Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group Inc.

Annual Report 2017/2018





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CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Chairman, Dave Hunter

I am fortunate to work with a very diligent and dedicated group. Everyone in our team shares a genuine interest in natural resource management, and all are prepared to put self-interest and personal goals to one side for the greater good of our organisation. It is encouraging that our paid staff go to great lengths to get the most value out of every dollar when delivering on the projects we manage.

Carla Lambropoulos does a great job as our Co-ordinator to manage on the meagre funds available. I appreciate the fact that Carla is the public face of our organisation and needs the time to network with all the organisations we deal with on a weekly basis. Earlier this year Carla was assisted by Saskia von Fahland from Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Assn. to deliver a joint presentation to Mackay Regional Council that led to an increase in Council's allocation of funds to both Landcare groups. Carla has just recently attended the National Landcare Conference and we hope that the networking she was able to do there will generate ideas for new projects in the Mackay region.

Unfortunately, we lost the services of Melissa Spalding in early March 2018 because she returned to her home in the USA. Melissa keeps in touch from time to time and I think would love to return to Australia in the future.

Kade Slater came on board as our new Project Officer in March 2018 and has hit the ground running. Kade was already acquainted with our staff, which made for a smoother transition into his role. Kade has an outgoing personality and liaises equally well with everyone from schoolchildren, to the volunteers at the nursery, to other organisations he deals with each day. We knew Kade was a very good photographer, hence the quality of images in our newsletters, but I didn't know until recently another of his skills is catching snakes.

Our Administration Officer Wendy Eiteneur is also a highly valued member of the team who juggles a range of duties, dealing with the daily enquiries from the public as well as other professional organisations in the Landcare Network. Wendy handles our finances and budget, organises our staff payroll and delivers the minutes of our Management Committee each month. Wendy was fortunate enough to be able to attend a Syntropic Farming workshop on Atherton Tablelands earlier this year. I know it was a very hectic few days but Tegan McBride from Reef Catchments said she was impressed with the quality of Wendy's report and video of the event.

We are grateful to the Mackay Regional Council for the hospitality and facilities offered at the Swain St Depot, the recent upgrade to NBN that finally brings us into the 21st Century being a nice advantage. Sue McCormack has created a wonderful atmosphere at the Mackay Natural Environment Centre and I know our staff and volunteers appreciate the tranquil surroundings. Lisa Kermode is always available for advice and guidance on projects that she thinks PCL could oversee on behalf of MRC. A special thank you goes to Cr Karen May who has always been a part of the wider Landcare movement and was instrumental in expediting the increased and ongoing funding approved by MRC for both Landcare groups after our presentation to a special meeting of councillors.

Our association with Reef Catchments Mackay Whitsunday is important to PCL because of our shared interest in improving Natural Resource Management in our region. We have a good working relationship with Chair, Julie Boyd and Business Managers Katrina Dent and Traci Ellwood. I like to think we are all part of one big family motivated by good economical environmental and social outcomes. I know our officers share information with RC staff on a daily basis that keeps us all in the loop.

Our relationship with Central Queensland Soil Health Systems has continued to grow, with PCL giving support in whatever areas we can. CQSHS president, Simon Mattsson, was grateful for Melissa Spalding's effort in assisting with a major funding application by the group. Unfortunately, it was unsuccessful. Kade Slater has helped to develop an impressive spreadsheet of plants useful for multi-species cover cropping in the Mackay region. In July last year I was fortunate enough to be able to travel with Simon to a conference put on by the **Victorian No-till Farmer's Association** in Moama. The main attraction for us was presenter Dr Christine Jones. Her presentation "**Five Principles of Soil Restoration**" was on its own worth the trip and should be the go-to manual for any farmer who is in to regenerative agriculture. Any of Christine's published material is available at **amazingcarbon.com**. There was a range of other excellent speakers from the USA and Canada that proves regenerative agriculture is a worldwide phenomenon.

One of our most important contacts is our link to the National Landcare Network – Regional Landcare Facilitator, Juliane Kasiske. It was because of assistance from Juliane that Simon Mattsson and I were able to travel to Moama to listen to Dr Christine Jones and others. In return, Simon and I then did presentations at the annual Healthy Soils symposium held in Mackay on the 31st November 2017. As always, Juliane is a pleasure to work with and ran a faultless program on the day. From the feedback afterwards, I would say local farmers and graziers very much appreciated the event.

