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Annual Report

2016-2017 Financial Year

Whitsunday Catchment Landcare- Vision and Goal

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.

Whitsunday Catchment Landcare Inc. is:

- An Incorporated and Registered Environmental Organisation
- 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.
- A Not-for-profit Community based organisation that has been operating in the Whitsunday region since 1998.
- In 2016-17 WCL had 101 members and over 92 registered volunteers and 205 people receive our monthly newsletter.
- WCL has a Management Committee of 7 members, which include community, local council 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 and Whitsunday Catchments.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

Graham Armstrong, Chair;
 Wendy Gordon, Secretary
 Jim Dickens, Treasurer;
 Bren Fuller; Scott Hardy;
 John Casey; CR. Ron Petterson

2016-17 STAFF:

Coordinator (P/T): Cath Campbell
 Landcare Officer : Peter Alden
 Nursery/Volunteer Coordinator (P/T):
 Kathy Bernett
 Admin. Officer (P/T): Harriet Spence,
 Leigh Donkers

Chairperson's Report

Graham Armstrong Chair -Whitsunday Catchment Landcare



Through the work of our members, volunteers and staff, WCL has continued to promote and participate in positive and thoughtful approaches to land management issues within our region for another year. We have undertaken a number of on ground projects and activities designed to deliver environmental outcomes to the community and increase an awareness of what can be done to ensure a healthy and productive environment into the future. A round of applause to you all.

Special thanks to our Coordinator, Cath Campbell, whose efforts saw WCL receive a number of small grants and contracts and these have kept our staff fully occupied during the year. I would also, especially like to extend my gratitude to my fellow committee members who continue to steer the organisation through an increasingly difficult period due to declining availability of funds arising from grants and contracts.

A big thank you also to the organisations and companies that have supported our efforts over the year especially Reef Catchments, Whitsunday Regional Council, Cane Growers & Sugar Services. For a full list of all the organisations & business that have supported WCL during 2016-17 please see page 12 of this report. We greatly appreciate your generosity.

The last 3 months of the year became dominated by Cyclone Debbie and dealing with the storm's aftermath. Extensive physical damage to the coral of the Great Barrier Reef in the Whitsunday region was one highly publicised result of the storm. At Whitsunday Catchment Landcare, concerned volunteers quickly realised that our Galbraith Creek revegetation site needed urgent, post-cyclone attention as did our Native Plant Nursery.

Volunteers quickly responded to calls to attend revegetation sites to remove fallen limbs and debris from newly planted areas and older saplings, now lying



Australian Government
 Department of the Environment



prostrate, were gently righted, braced and trimmed where necessary. The benefits of this quick action were apparent after a couple of months, as the vegetation responded to the extremely wet conditions. WCL's main nursery shade-house was damaged beyond repair and tube stock had been tossed great distances. But a sense of order was restored after several days of effort.

Funds were obtained from the QRAA Disaster Recovery Program to purchase a new shade house and a Green Army team was enlisted to help with the re-building of the structure. Thus heralding yet another great example of different community targeted programs coming together to the benefit of an active and responsive community. Well done everyone.

Lastly, I wanted to focus on initiatives which demonstrate an expansion in WCL's focus on community education by providing information on the diversity of plants and animals that are present in our region. These platforms have brought together many knowledgeable nature enthusiasts from our region who are willing to share their knowledge of this region's natural history. Thank you particularly to Steve and Alison Pearson for contributing several articles on the complex world of invertebrates. Also thank you to the numerous contributors to the region's Landcare Wildlife Gallery which now features over 400 hundred of our regions vertebrate wildlife species. Many of the species depicted are in some way dependent on the continuing integrity and connectivity of our forest and woodland ecosystems.

Living amongst nature is surely a privilege and we must do what we can to give nature a place amongst us and amongst the unrelenting tide of our human necessities. Agricultural and grazing practices are continuing to improve providing increased productivity and also often producing environmental benefits. Yet, the overall human impact on natural ecosystems around the world seems to be increasing year on year.

