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Annual Report

2017-2018 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 2017 – 18 WCL had 84 members and over 44 registered volunteers and 223 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;
 Dale Mengel, Scott Hardy;
 John Casey; CR. Ron Petterson.

2017 –18 STAFF:

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

Chairperson's Report

Graham Armstrong Chair -Whitsunday Catchment Landcare



This year has been the 20th anniversary of Whitsunday Catchment Landcare and its precursor organisation. It is heartening to see that the Whitsunday community has supported Landcare activities for such a time. During the year the Management Committee remained focused on utilising accumulated funds to maintain operational capacity. We have been committed to delivering environmental and community outcomes throughout the year while aiming to reduce unnecessary costs. Thus, in this ongoing period of limited grant funding throughout the sector, our financial reserves have continued to reduce. Despite these challenges 2017/18 was another successful and activity packed year as can be seen by the variety of activities reported by our Coordinator Cath Campbell.

WCL's current activities and direction provides evidence of a commitment to promoting and supporting nature in a productive landscape. With the support of our members and volunteers we seek ways in which we can contribute to land management approaches where wildlife and natural systems are incorporated into property planning. Our achievements are the sum total of the combined efforts of everyone involved. Together we can have a positive impact on land management practices as we help promote the various programmes we are involved in.

I gratefully acknowledge the work of the other members of the Management Committee - Jim Dickens, Scott Hardy, Wendy Gordon, John Casey (Proserpine Canegrowers), Dale Mengel and Ron Petterson (Whitsunday Regional Council) who help to provide the oversight of our organisation. Their input and expertise are truly of great benefit and provide thoughtful direction to WCL.

As you will see from the Coordinator's report, the hard work of Cath Campbell requires high praise as she relentlessly brings the aspirations of the organisation into reality through perseverance and a strong will to succeed. Cath has ably kept



Australian Government
 Department of the Environment



the organisational wheels turning and has provided direction to our other employees during the year - Peter Alden (Project Officer), Kathy Bennett (Nursery Manager) & Leigh Donkers, (Accounts & Payroll Administration). A special acknowledgement is due for Pete's role as chair of the Regional Pest Management Group where important management decisions are made regarding weed and feral animal control in our broader region. Well done Peter!

Many, many thanks are due to all our wonderful volunteers for their dedication to our role in the community and their participation in the various activities and events that were held throughout the year. Activities such as our ongoing Galbraith Park and other revegetation projects, community interaction and education events, school events, peri-urban property support program and the operation of our Native Plant Nursery are all dependant on ongoing support from members and volunteers.

Of course WCL cannot achieve results in isolation and partnerships with other organisations are highly valued. In particular, Whitsunday Regional Council, Reef Catchments NRM and Proserpine Cane Growers require special mention for their ongoing support. One example this year has been the formalisation of agreements with Whitsunday Regional Council, including the Native Plant Nursery agreement. For a more complete list of supporting organisations please refer to Page 11 of this Annual Report.

During the year staff and committee members continued to interact with Pioneer & Sarina Landcare groups and I am happy to report that that Collinsville and Bowen Landcare Group has formed to address broad-acre weed problems on properties in this region. During the year WCL was involved in field days in the Bowen/Collinsville region organised by NQ Dry Tropics NRM. WCL also welcomed a visit to our Nursery from the Lower Burdekin Landcare Group based at Ayr, also an initiative of NQ Dry Tropics NRM. Other important relationships include our participation as a community member of the Healthy Rivers to Reef Partnership which works hard to increase awareness of and find solutions to the problems affecting the Great Barrier Reef, including the production of the annual Report Card for our region.

In summary, it has been the twentieth productive and enjoyable year for Landcare in the Whitsundays and it seems we are looking forward towards another twenty. Well done everyone.



Graham Armstrong

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Coordinators Report

The 2017-18 financial year has been an challenging one for Whitsunday Catchment Landcare (WCL). There has been less external government grant funding available due to completion of Regional triennial / annual funding programs & the reviewing of outcomes sought by State & Federal Governments funding bodies.

