

Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group Inc.

Annual Report 2013/14



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chairman's Annual Report 2013/14	1
Project manager's Report	3
Projects and Activities in 2013/14	4
1 Mackay Regional Council Funding.....	4
1.1 Land for Wildlife.....	4
1.2 Workshops and Field Days	4
1.3 Promotions and Displays.....	5
1.4 Working with Stakeholders to Develop and Support Projects	7
1.5 Support for Local Schools.....	8
1.6 Environmental Awareness Days.....	9
1.7 The Nursery Team	9
1.8 Newsletter.....	10
2 Central Queensland Coast Landcare Network	10
3 Funded Projects.....	10
3.1 Pioneer Riverbank Restoration Project.....	10
3.2 MacKillop Wetlands Community Project	11
3.3 Reliance Creek Palm Vine Forest Rehabilitation	11
3.4 Ruellia Control Trial Project	11
3.5 Vegetation management and rehabilitation of Leila Creek tributary, zones 1-4 of Pond Apple Project.....	12
3.6 ERADICATE WEEDS (POND APPLE AND RUBBER VINE) WITHIN THE MACKAY WHITSUNDAY REGION (POND APPLE II PROJECT)	13
3.7 Giant Rats Tail Grass Trials	13
3.8 Building Resilience of Natural Areas and Sustainable Land Management on Small Properties Within the Mackay Whitsunday Region Project (Peri-urban Program extended)	13
3.9 Community Coastcare in the Mackay Whitsunday Region.....	14
3.10 Building community environmental leadership and waterway health restoration – Upper Pioneer Catchment and Owens Creek	14
3.11 Central Qld Coast Riparian Health Project – Marian riverbank stage 3.....	15
3.12 Land for Wildlife Nest Cylinder Project.....	15
3.13 Carbon Farming Futures 'Action on the Ground' Program – The clean energy benefits of tropical agricultural management systems	15
4 Other Grants	16
4.1 Grant for Administrative Support	16
Administration Matters	16
4.2 Membership.....	16
4.3 Management Committee.....	16
4.4 Facilities.....	17
4.5 Finances.....	17
Acknowledgements.....	19
Project funding & Sponsorship:.....	20
Appendix i - Auditor's Letter.....	21

When I agreed to be Chair again in October last year I said it would be my last year in that role. And so it was, as I resigned on the day I wrote this report.

Each year has its own challenges. This year, thanks to Wendy Eiteneuer and Kate Steel, the employment situation was stable and these officers worked hard to deliver our projects and commitments to funding bodies. However, they did have to work harder as we tried to adapt to not having the Regional Landcare Facilitator within our organisation. Various members of the Management Committee and other volunteers have stepped in to help out, and I thank them all.

While Kate was busy working with landholders and stakeholders, organising weed management and generally delivering a diverse range of projects, Wendy was keeping track of finances and managing the office. During the year Rod Hall, form Reef Catchments, stepped in as Treasurer, providing great support to Wendy in her role as bookkeeper. Di Salau continued to help with IT in the office, supporting officers to 'fix' problems, both large and small.

As usual, all members of the Management Committee fulfilled particular roles, and have helped out to try and ease the burdens on our officers. They provided knowledge and expertise over a range of matters from employment, project management, IT and local native plants. On behalf of Landcare I thank them all. These skills will continue to be needed and we are looking for new members to bring new ideas.

We have had terrific support from many volunteers this year. The nursery team produced over 6000 plants, as well as helping out on site at Far Beach and with seed collecting. The nursery team was ably led by Nicole Murphy and Robyn Law, easing both my and Kate's responsibilities in the nursery. The nursery volunteers have contributed in a number of other ways, from volunteering with Kate doing site work, helping with newsletters and building/making things that made our life easier. Gerard Masters was, once again, chief folder of newsletters. Other volunteers have supported our officers in a number of ways, not forgetting that the Management Committee are all volunteers. I believe that this level of support is an indication that what we are doing is worthwhile.

Mackay Regional Council continues to be a principal partner providing us with Landcare Support Funding which allows us to engage with our community and build capacity to deliver natural resource management outcomes. This funding is particularly important, enabling us to engage with and respond to the community. Council also funds the delivery of the Land for Wildlife program, an important program that enables us to support landholders who want to make a difference. We also received funding from Council to find the best way to manage the weed Ruellia, a bad weed in the wet riparian areas, and build nest boxes for Land for Wildlife properties.

2013/14 saw us working on four projects funded by the Queensland Government through Everyone's Environment Fund and one from the Australian Government Biodiversity Fund. And we received a small grant from the Australian Government to support administration. These are reported in more detail in the annual report. Reef Catchments Public Fund provided grants for two community groups, Marian Community Working Group and Friends of McKillop Wetlands

Opportunities for working with Reef Catchments Mackay Whitsunday Isaac, our regional NRM group were explored. Two projects were delivered in the last few months of the year, while discussion proceeded in relation to four more for the next two years. Reef Catchments Systems Repair Project has provided a big boost to activity in the nursery and we were able to, at short notice, provide more than 700 plants. Orders received for the next two planting seasons have

been received. We continued to work closely with Reef Catchments on the Log Jam project in Owens Creek.