I hope you will continue to support WCL in the coming year as we work towards the promotion and adoption of land management practices that benefit our community and are sensitive to the requirements of the natural world upon which we ultimately depend.



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Coordinators Report

The 2016-17 financial year has been an eventful and challenging one for Whitsunday Catchment Landcare (WCL).

We were lucky to sustain comparatively minor damage to the Community Nursery as a result of Cyclone Debbie and we have also weathered a reduction in the availability and value of contract work during the year. This has required WCL to use a significant amount of its financial reserves to remain operational and undertake natural resource management and community engagement projects.

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the WCL staff for their dedication and professionalism in undertaking their roles within this organization. I would also like to thank the WCL Management Committee for their support and confidence in the WCL staff.

To WCL's great benefit, Peter Alden our Landcare Officer is still with us. Peter's qualifications and extensive experience has enabled WCL to undertake a variety of projects and contracts that model best practice revegetation and impact upon the perennial issue of weed control. Our Nursery and Volunteer Coordinator, Kath Bennett continues to provide a welcoming and interesting program at the nursery as well as producing high quality native tube stock for use in revegetation projects, contracts and for sale to the general public. WCL's new Admin Officer, Leigh Donkers commenced in early 2017 and provides a wealth of experience and enthusiasm, undertaking her role with efficiency, accuracy, a great sense of humour and a sincere commitment to the Landcare ethos.

WCL continues to receive the support of Reef Catchments (RC) and we are grateful for their ongoing provision of the office space and IT support. Reef Catchments Staff continue to work in collaboration with WCL, which has seen some great environmental outcomes for the local area. WCL has been able to provide RC with contract services for revegetation, weed and pest control projects, but this years funding for contracts has significantly contracted when compared with previous years. All of the small profits from these contracts contributes to the ongoing employment of WCL staff and the undertaking of community/volunteer based activities and events, that are unfunded from other sources such as grants.

WCL continues to receive generous support from Whitsunday Regional Council (WRC). WRC provides WCL with the Community Nursery site- electricity, irrigation water for our tube stock, revegetation sites and free mulch from the tips. The WRC staff continue to provide support and assistance where they are able too and I would like to express our sincere appreciation for all their efforts.

We also thank Cane Growers Proserpine for the generous provision of their boardroom for our General meetings at no charge along with Sugar Services for the financial contribution to the Feral Pig Control program

My most important thankyou is to all our generous Volunteers. This year WCL had 96 registered volunteers who either attend our regular community nursery mornings, community plantings, seed collecting or site visits. Attendance records state 1811 hours were donated by volunteers this financial year. To put a grant application dollar value on this, it would equate to \$63,385 for this year alone. A special thankyou to those two shy volunteers who prefer to remain nameless, for the maintenance at the Galbraith Creek Riparian project.

In the 2016-17 Financial Year, in partnership with the Central Queensland Landcare Network (CQLN) WCL completed the QLD State Government's Everyone's Environment Grant- Peri-Urban Project. Over a three year period, this grant provide 180 Landholders in the region, with support to manage weeds and preserve native vegetation on their non-commercial land. WCL continues to look for alternative funding sources for this valuable project. The Federally funded 25 years Anniversary of Landcare Project, was acquitted in May of 2017, with a total of 0.6ha revegetated at the Galbraith Creek Riparian's Project. Sadly this area of revegetation sustained TC Debbie damage that has required repair, but we received funding from Aurizon Community Giving grant to undertake rectification works at the site.

WCL was also successful in obtaining a Queensland Government Natural Disaster Recovery Grant which covered the cost of a new shade house that was damaged beyond repair by TC Debbie. All other funding received during this year has been as a result of undertaking a variety of projects under contract to Reef Catchments and plant sales from the Community Nursery. I have continued to apply for a number grants and eagerly await notification of the results of our applications- but there is always a lot of competing applications. Grants must be fully expended and often have no funding component for wages. We continue to explore opportunities to increase our funding sources.

I have summarized the range of projects that WCL has either managed or been involved with, in the table on the following page. More detailed information about our major projects can be found in the body of the report. I hope you enjoy the read.

