

Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group Inc.

Annual Report 2011/2012



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Chair's Annual Report

2011/12 was another good year, with our two officers, the Regional Landcare Facilitator and the Project Officer, delivering a range of projects in the community. Further funding from Mackay Regional Council, along with other funded projects, enabled us to renew Dallas Milburn's contract as Project Officer for another year. Hayley Glover finished up as Landcare Facilitator at end January, and Claire Bartron commenced work in that position in late March. The constantly expressed frustration of our officers with the volume of administration work prompted us to engage Wendy Eiteneuer as part time Office Manager. Wendy started in that position in late November, initially working 15 hours per week reducing to ten in the second six months. We are actively seeking funding to pay for this position for 15 hours per week. Wendy also acts as Secretary to the Management Committee.

Hayley's resignation was a blow, as every time an officer leaves we lose so much momentum. Hayley made a big contribution to PCL over her years as Project Officer and then Landcare Facilitator. She completed the Welcome to Waders project, funded by Hail Creek Community Fund, just before she left. Claire has brought new skills to our group and, in particular, her work on our newsletter has produced an interesting and attractive document. Claire also helped complete the Regional Workshops project, an Australian Government Community Action Grant project. At this point I must acknowledge work done by the Sarina and Whitsunday Landcare Facilitators, Saskia von Fahland, and Christine Peterson, in successfully delivering that project.

Our agreement with Reef Catchments Mackay Whitsunday Isaac to host the Landcare Facilitator in our organisation was in the second year of a three year contract. Under this agreement we continued to deliver the Peri-urban program, support the Pond Apple project and contribute to the regional Healthy Waterways initiatives at the direction of Reef Catchments. A third of this officer's time is directed by PCL and this was largely devoted to community engagement, producing the newsletter, working with schools and supporting administration. In future this officer will contribute to project planning and seeking funding.

Our relationship with Mackay Regional Council continued to be strong, with Landcare Support funding from the Natural Environment Levy. This funding allowed us to work with schools, have displays, work with stakeholders and respond to requests from the community. Council also funds Land for Wildlife and this program continues to grow, gaining new land managers every year. It was wonderful to have the skills in our organisation to start a community nursery again, and thanks to Council for funding us to do this. It was a small start, with a good team of regular volunteers.

In late December and early January we focussed on project development, and this resulted in a number of applications for funding being submitted. Four of these were successful with Council funding two projects: Nest Boxes for Land for Wildlife Properties and Establishing Trail Sites for the Management of the weed Ruellia. We gained funding to upgrade our computer equipment from Gambling Community Benefit Fund. Management Committee member Di Salau has installed the new system for us and it is a great improvement. We also received funding from the Australian Government Caring for Our Country Clean Energy Future's Biodiversity Fund to undertake management of Cats Claw Creeper and Hymenachne in Reliance Creek National Park and adjacent private lands. This is a three year project funded in 2011/12, and delivery commenced in 2012/13.

During the year I have represented the group on a number of occasions. I was the delegate of PCL on the Council's Natural Environment Advisory Committee. The Natural Environment Program has

achieved much in the last 12 months. A Natural Environment Plan has been recommended to Council, with priority projects already underway, and key staff have been employed to support increased delivery of projects. My involvement with the Mackay Regional Pest Management Group lessened when Dallas was nominated as our delegate. For a number of years PCL has made a significant contribution to pest management in our region. Recently I have taken a place on the Board of Queensland Water and Landcarers, Landcare's peak body in Queensland.

