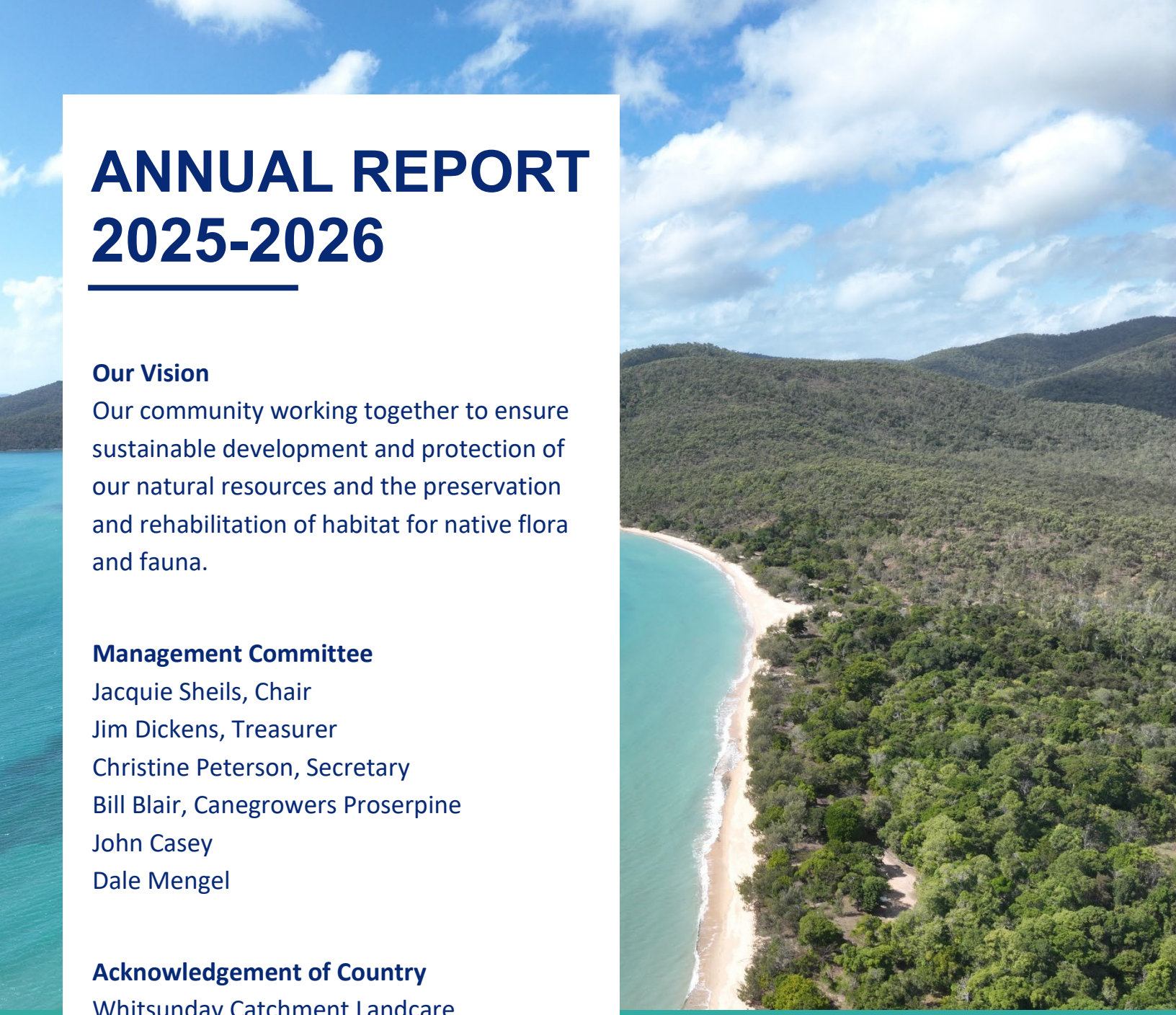


ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

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

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

Whitsunday Catchment Landcare

From the Chair

Once again, we have had a very busy year. Some highlights of the financial year as well as some more recent ones were:

The final plants for the Reef Assist Program went in November 2025, with a total of 1957 plants for the year: the breakdown was Twin Creeks/ Waite Creek -161 plants, Waite Ck/ Parker Road - 480 plants and Beames/ Galbraith Creeks - 1316 trees. The planting crew at the time were Kayla, Denise, Enrico and Juhani, assisted by WCL volunteers. Right now, these trees are starting to provide some shade and look terrific.

In December 2025, WCL participated in consultation with Whitsunday Regional Council on the Galbraith Park Masterplan, which has now been finalized and the first stage of the library construction is underway.

In December 2025 the Proserpine Lions Club very kindly donated a new fridge for the volunteer's morning teas, when the old one decided it couldn't face another Queensland summer.

