Planning and planting with students for Schools Tree Day
- **School Activity Day:** 130 students from three local primary schools participated in School Activity Days themed 'Caring for our coasts', in June 2018. The days were held at Sarina Beach and included hands-on, interactive, educational activities delivered by SLCMA and partners, Mackay & District Turtlewatch and Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.
- **Alligator Creek State School:** Year 1 & 2's coastal awareness activity morning. Supported by Mackay & District Turtlewatch and Mackay Regional Council Revegetation Team.





## Community partnerships:

### Central QLD Coast Landcare Network



SLCMA continues to work closely with the Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group and, Whitsunday Catchment Landcare via the Central QLD Coast Landcare Network (CQCLN). The network is valuable for sharing knowledge and resources, problem solving and developing projects and applying for funding.

Examples include:

- Updating of the Regional Landcare Photo Gallery through the shared CQCLN website. The activity was an initiative of Whitsunday Catchment Landcare and encouraged contributions from Landcare members from across the region. To date, 430 species have been included in the photo gallery.
- As part of the CQCLN, SLCMA worked with the other Landcare groups and the Regional Landcare Facilitator to host a tour of Freckle Farm for local landholders. The day included Landcare display, drone demonstration and farm biosecurity obligations. As well as a delicious lunch using local food and products. The event was funded through the Australian Government National Landcare Programme.

### Sarina Scouts Club



The Sarina Scouts Club and SLCMA have worked together over the last 12 months with the aim to help scout members gain their 'World Scout Environment Badge'. Scout members have participated in a range of Landcare activities such as:

- **Activity day:** The group of 27 enthusiastic participants (including parents and leaders) joined in a range of activities to gain an understanding of local issues and solutions relating to water quality, biodiversity and catchment health. The event began with a hands-on activity called the —River Storyll - demonstrating the link between landuse —potential impacts - and overall catchment health. This was followed by a tour of the educational precinct demonstrating local initiatives that promote and improve our natural environment. This included native bee hive, sustainable food garden, Sarina Community Native Gardens, wetland water treatment train and SLCMA Community Nursery. The group finished up by getting their hands dirty, potting-on 150 local native *Dianella* plants.
- **Clean Up Australia Day-** SLCMA joined forces with the Sarina Scouts Club for *Clean Up Australia Day* on 4th March, at the Plane Creek Revegetation Site. The team of 18 enthusiastic youth and adults collected over 7 bags of rubbish and some larger items including tin, pipes, a shopping trolley base and plastic chair. The main items were chocolate & chip packets, softdrink cans, broken glass and shopping bags. The hotspots for rubbish on the site was the roadside and two drain outlets that drain from the highway and nearby shopping carpark. Along with collecting rubbish, it was an opportunity for the participants to explore and learn about the history of the site. SLCMA would like to thank the Sarina Scouts for their involvement and we look forward to working with the club on local projects throughout the year. This event was made possible with funding from the Mackay Regional Council, Natural Environment Levy
- **SLCMA Community Volunteer Morning** - Scout members have attended some of the volunteer mornings to gain knowledge of native plant identification and propagation.

### Mackay Rotary Club and Landholders



SLCMA worked with landholders Marjorie & Anthony Ross and the Mackay Rotary Club to undertake a special revegetation project aimed to enhance koala habitat. The project was developed last year, after an injured koala was discovered on the family property. The koala was treated by a local vet and taken into care by a local wildlife carer, where she received much needed medical care, rest and rehabilitation. After almost 3 months, the koala was successfully released

close to where she was originally found - which was the site chosen for the revegetation project.

Participants enjoyed the morning with planting-guarding-mulching and watering 45 local native plants as well as a deserved delicious morning tea. The native plants selected for the project included a variety of koala fodder trees mainly *Eucalyptus species* as well as habitat trees suited to the local 'riparian' (creekbank) environment. Overtime, the Landholders plan to extend the project site with the aim to enhance the habitat for koalas and other wildlife using the area. The project is a part of the Rotary 'plant a million trees' initiative being implemented across Australia. And was supported by Mackay Regional Council Natural Environment Levy.

## Working Groups supported

SLCMA is proud to support the following working groups:

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



## Supporting Community Events

**Displays:** SLCMA was out & about with Landcare displays at a range of locations and events throughout the year including:

- Sarina Community Bendigo Bank for the month of May (2018)
- Porters Mitre 10 – Winter plant sale
- Sarina & District Community Kindergarten Open Day
- Freckle Farm – Landholder day
- Alligator Creek State School – Under 8's Day



**Coastcare Week** (December 2017): SLCMA joined project partners Mackay Regional Council, Reef Catchments, Conservation Volunteers Australia, Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group to offer a diverse range of interactive coastcare activities across the region, throughout Coastcare week.

**Great Northern Clean Up** (September 2018): SLCMA supported Mackay Regional Council in the 'Great Northern Clean Up' by facilitating a community clean up event at the Plane Creek Revegetation Site.

**Schools National Tree Day** (July 2018): SLCMA assisted students from Sarina & District Community Kindergarten to enhance their gardens with 20 native plants. It was a team effort, with *Mackay Regional Council Natural Environment Program* supporting the event and the *Sarina Community Bank Branch Bendigo Bank Engagement Program* sponsoring the native plants propagated in the SLCMA Community Nursery.



## SLCMA is supported by:



37 Broad Street, Sarina  
Phone: 07 4943 2634