In the last 12 months members of the Management Committee have been a very important part of our group. As usual the Mackay Regional Council delegate plays a big role helping to manage the very important relationship with Council. Cr Ross Walker was the delegate until the election and now Cr Theresa Morgan is working with us. I thank them both for their interest and commitment. Cr Wendy Cameron also resigned; she was part of the Management Committee for her four year term on Council. Long term MC member Joan Fitzsimmons also resigned. Joan has been involved with PCL, as delegate of Mackay Conservation Group, since its inception (as PICMA) in 1992 and spent many years as Treasurer. We will miss her contribution. Bruce Milles resigned late in the year, and we were very happy when John Atkinson agreed to join us. All committee members have particular roles to play and I thank them for being so generous with their time. Irene Champion, who also been involved 'forever' helps us with native plants; Di Williams has taken over as delegate to Natural Environment Advisory Committee; Di Salau has revamped our IT system and is now working on the data base and communication tools. Deputy Chair Dave Hunter does a wonderful job representing us at conferences and working with stakeholders to drive improvements in soil health. A very big thankyou to all of these wonderful Landcare people.

One way of thanking the Management Committee members is to provide opportunities for 'professional development'. Members have attended the Qld Landcare Conferences - two in one financial year. Such attendance has in the past been funded through our Reserve Fund, and I am concerned about our capacity to continue to support members in this way. Our Reserve Fund has reduced significantly because of funding the Office Manager, a much needed move, and sources of funding to attend conferences are very limited.

Our two key partners are Mackay Regional Council and Reef Catchments Mackay Whitsunday Isaac. I believe our relationship with Council has strengthened during this year with smooth delivery of Council funded projects, and continued support for our office site. The officers in Reef Catchments are our colleagues, friends and advisors and we work closely with them on a whole range of projects. The Central Queensland Coast Landcare Network continues to provide an effective 'umbrella' for the friendship and cooperation between the three Catchment/Landcare groups in our region. The relationship is largely managed by the three Landcare Facilitators, but I think we do need to find the time to work together more closely on issues that are important to the long term survival of our groups.



Margaret Lane
20/09/12

Regional Landcare Facilitator's Report

Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group had another strong year in 2011/12 with the continuation of a number of funded projects, *e.g.* Welcome to Waders as well as the successful application of new projects.

The team received the very valuable addition of an Office Manager in Wendy Eiteneuer in November; a position that has been desperately wanted by project staff and Wendy has taken to the role with great aplomb. Sadly the start of 2012 saw the resignation of Hayley Glover who finished up in January. Hayley coordinated the group during a period of great change handling a difficult task with finesse. Project Officer Dallas Milburn did a remarkable job running our various projects alone until I was appointed as the new Regional Landcare Facilitator in March. Dallas has been an invaluable asset to PCL and myself in my new role and it is with great regret that he will be leaving us at the end of September to take up a new role and new challenges, he will be greatly missed.

PCL has continued to be supported by the Landcare Facilitator who is funded through the regional Natural Resource Management body Reef Catchments Mackay Whitsunday Isaac Ltd and the Australian Government, with the role being divided ⅓ Regional Landcare Facilitator, ⅓ Reef Catchments support and ⅓ PCL core activities. Through my role as Facilitator and support of Reef Catchments we have continued to work with Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association (SLCMA) and Whitsunday Catchment Landcare (WCL).

The three catchment groups have worked together to provide a multi-region approach to landcare with staff from all groups being active members of the Mackay Regional Pest Management Group as well as working together on a number of projects.

Our partnership with the Mackay Regional Council in the delivery of projects has continued. The Project Officer along with SLCMA have been delivering on the Land for Wildlife Program funded by Council as well as other funded projects and the provision of support for landholders and community members throughout the region.

While the year ahead will hold some trials with the departure of Dallas we are in a strong position to support landholders and the community. Projects such as the Peri-urban program, the control of Cat's Claw Creeper in Reliance Creek and Land for Wildlife will allow us to continue to work directly with people on the land whilst our education program and community engagement activities to spread the message of landcare and the value of the natural environment to the wider community.

