

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

Our Vision

Our community working together to ensure sustainable development and protection of our natural resources and the preservation and rehabilitation of habitat for native flora and fauna.

Management Committee

Jacquie Sheils, Chair

Jim Dickens, Treasurer

Christine Peterson, Secretary

Bill Blair, Canegrowers Proserpine

John Casey

Dale Mengel

Paul Jukes

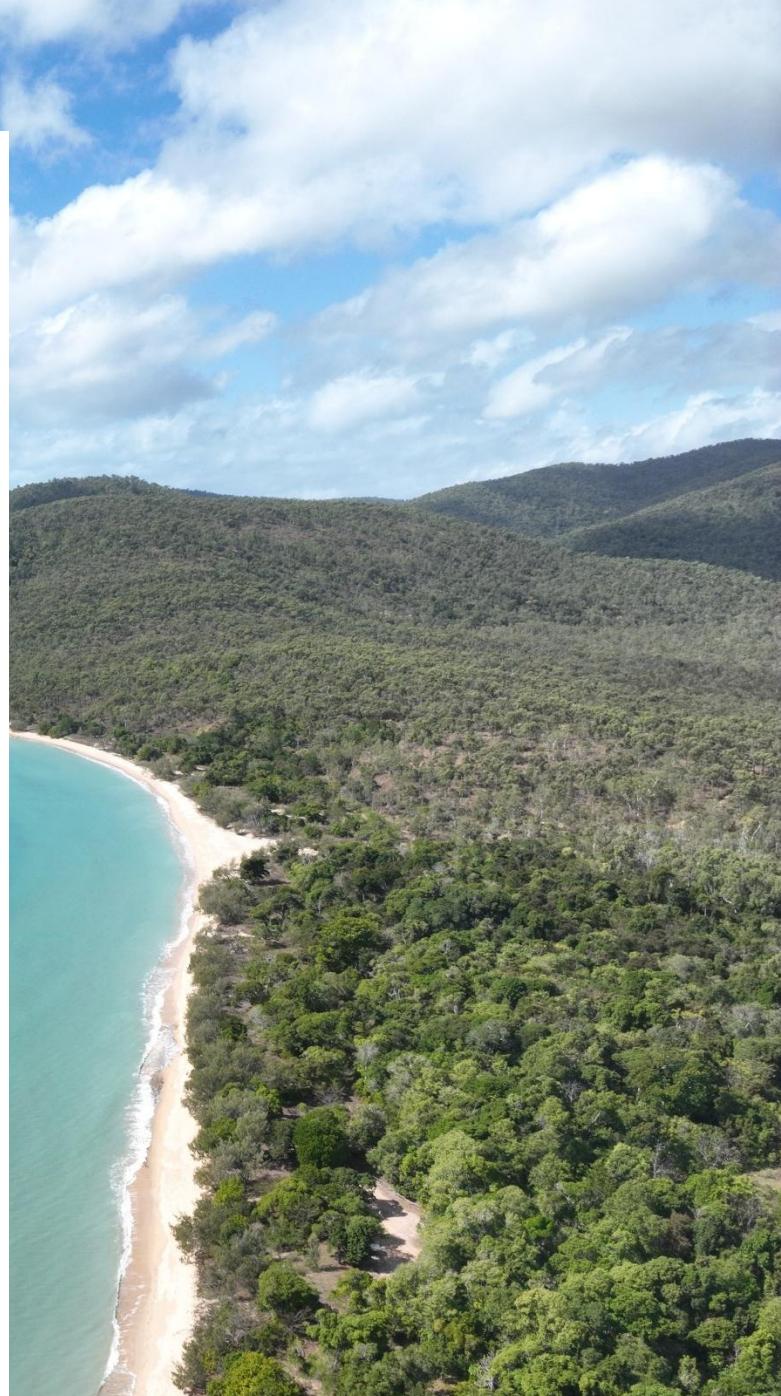
Acknowledgement of Country

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

Whitsunday Catchment Landcare Inc.

Part of the Whitsunday Community since 1998.

www.whitsundaylandcare.org.au



From the Chair

2025 has been a very busy year for Whitsunday Catchment Landcare. Here are some highlights:

October 2025 saw the completion of the long-running (6 years) Reef Assist Program (Mackay Whitsunday Streambank Stewardship Program) funded by the Queensland Government, which Reef Catchments contracted WCL to deliver in our region. This enabled us to continue revegetation at Waite Creek and Twin Creeks as well as to complete our revegetation of the creeks at Galbraith Park. WCL would like to thank our staff, particularly the field team members over the year, Kayla, Rory, Enrico, Juhani, and Denise, as well as all our volunteers, for their efforts in helping to complete this work, often in trying conditions. In particular, we are very grateful to Jim and Dave, who put in many hours and were key to the success of these plantings. If you have not been there recently, take a walk along Beames Creek and you will see the amazing results of their hard work. This has been such a large part of what WCL has achieved over the years that I compiled a history of Galbraith Park which spanned several newsletters. If you haven't read them and are curious about start to finish, I encourage you to seek them out.

As I write, the Galbraith Park Masterplan is open to public comments. WCL looks forward to new opportunities to enhance and build on the established plantings as this park becomes a welcome refuge for people and wildlife, as busy urban Cannonvale expands into Cannonvalley. We hope to partner with Whitsunday Regional Council in future educational activities and amenity plantings planned for Galbraith Park as the new Masterplan is implemented.