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 continued 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 provided a welcoming and interesting program at the community 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 Admin Officer, Leigh Donkers provides a wealth of experience, dedication & enthusiasm while undertaking her role with efficiency, accuracy, a great sense of humour and a sincere commitment to the Landcare ethos.

WCL continues to receive the substantial 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. All of the money received from contracts & grants contributes to the ongoing employment of WCL staff, the undertaking of community/volunteer based activities and events.

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 & National Parks for the generous provision of their boardroom/meeting room for our General meetings at no charge and along with Sugar Services, for their financial contribution to the Feral Pig Control program. 10 Individual landholders again contributed their own funds towards this project as well.

Most importantly, a whole hearted thankyou to all our generous Volunteers. This year WCL had 49 registered volunteers who either attend our regular community nursery mornings, community plantings, seed collecting or site visits. Volunteer hours calculated from July 2017 up to June 2018 recorded 3077 volunteer hours donated by WCL generous volunteers.

To put a dollar value on this, it would equate to \$76,940.60 for this year. Down in volunteer number this year but up in the number of hours donated by each from last year.

A special thankyou to the volunteers who prefer to remain nameless, for their ongoing commitment to maintenance & revegetation works at the Galbraith Creek Riparian project.

A very special thank you to Alison & Steve Pearson for their fabulous contributions to our monthly newsletter. They have certainly raised the calibre of its content.

WCL greatly appreciated the support received from the Conservation Trust for Volunteers sponsored Green Army Project. The hard working crew helped on quite a few projects such as installing the replacement Shade House & the Water Treatment Train at the Community Nursery and weed control projects including Conway Beach & exotic Aristolochia removal in the Cains bird wing butterfly project at Kelsey Creek.

In the 2017-18 Financial Year, WCL continued to work in partnership with the Central Queensland Landcare Network (CQLN) improving the website. Thank you to Graham Armstrong & Dale Mengel & all the other photographic contributors for a building the fauna data base resource.

The Galbraith Creek Riparian Vegetation Project received a grant from the State Government Department Environment & Science- Community Sustainability Grants program to complete the revegetation works at the site. We also completed revegetation restoration in a Cyclone Debbie damaged section with funding received from the Aurizon Community Giving grant. The Department of Agriculture & Fisheries funded the installation of a water treatment rain at the Community Nursery

Our Community Nursery continues to be a significant funding source through plant sales to the local community, agency revegetation projects, Whitsunday Regional Council. Donations of plants for National Tree Day to local Schools & Plant Swap events at the Cannonvale Library. Proserpine Sate High School Student & Reef Guardian future leaders program utilise the nursery site as well. This year WCL initiated a fee for service basis for a range of Land Management Advice Services & Weed Control Equipment hire to local landholders as well as undertaking weed control projects for Reef Catchments & other agencies. I continue to apply for grants but there is always a lot of competing applications & we explore every opportunity 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, Conway Beach, Nelly Bay. Undertake regular site visits by volunteers for endemic seed collection and planting. Plant donations to local schools 	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, broad selection of weed identification, control and sustainable land management information available at the community Nursery 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. Events i.e. Nelly Bay Eco Walk, Guided Bird walks Participation in the Plant Swap events at Cannonvale Library Water Treatment train demonstration area at Community nursery 	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. National Tree Day- Community event and plant donations for school events Reef Guardian Program- WCL hosted 55 students at the Galbraith Creek Riparian Restoration Project Eco Walk at Nelly Bay Donations of plants for School holidays program & at Cannonvale Library 	WCL & Reef Catchments
	Weed control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 & at Cannonvale Botanic Gardens Representation at the Mackay Whitsundays & Isaac Regional Pest Management Group 	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. A total of 7,170 plants were sold this year. Broad selection of weed identification, control and sustainable land management information. Hosting of Lower Burdekin Landcare Group for viewing nursery site & establish group support network 312 Plants donated to replanting at Cannonvale Botanic Gardens New plant labelling system. 	WCL,
	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 vegetation communities of interest.– Pearson & Smith Residences, 4 visits to Cannonvale Botanic Gardens– total of 384 volunteers hours & 312 native plants replaced. Galbraith Park Riparian Corridor plantings and maintenance, Coral Esplanade Foreshore revegetation and maintenance, Nelly Bay Beach Scrub Reserve– 44 volunteer hours spent on 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. Safety Kits, & ACDC Training in for two volunteers & new PPE & Snake Gaters 	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– Prickly Pear Biological control– Swamp Bay & Coral Beach, Conway Beach Weed Removal, Nelly Bay Rehabilitation Feral Pig control Revegetation Project signage—Galbraith Park WCL– Land Management Advice & weed control Equipment hire 	Reef Catchments - NRM Whitsunday Regional Council projects. Private Sales.