Claire Bartron

September 2012

1. Landcare Facilitator/Reef Catchments Components

1.1 Coastal

The Coasts and Communities Project is jointly delivered by Reef Catchments and Mackay Regional Council. Providing a strategic and coordinated approach to coastal management, the project has developed management plans for a number of beaches within the Mackay region and more are in progress. PCL has continued to support the Coasts and Communities Project through attendance at Coastal Community Activities and the promotion of these events in monthly newsletters and on the Central Queensland Coast Landcare Network (CQCLN or Landcare Network) website.

1.2 Pests

The Regional Landcare Facilitator has assisted with project planning for the Eradication of Pond Apple outlier infestations in the Mackay-Whitsunday region project as well as working on communications, including the preparation of case studies. Pond Apple Committee meetings were also attended and support provided to the Reef Catchments Pest Coordinator.

1.3 Healthy Waterways

The Facilitator continued involvement with the Healthy Waterways program. The primary role has been the coordination of volunteers who undertake regular water quality monitoring at a number of sites within the Pioneer Catchment.

Involvement in the Healthy Waterways Alliance also continued, which brings together expertise from across agricultural, urban and ecosystem fields, with the Facilitator acting as the community member and secretariat for the Ecosystem Think Tank. Assistance with the Healthy Waterways Symposium held in June 2012, as well as presenting an overview of regional Landcare works to Symposium delegates was also provided.



Dr Leo Duivenvoorden teaches Reef Catchments' Michelle and Kerri about water plant identification at the Healthy Waterways Symposium Wetlands Workshop

Photo: C Bartron

1.4 Peri-urban

We have successfully worked with Reef Catchments, SLCMA and WCL to deliver the Peri-urban program within the Mackay, Whitsunday and Sarina regions. The program is focussed on delivering land management extension services to landholders in the peri-urban sector and also enables PCL to identify interest areas and knowledge gaps, and to refer landholders to funding opportunities. Landholders receive a property assessment, information pack and land management plan. We undertook ten property assessments during 2011/12, resulting in seven land management plans. The project is regularly promoted at field days and other engagement activities, continuing to receive good interest from community members and is well received with various forms of positive feedback. The Mackay area is home to a range of land management issues relating to conditions prevalent in this region; most notably weed and pest management, erosion, revegetation, and soil conditioning.

2. Mackay Regional Council Funding

2.1 Workshops/Field Days

Field days are an important engagement tool for Landcare groups and offer opportunities to showcase works undertaken, new environmental methods and to highlight important issues.

Land for Wildlife – Snakes were the theme for one field trip with an organised event to a regional landholders' property and presentation by Blackadder Reptiles. On display were a range of snakes from Black-headed Pythons to the Coastal Taipan. The event proved to be very informative and had a turnout of 32 people. The presentation was followed by a tour of the property which engages weed management without the use of herbicide.

Schools Wetland Open Day - Students from Glenella State School and Slade Point Primary School assembled at Wetland Walkabout to learn and discuss the ecosystems surrounding wetlands, their wildlife, and an analysis of threats from urbanisation, weeds and nutrient runoff. Mark Gallate conducted tours of the wetland, whilst we held macro-invertebrate workshops and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority got students engaged in catchment education.



Slade Point students look at water bugs (left), Glenella Primary students return from a wetland tour (middle), highlighting the importance of correct interaction with wildlife (right).

Photos: D Milburn

2.2 Promotional/Displays

Attending events is a pivotal way of engaging the public and offers a good tool for promotion of projects and programs as well as broadcasting important information to landholders on various land management issues. The Pest Education Trailer is also a great drawcard for our displays.

Landcare Day in the Gardens – Held in Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens with the theme 'Kids... Make a Difference... in Your Backyard'. We conducted aquatic plant (native and weed) and macro-invertebrate identification and information sessions.

Farleigh Palm Fete – Held at a new venue this year at Farleigh State School, PCL's stand was set up alongside the Botanic Gardens and Society for Growing Australian Plants displays. The event gave us the opportunity to engage with a number of landholders and to promote the Peri-urban program. Information on pest species and their management was presented using the Pest Education Trailer.