We have a very dedicated and loyal group on our Management Committee that makes my life a lot easier. I would particularly like to acknowledge the effort Dianne Williams puts in as Deputy Chair, in spite of the health issues and drought she has had to contend with in the last twelve months. I appreciate that she does a lot of the heavy lifting when it comes to interviewing potential new employees as well as doing staff performance reviews. We are also fortunate to have the services of Mark Radke as our Treasurer. As a practicing accountant, Mark is able to cast a professional eye over our budgets and keep us up to speed on any changes to the law in this area. Di Salau continues to provide her expertise in the IT department as well as reviewing all of our Procedures and Policies. Irene Champion's infinite knowledge of our native flora is of great value to the group along with her ability to keep us on track with meeting procedure, if we get off track. Our newest member Katie Finch is a keen participant in meetings bringing a different perspective and offering real solutions to the dilemmas we face. She is always offering to help at PCL events. It is regrettable that Laura Whitbread and Grant Howard had to resign from the MC because of work commitments; their input will be sorely missed.

I would like to acknowledge the ongoing work done behind the scenes by Margaret Lane. Margaret has a wealth of knowledge on the workings of Council and is always willing to sing the praises of the work done by PCL. I know our officers appreciate it when Margaret helps at displays we put on at public events during the year.

Finally, I would like to thank all those volunteers who work silently doing all the little jobs that in turn allow us to continue with the work we do.

We are still hopeful the State Government will consider funding full time co-ordinators for the whole of Queensland. In a rapidly expanding region like Mackay that is fed by the activity in the coalfields it is essential to have a full time Co-ordinator. This would allow us to deal with all the environmental issues relating to the loss of good quality agricultural land followed by the development on that land.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Coordinator, Carla Lambropoulos

The 2017/2018 financial year was my second year in the coordinator role for PCL and I was determined to kick goals. It has been a steep learning curve and there are always new challenges around every corner. Many of you may not know but in a previous life I worked as an environmental consultant in the private sector. Every minute of my time was billable and I never had to worry about where money was coming from. Moving into the not-for-profit sector has been a huge eye opener, and my greatest challenge now is to ensure that there is funding coming in. It can be a huge amount of pressure!

This year I really wanted to work on my grant writing skills and secure funding for good environmental projects for the organisation – this is easier said than done. I also wanted to build on PCL's relationships with other stakeholders in the region and show people that we are an important and vital player in the NRM sector. We have had fantastic support from Mackay Regional Council through funding for the Landcare Support and Land for Wildlife programs and have continued to work closely with Reef Catchments on a number of pest management and sustainable agriculture programs. One of my favourite projects to work on this year has been the De Moleyns Factsheet and Regional Wetland Field Day funded by Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. The De Moleyns site is a shining example of how multiple stakeholders working together towards a common goal can achieve great things. I really enjoyed developing and writing this factsheet and speaking to all the stakeholders that have been involved at the site over the years.

This financial year I also had a crash course in HR and recruitment. Our wonderful project officer, Melissa Spalding, announced that she was moving back to California and marrying her partner, Brenton. Mel has been a huge asset to our organisation and an enormous support to me while I've been finding my feet in this coordinator role. She possess the ultimate "can do" attitude and is willing to tackle anything with a positive energy and a smile. Mel continues to support us now and is always happy to listen to ideas, answer questions and provide advice. Our recruitment drive was fruitful and PCL employed a new younger, eager and enthusiastic project officer, Kade Slater. Kade has hit the ground running and is doing a fantastic job. He has even won over our volunteer team by baking them morning tea on Tuesdays.

My biggest wins for this financial year include finally having some success in two grant funding rounds. The first application was through the Reef Guardian program. PCL has been working with Mackay Christian College (MCC) and Mackay Regional Council on a wetland project at the MCC junior campus. Seed funding secured through the Reef Guardian program will now see this project commence in the 2018/2019 financial year. I have also worked closely with Cass Hayward from Reef Catchments and Eddie Adams from Queensland Parks to develop a water mouse monitoring project, which we put forward under the Federal Government's National Landcare Program 2 – Small Grants round. PCL was successful in securing the funding and the water mouse project commenced in August 2018.

