



## **Vision and Goals**

To promote the planned and sustainable management of the O'Connell/Andromache, Proserpine and Gregory river catchments in a constructive and balanced way by actions such as promoting ecologically sustainable development, developing catchment management strategies, involving the community in NRM decision making, and promoting of the value of a coordinated catchment-wide approach for managing natural resources.

## **Acknowledgement of Country**

Whitsunday Catchment Landcare acknowledges the Gia and Ngaro people, Traditional Custodians of this land and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

## STAFF:

Coordinator: Christine Peterson  
Landcare Officer: Joseph Trigger  
Admin Officer: Leigh Donkers  
Nursery Manager: Nicole Murphy

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

Graham Armstrong, Chair  
Jacquie Sheils, Secretary  
Glenda Hodgson, Treasurer  
John Casey (Canegrowers Proserpine)  
Cr Gary Simpson  
(Whitsunday Regional Council)  
Dale Mengel

[www.whitsundaylandcare.org.au](http://www.whitsundaylandcare.org.au)

## **Report Contents**

Page 2: Coordinator's Report;  
Community Nursery and  
Bushcare Volunteers  
Page 3 Littoral Rainforest  
Rehabilitation;  
Galbraith Creek  
Restoration;  
Grants;  
WCL Public Fund;  
Marine Debris Monitoring;  
Page 4: Activities Summary  
Page 5: Working Groups;  
Acknowledgements

## **Chairperson's Report**

The year has been full of activity and achievement and our financial position has essentially been maintained. A very hearty thanks to all of WCL's employees, volunteers and supporters including of course the members of the Management Committee who deliberate on how to expend our energies and funds throughout the year. A special thankyou to our Coordinator, Christine Peterson as she gathered up the reins to secure ongoing projects and direct the organisation's efforts in fulfilling our many obligations and aspirations.



Without going into detail, our growing membership, currently at 67, can be reassured that our resources have been deployed across many fronts.

During the year WCL has been engaged in community education, weed control and land management, conservation of threatened ecosystems, removal of marine debris, native plant production and revegetation and developed plans to be involved in our first Citizen Science activity (Great Southern Bioblitz 2022 – Whitsunday Region).

*Graham Armstrong*

## **Whitsunday Catchment Landcare Inc.:**

- Is an Incorporated and Registered Environmental Organisation
- Is Registered with Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and is afforded Tax Deductible Gift recipient status from the Australian Taxation Office. WCL reports annually to the ACNC and the QLD Office of Fair Trading.
- Has been a Not-for-profit Community based organisation operating in the Whitsunday region since 1998.
- Has 67 members, over 36 registered volunteers and a newsletter subscribership of 300 people.
- WCL has a Management Committee of 6 members, which include community, local government and industry representatives.
- WCL also has a Public Fund that is administered by a Public Fund Committee of 5 members, acting independently of the WCL Management Committee

WCL is a member of the Central Qld Coast Landcare Network, a partnership for the natural resource management of catchments in the Central Qld Coast Bioregion: Pioneer, Sarina & Whitsunday Catchments.

## Coordinator's Report

2

*The year has been part set up and part catchup; with the retirement of Cath Campbell followed by my employment. There have been many projects in progress, some starting and some finishing, with all the associated submissions and reporting. WCL continues to offer quality services in coastal, riparian and bushland areas with grant funded contracts from Reef Catchments and North Qld Dry Tropics NRM groups. The quality of these services is due to the dedication of our staff and volunteers. We have consistently achieved more than required, particularly with regards to weed removal. This is a big win for our littoral rainforests in particular.*

*Chris Barbeler left our employment this year for a well earned break. His work ethic has been exemplary. Joseph Trigger joined us from northern NSW and fit in quickly and continued the great projects that Chris had started. Nicole Murphy continues to be busy with volunteers, nursery production and sales as well as providing information to land managers, gardeners and students, all in two short days per week. Nicole rarely has a chance to sit down on those days. Leigh Donkers has been an enormous help with her attention to detail or financial records and reporting. I mentioned volunteers earlier. They are worth mentioning again and again. Last year we had 36 registered regular volunteers in addition to our management committee of 6. Last year over 2900 hours were volunteered, equating to approximately \$122 000 worth of investment in time/ labour (as calculated by the Qld Government's Gambling Community Benefit Fund's in-kind acknowledgments). A special thank you to Graham Armstrong who has coordinated marine debris collection and monitoring as part of our work with Tangaroa Blue Foundation.*