Educational Display at Farleigh Palm Fete
Photo: C Bartron

BSES Field Days – The two day event targeted rural landowners, particularly cane farmers and graziers. Joining with SLCMA, WCL and the Mackay Regional Pest Management Group, we provided



Display and plant give-away at the Pioneer Valley Show Photo: C Bartron

information to landholders on a wide range of landcare issues, including the management of pest species, as well as handing out approximately 300 native trees.

Reef Catchments Grazing Forum – We supported the Landcare Network stall at the forum, providing land management information and material pertaining to the Federal Government's Carbon Farming Initiative. We had good reception, with the majority of interest relating to pastoral weeds.

Pioneer Valley Show – A popular show in the Pioneer Catchment, people were again lined up in anticipation of receiving their free trees, with many being annual regulars. We gave away 400 native plants on the day and the event provided the opportunity for staff to engage with a large number of community members and local landholders, and provide land management advice.

2.3 Working with Stakeholders to Develop/Support Projects

Working with stakeholders is an important element to delivering successful natural resource management outcomes in a collaborative manner throughout the region. The focus of our work in this area has been the management of weeds and feral animals. The Project Officer has been on the Mackay Regional Pest Management Group Committee for the past 12 months. This group has recently released the Regional Pest Management Strategy and is laying the ground work to address priority issues throughout the region. In addition work continued on control and maintenance of Pond Apple in Leila Creek tributaries and Coles Road in Andergrove, an increasing number of *Thunbergia* outbreaks were identified.

Weed identification workshops were held throughout the region and continued to be well attended, though numbers have been down on the previous year. This continues to highlight their importance in promoting awareness to landholders and community members. These workshops attract interest from both urban and rural community members and have been successful in identifying a number of significant weed outbreaks.

2.4 Support for Local Schools

We have continued to be an important resource for many of the regions' schools, providing support to teachers and interacting directly with students to increase their environmental awareness and knowledge of biodiversity, waterways, catchment care and sustainable living.

PCL offers schools a portfolio highlighting opportunities to promote further understanding on



Students at the GBRMPA Future Leaders Eco Challenge Photo: C Bartron

a range of catchment and NRM related topics. Among the most sought after events are:

- Revegetation plots and butterfly gardens
- Water quality testing
- Macro invertebrate identification and analysis
- Wetland/rainforest educational walks
- Urban encroachment
- Weed management presentations
- Shorebird management/identification

We also support the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Reef Guardian Schools Program, attending meetings and partnering in the annual Future Leaders Eco Challenge.

This year we engaged with a number of schools including Mackay North State High School, Eungella State School, Saint Patrick's College, Slade Point State School, Glenella State Primary School, Beaconsfield State School, Mirani State High and Mirani State Primary Schools.

2.5 Pioneer Riverbank Restoration Project (Marian to Mirani)



Members of the Marian Community Group get their hands dirty Photo: M Lane

It has been a successful year for this project, working with the Marian Community Group to rehabilitate a popular section of the bank of the Pioneer River.

The Group identified the riverbank as high priority due to regional growth, high recreational use and the aesthetic qualities of the area. The Group's goal is a riverbank that is stable and accommodating to families and people wishing to

access the river for fishing and water sports; this aligns well with PCL's plan for the site.

More than 280 native species have been planted to offset the removal of *Leucaena*, with the site mulched and regularly maintained through working bees.



Robomower helps to open up the view by levelling Elephant Grass Photo: D Milburn

2.6 Environmental Awareness Days

Environmental Awareness Days are designed to highlight important issues and promote awareness and understanding within the community.