Thank you again to all of WCL supporters for their generosity, hard work and dedication to Whitsunday Catchment Landcare.

Cath Campbell- WCL Coordinator.

Program Area		Activities	Funded by
Community Program	Revegetation and Seed collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Galbraith Park Riparian Corridor, Gregory River, Conway Beach, Nelly Bay. CQLN Peri-Urban Project. Undertake regular site visits by volunteers for endemic seed collection and planting. 	State and Federal Grants, WCL
	Public Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NRM information available at community events- Attendance at Show Whitsunday, Nature Celebration Whitsunday, Clean up Australia Day– Conway and Wilsons Beach Monthly Newsletter, Facebook Page and Website. Fielding land management questions over the phone, by email, in person, at the nursery and at the WCL office 6 General Meetings with guest speakers. Workshops and Training- i.e. Endemic Seed collection, processing and storage, plant propagation an nursery management, Native Bee Workshop. 	WCL– operating reserves and Public fund NRM Information sourced from various Govt. organisations
	School and Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proserpine High School– Student visits to the nursery for 8 practical sessions in plant propagation. Donation of 110 trees for Citizenship ceremonies National Tree Day- Community event and plant donations for school events Reef Guardian Program- WCL hosted 60 students at the community nursery Schools plant donation replanting post TC Debbie– Proserpine High, Collinsville Primary, Cannonvale State School , St Catherine's Eco Walk at Nelly Bay 	WCL
	Weed control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CQLN Peri-Urban Project- engage 25 private landholders in the management of weeds and undertake revegetation works by preparing land management plans and provide training in the use of weed control equipment.– grant acquitted and 603 native plants provided to participants Regular site visits by volunteers to undertake bush regeneration activities through the removal of weeds and rubbish from environmentally sensitive areas such as Nelly Bay Beach Scrub. 	State Government Grant, WCL
Volunteer Program	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. Selection of environmentally focused books for sale. Broad selection of weed identification, control and sustainable land management information. New shade gazebo concrete slab and containment for potting soil– sponsored by Bendigo Bank and Wilmar 1332 plants were donated for neighbourhood, school and parkland revegetation 	WCL, Bendigo Bank, Wilmar
	Volunteer Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Twice weekly morning events at the community nursery Site visits to private properties and public reserves to collect seed, undertake revegetation projects and to vegetation communities of interest.– Nelly Bay, Galbraith Park, Gregory River Morning bird watching walks at the Conway National Park and Cannonvale Beach. Galbraith Park Riparian Corridor plantings and maintenance, Coral Esplanade Foreshore revegetation and maintenance, Nelly Bay Beach Scrub Reserve– weed and rubbish removal. Annual Christmas Lunch at Cape Gloucester . 	WCL
	Workplace Health and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide new volunteers with safety inductions training in the use of equipment and resources for volunteer activities. 	WCL
Self-generated funding	Contract works and Plant sales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endemic Plant supply– 1500 tube stock cash sales Weed control- Pond Apple, Rubber Vine, Itch Grass, Prickly Pear Weed removal and Biological control, Cairns Birdwing Butterfly Recovery, Feral Pig control, Cat Claw Creeper Case Studies and Field events– Forestry field Day, Feral Cat Information Session Revegetation Planting and Maintenance– Galbraith Riparian corridor, Conway Beach, Nelly Bay Revegetation Project signage—Galbraith Park Queens Beach Action Group– Beach Scrub/ Littoral Rainforest project 	Reef Catchments - NRM Whitsunday Regional Council projects. Private Sales.