The nature of the work we do means that we have many partnerships. As well as the two mentioned, we work closely with our sister Landcare Groups through the CQC Landcare Network and jointly funded projects. Without the services of our Landcare Facilitators we have struggled to realise fully the benefits of the CQC Landcare Network – I hope we can work on that in the near future. Conservation Volunteers Australia continues to be an important partner, working with us on our projects and side by side at many displays and community events. We have a close relationship with Society for Growing Australian Plants Mackay Branch and receive much support from members of that group, through both representation on the Management Committee and practical advice on collecting and growing native plants. Our contractors for pest management and bush regeneration have been wonderful to work with and provided great service.

Dealing with change is the greatest challenge – changing officers, changing funding regimes, changing NRM policies, changing weather. We need to talk very soon about how we can meet these challenges in both the short and long term. It has been a privilege to work in this field and I look forward to involvement in the future but at a less intense level.

It seems that what we do will never get easier ...but it will always be worthwhile.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Margaret Lane". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Margaret Lane

29 August 2014

PROJECT MANAGER'S REPORT

2013-14 has certainly gone fast. With the invaluable assistance from many external partners, we completed a number of projects, and started a few more as well this year. I have enjoyed working with people from diverse knowledge bases and skills, achieving a lot more together than otherwise could be expected.

Some key people in Reef Catchments made my life much easier, including of course Iona Flett, Belinda Billing, Amanda Bland and Kerri Woodcock. Gratitude especially to Shelley Molloy, Di Williams, Robyn Law, Caitlin Davies, Jock Hansen, Ray Greaves and Meryl Ritchie for their positive inputs and encouragement. Thank you to the Management Committee for support and help.

We lost the support of a Regional Landcare Facilitator at the beginning of the year; so the work that person was doing with us had to be completed otherwise. Some of the Committee stepped up for this, but the added work load has been a strain.

This year we delivered over 1500 plants amongst our Land for Wildlife members, Landcare members and to recipients at shows and events. The nursery is performing well to meet the increased demand for projects and this is set to increase next year. I suggest that native plant production for revegetation and landscape enhancement is strength of the Group that should be promoted.



Kate Steel

July 2014

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES IN 2013/14

1 MACKAY REGIONAL COUNCIL FUNDING

Mackay Regional Council (MRC) has generously supported Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group Inc. (PCL) by funding our Project Manager to deliver several key programs and activities, including the activities of the community nursery volunteers. Council also provides the space we use as an office at the Swayne Street Natural Environment Centre, printed our monthly newsletter, and generally helped us out in many small ways as required! This partnership strengthens PCL's capabilities and is very much appreciated.

1.1 LAND FOR WILDLIFE

We added 107ha to the Land for Wildlife program in 2013-14, including eleven new property parcels. There is now 1,162ha currently registered as Land for Wildlife with around 77 properties in the Pioneer Catchment & Landcare area, including schools, golf courses, Council land and private properties.

The Land for Wildlife program is also funded to deliver a locally produced quarterly newsletter to our members. This task is shared with the Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association (SLCMA).

1.2 WORKSHOPS AND FIELD DAYS

Weedbuster Week Weed Identification Field Day at Finch Hatton Gorge

Wednesday 4 Sept 2013: Over 20 locals, Shelley Molloy (MRC Pest Management Officer), Jock Hansen (Revegetation contractor), Peter George (Ergon Energy Easement Officer) and six chickens came along to this WeedBusters Week Event.

Shelley and Kate set up the trailer and tables under a marquee at the old Gorge Kiosk property, now owned by Rob and Lorraine Wright (Land for Wildlife members). The event was aimed at locals in the Gorge area and was well publicised. Both Lorraine and Shelley distributed over 40 leaflets to local landholders, businesses and community notice boards.



Most people attended for the whole time and a few brought samples of weeds for identification. Most were common garden weeds, with some weedy grasses (eg Elephant Grass). We had a discussion about weeds of concern in the area, then Rob Wright took a tour of his work on the property talking about Singapore Daisy, Lantana and Guinea Grass control. People were interested in control techniques as well as revegetation to replace the Lantana. Shelley demonstrated the Splatter Gun. There were lots of questions and a really yummy morning tea and everyone said they got something useful for the day.

1.3 PROMOTIONS AND DISPLAYS

We continued to attend community events as an important way of engaging the public and promoting projects and programs as well as broadcasting new information to landholders on various land management issues. The Pest Education Trailer, managed by the Mackay Regional Pest Management Group, proved to be a drawcard for several of our displays.

Farleigh Palm Fete 2014

Held annually at Farleigh State School, the Pioneer Catchment & Landcare stand was set up alongside the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens and Society for Growing Australian Plants displays, and once again included the Pest Education Trailer. Quite a few people turned up for a chat or to get some land management advice.



The focus was on weeds, with plenty of copies of Mackay Regional Pest Management Group brochures handed out – *Are Your Garden Plants Going Bush?* and Pest Fact sheets on relevant local weeds. A focus tended to be on backyard and environmental weeds for small block owners such as Singapore Daisy, Giant Rats Tail, and various garden escapees.

Ag Trade Life 2014



We delivered an integrated display with MRPMG members. Handouts, newsletters, stickers etc. were available and plant giveaways were popular, with 125 trees supplied by PCL and 150 trees supplied by Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Assoc. (SLCMA). Biosecurity Staff also delivered local Red Witchweed information. There were lots of enquiries about weed management and questions about what trees to plant at various sites. It was useful having the Pest Management team there and we all worked together well.