Weed Ecologist Peter Alden discussing techniques on identifying weeds Photo: D Milburn

Weedbusters Week – PCL organised a weed walk along the nature belt in the Goose Ponds. Weed Ecologist Peter Alden volunteered his services to the event which saw local community turn out to learn first hand different techniques to manage back yard weeds through limited disturbance. The walk also took in an identification session of a range of declared and environmental weeds commonly found in the nature belt. The walk then extended down neighbouring streets to help homeowners identify potential garden weeds.

2.7 Community Nursery

PCL was happy to facilitate the return of the nursery in April 2012 and propagation mornings have seen an increasing interest from volunteers. A range of locally sourced seeds and seedlings have been propagated with the help of nursery volunteers, and these plants will be used for future projects, school revegetation activities, and plant giveaways to members and at field days. We are also currently the only regional group propagating a variety of native grasses. These grass species are important to a variety of regional ecosystems and wildlife habitats, and will prove a valuable resource.

The quarantining of the nursery area at the Natural Environment Centre due to Myrtle Rust being detected hasn't stopped activities, with volunteer mornings being held at the PCL Chair's property as an alternative. We plan to ramp up activities in the future, including developing a reliable seed bank, and increasing output which would benefit landholders, schools and community.



Project Officer Dallas checking on seedlings in the nursery
Photo: C Bartron



Dallas and Janita potting up some Kangaroo Grass
Photo: M Lane

3. Central Queensland Coast Landcare Network: Walk and Talks



Dallas and Jim McNichol talk
weeds
Photo: C Bartron

Morag McNichol Reserve - We worked with the Friends of Morag McNichol Reserve to hold a 'Walk and Talk' information day at Morag McNichol Reserve. Jim McNichol discussed the history of the site and the monthly challenges faced in the management of the area. The reserve is in good condition but regularly deals with challenges of rubbish build up and illegal garden dumping. They day was a success and a great insight for all who attended.



Jim leads a group
Photo: C Bartron

4. Land for Wildlife

Land for Wildlife is a voluntary conservation initiative that recognises the contribution of land managers in the area of habitat and wildlife conservation and is funded by Mackay Regional Council's Natural Environment Levy. A property assessment is carried out on successful properties by our Project Officer and land managers receive a Conservation Management Plan, sign, certificate, and information folder, and are entitled to 20 native plants annually. These management plans guide land managers to undertake best management practices on their properties and officers provide ongoing assistance and advice as required.

Land for Wildlife has seen a fruitful year with PCL successfully applying for funding to increase the number of site assessments and revisits. Ten properties were registered with the program for a total of 352ha of retained and under restoration land. Included in these areas are parcels of Essential



Land for Wildlife members Xiaowei Ashurst (left) and Maxine Godley (right). Essential Habitat protected for the Eungella Honeyeater in Finch Hatton Gorge (middle)
Photos: D Milburn

Habitat for the Eungella Honeyeater (*Lichenostomus hindwoodi*), and ecosystems for listed species such as the Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*). Twelve previously registered properties were revisited and promotion of the program has also been undertaken with regular articles in our newsletter and displays at local events.

5. Funded Projects

5.1 Delivering Skills and Support to Improve Land Management Practice in the Mackay Whitsunday Region (Caring for Our Country, Community Action Grant)

We partnered with the Landcare Network to facilitate several regional workshops aimed at delivering skills and support to improve land management practices in the Mackay Whitsunday region.

Managing Horses on Small Properties Workshops - Jane and Stuart Myers from Equiculture delivered these informative workshops in Mackay, Proserpine and Sarina. The workshops were particularly useful to the Peri-urban community. A range of topics were covered including horse characteristics, pasture improvement, horse, pasture and management, water and vegetation management and property design and planning. A number of attendees were in the planning stages of bringing horses onto their properties and found the information relevant.



Jane Myers presenting workshop in Mackay
Photo: Hayley Glover

Healthy Soils Workshops – Participants from Peri-urban, cane and grazing properties attended these workshops, held in Sarina and Mackay, to learn how to increase the overall health, productivity and value of their land by improving soil health. Linkages between healthy soils, healthy animals, healthy people and healthy profit were discussed, as well as the influence of land managers on these linkages. Participants were also given practical tools and tips to take home and implement.