In 2016-17 WCL achieved the following:

Revegetation, Weed control and Seed Collection:

Galbraith Creek Riparian Corridor- WCL staff, volunteers and the community planted over 2800 plants at the Galbraith Creeks. These activities were funded by grants—the 25 year Landcare Anniversary Grant and a Reef Catchments contract for 6 months maintenance of the site. With judicious management of 25 year Landcare Anniversary Grant funds we were given permission to expand the planting area to the opposite side of the creek. A community planting event was organised in October 2016. Plant growth was progressing well—then Cyclone Debbie struck. Our volunteers were onsite within days of the cyclone to save what plants we could and it is remarkable how many survived with prompt action to stand them up and cover their root systems. Aurizon announced their Disaster Recovery Fund— We received funding for new mulch, irrigation equipment and 2000 plants. And the area is on its way to recovering with works from this funding commencing with National Tree Day July 2017— more of that in next years annual report.



*25th Landcare Anniversary site—
Community Tree planting event July
2015. Photo: C. Campbell*



*25th Landcare Anniversary
Revegetation growth -December
2015 Photo: C. Campbell*



*25th Landcare Anniversary
Revegetation growth -March
2016 Photo: C. Campbell*



*25th Landcare Anniversary Revege-
tation growth Even in the pouring
rain our volunteers keep planting.
April 2016 Photo: C. Campbell*



*25th Landcare Anniversary
Revegetation growth –November
2016 Photo: C. Campbell*



*25th Landcare Anniversary
extended Revegetation area
October 2016 planting event
Photo: C. Campbell*



*25th Landcare Anniversary
Revegetation growth –November
2016 Photo: C. Campbell*



*25th Landcare Anniversary
Revegetation Cyclone Debbie
damage April 2017
Photo: C. Campbell*



*25th Landcare Anniversary
Revegetation Cyclone Debbie damage
recovery July 2017
Photo: C. Campbell*

Coral Esplanade Foreshore Revegetation– WCL staff and volunteers visit the site to undertake maintenance of the planting site and monitor the outcomes. It is an very exposed site and weed infestation and lack of water access is a perennial problem. We have requested a water access point be put into the northern end of the beach as part of the Cannonvale Beach upgrade and look forward to recommencing revegetation work at the site once installed.

Conway Beach- WCL was contracted by Reef Catchments to undertake weed surveys, prioritised weed control, establish 1 new photo point and survey 2 existing photo points from last years project and release Prickly pear biological control. 192 volunteer hours were spent on this project. Transects for Photo points were done on the 23rd February (before TC Debbie) and again on the 26th April, (about 1 month after TC Debbie). With the arrival of TC Debbie, heavy damage to foreshore vegetation and sand dunes- over 25m back from previous high tide mark– with water borne debris (pumice and shells and seaweed and mangrove leaves and twigs) over 150m into the forest from existing beach. Opuntia plants on the foreshore had been smashed up and redistributed into the foreshore vegetation and beyond. All trees that have been planted on frontal dunes by previous projects had been washed out or buried with sand. Whilst the impacts of Cyclone Debbie are disheartening it is amazing how quickly the native plants regenerate– they just need a bit of help with weed control and protection from the impacts of vehicles driven onto the beach.



Photo point and transect across the dune towards the beach
PHOTO: P. Alden



Photo point and transect across the dune towards the beach– after the cyclone
PHOTO: P. Alden



A ute load of weeds Conway Beach on its way to the transfer station
PHOTO: P. Alden



Volunteers hard at work at Conway Beach PHOTO: P. Alden



Opuntia “skeleton” amongst regenerating native Ipomoea prescarpae—Beach Morning Glory—a dune retaining plant. Photo– Peter Alden



Photo point and transect parallel to the beach front– note how quickly the ground cover species have regenerated after the cyclone. The post has been buried by half a metre of sand that was washed into the vegetation by the wave and wind impacts of the cyclone.
PHOTO: P. Alden



Opuntia sp. Prickly Pear -broken up and spread by wave and wind impacts– each paddle buried by sand can regrow into a mature plant. This is one of the ways it has spread along the coastline and islands.
PHOTO: P. Alden

Central Queensland Landcare Network (CQLN)Peri-Urban Project:

This project was acquitted in January 2017 after 3 years of funding. The Central Queensland Landcare Network (made up of Sarina, Pioneer and Whitsunday Landcare Groups) engaged a total of 180 local non-commercial landholders in managing weeds and planting endemic plants on their properties. Participants were offered a site inspection from a Landcare Officer to identify the weeds species and endemic vegetation they have onsite and discuss the objectives as the landholders. A Land Management Plan (LMP) was prepared which will assist the landholder to achieve their land management goals over the long term. This LMP and a package of site specific information, such weed species control, pasture management, regional ecosystem maps and best practice management of that landscape, was provided as well. An added sweetener to participation in this project was 40 free native tube stock and access to the WCL Weed control equipment. In 2016-17, 25 local Whitsunday Landholders participated in this project and 630 plants have been provided to landholders . We are still waiting for some of the participants to collect their plants. Unfortunately, WCL has been unable to obtain funding to continue this project, but we will keep looking for the right grant.



*Left: Seed collectors are either looking up or foraging on the ground.
Below: Volunteers Planting—Dedicated to the cause, even in the rain .
Photos: C. Campbell*



Undertake regular site visits by volunteers for endemic seed collection and planting. As part of our volunteer events program we endeavour to provide a regular alternative to the volunteer mornings at the community nursery. Volunteers visited all of our revegetation sites— Galbraith Creek Riparian Project, Cannonvale Beach, Conway Beach, Council reserves at Dingo Beach, Nelly Bay and private property on the Gregory River to collect seed or undertake plantings. Many of our volunteers also collect seed from their own properties as well. These events enable WCL to collect a wide range of provenance seed and produce the native plant species that we provide for replanting into the diverse regional ecosystems that we have in the Whitsundays.

Public Education:



*WCL stall and WRC Pest Trailer at the 2016 Proserpine Show.
Photo: C. Campbell*

Sustainable Land Management, Weed identification, Control and Landholder Legislative Responsibility information available at community events- Attendance at Show Whitsunday, Nature Celebration Whitsundays. Thank you to Whitsunday Regional Council for sharing their site at Show Whitsunday alongside their Pest Control trailer. This provided a great opportunity to present a diverse range of information about management of pest plants and animals, changes to the Biosecurity Act.

Clean Up Australia Day and Feral / Domestic Cat Information Session. WCL and Reef Catchments hosted the clean up at Conway and Wilsons Beach and information was presented afterward about the impacts of feral and domestic cat diseases that impact on native animals like the Proserpine Rock Wallaby.



*Rubbish collected from Conway and Wilsons Beaches being sorted.
Photo: Cath Campbell*

Publications: Monthly Newsletter, Facebook Page and Website. WCL produces a monthly newsletter that we distribute to our members and many other interested people or organisations. We have been lucky to have a volunteer step in and keep our Facebook page and website up to date this year- **Thank You Dale Mengel for your support and diligence.**

Six General Meetings with guest speakers were held during the year– ACT Whitsundays– recycling in the Whitsundays, Jacob Betros– Regional Landcare Facilitator, Pest control Officer Whitsunday Regional Council– Feral Pig control program, WRC- Coastal Hazards and Responses Project- A proactive approach to climate change; Peter Alden-WCL Landcare Officer– Helping your patch of bush recover from cyclone impacts. Six Management Committee meetings were held on alternate months to the General meetings.

Workshops and Training–

Riparian Revegetation and Sustainable Agriculture: WCL staff were contracted to present on the role of Landcare and planning a revegetation project at a Sustainable Agriculture event at Cloudline, a low-line beef cattle property at Eungella. In a windy wet day we all huddled under a shade canopies to hear the presenters. The weather cleared after all the presenters spoke and we were able to sample the beef at a BBQ lunch then walked the property to see land management issues the owners were contending with and discuss measures to ameliorate the problems.

*Right: Participants under cover at the Eungella event
Photo: P. Alden*



Native Bee Workshop: WCL's Public Fund (the one that you can donate too) provided funds to contribute to hosting a full day workshop about Native Bees. Tim Heard– the native bee guru presented a wide range of interesting topics interspersed with practical sessions of opening and splitting hives, tasting sugarbag honey. The event was well attended and feedback was very positive. As a result a new facebook page was formed and there are quite a few native bee enthusiasts in the local area now.