I have learnt a lot over the past twelve months and hope that I can help build on our current successes and ensure that PCL continues to deliver good environmental outcomes to the region. We have some really exciting projects about to commence and lots of hard work ahead of us in 2018/2019.

PROJECT OFFICER'S REPORT

Former Project Officer, Melissa Spalding

Hello from America – five months ago I bid farewell to Australia and to the PCL family. I say PCL family because that is truly what it felt like – a group of people who work closely together – many who have been doing so for years. PCL has seen project officers come and go, no quicker or slower than other comparably sized organisations, who like PCL, run environmental projects with single to multi-year funding streams (we continually strive for the latter). Together, the staff and the volunteers have delivered many projects across the Mackay region for the betterment of the natural environment and the native flora and fauna who depend on it. Activities include: monitoring, education workshops, revegetation, land management, and rejuvenation projects. I believe these projects served to benefit the community and ourselves, in more ways than we realise.

Over the course of two years, my time as a project officer was filled with hands-on PCL projects and community involvement, as well as invitations and meetings alongside other regional stakeholders. If there is one thing to be stated, it would be that there is a fair amount of collaboration that goes on between partners and fellow organisations – as it should be, because the delivery of key environmental projects in the region notably require expertise in multiple areas, data from multiple sources, and usually succeed best when funded from multiple sources. Environmental projects are holistic in nature, so it makes sense that they support an "all hands on deck" approach. Thus, my introduction to PCL first as a volunteer then as an employee, was a perfect backdrop for learning the value of community-driven projects.

I was impressed to learn of the many individuals whom I consider the innovative and whole-hearted drivers of change for the Mackay community. Teachers, farmers, educators, contractors, coordinators, volunteers, project officers, council workers and landholders – who I got to work with daily. Wow, how lucky was I! Even better, I found the collaboration and sharing of knowledge from "veterans" shall I call them, to inexperienced project officers like myself, to be extremely helpful. Thank you to all the PCL staff both current and "retired" for continually passing on your knowledge and your insights, for this is a large part of the legacy of the organization and what gives life to each new project and officer that walks through the door.

The Mackay region itself is so diverse and beautiful, you could probably spend a lifetime exploring all it has to offer. I always appreciated the luxury of working outdoors, with a schedule that sees no two days exactly alike. The unexpected visitors to our office, the update emails from our members about interesting discoveries, and the queries about local happenings are what keep our project officers on their toes and in touch with our membership. And let's be honest, any job where you constantly get to learn new things is a real treat.

Anyone that has visited the PCL office knows that it is quite small, which should give one a clue that work is more likely to be done outside of the office than inside – no surprises here – as PCL at any given time runs a handful of projects which are for the most part, vested in monitoring, revegetating or mapping of-interest areas. Engaging the community is normally high on the list of project outputs, so for many projects PCL aims to educate and encourage volunteerism. Having helped carry on the PCL volunteer group's momentum and legacy (mainly my contributions through morning tea provisions), I can attest to the positivity and community-feel that you obtain through volunteering. The "pudding" is in the people – genuine, helpful, incredibly friendly and passionate. The conversations during nursery vary from hysterical, to educational (thank you Sue for always teaching us new things!), to both at the same time – educational and fun, yes, it is possible!

All wrapped together, one slowly understands that these small community driven projects do as much for the environment as they do for the individuals involved. Volunteers can turn into workers (like me), workers retire but remain volunteers, volunteers who one day become community leaders, community leaders who continue to volunteer. Only the briefest pause for reflection was needed for me to see that the collaboration that exists between and within organisations like PCL are so incredibly valuable to the community. Perhaps this is highlighted more so because I have moved to the densely populated Southern California, where the environment is more distant and appears to be more of an abstract topic than a space in which we exist, to some.

I am thankful for my time in Mackay and working for PCL. I was enlightened by my peers, encouraged by my superiors and inspired by the many community leaders. May the community continue to recognize the benefits of environmental organisations like Pioneer Catchment and Landcare, for the projects will continue to improve the natural environment as well as bring people together.