Reef Catchments Grazing Forum 2014

Pioneer Catchment and Landcare participated in the Grazing Forum sponsored by the Federal Government's Reef Rescue Program and held at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre. The Central Queensland Coast Landcare Network stall provided land management information and material about the Federal Government's Carbon Farming Initiative, and we distributed 50 free native plants at this event.

Pioneer Valley Show 2014

Pioneer Catchment & Landcare again had a great opportunity to engage with a large number of community members and local landholders at the show. Kate Steel, Di Williams, Shelley Molloy and Amanda Bland provided advice and assistance whilst giving away 450 native plants to a very enthusiastic crowd, as well as promoting Landcare and providing land management and pest management advice.



Mackay Show 2014

This year Pioneer Catchment & Landcare presented a display at the Mackay Show as part of Mackay Regional Council's "Sustainability Precinct". We teamed up with Conservation Volunteers Australia to have a three-day display and promotion.

The space was reasonably well visited. In spite of a slow start on the first day, about 800 visitors went through the pavilion over the three days. Mackay Regional Pest Management Groups Pest Education Trailer was a focus of attention, and Mackay Regional Pest Management Group and Conservation Volunteers Australia gave away 200 plants as well as providing information resources.



1.4 WORKING WITH STAKEHOLDERS TO DEVELOP AND SUPPORT PROJECTS



MARIAN COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP MEMBERS AT A WORKING BEE



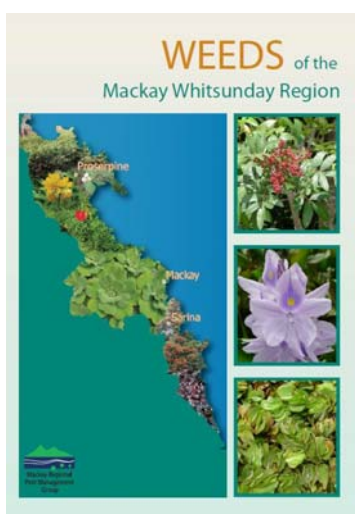
WORKING WITH CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS AUSTRALIA ON A PROJECT SITE

Pioneer Catchment & Landcare continued to provide support where possible to community groups including Marian Community Working Group, the Friends of the Morag McNichol Reserve, the Friends of MacKillop Wetlands.

Working with Stakeholders is a large grab-bag of working relationships, networks and co-operative activities with diverse people and groups in the Region.

Some specific activities this year included: attendance at local Volunteer planning event to promote volunteering initiatives in Mackay region; working with MRC Pest Management Officers and Biosecurity regarding weed identification and extension projects; ongoing liaison with the Iona West Men's Shed, refining nest cylinder construction and exploring other ideas where the Men's Shed can work with Landcare; attendance at the Queensland State Landcare Conference in Warwick; and working with the Mackay Community Gardens project development.

We also continued to work with and promote other groups in the region including Fauna Rescue Whitsunday, Birdlife Mackay, SGAP, EcoBarge Clean Seas, Mackay Conservation Group and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Parks Authority, among others.



THE WEED GUIDE FOR OUR REGION

The Mackay Regional Pest Management Group (MRPMG) continues to be an important consortium of local and regional operators working together to battle the weed menace of the region. The Committee structure has changed this year, with Reef Catchment staff become more involved in driving Land Use group planning and strategies, based on the current Weed Plan for the region. A big achievement for the MRPMG this year was the publishing of a local weed ID and control guide.

Kate Steel continued to represent Landcare Groups on the Committee of Mackay Regional Pest Management Group. One of the most valuable aspects of this group is the fantastic information and resource sharing from experienced local operators. Pioneer Catchment and Landcare has been present at various events with the Pest Management Trailer again, working alongside Biosecurity staff, Reef Catchments, Mackay Regional Council, and Conservation Volunteers Australia,

Kate took over the role of representative on the Natural Environment Advisory Committee with Mackay Regional Council this year as well, aiming to help direct environmental funding in the Region.

Through education and awareness in the community, and practical resource sharing activities the group works with others to provide a united approach to Landcare issues.

1.5 SUPPORT FOR LOCAL SCHOOLS

We have continued to be an important resource for some of the region's 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.

In the year we helped the following schools do a range of environmental activities including:

- Mercy College at the Nursery and Far Beach
- Finch Hatton School and Gargett School revegetation at Owens Creek
- Gargett School site planning for tree planting help
- Outdoor education sessions with Mackay North year 12 Biology classes
- Presentation to Mackay North year 11 student son Integrated Catchment Management
- Provision of trees for Andergrove State School
- Support for funding applications for a number of Childcare centres (Coles Landcare funding)
- Supporting the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Reef Guardian Schools Program, attending networking meetings and school events.