*Left: Tim Heard presenter of the native Bee workshop.
Photo: C. Campbell*

*Right: Tim opens the native bee hive to reveal the inner structures.
Photo: C. Campbell*



*Peter Alden singing the praises of the Beach Scrub at the Nelly Bay Eco walk
Photo: C. Campbell*

Nelly Bay Eco Walk– In early May 2017 WCL lead the Nelly Bay Eco Walk. 31 People attended this event which was lead by Peter Alden. Nelly Bay Beach Scrub is a critically endangered ecosystem. We walked along the path through the centre of the band of Beach Scrub vegetation discussing the plant community, the impacts of the cyclone and the role that all coastal vegetation types play in protecting the coast line. The group continued along the beach to the southern end even had time to do a bit of weeding around the site of what was once a beach side shack and garden. The group removed about 100kg of Bryophyllum (Mother of Millions– very aptly named) still persisting from the shack dwellers garden amongst the dune vegetation .



*Peter Alden and participants weeding Beach Scrub at the Nelly Bay Eco walk
Photo: C. Campbell*

School Engagement:

Proserpine High School– The Community Nursery was used as a venue and WCL Nursery Coordinator provided support and valuable workplace experiences to students from Proserpine High School completing their Agricultural studies. Students participated in the full process of propagating tube stock from seed preparation and storage, pricking out and tubing up seedlings to setting out trays and ongoing maintenance. 15-20 Agricultural Studies Students and their teachers, visit the nursery for 8 practical sessions in plant propagation during the year.

National Tree Day– Offers of free tube stock is extended to all schools in the WRC area for events that they might be holding within their school grounds.

Reef Guardian Program- This program brings children from many of the local primary schools to learn about the environmental impacts the local habitats are experiencing and see projects that are being undertaken to improve habitat values and environmental services provided by natural landscapes. This year WCL hosted 60 children and their teachers at Galbraith Creek riparian project and at the Community nursery. Students were split into five groups and rotated through the different activities– including seed processing, seed sowing, potting up, weeding and planting in the new arboretum.



*Reef Guardians inspecting Galbraith Creek Riparian Revegetation Project
Photo: C Thompson*



Reef Guardian School representatives preparing seed with Kath, potting up and planting with Pete at the WCL Community Nursery. PHOTOS: C. Thompson



Cannonvale State School– WCL provided the 60 plants and attended the creek bank planting event with 26 students, teachers and parents from Cannonvale State Schools' Reef Guardians group. Whitsunday Regional Council kindly assisted with the site preparation and watering the young plants afterwards.

Cannonvale State School plant out the creek bank at the Cannonvale Beach parkland Photo: K. Head

Community Nursery.

Propagation of a wide variety of endemic plants for supply to the community and WCL revegetation projects.

In the 2016-17 financial year WCL has produced approx. 23,737 tube stock (April 2017 Stocktake). WCL's has provided plants for its own projects: Peri-urban Project, Galbraith Park Riparian revegetation corridor, Coral Esplanade Foreshore revegetation, Conway Beach revegetation, Nelly Bay as well as selling them for other revegetation projects undertaken by the WRC, Reef Catchments, local schools and private landholders. The WCL Community Nursery has been a reliable supplier of native tube stock to organisations and individuals for the last 5 years and is a focal point for our community of land-carers in the Whitsunday region.

This year we held our inaugural Community Nursery open day and plant sale, which happened to occur on the Saturday the 26th March, just before the cyclone. It was lucky really as we were able to pack up the site and secure it. We lost the large shade house and a about 1000 plants, which is minor compared to what others sustained. We were fortunate to obtain a State Government Grant for the shade house replacement and learned that if we put a tube between trays through the mesh bench tops they don't get blown off the benches.