In 2017– 18 WCL achieved the following:

Revegetation, Weed control and Seed Collection:

Galbraith Creek Riparian Corridor- WCL staff, volunteers and the community planted over 6000 plants at the Galbraith Creek Riparian Project. These activities were funded by grants—Aurizon Disaster Recovery Fund & the QLD Govt. Department Environment & Science- Community Sustainability Grant. Community & volunteer planting events were undertaken for National Tree Day and a couple of Thursday mornings. This year we endeavoured to provide an alternative activity on the third Thursday morning of the month where we visited a couple of private landholder properties & Nelly Bay. We received funding for weed control, new mulch, irrigation equipment and plants & have now completed the project— commenced in 2008 there is now nearly 2km of riparian revegetation along the creek that form the boundaries of the parkland. WCL will continue to maintain the maturing vegetation & collect seed for propagating for projects elsewhere.



*WCL Volunteers planting at Galbraith Park— National Tree day in July 2017
Photo: C. Campbell*



*WCL Volunteers planting at Galbraith Park— National Tree day in July 2018
Photo: J. Sheils*



*WCL Volunteer beating the weeds along the creek bank at Galbraith Creek
Photo: C. Campbell*



*Mulched area along the creek bank in the last section to be revegetated at Galbraith Creek
Photo: C. Campbell*

Cat Claw Creeper Project (CCC)

In November 2017, Project Officer and 11 Green Army members surveyed and controlled CCC in an area upstream of Myrtle Creek Crossing. This area totalled 6.4 ha. All vines running up trees were cut/swabbed with 50/50 Glyphosate/ water, and the ground vines were foliar sprayed with Glyphosate 1/100 + wetter.

WCL Project Officer and the Green Army team also searched the site of last year's biocontrol release to search for evidence of their presence. Although signs of damage were evident, no Jewell Beetles could be found, which is not surprising as the site was smashed by Cyclone Debbie. The fallen tree trunk upon which the beetles were released is now covered with other vines and over topped with grasses.

A further survey of area controlled in May/June 2018 showed that the control was not successful and vines were again growing up trees. An area downstream on both sides of the Proserpine River was surveyed to find the extent of the infestation.



*Above: Green Army controlling Cats claw creeper.
Photo: P. Alden*



Left: Green Army releasing biological control early on 2017. Photo: P. Alden

Conway Beach- WCL was contracted by Reef Catchments to undertake prioritised weed control of prickly pear, Yucca & Singapore Daisy as well as establish a breeding plot for the release of the *Opuntia* sp. (Prickly Pear) biological control. The Conservation Trust for Volunteers sponsored Green Army Team worked hard at the site and removed a significant volume of the weeds.

The breeding enclosure for the *Cactoblastis* biological control of prickly pear has been established and is functioning well. An area densely infested with Prickly Pear is covered with a rectangular netted enclosure and all other insect removed for within the net. Prickly Pear cladodes with egg “sticks” *cactoblastis* grub are pinned to the unaffected plants and when the grubs hatch they eat their way through the inside of the cladode. The exclusion of other insects by the netted enclosure allows the *Cactoblastis* to live through its life cycle, laying eggs that infest all of the plants within & build “supply” of the *Cactoblastis* biological control, that can be removed & relocated at other prickly pear infested sites such as at Swamp Bay. The aim of the project is to build sufficient numbers in the local area that they will breed on their own and spread naturally. This has been successful enough to have to move the current enclosure as the *Cactoblastis* biological control was running out of food source as the Prickly Pear plants within have died.