*REEF GUARDIAN SCHOOLS ACTIVITY AT
WETLANDS WALKABOUT*



*MERCY COLLEGE STUDENTS HELP OUT AT FAR BEACH
REVEGETATION PROJECT*

1.6 ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS DAYS

Pioneer Catchment & Landcare supported the Great Northern Clean Up 20 September 2013. A massive assault was made on Riverside Drive area with an outstanding turnout again this year. Cr Laurence Bonaventura encouraged the Pioneer State High School to join in with St Patrick's School. Fifty-one students and three staff worked hard as rubbish was emptied from bags into JJ Richards skip bin. Rubbish retrieved was large and various as usual, with an estimated more than 1.5 tonnes of rubbish removed from the site.

Mackay Coastal Clean-up in October also achieved amazing results with Pioneer Catchment and Landcare sponsoring a community event at Far Beach on 27 October. Over 50 volunteers worked alongside the Eco-Barge team from Airlie Beach collecting over 4,000kg of rubbish along the stretch of beach from Illawong to the Town Beach area.



FIFTY-ONE STUDENTS FROM TWO SCHOOLS AT THE GREAT NORTHERN CLEAN UP



OUTDOOR EDUCATION WITH CONSERVATION PARTNERS AT FAR BEACH

1.7 THE NURSERY TEAM

During 2013/14 Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group's nursery team had spent a minimum of 1185 volunteer hours producing about 6200 plants. We have 14 registered nursery volunteers, with up to 8 attending each Tuesday morning. Nursery activities include seed collecting, sowing, potting up, weeding, fertilising and pot washing. We started the year with around 2000 plants in stock and after distributing more than 5000 plants our stock at the end of June was 3100. The majority of the end year stock comprised plants growing on for next seasons planting.

Plants were provided at no cost to landholders in the Land for Wildlife and Peri-urban projects and to Council for its projects, as well as to PCL members and the community both from the nursery and at events where we have displays. Externally funded projects usually have funds to purchase plants, and these funds went toward supporting the volunteers and small purchases for the nursery.



CARLA LAMBROPOULOS, PCL PROJECT OFFICER AND ROBYN LAW, NURSERY VOLUNTEER AND PCL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBER INSPECT A TRAY OF DYSOXYLUM GAUDICHAUDIANUM - IVORY MAHOGANY IN THE NURSERY.

Council provides the inputs for the nursery and funds us two days per month officer time. It takes much more than two days per month to facilitate and manage the growing of 6000 plants per year and this extra was done with volunteer hours. Robyn Law and Nicole Murphy shared the role of volunteer team manager, and Margaret Lane provided overall management. The nursery volunteers not only grew the plants that we distributed, but have been out on project sites watering and weeding as well as helping out PCL many different ways.

We were very happy when we moved back into the Mackay Natural Environment Centre on October where we enjoyed the renovated facilities. Our thanks go to Di Williams and National Parks at Slade Point for looking after our plants during the period of renovation at MNEC. Also thanks to Margaret Lane for the use of her garden for our nursery days, and for the good coffee.

1.8 NEWSLETTER

Eleven newsletters are produced each year. 2013/14 editions were funded by Mackay Regional Council with very welcome in-kind printing production support from Mackay Regional Council and then Reef Catchments.

We currently distribute to over 550 residents. The newsletter provides information about PCL projects and events, local biodiversity and biosecurity information, as well as a calendar of Natural Resource Management events and activities in our region.

2 CENTRAL QUEENSLAND COAST LANDCARE NETWORK

The Central Queensland Coast Landcare Network (CQCLN) is a collaboration of Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group (PCL), Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association (SLCMA) and Whitsunday Catchment Landcare (WCL). The network has been a little quieter this year without the support of a Regional Landcare Facilitator, but despite this and changes in staffing in the region, three co-operative projects in the Everyone's Environment Grant program are being delivered (See Sections 3.8, 3.9 & 3.11 below). The newest project is aimed at building on the strengths in Peri-urban landscape extension work. Regular meetings continue with the CQCLN group to encourage each other to work together.

A key supporter of the CQCLN is Kapow Interactive. Responsible for the initial design of our websites, Kapow now provides ongoing support to ensure they continue to operate and fulfil our needs.

3 FUNDED PROJECTS

3.1 PIONEER RIVERBANK RESTORATION PROJECT

(REEF CATCHMENTS PUBLIC FUND)

'Stage 2' of the Marian Community Working Group Riverbank restoration project has been acquitted this year, and the project continues to be subject to maintenance under the watchful eyes of the community group. The poisoning and removal of *Leucaena* trees, Singapore Daisy, and weedy grasses has been a challenge for revegetation. However, the native trees planted are pushing through and some are around 4m high. The site will require maintenance over the coming years, and additional funding may be required to engage weed contractors for this, as some of the work is too exhausting for the community group members.

'Stage 3' of this project is report below under the Everyone's Environment Grant State Government funding stream

3.2 MACKILLOP WETLANDS COMMUNITY PROJECT

(REEF CATCHMENTS PUBLIC FUND)

This project has also been acquitted this year, and the Friends of MacKillop Wetland are committed to continuing their maintenance and restoration activities.

MacKillop Wetland is directly adjacent to a local school, and teachers and students find it a constant source of educational value and interest. With a significant amount of work still to be done, PCL is currently seeking avenues for further funding to support the next stage of this on-going project.

3.3 RELIANCE CREEK PALM VINE FOREST REHABILITATION

(AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE BIODIVERSITY FUND)

Work continues during suitable seasonal windows on this endangered Palm Vine forest, focusing on the removal of Cats Claw Creeper (*Macfadyena unguis-cati*) and *Hymenachne* (*Hymenachne amplexicaulis*). Both weeds are classified as Weeds of National Significance.