Current Project Officer, Kade Slater

Since starting in February, my role with PCL has hands-down been the best job I have had. It has been very challenging at times and I have had to learn, adapt and apply skills that I have not had to use since university, and getting it right has been very rewarding. The best part of my role is getting to meet, work with, and help people who are extremely passionate about the environment. It is a breath of fresh air when you are around people who are not motivated by profit, and are instead motivated by contributing to the greater good of our wonderful region.

Some of the highlights of my time with PCL so far include: hiking up to a seasonal waterfall during a Land for Wildlife property assessment, watching platypus in the Pioneer River during a property visit, breaking the record at the Valley Show by giving away 800 plants, working alongside Shelley and Maria from the MRC doing displays at local events, working with Catchment Solutions on fish-way monitoring, and meeting very passionate local property owners who are simply excited to show-off their awesome properties and all the hard work they have put into making them. I am truly eager to continue working with PCL, and look forward to tackling new challenges as they present themselves.

1 PCL VOLUNTEER TEAM

1.1 VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

The PCL Volunteer Team is integral for the delivery of projects both on and off site. At the MNEC, volunteers work with the MRC Nursery Supervisor Susan McCormack to prepare plants for orders, which make their way to revegetation sites both in and out of the Mackay region. The volunteers at the nursery participate in a large number of important jobs including plant propagation, labelling, seed sorting, quality control, weeding, mixing soils and washing pots.

Field work included seven visits to Far Beach for weed maintenance, two visits to Reliance Creek, and four visits to the Gooseponds where the team planted four new revegetation sites with a combined total of over 1000 plants. PCL volunteers have also assisted with other events and activities including the planting at Lamberts Beach Lookout, the Tilapia Field Day planting, sorting at the trash pit audits, the plant giveaway at the Valley Show, National Tree Day and the 2017 Great Northern Clean-up.

In May 2018 PCL hosted a planting event and BBQ at the Gooseponds as a thank you to our wonderful volunteers during National Volunteer Week. In a great show of team work and determination, the volunteers managed to plant 600 plants in a three-hour period in unfavourable rock-hard ground. The amazing lunch spread made the effort more than worth it and it was a great end to a good day.



National Volunteer Week planting event at the Gooseponds.

There is no doubt that without our volunteer team, we would not be able to complete many of the wonderful projects that PCL is involved in each year. We are especially grateful for the dedicated volunteers that always show up to help each and every week, and at nearly every event. It is comforting knowing that we have people that we can depend on to help us make the Pioneer Catchment a better place for everyone.

2 MACKAY REGIONAL COUNCIL FUNDING

Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group (PCL) encourages and assists the local community through Landcare activities and ground rehabilitation works in collaboration with community stakeholders. PCL's work area is within Mackay Regional Council (MRC) and through the sustained relationship between both partners, key programmes such as Land for Wildlife and Landcare Support have helped foster PCL's outreach into the wider community. In addition to Council's funding streams, the generous provision of office space at the Mackay Natural Environment Centre (MNEC) is crucial to PCL's operation.

2.1 LANDCARE SUPPORT

Landcare Support is one of PCL's most important programs. It allows us to deliver and coordinate essential activities, projects and programs within the community that:

- Engage volunteers and youth in Landcare and environmental activities;
- Increase community awareness about the importance of our natural environment, and how to protect it;
- Support and coordinate community on-ground rehabilitation projects;
- Encourage the community to participate in environmental events;
- Provides leverage to attract further funding into the community, to build on projects, by demonstrating Council's support and partnership; and
- Increased interaction with the community.

Through this program, PCL are able to play an active role in local and regional working groups, support stakeholders and other community groups, and provide educational support to local schools. PCL has continued to work closely with MRC to deliver great environmental outcomes for the Mackay community.

2.1.1 COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY AWARENESS RAISING

NEWSLETTERS

PCL produces eleven newsletter each year that we distribute to around 535 residents and organisations. The newsletter is an excellent way for PCL to provide our members and the public information about our projects, local events, local biodiversity and biosecurity information, as well as a calendar of national resource management events and activities in the region.