We had minimal effects from Tropical Cyclone Koji, which thankfully only reached category 2. Thanks to our volunteers who came out in the heat and helped stand and tidy up the young trees in our recent plantings at Galbraith Park. Eight months on and they look great.

This year marked 30 years of National Tree Day. We decided to showcase the Galbraith Park riparian revegetation project, where alongside Filbys Motors, we have had 13 National Tree Day plantings. The event was well attended by members, volunteers and members of the public; many thanks to everyone who came along on the day to make it a great success, including our long-time supporter Filbys Motors.

Our long-running work in the Littoral Rainforest at Nelly Bay has continued, with regular weed removal and seed collecting there this year, in preparation for the planting stages of the Threatened Ecological Communities project, funded by Reef Catchments via the Queensland Government Natural Resources Management Expansion Program. Revegetation of the old beach hut sites will start when proper rain arrives. As always, volunteers to help with the restoration there are most welcome.

Landcare has assisted Eco Barge Clean Seas in establishing revegetation around Eco HQ in Jubilee Pocket, and signage about the vegetation for an educational walk-through riparian rainforest. The faster growing pioneer trees are now approaching 4m in height and a closed tree canopy.

The Whitsunday Lions Club renewed their popular Green Canopy project in 2026. Lions Australia aims to enable the planting of one million trees around Australia and PNG by June 2027. Thanks to Whitsunday Lions we have been able to offer a 2-for-the-price-of-1 deal for locals, doubling the number of trees that they can plant.

Thanks to Whitsunday Regional Council's 'Special Projects' grant, we have been able to make improvements at the nursery this year, with the help of our hard-working 'construction' volunteers Jim and Elmer. These included:

- Shade sails over the entrances to the new shed to cool and extend the useable area and

a shade sail over the side window to reduce glare from the white garage
- fitting out the kitchen area with a timber bench, shelves, and splashback
- a rainwater tank for the new shed, and a pump & plumbing joining the 2 water tanks, to provide a back-up water supply for plants in the case of a mains water outage, and to help reduce our mains water usage.
- repairs and a new split-system aircon for Nicole's office
- some new table tops for volunteer work tables.

This year we were successful in getting a Grassroots Environmental Grant from the Queensland Government to upgrade the irrigation at the nursery and replace old water lines which have reached the end of their lives, with longer-lasting ones, to prevent leaks and help reduce our water use.

We were also successful in obtaining a grant from the Environmental Cleanup and Local Conservation Program funded by the Australian and Queensland Governments, to carry out riparian revegetation on a site on the Proserpine River behind the Council water treatment plant. Most of these plants are now in.

The community nursery is still the heart of WCL operations and Nicole has been very busy coordinating volunteers, looking after plants, preparing plant orders and helping customers. Her good humour, capability and steady contribution to keeping things on track is much appreciated by all.

Many thanks also to our Saturday morning volunteers, who enable us to open during the weekend, allowing more people access to the nursery. Anyone who would like to join the roster is welcome.

We have continued to work on the Reefclean program with Tangaroa Blue; many thanks to the members of the community and regular volunteers who have helped our staff with the quarterly beach transects and marine debris removal.

Thanks to all the management committee for giving their time to attend our meetings; without volunteer committee members we have no organization. I especially would like to thank our outgoing Treasurer, Jim Dickens, who has been Treasurer for 5 years all together, and is stepping down this year. He has also done so many other things for WCL that I can't list them all, including guiding revegetation and building projects; his experience and knowledge are invaluable. Many thanks Jim.

Soon our long-serving volunteers Jan and Graham Armstrong will be leaving us. They will be greatly missed by our Landcare community. Graham served as Chair of WCL for nine years and has been our resident reptile guru, and Jan has been a regular volunteer at the nursery and served as Secretary. Both have been involved in revegetation and bush regeneration projects year after year. Many thanks to them both for all of the work that they have done for WCL on the committee, planting trees and in the nursery; we wish them all the best for their new lives down south.

Thanks to our Coordinator Christine Peterson who has deftly juggled many balls to keep things on track, and Book-keeper Leigh for her hard work and efficiency. Thanks to our field crew who endure tough conditions to make it all happen on the ground, and to the volunteers who have worked alongside them.

Thanks to the nursery volunteers, who have contributed an estimated staggering 2667 hours to WCL this year and produced over 15 000 native plants for the community and revegetation; without them there is no Whitsunday Landcare.

As the demands on our time and attention multiply, it's harder for people to find spare time to contribute to community volunteer organisations, but without volunteers, so many good things in our region just would not happen. If you know someone who is thinking about what to do in retirement, or someone who is new to the area and wants to meet locals and make friends, perhaps suggest to them that they could volunteer. The work is unpaid. But the rewards are priceless.

