



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 (all part-time):

Coordinator: Christine Peterson
Admin Officer: Leigh Donkers
Nursery Manager: Nicole Murphy
Field Officers: Kayla Simpson and Brodie Reynolds

Management Committee:

Frank Millar, Chair
Jacquie Sheils, Secretary
Cath Campbell, Treasurer
John Casey (Canegrowers Proserpine)
Cr Gary Simpson
(Whitsunday Regional Council)
Dale Mengel



A Word from the Chair

It has been less than a year since I became Chairperson of WCL. In that time I have met many dedicated volunteers and staff with strong interests in our natural resources and environment. I'd like to thank my fellow management committee members for their time and expertise throughout the year and for welcoming the new guy. In particular, thank you to Cath Campbell for writing our newsletter and assisting with the membership register.



This last year has seen some downsizing of our organisation with regards to staffing and projects. Some multiple-year contracts have recently come to completion, along with the funds they provided for their works. I'd like to thank our current staff and those who have moved on to the next phase of their lives for their contribution to the organisation and the excellent field work along our coasts and in our bushland. This field work, which contributes greatly to our beautiful region, would not be as successful without the volunteers who accompany our staff on some of the expeditions and the volunteers who conduct plenty of work without staff present. Working together creates better results and better experiences. This organisation also wouldn't be what it is without those individuals that volunteer their time at the nursery - propagating plants, maintaining and repairing equipment and maintaining the grounds. On behalf of the entire committee, thank you.

Of course, in addition to the hard work involved, there are our sponsors, grant bodies and project partners that are vital for our project works. I would like to thank: Whitsunday Regional Council; The Australian Government, and the Queensland Government and Reef Catchments.

The next year will bring some financial challenges for the organisation, with reduced funding throughout the sector. I have every confidence that through some strategic planning and dedicated work of the many volunteers throughout our organisation in various roles, WCL will continue to provide a positive contribution to our local environment and community.

Frank Millar

Whitsunday Catchment Landcare:

- Is an Incorporated not-for-profit community based organisation that has been operating in the Whitsunday region since 1998.
- Is on the Register of Environmental Organisations
- 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 a Public Fund that is administered by a Public Fund Committee, acting independently of the WCL Management Committee
- Has 58 members, over 30 registered volunteers and 325 newsletter subscribers.

The nursery has continued to have regular attendance by new volunteers and some who have been with us for 15 years or more. 1543 volunteer hours were logged at the nursery last year. These hours are a benefit to our catchment, our community, our schools, as well as to the individuals who attend. There are plenty of studies worldwide that link well being to green spaces. The nursery has that green space, as well as plenty of social opportunities with people from all walks of life. The nursery also provides a venue for learning about our native plants and their propagation. The nursery once again assisted students from Proserpine State High School, enabling them to participate in plant propagation from seed treatment to propagation to potting, some of which was done at school and some of which was done on site at the nursery.

Our Bushcare volunteers logged 260 hours for weed control in bushland and coastal areas, allowing us to expand into new areas at Nelly Bay. Nearly 700 hours were logged for revegetation works. This has enabled us to not just maintain our years' worth of works, but to expand our rehabilitation of Galbraith Creek, with plantings of 800 more local native trees.

Local provenance plants have been made available to local schools as part of Schools Tree Day, revegetation works conducted by WCL, Reef Catchments and local landholders. Our nursery continues to expand its sales to the local gardener, not just those with large properties. All proceeds from these sales contribute to the ongoing costs at the nursery as well as supporting our on-ground works.



Galbraith Creek Restoration Project

Rehabilitation of Galbraith Creek has continued with three events planting 800 trees this year. Over 660 volunteer hours have been logged at Galbraith this year. These plantings received support from the Reef Assist Program. Whitsunday Regional Council continues to support these works with provision of mulch free of charge and access to irrigation water.



Above and right: aerial views of some of our latest and earliest plantings at Galbraith Creek.
Top right: dedicated volunteers and staff after site preparation leading up to planting. Photos: D. Young.
Drone imagery: M. Thomas, Reef Catchments.

Twin Creeks Restoration Project

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Revegetation was continued at Twin Creeks, Cannonvale with 800 trees and shrubs planted. This planting was made possible by the Reef Assist Program.

The RAP 2.0 - Mackay Whitsunday Streambank Stewardship Program project is funded by Reef Catchments through the Queensland Reef Water Quality Program and delivered in the Whitsunday region by Whitsunday Catchment Landcare.

Littoral Rainforest Rehabilitation - Looking After our Beach Scrub

We have continued long term work in our local beach scrub at Cape Gloucester (Hydeaway Bay, Dingo Beach and Nelly Bay). Previous revegetation works have been regularly weeded. Patches of littoral beach scrub have been regularly weeded. The majority of this work includes removing of weeds by hand or cutting/ scraping and careful application of herbicide. This is a labour intensive and requires a lot of volunteer input. 134 volunteer hours have been logged in these activities.

There are no current grant or contract funds for these works. WCL will continue with staff time where we can help and coordinate volunteer efforts to continue this important work.

Gloucester Beaches works from 2019 to 2023 were funded by a Qld Government's Community Sustainability Grant (\$31 440) as well as Threatened Ecological Communities funds via Reef Catchments.



Top left - trees planted at Dingo Beach. Top right: Dingo Beach beach scrub where works have been conducted. Bottom left - Nelly Bay Beach Scrub. Bottom right - Rover Scouts visiting from Melbourne lending a hand with weed control at Nelly Bay. Photos by K. Simpson. Drone images by M. Thomas, Reef Catchments.