DISPLAYS AT COMMUNITY EVENTS

Farleigh Palm Fete 2018

The event attracts many of the region's green thumbs and is an excellent opportunity to talk to enthusiastic locals. The day was a startling success with around 14 expressions of interest in PCL membership and programs, two of which have now been signed up to the Land for Wildlife program and others shortlisted for Peri-Urban.



A big thanks to Danielle Storch for assisting Project Officer Kade Slater with running the stall for the day.

Pioneer Valley Show 2018

The Pioneer Valley Show is the biggest plant giveaway event of the year for PCL and this year was no exception. Project Officer Kade Slater was extremely proud to have given away 800 native plants (which is the new PCL giveaway record), with assistance from MRC Pest Management Officers Shelley Malloy and Maria Ferrero, and PCL volunteers David and Susan. Working alongside the Pest Management Group Trailer also offers the opportunity to provide advice to landholders on weed management. The day was very fun, and we had excellent engagement and feedback from the public with people telling us about the plants they received last year and how they were going with revegetating.



The stall at the Valley Show (left) and the crowd two hours later (right).

Mackay Regional Council Volunteer Expo 2018

With crowds of keen potential volunteers and the PCL stall 15ft away from the coffee van, it was bound to be a good day. We set up an "environment section" at the expo, and shared marquees with the MNEC Team, CVA and the Friends of the Gardens. PCL received 15 expressions of interest during the expo and has since had four new volunteers come along to our volunteer mornings.

Dows Creek Country Muster 2018

PCL's Project Officer Kade Slater ran a stall at the Dows Creek Country Muster alongside MRC Pest Management Officers and the Pest Management Trailer. Unfortunately, the night was very quiet and the turnout was apparently worse than previous years.

Botanical Gardens Open Day 2018

PCL held a stall at the Botanical Gardens Open Day with the nursery team from the MNEC, which included a large plant giveaway. The giveaway was successful and it allowed us to promote the Gardens for Wildlife program, but overall the day was quiet and we did not receive any new members or registrations from any of our programs.

Reef Catchments Innovative Grazing Forum 2018

Graziers and mixed operators were invited to Reef Catchment's annual innovative grazing forum, held on March $20^{\rm th}$ at the Windmill Motel, Mackay. The day was hugely successful with over 120 regional graziers and landholders attending the event. Kim Kleidon (as MC) was at her best keeping everyone entertained, stimulated and on time.



This forum highlighted many aspects of interest and concern for local graziers including grazing best practice, nutrition, fertility and reproduction, choosing better bulls and stream bank erosion and rehabilitation. Trade displays were informative and interactive and included the ever-popular Mackay Regional Pest Management Group's pest trailer and a pig trapping demonstration. The forum was live streamed and is available for those interested in the valuable information discussed on the day.

PCL had the pleasure of holding a trade display at the event which allowed us to engage with many of our local graziers and discuss current issues around property management and of course, WEEDS! PCL gave away 100 local native trees at the event and provided information on our current programs, including Land for Wildlife and Gardens for Wildlife. The following day had on-farm demonstrations on many aspects discussed during the conference.



ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS EVENT

Great Northern Clean Up 2017

Riverside Drive at Sam's Road end was once again the nominated site for the annual Great Northern Clean-up event held in September 2017. Students from St. Patricks College, PCL volunteers and community members, totalling 36 people, removed rubbish items including industrial rubbish, tyres and other car parts, food packaging, and drug paraphernalia. The site is a popular illegal dumping area and volunteers worked hard on the day to remove 1.28 tonnes of rubbish, filling two skip bins. On a positive note, Mackay Regional Council representatives stated that there was significantly less dumping than previous years. PCL would like to thank St. Patricks College and our community volunteers for their continued support at this site.