Land holders listen to Peter Pearce discussing simple erosion mitigation techniques at an erosion workshop
Photo: C Barron

Soil Erosion Workshop – Peri-urban and cane landholders as well as interested community members attended two Soil Erosion workshops with guest speaker soil erosion expert

Peter Pearce. Both workshops were held on private properties with different soil erosion issues. The property visited in the Sarina-Mackay region exhibited overland paddock erosion whereas the property visited in Bloomsbury was subject to gully erosion. Those who attended benefited from the vast knowledge Peter was able to bestow and the variety of mitigation techniques discussed.

5.2 Welcome to Waders (Rio Tinto, Hail Creek Mine Community Development Fund)

Welcome to Waders aimed to increase community awareness of both ground-nesting and shorebirds within the Mackay region. Over the course of the project six community identification sessions were held along with six school sessions. This was in conjunction with community surveys (2010/11) and monitoring of nesting ground-birds.

The community information sessions were held in October 2011 to coincide with the return of the migratory shorebirds. The first session engaged Conservation Volunteers Australia's Green Corps members for a 'Welcome Back Waders' event and involved identifying shorebirds. The final session was held in conjunction with a 'Dogs Breakfast' event where local dog owners were invited to bring their dog and learn about shorebirds, supported by Council and Reef Catchments.

Students from eight schools were engaged in targeted school sessions with 145 students involved. Sessions were comprised of activities such as field trips to local beaches to observe shorebirds, or PowerPoint presentations. Awareness of the project was raised through attendance at a number of regional events which gave staff great opportunities to promote the project and to engage a different sector of the community.



Local dog owner and best friend receive information about shorebirds and dog lead!
Image: H Glover

5.3 Don Myers Constructed Wetland Monitoring (Department of Employment, Economic Development & Innovation)

Working with the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (formally Department of Environment and Resource Management, formally Department of Employment, Economic Development & Innovation) we continued water quality monitoring at an artificially constructed wetland on the Myers family cane farm. The wetland was created to capture and treat runoff prior to reuse for irrigation to complement best management practices currently undertaken on the property. Monitoring for the period continued until late 2011.

5.4 Nest Box Project (Mackay Regional Council, Natural Environment Levy)

We have received funding to construct nesting boxes which will be distributed to Land for Wildlife members for erection on private property with suitable habitat.

Nest boxes will be constructed for two species of glider, micro bats, and other animals that nest in hollows. We will be working with Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service and the Iona West Men's Shed in the design and construction. The aim of the project is to increase hollow availability in areas of private woodland within the region, helping secure the future of these species.

5.5 Reliance Creek Palm Vine Forest Rehabilitation (Australian Government, Clean Energy Future Biodiversity Fund)



Trees in the Reliance Creek National Park smothered by Cat's-Claw Creeper

Photo: C Bartron

This project aims to rehabilitate the Reliance Creek National Park and adjoining areas of private land. The forest is classified as an endangered Palm Vine forest, and is subject to chronic infestations of Cats Claw Creeper (*Dolichandra unguis-cati*) and Hymenachne (*Hymenachne amplexicaulis*). Both weeds are classified as Weeds of National Significance.

Conservation Volunteers Australia will be engaged from August 2012 to control vines affecting the forest canopy. Treatment involves a section of each vine being physically removed and a herbicidal gel applied which kills the roots, tubers and understorey mats, significantly reducing weed regrowth. Use of the gel greatly reduces non-target poisoning which is critical in an endangered habitat. Cleared areas will be revegetated. Mackay Regional Council and Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service will be engaged to treat infestations of Hymenachne in their respective jurisdictions.

On-going education of landholders in the identification of Cat's Claw Creeper will also play an important role in this rehabilitation project. The project is scheduled to run to 2015 and will value add to the bio-control released some years ago and works undertaken over many years.