We have continued our long-running work in the Littoral rainforest at Nelly Bay with regular weed removal activities and educational walks there in 2025. Some of these visits were funded with a grant from Aurizon.

Revegetation works have been conducted on the narrow coastal land adjacent to Coral Esplanade with funding from a Queensland Government Community Sustainability Grant and support from Whitsunday Regional Council.

Landcare assisted Eco Barge Clean Seas in establishing new revegetation plantings and infill into existing plantings around Eco HQ in Jubilee Pocket. Despite the best efforts of their resident bush-turkeys, the new plants are doing well, and we look forward to seeing them flourish.

Ark Energy generously donated a new seed fridge to expand the capacity of our local provenance seed bank, and a complete set of new plastic-topped commercial nursery benches for our main shadehouse, replacing old, corroded steel ones. The new benches are a better height (for many of us!), and the nice smooth plastic top makes sliding trays so much easier.

The Lions Clubs of Australia Green Canopy project aims to enable the planting of one million trees around Australia and PNG by June 2027. As part of this project, Whitsunday Lions Club generously doubled the number of plants for local community members for revegetation, by funding a 2-for-the-price-of-1 deal for our nursery customers this year. This project will be running again in the New Year. Proserpine Lions club generously funded a new fridge for our volunteer kitchen, after the long-

serving original one died and the 'new' secondhand replacement went the same way soon after. It arrived the same day, saving the essentials for those fantastic morning teas!

Thanks to the Gambling Community Benefit Fund, construction of our new multi-purpose shed with an accessible toilet/ bathroom and office space is nearly complete. After a few hitches during construction, especially long rain delays, the shed is up and the interior fit-out will be complete soon. We look forward to the new options this area will provide for holding more events and allowing more people to get involved in our activities at the nursery.

We were successful in getting the Whitsunday Regional Council Special Projects Grant, to add further improvements to the nursery facilities, including some repairs and a new air conditioner for Nicole's office. Also funded by this grant and on the way, are shade sails around the new shed, table tops to turn old nursery tables into new worktables, and much-needed new interior lights for the nursery donga.

We have recently moved the WCL office. For the first time all our staff and volunteers are based at the nursery. We look forward to more frequent interaction between staff and volunteers and new opportunities that this might bring. I'd like to thank Christine and Leigh at this point, having been working away at vital tasks for the organization and projects from a distance.

The community nursery continues to be central to our activities, and I would like to thank Nicole, who has kept the nursery looking terrific and is a steady hand on the tiller, as we all beaver away at the many

different tasks involved in keeping the nursery going. Her patience and calmness in the midst of a sea of frantic activity is much appreciated! We have been pleased with the response to our opening for sales for an extra Saturday morning each month: many thanks to the volunteers who have made this possible.

Next year we will be looking for more opportunities to be involved in community activities and education related to our special local native plants and habitats, and we hope to see you at the Community Nursery sometime soon!

In the meantime, have a peaceful and safe Christmas and New Year and let's hope for some good rain soon (but not too much...).

Regards,
Jacquie Sheils





2594
native plants
established

640 kg
weeds
disposed of
off-site

2426
plants to
other reveg.
works

Information
and plants to
local schools

4185
plants to
local
gardeners

Finances

The 2024-25 financial year saw an increase in both income and expenditure compared with the previous year. This is primarily due to our successful application to the Gambling Community Benefit Fund for construction of an accessible shed, valued at almost \$100 000. The breakdown of revenue: Contract Income, \$207 500; Grants \$88 500; Plant sales \$29 994; Commercial services \$6 996. Major Expenses included Wages and Superannuation \$199 432 in support of 7 staff, \$59 829 on shed construction and \$28 225 on site preparation and revegetation works. Moving into the 2025-26 financial year is indicating reductions in funding all round. This will provide challenges, and we will need to seek opportunities accordingly.

Jim Dickens, Treasurer.

Our Volunteer Numbers

WCL Volunteer Contributions for 2024/25		
Hours	Tasks	Value
2611	Nursery - seed collection and sorting, plant propagation, nursery maintenance, sales.	\$112 978
86	Bushcare - tree planting, including site preparation, bush regeneration, coastal weed control.	\$3 721
668	Galbraith Creek - revegetation maintenance, bush regeneration in establishing forest, pruning/thinning, edge trimming.	\$28 904
160	Marine debris collection and monitoring	\$6 923
3525	Total volunteer hours and labour value for 2024/25 Based on \$43.27/hr from Volunteering Queensland/ NSW Centre for Volunteering. The above does not include volunteer hours for newsletter production, funding applications, committee roles.	\$152 527





Our Team

Thank you to our dedicated staff for 2024-25, all of whom worked part-time but were full-time Landcarers: Coordinator Christine Peterson, Admin Officer Leigh Donkers, Nursery Manager Nicole Murphy, Field Team Kayla Simpson, Rory Richards, Enrico Bottero, and Juhani Sarkkinen.

A Thank You to Our Supporters

Ark Energy
Canegrowers Proserpine
Cannonvale Fire Protection
Filby's Motors
Kapow Interactive
Lions Club of Proserpine
Reef Catchments
Reef Star Cruises
Whitsunday Lions Club
Whitsunday Regional Council
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