2.1.2 WORKING WITH STAKEHOLDERS

During this year, PCL officers worked with the following stakeholders to develop and support projects:

- Mackay Regional Pest Management Group attended general and committee meetings;
- Healthy Rivers to Reef Partnership attended meetings, events and the two-day forum;
- Central Queensland Coast Landcare Network attended meetings;
- Mackay Whitsunday Isaac Wetland Working Group attended meetings;
- Native Plants Queensland-SGAP Mackay Branch;
- Conservation Volunteers Australia;
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority;
- Reef Catchments MWI Ltd attended various workshops & meetings

2.1.3 SUPPORTING LOCAL SCHOOLS

PCL worked with kindergartens, primary and secondary schools during the year. Some of the schools PCL has worked with this year include Fitzgerald State School, Marian State School, Eimeo Road C&K, St Brendan's Catholic Primary School, Alligator State School, Chelona State School, St Francis Xavier, Community Kids Glenella, St Patricks College, Mackay Christian College and Petite Early Learning.



Funding through the Landcare Support project has allowed PCL to assist teachers who are passionate about environmental awareness. Activities and assistance for schools has included plant selection and advice for native gardens, educational activities, planting activities, clean-up events, and participating in field trip excursions to the MNEC Nursery.

2.1.4 SUPPORTING COMMUNITY GROUPS

Central Queensland Soil Health Systems

The group continues to promote sustainable farming practices and techniques by tackling problems through farmer-driven research and trials. In September 2017, project officer Melissa Spalding assisted CQSHS Chairman Simon Mattsson in drafting a project proposal for an EHP funding application. Earlier this year, project officer Kade Slater also helped Simon develop a multi-species crop reference guide. The group continued to deliver half-day field walks which allows trial participants to engage members and interested persons on trial outcomes to-date.

Friends of MacKillop Wetlands

Friends of the MacKillop Wetland works to monitor, maintain and improve the health and usability of the wetland. The group are making plans to coordinate more projects, with project officer Kade Slater recently meeting on site for a field walk to discuss what works the group is aiming to prioritise this upcoming year.

Friends of Morag McNichol Reserve



Friends of Morag McNichol Reserve group continue working closely with the Mackay Regional Council. Monthly working bees and inspection reports are diligently carried out and distributed to members. This work, in collaboration with the efforts of the Mackay Regional Council, have ensured that the reserve remains in spectacular condition. The group's monthly working bees allow the volunteers to install signs, maintain fences, and remove weeds. This year, the reserve was host to a field day excursion facilitated by Jonathon Dykyj of MRC for Andergrove State School students. Participants in the Land for Wildlife training event also visited the reserve to practice species identification and site assessments.

2.1.5 GARDENS FOR WILDLIFE

We live in a drastically altered landscape due to human development, which has led to the destruction of habitat and the displacement of wildlife. Despite this, wildlife persists in the suburban environment and we can help them by transforming our humble backyard gardens into patches of habitat. The Gardens for Wildlife program aims to educate people on the benefits of creating a native garden habitat (as a "stepping stone" for wildlife) and helps by



supplying people with the appropriate plants to do so. This year PCL has hosted two themed guided walks through the Botanic Gardens that were well-attended. PCL also began works on the Gardens for Wildlife Display Garden at the front of the office, which will showcase the aesthetics and practicality of using native plants in small outdoor spaces.



Great attendance at the first themed Gardens for Wildlife walk led by Margaret Lane & Maya Harrison.

2.2 LAND FOR WILDLIFE



In the 2017/18 period, PCL delivered ten land management plans to newly registered properties, as well as ten revisits properties already registered in the program. There are now approximately 120 properties in the Pioneer Catchment & Landcare area. The

greatest aspect of LFW is having the opportunity to meet and assist people who are passionate about conservation, but often don't know where to start.

The LFW program also supplies funds for delivering a locally produced quarterly newsletter to project participants. This is shared task with Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association (SLCMA).

This year, PCL established the LFW networking group Facebook page. It was developed in response to several LFW members who expressed interest in being able to directly connect with other members for support, advice and to share their achievements. The networking group currently has 32 members.



2.3 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT GRANTS

Funding from the Natural Environment Levy is available each year through a grant application process to encourage partnerships between Mackay Regional Council and the community, and provide opportunities for the sustainable management of public land.