Green Army participants removing Yucca plant within the dune at Conway Beach PHOTO: P. Alden



Young Prickly Pear being removed from the dune. PHOTO: P. Alden



Green Army removing Singapore Daisy -hard at work at Conway Beach PHOTO: P. Alden



Frame of the Breed enclosure placed over Opuntia sp. Prickly Pear PHOTO: P. Alden



Fully installed breeding enclosure for the Cactoblastis biological control. Photo- Peter Alden

Cairns Birdwing Butterfly Project- This project was a follow up on the previous years project so all landowners were recontacted and advised of success of last project and to ask for continued access along creek lines for access for control. WCL Project Officer and Green Army hand removed *Aristolochia elegans* from the Mango Block and creek line at base of slope.

Madeira vine was also recorded at the site so the Green Army was able to release Madeira Vine Biocontrol. The Green Army repeat weeded the Mango Block and creek spray the vine below houses, plant out 40 Native *Aristolochia acuminata* Vines. WCL Project Officer continued survey 5kms past the end of last year's survey along Silver Creek as far as was possible. No further vines found. WCL contacted 2 further landowners down stream who had not seen the vine this far down the creek. Public brochure edited, produced and distributed to nurseries and notice boards in Proserpine. Survey for Historical Sightings from Excel spreadsheet supplied by Herbarium. 5 further spraying events in Upper catchment to combat regrowth and spray new vines. 168 hours in-kind from Green Army team Over 100ha was surveyed in vehicle and in foot for this project & over 90 hours on ground activities.



Right: Aristolochia elegans overgrowing forest. Photo: P. Alden



Above- Green Army participant weeding Aristolochia seedlings. Photo: P. Alden

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 Botanic Gardens Conway Beach, Council reserves at Dingo Beach, Nelly Bay and private properties in the local area 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.

Nelly Bay Beach Scrub-WCL Volunteers & the Green Army worked to remove weeds at this critically endangered vegetation community. Weed species targeted included Bryophyllum sp. This succulent is a garden escapee capable of producing thousand of seed & plantlets.

*Right: WCL volunteers weeding at Nelly Bay
Photo: P. Alden*



Public Education:

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.

Reef Festival Celebration Whitsundays— WCL attended the event this year along with many of the other local environmental groups.

Innovative Grazing Forums— WCL Project Officer & Coordinator attended & presented at three of Reef Catchments/ Regional Landcare Facilitator organized innovative grazing forums this year. Presentations included revegetation, weed control & the benefits of working under the Landcare banner.

Right: WCL stall at the Celebration Whitsundays event. Photo: C. Campbell



Plant Swap— Cannonvale Library. WCL attended two events at the Cannonvale Library to participate in the Plant Swap, hosted by Cannonvale Library staff. Local residents are encourage to bring in & swap with others any plants that they want to share. WCL keeps a keen eye out for plants that are weedy & offers to swap them for native plants grown at the Community Nursery. We also take a wide variety of local information about problem plants, how to manage them & what to plant instead.

*Left: Cath Campbell, Councillor Jan Clifford, Library staff Anita Lichos, a community member & at the library event in October 2017
Photo: Library Staff*

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. A special thank you goes to Steve & Alison Pearson for their terrific contributions to our newsletter– these interesting articles & photographs of & about the local fauna & flora has certainly improved the calibre of our newsletter.

Six General Meetings with guest speakers were held during the year– Paul Horner– Islands of the Dragons–

A wild, life tour of the Galapagos & Komodo Islands; Charlie Morgan Healthy Rivers to Reef update; Graham Armstrong– Life on the Bogie; Monica Regan & Adam Folkers, Whitsunday Regional Council– Coastal hazards& responses project, Kylie Gray– Snakes of the Whitsundays and Graham Armstrong– Central QLD Landcare Network Website Fauna Data base. Six Management Committee meetings were held on alternate months to the General meetings.