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 40 volunteer hours have been invested. A special thank you to Graham and Jan Armstrong who put so many hours into this project over the years. These works are funded by the Tangaroa Blue Foundation.

Photos of our dedicated Reef Clean volunteers by K. Simpson



Citizen Science

This year was our first foray into some Citizen Science as a group, participating in the Great Southern Bioblitz in late 2022. Many thanks to Graham Armstrong for encouraging and assisting with this, especially with our use of the platform iNaturalist. We hope to continue activities to and encourage increased awareness of our biodiversity.

Grants

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

Great Barrier Reef Foundation Community Action Planning (\$25070) - Turtle Protection at Cape Upstart and Bowen Beaches—this project has received an extension to June 2024 and will include activities in the Cape Gloucester Beaches area to assist with raising community awareness of impacts of lighting and beach use on turtles. It will include recruiting volunteers to monitor nesting activity.

Australian Government Stronger Communities Program (\$10 000) - irrigation upgrades and equipment at the nursery.

Working Groups/ Committees/ Affiliations

- Central Qld Coast Landcare Network, a partnership for the natural resource management of catchments in the Central Qld Coast Bioregion: Pioneer, Sarina & Whitsunday Catchments
- Whitsunday Pest Management Committee and Mackay Regional Pest Management Group
- Healthy Rivers to Reef
- WCL is a member of Queensland Water and Landcare Carers



More Nelly Bay Beach Scrub. Photo: C. Peterson

Program Area		Activities Summary	Funded by
Community	Revegetation and Seed Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance and extension of Galbraith Creek Riparian Corridor, maintenance at Nelly Bay, Dingo Beach, Cape Upstart, Twin Creeks. Site visits undertaken by volunteers for endemic seed collection and planting. 	Qld Government CSA Grant, WCL-Operating Reserves
	Public Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weed identification, control and sustainable land management information available at the events as well as at the WCL Community Nursery. Small properties animal health and weed control workshop—funded by Reef Catchments through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program. Newsletter, Facebook Page, Instagram and Website. Providing land management advice over the phone, by email, and in person at the nursery or on property 	WCL— Operating Reserves.
	School and Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proserpine High School— Student visits to the nursery and provision of materials for school based followup of practical propagation. Donations of plants to Schools for NTD and School fetes (St Catherines, Proserpine State School, Cannonvale State School) 	WCL Operating Reserves. Proserpine High School.
	Weed control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 (422 hours) 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 (190 hours) 	Qld Government CSA Grant, NQ Dry Tropics Contracts, WCL Operating Reserves.
Volunteer	Community Nursery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propagation of a wide variety of endemic plants for supply to the community and WCL revegetation projects. A total of 12 348 plants were sold or used in revegetation this year. Broad selection of weed identification, control and sustainable land management information is available at the Community Nursery. 180 Plants donated to Local schools for National Tree Day events. 	WCL Operating Reserves.
	Volunteer Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Twice weekly events at the community nursery—plant propagation, seed processing & revegetation site maintenance— a total of 1543 volunteer hours dedicated to the Community Nursery. Site visits to: public reserves to collect seed, undertake revegetation projects and maintenance of Galbraith Park Riparian Corridor, Cape Gloucester -Dingo Beach & Nelly Bay, Twin Creeks —seed collecting, revegetation & revegetation maintenance. WHS— all new volunteers undertake a workplace safety induction when volunteering with WCL 	WCL-Operating Reserves.
Funding Obtained	Contract works and Plant sales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revegetation & site maintenance contracts-Whitsunday Paradise, Kings Beach, Queens Beach, Cape Upstart Station- NQ Dry Tropics - contracts completed. Plant Sales— 12 348 plants sold form the WCL Community Nursery, with an increasing number of retail sales to the home gardener. Reef Assist Program 2.0 – Reef Catchments contract enabling the employ of 2 part-time field staff to October 2024. Project sites include - Galbraith Creek, Twin Creeks Cannonvale, Brandy Creek and Crofton Creek Catchments. Reef Clean— Beach cleans at Conway, Wilsons and Queens Beaches and the Don River Mouth – Tangaroo Blue Foundation. 	Reef Catchments, NQ Dry Tropics, Whitsunday Regional Council, Private Sales.

Acknowledgments

- Federal and State Governments Grants programs that support Environmental projects and Volunteer support grants.
- The RAP 2.0 - Mackay Whitsunday Streambank Stewardship Program project is funded by Reef Catchments through the Queensland Reef Water Quality Program and delivered in the Whitsunday region by Whitsunday Catchment Landcare
- Whitsunday Regional Council for: provision of irrigation and mulch at our revegetation sites; a donation toward our fees for dumping noxious weeds and marine debris at the landfill; and 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 and support of engagement with our landholder via Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator funding
- NQ Dry Tropics for support of our beach scrub work in Bowen and at Cape Upstart Station.
- Canegrowers Proserpine for their continuing support via provision of their boardroom for our meetings.
- Kapow Interactive for their ongoing support for the Central Queensland Landcare Network and WCL.
- Irrigear Whitsundays for their generous advice, assistance and discounts with equipment, and irrigation at the nursery and revegetation sites.
- Cannonvale Fire Protection for keeping our fire extinguishers up to date – Thank you Nigel.
- The many member of the public that donate to our Public Fund via GiveNow or Containers for Change