Above- Customers at the Community Nursery Open Day and Plant Sale.
Photo: Cath Campbell



Left: TC Debbie damage to the shade house at the nursery
Photo: C. Campbell



Above- Customers at the Community Nursery Open Day and Plant Sale.
Photo: Cath Campbell

New soil bin for the Nursery: WRC donated a slightly damaged large culvert and Bendigo Bank sponsorship funded the new slab that went together to make our new soil bin. Its just wide enough for the truck that delivers the potting soil and is able to be completely covered keeping the potting mix weed free and moist. AWR Transport-Jack and Co. very kindly delivered the culvert to the nursery and positioned its use as a soil bin.

Right: Volunteers testing out the new soil bin. Photo: C. Campbell



Workplace Health and Safety: All new volunteers are provided with safety inductions and training in the use of equipment and resources for all volunteer activities. Risk assessments and safety management plans are prepared for all events of the nursery site. Personal protective equipment for staff and volunteers is provided or required as a condition of participation in our projects and activities. First aid kits are upgraded regularly and tools etc. are maintained in good condition for staff and volunteer use.

Galbraith Creek Riparian Project has received the benefit of last years funding from Landcare Australia. WCL's 2 volunteers who obtained their ACDC Commercial Operators Qualification for the management of weeds and safe handling of chemicals have been busy, regularly visiting Galbraith Park to undertake maintenance of the site. This is an asset to WRC as it enables qualified volunteers to supervise other volunteer during weed maintenance events and frees up our Landcare Officer to undertake other projects.

Broad selection of weed identification, control and sustainable land management information. The nursery has a comprehensive library of free pamphlets and information sheets on local weed identification and controls and other sustainable land management advice available on site. We still keep a few books for sale but mainly concentrate on local reference books. The Management Committee decided that books were so easily available online that it was not feasible to invest such a significant amount of money in a diverse library of books for sale.

Volunteer Program.



*WCL Volunteers at Nelly Bay.
Photo: C Campbell*

WCL welcomed 13 new volunteers to the nursery in 2016-17. WCL has 92 registered volunteers who either attend our regular community nursery mornings, community plantings, seed collecting or site visits. All new Volunteers are inducted in workplace health and safety, nursery practices and safe engagement when going "bush".

Many volunteer hours have been donated to WCL and the environment—1811 hours have been donated this year with participant attending at the nursery, collecting or undertaking maintenance at the Galbraith Creek Riparian Corridor Project, 168 hours Management Committee commitment – 1969 hours in total during the 2016-17 financial year. To put a dollar value on this, it would equate to \$68,915 for this year.

Twice weekly volunteer events are held at the WCL Community Nursery and these are very well attended with many volunteers attending regularly. Activities at the nursery include: propagating of endemic plants, processing seed, recording propagation methods and results, nursery site maintenance, social interaction, great morning teas, monthly site visits for weeding, seed collection, botanical identification and other educational opportunities. We have endeavoured to go "off site" once per month with alternative activities such as seed collecting and site visits to Landcare friends and volunteers properties. These activities and resources are funded using WCL finances, grants or plant sales.

Volunteer Activities this year have included:

- Site visits to private properties and public reserves to maintain revegetation or undertake bushcare projects.
- Morning bird watching walks at the Peter Faust Dam and Goorganga Wetlands.
- Volunteer & community events and revegetation maintenance at Galbraith Park Riparian Corridor plantings, Coral Esplanade Foreshore, Conway Beach weed control, revegetation and maintenance, Nelly Bay Beach Scrub Reserve—weed and rubbish removal.
- Clean-up Australia Day at Conway & Wilson's Beach
- Annual Christmas Party.



*WCL Volunteers planting at Conway Beach.
Photo: P. Alden*



*Left: WCL Volunteers repairing nursery benches at the Community Nursery.
Photo: C. Campbell*

*Right: WCL Volunteers walking through remnant Littoral rainforest & seed collecting at Gloucester
Photo: P. Alden*