Workshops and Training:

Reef Guardian Future leaders challenge- 54 students and six teachers from five of our Reef Guardian schools -Cannonvale State School Whitsunday Christian College, Proserpine State School, Hamilton Island State School, St Catherine's Catholic College, Hayman Island School, in the Whitsunday region attended this event. Reef Guardian partners—Eco Barge Clean Seas, Whitsunday Catchment Landcare, Whitsunday Regional Council, Reef Catchments, Whitsunday Local Marine Advisory Committee & Day Dream Living Reef delivered informative and interesting activities. Students caught the bus to Galbraith Park to undertake a guided walks through the revegetation to learn about the importance of trees in the landscape, in our environment, in our culture and in our everyday lives generally. And site specifically, how the revegetation at the Galbraith creeks has improved quality of water entering the Barrier Reef through riparian revegetation at Galbraith Park. Student got to plant about 120 native seedlings and collected seed from the areas of more mature vegetation that was propagated later at the Community nursery.



Students complete their work sheet in the shade at Galbraith park
Photo: K. Finch



Students planting tube stock at Galbraith revegetation site
Photo: K. Finch



WCL Project Officer Peter Alden getting ready for the Reef Guardian students.
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.

Volunteer Program:

WCL has 49 registered volunteers in 2017–18, who 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". Twice weekly volunteer events are held at the WCL Community Nursery and these are very well attended by many volunteers who attend 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 endeavored 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 hours calculated from July 2017 up to June 2018 recorded 3077 volunteer hours donated by WCL's generous and committed volunteers. To put a dollar value on this, it would equate to \$76,940.60 for this year.

Volunteer Activities this year have included:

- Site visits to private properties and public reserves to maintain revegetation or undertake bushcare projects.
- Volunteer & community events and revegetation maintenance at Galbraith Park Riparian Corridor plantings, Conway Beach weed control, revegetation and maintenance, Nelly Bay Beach Scrub Reserve– weed and rubbish removal.
- National Tree Day—planting out Cyclone damaged section of a establishing revegetation.
- Planting & weeding mornings at Cannonvale Botanic Gardens to repair the damage wrought by the cyclone
- the Annual Christmas Party.



*Left: Volunteers enjoying the Christmas party at Cape Gloucester Eco Resort
Photo: L. Donkers*



*Right: Volunteers collecting seed & enjoying a walk before the Christmas party
Photo: L. Donkers*

Community Nursery.

Propagation of a wide variety of endemic plants for supply to the community and WCL revegetation projects. During 2017-18 the nursery produced over 15,000 local native plants for various revegetation projects, contracts, donations & sale to the general community. 7170 plants were sold to the public, the local council, or other agencies & a further 3514 plants were sold for revegetation projects through grants & contracts. This year we initiated the opening of the nursery to the general public on the first Saturday of each month and word is spreading with more local residents coming to buy our plants for their properties.

New Plant Labels— This year we were able to purchase a label printer & labels for the community nursery. We now have descriptive labels of the plants that we propagate. These labels detail botanical names & description of the plant's size & form. They are issued with plant sales and used on the trays of plants. This has made it a lot easier for nursery visitors in choosing what they want to purchase & helping volunteers learn more about the local native plants the propagate. A special thank you for the many hours spent by both Jacquie Sheils -preparing the data bases & formatting the label contents & Leigh Donkers in getting the actual printing process streamlined. Thank you also to Elmer Van Tarken for making the board they are displayed on.