Conservation Volunteers Australia have spent many weeks controlling vines affecting the forest canopy in private land areas of the site, and recently moved into the National Park sections. A Pest Contractor is also engaged to deal with foliar applications of regrowth vine. Another contractor is working on the revegetation program.



NOVEMBER 2013, JOHN ATKINSON LEADS A COMMUNITY FIELD WALK AT RELIANCE CREEK



UNVEILING SITE SIGNAGE AT A COMMUNITY WORKING BEE MAY 2014, RELIANCE CREEK

Management Plans have been delivered to eight target landholders in the neighbourhood, with around ten other community members engaged about weed management in general. Milestones for the current year of the project have been met, with 1100 local native plants installed at a community engagement event and field walk day in November 2013. Another community engagement day and working bee was held in May 2014, with a further 150 plants planted, and a site sign unveiled.

3.4 RUELLIA CONTROL TRIAL PROJECT

(MACKAY REGIONAL COUNCIL, NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME)

The first year of the Ruellia (*Ruellia simplex*) Trial, supported by Mackay Regional Council, at Reliance Creek was hampered by late wet seasonal conditions, and an extension was granted. The first year milestones were met by December 2013, and a second year project approved to December 2014.

Mackay Regional Council staff assisted to spray out the Ruellia in a trial of 3 treatment areas. After 12 weeks (in September 2013) it was determined that a single chemical (Grazon) was showing best results. This has informed subsequent treatment of the trial sites, as well as extension into the second year sites.

The second year sites were sprayed out in April 2014, in preparation for revegetation (funded under the project 3.3 above). On-going monitoring and opportunistic spraying will continue in this current stage.

3.5 VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AND REHABILITATION OF LEILA CREEK TRIBUTARY, ZONES 1-4 OF POND APPLE PROJECT

(SUB-FUNDED THROUGH REEF CATCHMENTS' "CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY" PROGRAM)

The first phase of the Leila Creek Pond Apple was finalised this year with weed control and 900 native tube stock added to by extending the project upstream to another property with weed control and planting 250 trees.

Revegetation follow-up monitoring and maintenance has continued into 2014.



STAGE 1 RUELLIA TREATMENT SUBJECT TO REVEGETATION (BACKGROUND) WITH STAGE 2 NEWLY TREATED IN APRIL 2014 (FOREGROUND)



EXTENDED AREA OF RIPARIAN REVEGETATION UNDER THE POND APPLE CONTROL PROJECT

3.6 ERADICATE WEEDS (POND APPLE AND RUBBER VINE) WITHIN THE MACKAY WHITSUNDAY REGION (POND APPLE II PROJECT)

(REEF CATCHMENTS STATE FUNDING)

This project aims to eradicate weeds (Pond Apple *Annona glabra* and Rubber Vine *Cryptostegia grandiflora*) impacting on high quality agricultural land and environmental assets within the Mackay Whitsunday Region. Pond Apple and Rubber Vine pose significant environmental threats to the Region and are considered to be one of the highest priority pests under the Mackay Regional Pest Management Plan and State Legislation.



BIOSECURITY QLD AND MACKAY REGIONAL COUNCIL OFFICERS IDENTIFY POND APPLE REGROWING IN THE TARGET CATCHMENT - JUNE 2014

This project was a short term delivery of on ground activities in conjunction with Mackay Regional Council. It is the start of a second year of similar funding to cover two sub-catchments the Reliance Creek Catchment and the Pioneer River Catchment. In this year we completed surveys to identify the presence of Pond Apple germinations in Reliance Creek Catchment and the Pioneer River Catchment; Landholders trained in identification of pond apple; Displays at regional shows etc to build awareness of pond apple; and monitoring of treated germinated seedlings to ensure effectiveness of control measures.

3.7 GIANT RATS TAIL GRASS TRIALS

(REEF CATCHMENTS STATE FUNDING)

This project aims to eradicate weeds (Giant Rats Tail Grass *Sporobolus* sp, GRT) impacting on high quality agricultural land and environmental assets within the Mackay Whitsunday Region. GRT poses a significant environmental threat to the Region and is considered to be one of the highest priority pests under the Mackay Regional Pest Management Plan and State Legislation.

This is the start of a three-year project running to June 2016, with Pioneer Catchment and Landcare undertaking on-ground monitoring of eight different GRT grass treatments over five plots, in the Gargett area.

3.8 BUILDING RESILIENCE OF NATURAL AREAS AND SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT ON SMALL PROPERTIES WITHIN THE MACKAY WHITSUNDAY REGION PROJECT (PERI-URBAN PROGRAM EXTENDED)

(EVERYONE'S ENVIRONMENT GRANTS, QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT)

We are again working with Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association (SLCMA) and Whitsunday Catchment Landcare (WCL) to deliver a peri-urban style program within the our region. The Queensland Government funds will be used to focus on delivering land management assistance to landholders in the Peri-urban sector. Landholders will receive a property assessment, information pack and land management plan focused on pest and weed control, revegetation strategies, erosion control and improving soil health. Funds are available to deliver a tray of native local trees to each landholder as well. The project is currently in its early stages, with 10 new property assessments expected each year of the project (to end 2016).