*The next year will continue to be busy with a range of projects funded via grants as well as contracts, along with our continued riparian revegetation and nursery project work, funded by WCL via nursery sales and small fee for service contracts. I look forward to seeing the benefits of long term works on our various projects including Gloucester Beaches beach scrub and Galbraith Creek and other urban riparian regeneration as well as providing land management advice to landholders and community members in our catchment.*



Christine Peterson

## Community Nursery & Bushcare Volunteers

The nursery has continued to be an important hub for volunteers with Tuesday and Thursday mornings regularly attended in good numbers. 2151 volunteer hours were logged at the nursery last year. These hours are a benefit to our catchment as well as to the individuals who attend. The nursery provide a venue for learning about our native plants, about propagation as well as the ability to network with a people from a wide range of backgrounds. The nursery once again hosted students from Proserpine State High School, enabling them to participate in plant propagation from seed treatment to propagation to potting on as they visited through the year.

657 hours were logged for revegetation (tree planting and maintenance of existing sites) as well as weed control in bushland and coastal areas. Our regular volunteer activities enable a range of sites to be maintained or expanded at Gloucester Beaches and Galbraith Creek. One volunteer logged 389 hours on revegetation sites and continues to contribute significantly to the success of our works. Through our formal agreement with Qld Parks and Wildlife, our volunteers have also expanded into the national parks with their weed control activities.



450 trees were planted by WCL on National Tree Day and a further 200 donated to local schools for Schools Tree day. Local provenance plants have been made available to major revegetation works conducted by Reef Catchments as well as to local land managers who are rehabilitating their properties. The humble gardener too has been provided with a great choice of plants and sales at the nursery have been steadily increasing. All proceeds from these sales contribute to the ongoing costs at the nursery as well as supporting our on-ground works elsewhere.

## Littoral Rainforest Rehabilitation

We have continued long term work at Cape Gloucester (Hydeaway Bay, Dingo Beach and Nelly Bay). Revegetation works have been maintained regularly with irrigation and weed control. Patches of littoral rainforest/ beach scrub have been regularly weeded. The majority of this work includes hand removal of weeds or cutting/ scraping and careful application of herbicide. This is a labour intensive and our staff value the input from volunteers who attend when they can. 130 volunteer hours have been logged in these activities.



Gloucester Beaches works have been funded by a Qld Government's Community Sustainability Grant (\$31 440) as well as Threatened Ecological Communities funds via Reef Catchments (. Similar activities are conducted at Cape Upstart, Queens and Kings Beaches and surrounds; funded by Threatened Ecological Communities funds via NQ Dry Tropics NRM.

## Galbraith Creek Restoration Project

Rehabilitation of Galbraith Creek has continued with 450 plants added during National Tree day and more planned as part of the Reef Assist Program funded via Reef Catchments. Well over 420 volunteer hours have been logged at Galbraith this year.

Whitsunday Regional Council continues to support these works with provision of mulch free of charge and access to irrigation water.



## Grants

Australian Government Powering Communities (\$7500) - installed solar panels at our nursery.

Qld Government Gambling Community Benefit Fund (\$23935) - nursery upgrades of fencing, insulation, and lighting.

Australian Government Building Stronger Communities (\$10 000) - nursery irrigation systems upgrade and volunteer equipment.

Great Barrier Reef Foundation Community Action Planning (\$25070) - Turtle Protection at Cape Upstart and Bowen Beaches—this project has received an extension and will include activities in the Bowen area in addition to the originally planned Cape Upstart Station.

## WCL Public Fund

The WCL Public Fund provided funds to the Whitsunday Indian Myna Action Group to produce information flyers and book marks to increase community awareness and encourage active participation from the public with regards to this pest bird.

## Tangaroa Blue “Reef Clean “ Monitoring

WCL has participated in quarterly marine debris monitoring and clean up at Conway, Wilson's, and Queens Beach and the Don River. Approximately 70 volunteer hours have been invested. These works are funded by the Tangaroa Blue Foundation.