Regards,

Jacquie Sheils, Chair



Finances

The 2025-26 financial year saw a small reduction in overall income due to grants and contract reductions. An increase in sales helped offset this. There was a small increase in expenditure compared with the previous year.

The breakdown of revenue as can be seen in the audited financial statements:
Contract Income, $148 492; Grants $79 751; Plant sales $43 890; Commercial services $52 934. Major Expenses included Wages and Superannuation $226 779 in support of 7 part-time and casual staff, $52 536 on shed construction, $15 079 on site preparation and revegetation works and $8285 on rates, water, and electricity. Moving into the 2026-27 financial year, costs have increased all round. However, we have contracted works confirmed and some grants to assist us to continue our work forward.

Jim Dickens, Treasurer.




2340
native plants established
5970
plants to local gardeners/ landowners
7285
plants sold to other reveg. works
160 kg
weeds disposed of off-site

Projects and Activities

Activity	Funding Sources and Support
Whitsunday Catchment Landcare Nursery and Volunteer Network. Provide a venue to learn about and contribute to our local environment. Collect local native seed, propagate plants for revegetation works and retail sales. Provide information to landowners and resident gardeners about land management and local native plants.	Whitsunday Catchment Landcare and Volunteer Network.
Construct Accessible Shed.	Qld Government Gambling Community Benefit Fund. Additional cash and in-kind contributions by Whitsunday Catchment Landcare.
Dingo Beach Littoral Rainforest Recovery – weed control, including the long term mother of millions removal.	Aurizon Community Giving Fund.
Proserpine River Restoration 2026 – weed control, revegetation and debris removal.	Queensland and Commonwealth Governments, 2024-2025 Environmental Recovery Package: Environmental Cleanup and Local Conservation Program.
ReefClean Marine Debris Monitoring and Clean up.	Tangaroa Blue Foundation and the Commonwealth Government.
Coral Esplanade Foreshore Reserve Rehabilitation - revegetation and weed control.	Queensland Government, Community Sustainability Action (CSA) Grants – Round 7 Community Sustainable Spaces. Whitsunday Regional Council.
Nursery upgrades – office refurb, shadesails, workbench tops.	Whitsunday Regional Council Special Projects Grant
Irrigation upgrades. Repair/ replace irrigation system to improve water use efficiency. Planning commenced.	Queensland Government, Grassroots Environmental Grants program Round 1.
Weed Control and Revegetation Works Cape Gloucester area – planning with Reef Catchments for this 3-year project.	Reef Catchments via the Queensland Government's Natural Resources Management Expansion Program for the project Coordinated Threat Response to protect Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) across the Mackay Whitsunday Isaac region.
Whitsunday Landcare revegetation projects maintenance, including Galbraith Creek, Beames Creek, Waite Creek.	Whitsunday Catchment Landcare; Reef Assist Program funded by Reef Catchments Ltd (Mackay Whitsunday Streambank Stewardship Program) funded by the Queensland Government.

* All of our projects have contributions from Landcare volunteers.

Our Volunteer Numbers

WCL Volunteer Contributions for 2025/26		
Hours	**Tasks**	**Value**
2667	Nursery - seed collection and sorting, plant propagation, nursery maintenance, sales.	$139 190
112	Bushcare - tree planting, including site preparation, bush regeneration, coastal weed control.	$5862
546	Galbraith Creek - revegetation maintenance, bush regeneration in establishing forest, pruning/thinning, edge trimming.	$28 472
69	Marine debris collection and monitoring	$3 580
3393	**Total volunteer hours and labour value for 2025/26** Based on $52.19/hr from Volunteering Queensland/ NSW Centre for Volunteering using the replacement cost method. These hours do not include volunteer hours for newsletter production, funding applications, committee roles and administration.	**$177 105**



Whether it's morning tea time or crawling-under-lantana time, our volunteers are there.

Our Team

Thank you to our dedicated staff for 2025-26, all of whom worked part-time or as part of our casual team: Coordinator Christine Peterson, Admin. Officer Leigh Donkers, Nursery Manager Nicole Murphy, Field Team Kayla Simpson, Denise Hemmingway, Harry Gardiner who joined us recently, and Enrico Bottero and Juhani Sarkkinen who left late last year.



Thank You to Our Supporters

- Amanda Camm MP, Member for Whitsunday
- Bunnings Airlie Beach
- Canegrowers Proserpine
- Cannonvale Fire Protection
- Filbys Motors
- Filbys Motors Annual Sponsorship Program
- Kapow Interactive
- Private donors via cash, Givenow and containers for change.
- Proserpine Lions Club
- Reef Catchments Ltd
- Whitsunday Lions Club
- Whitsunday Regional Council