3.9 COMMUNITY COASTCARE IN THE MACKAY WHITSUNDAY REGION

(EVERYONE'S ENVIRONMENT GRANTS, QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT)

This project is managed by SLCMA and is an example of the way the CQCLN is working together to improve land management outcomes. PCL's site is at Far Beach, building on work commenced 10 years ago.

750 plants have been planted at the site, although some major losses were experienced due to cyclones early in 2014. A number of engagement opportunities with Mercy College High School students were a feature for the year. The students helped with 2 clean-up events, planted 200 plants and learnt about coastal management issues at an integrated outdoor education session with Mackay Turtle Watch, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Reef Catchments and Mackay Conservation Group.



REVEGETATION AT FAR BEACH IN FULL SWING

The CVA team expanded weed control work to half of the entire site (1.2ha), in preparation for revegetation. Grassy weeds, Prickly Pear and Lantana have been significantly reduced. The Mackay Regional Council Bush Crew has also assisted with site maintenance over the year.

3.10 BUILDING COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AND WATERWAY HEALTH RESTORATION – UPPER PIONEER CATCHMENT AND OWENS CREEK

(EVERYONE'S ENVIRONMENT GRANTS, QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT)



IONA FLETT HELPS OUT LOCAL SCHOOL CHILDREN REVEGETATE THE OWENS CREEK BANK

The Owen's Creek Engineered Log Jam Project progressed this year.

Logs were installed prior to wet season, and the revegetation program undertaken over the summer with private contractors planting 500 riparian pioneer species. Fencing by the landholder was completed and a site sign was unveiled at a community Riparian Field Trip in March 2014. A school excursion to the site helped with revegetation and education activities.

Monitoring is ongoing and it is already obvious that fish habitat is improving at the site with some deepening of pools after summer wet season occurring.

3.11 CENTRAL QLD COAST RIPARIAN HEALTH PROJECT – MARIAN RIVERBANK STAGE

3

(EVERYONE'S ENVIRONMENT GRANTS, QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT)

Extensive weed control and revegetation occurred at this site this year. Conservation Volunteers Australia and contractors cut stumped *Leucaena* (*Leucaena leucacephala* subsp. *leucacephala*) and foliar sprayed Guinea Grass (*Megathyrsus maximus* var. *maximus*) and prepared the area for revegetation with 600 local native plants. Other weeds include vines and sensitive weed, along with the discovery of Guava, Singapore Daisy and Castor Oil Plant, made weed control more complex than planned. As well, thousands of little *Leucaena* plants continue to come up even after the planting season. The final planting site (400 specimens) is under preparation, with a plan to burn out *Leucaena* stems to assist access and ongoing maintenance.



REVEGETATION WORKING BEE AT PIONEER RIVERBANK, MARIAN

Highlights include two successful community working bees with the Marian Community Working Group, and other locals, to plant 600 plants. The group members continued to maintain the area with weeding and watering when needed.

3.12 LAND FOR WILDLIFE NEST CYLINDER PROJECT

(MACKAY REGIONAL COUNCIL, NATURAL ENVIRONMENT LEVY)

This project finished up with 50 sturdy native animal nest cylinder constructed with the Men's Shed at West Mackay. Distribution continues this year to Land for Wildlife members with the correct habitat areas. We continue to engage new landholders with these cylinders and also seek to get feedback from those who have installed them as to their usage.

3.13 CARBON FARMING FUTURES 'ACTION ON THE GROUND' PROGRAM – THE CLEAN ENERGY BENEFITS OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

(AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DEPT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY)

This project is a large research project run by Reef Catchments with the support of Qld Dept Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry and Farmacist Pty Ltd. Agricultural scientists are experimenting with the amount, timing and application methods of different fertilisers on different soil types in the Mackay region.

This year Pioneer Catchment and Landcare undertook weekly sampling of Nitrous Oxide Trials on a local cane farm, engaging with other delivery agents to compile data and extend results at a field day in April 2014. The aim of the trials is to reduce the greenhouse emissions (nitrous oxide) of sugar cane farming practices to the atmosphere, to increase carbon stored in soil, and promote innovative practices amongst farmers. The trials will begin again after planting occurs in late 2014.

Pioneer Catchment and Landcare also hosted a two-day seminar and field demonstration measuring humified organic carbon in sugar cane soil. Two leading experts in Soil Carbon

presented research information on Soil health and composting and innovative farming practices in Australia that promotes 'carbon farming'.

4 OTHER GRANTS

4.1 GRANT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

(GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY AND HERITAGE ORGANISATIONS (GVESHO) PROGRAM)

PCL's application to the GVESHO Program was approved in March 2014. This program funds salaries, rental office accommodation, office supplies, some capital equipment, utilities and communications charges, staff and volunteer training, insurance, printing and travel for Voluntary Environment, Sustainability And Heritage Organisations. In our case, \$3,000 was received and it was put to good use providing salary support for our Office Manager position.

ADMINISTRATION MATTERS

4.2 MEMBERSHIP

Starting the year with 58 members, this number grew steadily over the year, ending with 83 members by the end of June 2014. This was in part due to the increased interest trees from the thriving Nursery program at – Refer Section 1.7.