Program Area		Activities Summary	Funded by
Community	Revegetation and Seed Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintenance and extension of Galbraith Park Riparian Corridor, maintenance at Nelly Bay, Dingo Beach, Cape Upstart, Twin Creeks.</li> <li>Undertake regular site visits by volunteers for endemic seed collection and planting.</li> </ul>	Qld Government CSA Grant, WCL- Operating Reserves
	Public Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weed identification, control and sustainable land management information available at the events as well as at the WCL Community Nursery</li> <li>Newsletter, Facebook Page, Instagram and Website.</li> <li>Providing land management advice over the phone, by email, and in person at the nursery or on property</li> </ul>	WCL – Operating Reserves.
Volunteer	School and Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proserpine High School– Student visits to the nursery for 6 practical sessions in plant propagation.</li> <li>National Tree Day– Minor planting at Galbraith Park</li> <li>Donations of plants to Schools for NTD and School fetes (Merinda, St Catherines, Proserpine State School, Cannonvale State School)</li> </ul>	WCL Operating Reserves. Proserpine High School.
	Weed control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular site visits by volunteers to undertake bush regeneration activities through the removal of weeds and rubbish, managing irrigation, mowing edges of revegetation plots at Galbraith Park (419 hours)</li> <li>Weed control at 12 remnant Littoral rainforest site at Cape Gloucester (Hydeaway Bay, Dingo Beach, Nelly Bay) Kings Beach (2 sites) Queens Beach, Whitsunday Paradise, Cape Upstart 3 sites (130 hours)</li> </ul>	Qld Government CSA Grant, NQ Dry Tropics Contracts, WCL Operating Reserves.
Funding Generated	Community Nursery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Propagation of a wide variety of endemic plants for supply to the community and WCL revegetation projects. A total of 14,500 plants were sold this year.</li> <li>Broad selection of weed identification, control and sustainable land management information is available at the Community Nursery.</li> <li>160 Plants donated to Local schools, National Tree day events&amp; community groups.</li> </ul>	WCL Operating Reserves.
	Volunteer Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Twice weekly events at the community nursery–plant propagation, seed processing &amp; revegetation site maintenance– a total of 2151 volunteer hours dedicated to the Community Nursery.</li> <li>Site visits to: public reserves to collect seed, undertake revegetation projects and maintenance of Galbraith Park Riparian Corridor, Cape Gloucester -Dingo Beach &amp; Nelly Bay, Twin Creeks –seed collecting, revegetation &amp; revegetation maintenance. Site visit to undertake planting on one of our volunteers property Annual Christmas Lunch at Cape Gloucester Eco Resort</li> <li>WHS– all new volunteers undertake a workplace safety induction when volunteering with WCL</li> </ul>	WCL-Operating Reserves.
Funding Generated	Contract works and Plant sales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WCL– Land Management Advice; Weed control equipment hire;</li> <li>Revegetation &amp; site maintenance contracts-Whitsunday Paradise, Kings Beach, Queens Beach, Cape Upstart Station- NQ Dry Tropics. Twin Creeks revegetation.</li> <li>Plant Sales- 14,366 plant sold form the WCL Community Nursery</li> <li>Reef Assist Program– Reef Catchments contract to employ 2 .5 full-time equivalent positions for a 12 month period. Project sites included—Cats Claw Creeper, Exotic Dutchman's Pipe, Prickly Pear Control.</li> <li>Reef Clean– Beach cleans at Conway &amp; Wilsons Beach– Tangaroa Blue</li> </ul>	Reef Catchments, NQ Dry Tropics, Whitsunday Regional Council, Private Sales.

## Working Groups/ Committees

- Central Qld Coast Landcare Network
- Whitsunday Pest Management Committee
- Mackay Regional Pest Management Group
- WCL Public Fund Committee
- Healthy Rivers to Reef

---

## Acknowledgments

- Federal and State Governments Grants programs that support Environmental projects and Volunteer support grants.
- Whitsunday Regional Council for provision of irrigation and mulch at our revegetation sites and for your support of our community nursery and volunteer base via discounted rates.
- Reef Catchments for continued support toward work in our beach scrubs and riparian zones.
- NQ Dry Tropics for support of beach scrub work.
- Canegrowers for their continuing support via generous provision of their boardroom for our General meetings.
- Kapow Interactive for their ongoing support for the Central Queensland Landcare Network and WCL.
- Bendigo Bank– Cannonvale for their help in the financial management of WCL.
- Irrigear Whitsundays for their generous discounts and assistance with equipment, irrigation at the nursery and revegetation sites.
- Cannonvale Fire Protection for keeping our fire extinguishers up to date – Thank you Nigel.