*Right: the wall of plant labels at the nursery
Photo: Cath Campbell*



Water Treatment Plant: Grant funding received from the Department Of Agriculture & Fisheries—Wet Land Project enabled WCL to install a water treatment train at the nursery. The treatment train filters all the nursery irrigation water through the 4 tubs & plants within the tubs remove excess nutrients sediment from the water before it is issued into our Arboretum area adjoining the nursery in a corner of the cricket pitch. This system is modelled on the role natural wetlands fulfil in the environment and can be implemented on a larger scale on commercial properties that adjoin water bodies like rivers & lakes through the installation of dams. Having different types of water loving plants are crucial to its success as each plant type plays a specific role in the filtering process. The Green Army helped WCL install the treatment train during their time in the region and our handy volunteers installed the plumbing.

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 WCL as it enables qualified volunteers to supervise other volunteers during weed maintenance events and frees up our Landcare Officer to undertake other projects.



*Right & above: The treatment train at the nursery
Photo: C. Campbell*

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.

New Shade house- Funding received from the QLD Disaster Recovery grants enabled WCL to install a replace shade house the we use for propagating native seed. Our old shade house was damaged beyond repair by the impact of Cyclone Debbie.

WCL volunteers & the Green Army team worked together to dismantle the old and assemble the new shade house then erect it in the original spot. The original shade was cleverly installed and enabled a relatively easy process to replace it. This event occurred in the second week of the Green Army program and was a great opportunity to develop new skills, work as a team and get a great result for much hard work.

We thank the Green Army participants & Supervisor very much for undertaking this project. It has ensured that we can continue to produce the plants that are use in the a variety of project & continue to provide a source of funding for WCL activities.



Green Army & WCL volunteers dismantling to old shade house. Photo: C. Barbeller



Green Army & WCL volunteers assembling the frame of the new shade house
Photo: C. Barbeller



Green Army & WCL volunteers digging out the trench that anchors the shade cover
Photo: C. Barbeller

Green Army backfilling after the shade cover has been refitted.
Photo: C. Barbeller



Green Army & WCL volunteers—job done & new seedling trays in the shade house.
Photo: C. Barbeller



The Green Army—the champion team.
Photo: P. Alden

Self-generated funding

In the last 5 years WCL has undertaken contract work for local organisations such as Reef Catchments (RC) 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 2017-18 have included: Weed control- Conway Beach, Nelly Bay, Coral Beach & Swamp Bay, Cairns Birdwing butterfly—exotic Aristolochia control; Itch Grass control, Pod Apple Survey, Rubber Vine Control. Feral Pig Control program— administration tasks; Revegetation Planting, Weed control and Maintenance— Nelly Bay; Revegetation Project signage-Galbraith Park; Prickly Pear Biological Weed Control - Conway Beach and Coral Bay. DNRAA— revegetation Plant supply; Cyclone Impact Recovery Report; Innovative Grazing Network Presentations; Farm forestry ABCD Framework Review; Paluma Road Culvert Riparian Revegetation and Maintenance. WCL has sold plants to WRC projects & Reef Catchments, National Parks & Wildlife and many local landholders.

WCL has hired out its Quikspray trailer, provided land management advice and undertaken weed control on a fee for service basis, to private 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
- Whitsunday Community Garden
- Healthy Rivers to Reef

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
- 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.
- C.E Smith Accountants— for their Auditing of the WCL financials.
- Whitsunday Bobcat Hire for giving us great service when we needed mulch spread 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 their help in delivering mulch to our planting sites.
- Cannonvale Fire Protection for keeping our fire extinguishers up to date— Thank you Nigel
- Aurizon Community Grants Program.
- Federal and State Government Environmental and Volunteer Support Grants programs.
- Conservation Trust for Volunteers for sponsoring the Green Army Team & focusing their activities in the Whitsundays.

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 2018 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.

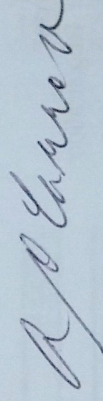
Qualification

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 2018 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended.

Date: 26/9/2018



C.E. Smith & Co Proserpine
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

86 Main Street
PROSERPINE QLD 4800

Vic Carroll



Why we do what we do, Nelly Bay Littoral Rainforest—Eco Walk—part of the Whitsunday Catchment
Photo: C. Campbell