4.3 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Management Committee conducted monthly meetings and comprised the following people:

- Mrs Margaret Lane (Chair); Organisation Member representing *Society for Growing Australian Plants Mackay Branch*
- Mr David Hunter (Deputy Chairman): Ordinary Member
- Mr Rod Hall (Treasurer); Organisation Member representing Reef Catchments MWI Ltd
- Ms Wendy Eiteneuer (Secretary): non-voting Member
- Mr John Atkinson: Ordinary Member
- Ms Irene Champion: Ordinary Member
- Ms Caitlin Davies: Ordinary Member
- Ms Robyn Law: Ordinary Member
- Cr Theresa Morgan: Organisation Member representing *Mackay Regional Council*
- Ms Di Salau: Ordinary Member
- Ms Dianne Williams: Ordinary Member

Our thanks and appreciations go to all members of the Management Committee for their on-going contributions to the running of Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group Inc. They provide vital strategic direction, as well as passion and dedication to community-based natural resource management in our region and ultimately ensuring our ongoing success as a community NRM organisation.

4.4 FACILITIES

Office: We continue to work from our office at the Mackay Natural Environment Centre (MNEC) in Swayne Street North Mackay. Mackay Regional Council provides our office, telephone and electricity, a shed for storage of our equipment and car parking for our vehicle. Council also supplies and equips the on-site nursery where our team of volunteers do their magic.

Vehicle: Carlisle Motors has continued to support us with maintenance of our vehicle, which hasn't missed a beat since we bought it.

Nursery: The MNEC upgrade was completed in November 2013. While we hope to have a couple of additions to facilities in the future (ie. Solid-roofed seed-raising house, 30%-shaded transition zone), the resulting improvement in the nursery facilities and their useability has been significant.

4.5 FINANCES

Financial statements for the 2013/14 financial year were audited in August 2014 by the appointed auditor, Bennett Partners Chartered Accountants. Appendix 1 contains the Independent Audit Report on the Financial Report, with the full financial statements being available as a separate document on request.

Page 18 shows a table that provides a full summary of PCL's financial position and an overview of income, expenses and final balances to 30/06/2014.

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS Budget/Actuals for June 2014				
Item	BUDGET 2013/14	ACTUALS		
		Income to 30/06/14	Expenses to 30/06/14	Balance at 30/06/14
AUSPICED GROUPS	8,749	8,749	4,930	3,819
Friends of MacKillop Wetland	2,947	2,947	2,652	295
Friends Morag McNichol Reserve	3,197	3,197	0	3,197
Marian Community Group	2,605	2,605	2,278	327
GRANTS	283,479	287,804	234,253	53,551
BMP Giant Rats Tail Grass	4,000	4,000	4,000	0
Don Meyers WQ Monitoring	2,877	2,877	500	2,377
EEG Coastal (Far Beach)	19,428	12,952	20,463	-7,511
EEG Log Jam (Owens Ck)	37,917	55,117	46,596	8,521
EEG Peri-Urban	1,972	1,972	0	1,972
EEG Riparian (Marian Riverbank)	14,745	14,745	16,120	-1,375
Forestry Working Group	10,500	10,500	0	10,500
GVESHO		3,000	3,000	0
Land for Wildlife (MRC)	10,600	16,714	11,007	5,707
LfW Nest Boxes	3,169	3,169	3,169	0
MRC Landcare Support 2013	40,000	20,486	20,486	0
MRC Landcare Support 2014	20,000	20,000	18,230	1,770
Pond Apple Eradication 2014	7,000	7,000	7,000	0
Pond Apple / Leila Creek	15,348	15,348	15,348	0
Reliance Creek Rehab	57,947	57,947	53,659	4,288
Ruellia Trial	4,248	4,248	3,509	739
Soil Health Project	20,000	20,000	10,002	9,998
Sugarcane Trial	15,000	15,000	0	15,000
TMR <i>Thunbergia</i> Project	2,728	2,728	1,165	1,564
NURSERY OPERATIONS (MRC)	680	9,297	7,634	1,663
OFFICERS	115,548	106,115	95,555	10,559
Office Manager	26,398	22,735	20,491	2,244
Project Manager	89,150	83,380	75,064	8,315
PCL OPERATIONS	15,699	22,349	15,138	7,211
Audit & Bookkeeping	1,300	2,300	1,300	1,000
Business Support	5,235	5,535	5,851	-316
Communication Strategy	500	1,064	564	500
Interest		2,835	0	2,835
Member Support	1,000	1,000	407	593
Mgmt Committee Support	3,524	3,524	957	2,568
Motor Vehicle	4,140	4,140	4,109	31
Sundry Reimbursements		1,951	1,951	0
RESERVES	38,755	50,231	3,000	47,231
Asset Replacement (MV)	4,500	4,500	0	4,500
Business Support		5,651	0	5,651
General	31,197	31,371	3,000	28,371
Motor Vehicle		5,651	0	5,651
Nursery	3,058	3,058	0	3,058
TOTAL	462,910	484,544	360,511	124,033