5.6 Sarina Community Coastcare (BMA Community Partnerships Program)

Throughout the year we have assisted SLCMA to progress the 'resident support' part of the Sarina Community Coastcare Program. The resident support program aims to support residents who volunteer their time to protect and rehabilitate sections of the coastal esplanade within the Sarina Beaches.

Many people who own property along the coast have been actively involved in the management of their local coastal esplanade for many years and Council has expressed concern for quality and personal insurance for people working in these areas. This program attempted to address those concerns directly by providing a site visit and technical support by an officer. A project plan is then developed covering major topics including native and non-native vegetation, erosion, public access, and risk management.

The Sarina Community Coastcare Program is a three year project being delivered by SLCMA, funded through the BMA Community Partnerships program. This program builds on previous coastal planning and rehabilitation activities undertaken over the last six years, in partnership with SLCMA, Council, Reef Catchments and other stakeholders.

5.7 Ruellia Control Trial Project (Mackay Regional Council, Natural Environment Levy)

A proposal to the Mackay Regional Council was approved for the trialling of herbicide control on the weed Ruellia (*Ruellia tweediana*). Ruellia is an invasive weed of riparian zones where it develops thick monocultures and hinders natural recruitment of native species. The project will run over a three year time frame and will focus on populations in and around Reliance Creek National Park.

6. Membership

Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group Inc.'s membership base expanded to 73 in 2011/12. The newsletter is distributed to over 600 recipients.

The Management Committee conducted monthly meetings and comprised the following persons;

- Mrs Margaret Lane (Chair); representing Organisation Member for *Society for Growing Australian Plants Mackay Branch*
- Mr David Hunter (Deputy Chairman): Ordinary Member
- Mr Bruce Milles (Treasurer to June 2012): Ordinary Member
- Ms Wendy Eiteneuer (Secretary): non-voting Member
- Ms Dianne Williams, representing Organisation Member for *Australian Forest Growers*
- Ms Irene Champion: Ordinary Member
- Ms Di Salau: Ordinary Member
- Cr Wendy Cameron (to June 2012): representing Organisation Member for *Mackay Regional Council*
- Cr Ross Walker (to June 2012): representing Organisation Member for *Mackay Regional Council*
- Dr Joan Fitzsimmons (to June 2012): representing Organisation Member for *Mackay Conservation Group*
- Cr Theresa Morgan (from June 2012): representing Organisation Member for *Mackay Regional Council*
- John Atkinson (from June 2012): Ordinary Member

7. Acknowledgements

In addition to those persons and organisations already acknowledged in the body of this report, many other people have contributed to the achievements of the organisation during the year.

These include:

- **Reef Catchments Mackay Whitsunday Isaac Ltd**, for generous support of our core activities through the Regional Landcare Facilitator, and technical support and resource sharing
- **Mackay Regional Council** for housing our operations, and in particular thank you to the Natural Environment team and the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens for the regular use of meeting facilities as well as support and knowledge sharing, and Pest Control Officers
- **Management Committee members**, who provide the strategic direction for the Group. A special thank you to Chairman Margaret Lane for her passion and dedication to our ongoing survival and to community-based natural resource management in our region, and Di Salau for her ongoing IT development and support
- **Our Volunteers**, including Healthy Waterways and nursery volunteers, those who share their technical knowledge on our field trips and other events, and Gerard Masters for enabling the distribution of our printed monthly newsletter
- **Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association** and **Whitsunday Catchment Landcare Inc.**, for their support and collaboration
- **Department of Natural Resources and Mining (formally Department of Environment and Resource Management) and Biosecurity Queensland** staff, for their generous technical support and collaboration on field events
- The range of **local organisations, government agencies and their staff** who have contributed to events held and who have provided technical advice

Natural resource management in our community is enriched by your contributions