*WCL Volunteer Christmas Party at Cape Gloucester Eco Resort.
Photo: C Campbell*



Self-generated funding

In the last 4 years WCL has undertaken contract work for local organisations such as Reef Catchments and Whitsunday Regional Council (WRC). This contract work has enabled WCL to earn small profits, which has in turn, been spent on activities untied to external grant obligations, such as our volunteer, school and community engagement activities. Contract works in 2016-17 have included: Weed control- Pond Apple, Rubber Vine, Itch Grass, Cats Claw Creeper; Feral Pig Control program– administration tasks; Case Studies and Field events: Feral and domestic Cat Information Session at Conway Beach; Revegetation Planting, Weed control and Maintenance– Nelly Bay; Revegetation Project signage-Galbraith Park; Prickly Pear Biological Weed Control and revegetation– Conway Beach and Coral Bay. Pond Apple Survey and control; Twin Creeks Riparian Revegetation and Maintenance WCL has sold plants to WRC projects, Queens Beach Action Group in Bowen and many local landholders.

Working Groups/ Committees Supported

- Central Qld Coast Landcare Network
- Whitsunday Local Marine Advisory Committee
- Whitsunday Feral Pig Control Steering Group
- WRC Pest Management Committee
- Mackay Whitsunday Regional Pest Management Group
- WCL Public Fund Committee
- WRC Citizenship Ceremony
- Mimosa pigra Stakeholders Group
- Whitsunday Community Garden

Formal acknowledgments for support provided thought out the year.

- Reef Catchments NRM, for hosting the WCL Office, providing their ongoing support to WCL activities and grant applications and the opportunity to obtain NRM contracts that facilitate the preservation and enhancement of the natural environment in the Whitsunday Region.
- Whitsunday Regional Council– Administrative Staff, Parks and Gardens Department, Waste Management Department, Proserpine and Cannonvale Depot staff and Pest Control and Local Laws Officers.
- Canegrowers Proserpine for their continuing support, generous provision of their boardroom for our General meetings and for letting us borrow Christine Peterson back occasionally.
- 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.
- Wilmar Sugar for providing the Community Safety Grants Program.
- C.E Smith Accountants– for their Auditing of the WCL financials.
- Bennett's Earthworks for giving us great service when we needed things made for us, such as nursery tables etc.
- Irrigear Whitsundays for their generous discounts and assistance with irrigation at the nursery and revegetation sites.
- JJ Richards and Sons; Kevin Young for his patience in dealing with our frequent calls about mulch deliveries to various places at various times.
- Climate Classics for prompt supply of work and volunteer shirts and hats.
- Down to Earth Landscape Contracting for his help preparing our planting sites and generous donation.
- AWR Transport- Jack and Co. for delivering the culvert to the nursery for the soil bin.
- All Aussie Arboriculture– for their kind donation of tree removal of a weedy Poinciana at Nelly Bay
- Cannonvale Fire Protection for keeping our fire extinguishers up to date– Thank you Nigel
- Landcare Australia for their Capacity Building Grant program.
- Federal and State Government Environmental and Volunteer Support Grants programs

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To: The Members
Whitsunday Catchment Landcare Inc

Scope

We have audited the financial report of the Whitsunday Catchment Landcare Inc for the year ended 30 June 2017 as set out on the attached pages. The committee is responsible for the financial report. We have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with Accounting Standards, other mandatory professional reporting requirements, and the Associations Incorporation Act, so as to present a view, which is consistent with our understanding of Whitsunday Catchment Landcare Inc financial position, the results of its operations and its cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Qualification

Part of the income derived by the body is of a nature that full control of receipts cannot be maintained until amounts are actually recorded through the body's books. As there are no practical audit procedures to quantify the effect of this, we are unable to express an opinion on receipts prior to their being recorded.

Qualified Audit Opinion

In our opinion, except for the effects on the financial report of the matter referred to in the qualification paragraph, the financial report presents fairly in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards, other mandatory professional reporting requirements and The Associations Incorporation Act, the financial position of Whitsunday Catchment Landcare Inc as at 30 June 2017 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended.

Date: 21/9/2017

C.E. Smith & Co Proserpine
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

86 Main Street
PROSERPINE QLD 4800

Vic Carroll



Why we do what we do, Salt Water Creek—part of the Whitsunday Catchment
Photo: Kerri Ward