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

- **Our Volunteers.** Important volunteers over the year have been: **Di Salau**, IT Helper Extraordinaire, who continues to work tirelessly on our database, server and backup systems, procedures and Management Committee; the **Pioneer Nursery Volunteer Team**, in particular, **Margaret Lane**, **Robyn Law** and **Nicole Murphy**, who volunteered considerable time to manage our Nursery Volunteer program and plant distributions; and also **Gerard Masters**, who continues to help every month with the folding and distribution of the newsletters, which is very much appreciated. Our thanks go to all of you for your contributions.
- **Reef Catchments Mackay Whitsunday Isaac Ltd**, for the generous provision of technical support and resource sharing, and for continuing to involve PCL in their on-ground activities.
- **Mackay Regional Council** for housing our operations and assisting with knowledge sharing, general support and facilitation. Specifically, we need to thank the Natural Environment team including **Lisa**, **Jonathon**, **Richard** and the **Bush Crew**, the **Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens staff**, and the **Pest Management Officers** who have collaborated and generously shared their knowledge.
- **Society for Growing Australian Plants Mackay Branch**, for representation on the Management Committee, supplying plants for our members and for advice and support in our endeavours to promote the knowledge and use of local native plants.
- **Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association** and **Whitsunday Catchment Landcare Inc.**, for their support and collaboration.
- **Meryl Ritchie** of the Mackay Tree Factory, for assistance far beyond just the commercial supply of plants for our projects.
- **Conservation Volunteers Australia**, for support for the Management Committee and friendly collaboration at events.
- **Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service**, for representation on the Management Committee and support for and advice on projects.
- **Department of Natural Resources and Mines** 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
- **Other donations** of time, money or resources were received from the following people or organisations, who have our deep appreciation for their contribution:
 - **Megan Taylor** of **Kapow Interactive** waived fees for management of CQCLN websites.
 - **Carlisle Motors** have ensured we stay 'on the move' with care and maintenance of our lovely Mitsubishi Triton ute.
 - **Bennett Partners Chartered Accountants** and **Phil Doring Insurance Brokers** discounted professional fees
 - **Ruth Croker** generously donated with her membership renewal as she has each year of her membership.

*Natural resource management in our community is enriched by your contribution,
thank you!*

PROJECT FUNDING, SPONSORSHIP & PARTNERSHIPS:



APPENDIX I - AUDITOR'S LETTER



Friday, 15th August 2014

Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group Inc.
PO Box 1076
MACKAY QLD 4740

To the Members of Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group Inc.,

Re: Re: Audit of the financial report for the period ended 30/06/2014

The objective of our audit was to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial report was free of material misstatement. We are responsible for forming and expressing an opinion on the financial report that has been prepared by management with the oversight of those charged with governance. Our audit of the financial report does not relieve management or those charged with governance of their responsibilities.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal controls or for identifying all significant deficiencies that may exist. Accordingly, our audit would not usually identify all such matters that may be of interest to you and it is inappropriate to conclude that no such matters exist however if we have identified any significant deficiencies in internal control, they are advised below.

No Significant Deficiencies

During the course of our audit of Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2014, we did not identify any significant deficiencies, that in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards and in our professional judgement should be raised for the committee's attention.

Auditors opinion on accounting policies, estimates and disclosures used:

- The policies, estimates and disclosures in the financial report are considered appropriate for the Association's financial reporting obligations.

Significant difficulties, if any, encountered during the audit

- There were no significant difficulties identified during our audit.

Liability limited by a scheme approved under professional standards legislation

Partners: Danyli Comiteri, Chris Sommut, Paul Hinton, Rob Bowes, Therese Scatton, Geoff O'Connor, John Lewis
Mackay: First floor, 122 Wood Street, Mackay QLD 4740 PO Box 92, Mackay QLD 4740
Brisbane: Level 3, 400 Queen Street, Brisbane QLD 4000 GPO Box 2561, Brisbane QLD 4001

Bennett Partners Pty Ltd ACN 010 430 314 ABN 21 171 313 477
Phone: (07) 4951 1455 Fax: (07) 4951 4824 Email: enquiries@bennettpartners.com.au
Phone: (07) 3221 6200 Fax: (07) 3221 9811 Email: enquiries@bennettpartners.com.au

Wendy this scanned page isn't straight so it needs to scanned again.

Management representations

Each year we provide you with Bennett Partners Audit Engagement Brochure that details the responsibilities and obligations on you as client and on us as auditors. Part of those obligations is for you to advise us of any fraud or misappropriation that has occurred during the year. Additionally you are to advise us that if you are of the opinion that Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group Inc. is unable to pay its obligations as they become due.

At the start of the audit we were not advised of any fraud or misappropriation or any inability of Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group Inc. to pay its debts during the year. During our audit we did not discover any information that would lead us to believe any fraud or inability to pay occurred during the year.

We enclose:

- Two copies of the Audited Financial Statements for 30/06/2014, one for your retention and the other for forwarding to the Office of Fair Trading Qld with the Association's annual return.
- An additional Statement by Members of the Management Committee to be signed and returned to our office to complete our records.
- A journal adjustment schedule has been provided for input into your Quickbooks file to align your Quickbooks file with the audited financial statements.
- Our fee for professional services rendered.

This communication is prepared solely for your information and is not intended for any other purpose. We accept no responsibility to a third party who uses this communication.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Hinton - CA
Bennett Partners Chartered Accountants
Date: 15/08/2014