2.3.1 GOOSEPOND INLET/DRAIN RESTORATION PROJECT

The 'Gooseponds Water Quality Improvement Project' kicked off in mid-April with a community engagement event at the Tilapia Field Day, where PCL ran a stall and a planting activity in the first drain that was to be re-vegetated. Since this first planting PCL's volunteer team has revisited the site and has done three more plantings, resulting in over 1000 sedges

and rushes planted across all four drain sites. Project Officer Kade Slater has also been to the site on various occasions to water. Another component of the project was to develop distribute a flyer that can be used educate the to community about the works completed. The flyer was completed in mid-May and was distributed to locals via a letter box drop.





The first planting with the PCL volunteer team.



This map of the work area shows completed sites with green pins and planned sites with yellow pins.

2.3.2 PERI-URBAN LANDHOLDER SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Peri-Urban program allows PCL to provide land management solutions and extension support to peri-urban landholders within the Mackay Regional Council area. The program builds on similar funded projects completed in previous years that started as an initiative of the Mackay Regional Pest Management Group. PCL is working collaboratively with Sarina Landcare Catchment Association Inc. (SLCMA) to assist peri-urban landholders across the whole of the MRC local government area. Through funding from the Natural Environment Grants, PCL was able to sign up and assist five new peri-urban properties and carry out five follow up site visits for existing peri-urban Landcare members.

2.3.3 LAND FOR WILDLIFE TRAINING

On the 7th & 8th of September, PCL hosted a Land for Wildlife (LFW) training event facilitated by Deborah Metters, Partnerships Team Manager for Healthy Land & Water in South East Queensland (SEQ). This training event was a fantastic opportunity to meet with Deborah who has been involved with the delivery of the LFW program for over 14 years in SEQ and Alice Springs.



Landcare Officers discussing land management plans with Deborah.

LFW officers was that the training event provided an invaluable source of information and clarification on different aspects of the LFW program. It was also a great networking and brainstorming session with new ideas being put forward on how to engage with members and reinvigorate our current program. Deborah highlighted areas of the program where PCL and **SLCMA** are doing

Feedback from our local

exceptionally well. This included our level of advice and our professional land management

plans provided to LFW members.

Areas of improvement that would strengthen our current LFW program identified during the training included:

- 1. Establish a Mackay LFW Working Group;
- 2. Develop a Mackay LFW Strategic Plan;
- 3. Invest in Data Management; and
- 4. Ask and Listen to LFW Members.

Our goal moving forward is to inject new excitement into the program, maintain integrity, explore new ways to engage new and existing members, improve our data management, and investigate fun and exciting events that LFW members want to be involved in. PCL has prioritised the improvements identified by Deborah during the event and commenced work on these items.



LfW field visit to Morag McNichol Reserve

3 FUNDED PROJECTS

3.1 ASSISTANCE MONITORING FISHWAY TRAPS

(REEF CATCHMENTS MWI LTD)

PCL assisted Catchment Solutions in monitoring fishway traps. The monitoring took place over five days. It involved removing the traps, counting fish species, and re-setting traps. The purpose of the work is to determine if economically significant fish species are making use of the fish ways, and how many of them are moving through. The work was very enjoyable and it was an excellent learning experience.



The fish trap at the top of the fishway at Fursden Creek (left) and a juvenile barramundi at the top of a net full of fish (right).

3.2 CAT'S CLAW CREEPER CONTROL & SURVEY

(REEF CATCHMENTS MWI LTD)

3rd November 2017 – 1st June 2018 Final Year of Funding.

Cat's claw creeper (CCC) is a restricted invasive plant under the Queensland *Biosecurity Act 2014* and a Weed of National Significance. The key purpose of this project was to minimise the impact of CCC through targeting a minimum of 4 ha of outlier infestations in the Mackay Whitsunday region.

For the first reporting period, treatment work was carried out over the 5^{th} and 6^{th} December on private property at Reliance Creek. PCL focused the control treatment in an area that had been treated several years ago under the Federal Government Biodiversity Fund grant. It was obvious that the previous round of treatment work had been successful in reducing the impacts of the vine, however, there were a lot of new CCC vines growing throughout the 4 ha area. The density of the CCC was far less than in areas of the National Park and over on neighbouring properties on the other side of Reliance Creek. This demonstrates how important follow up and ongoing treatment maintenance work is when trying to control this particular pest. There was also evidence of the tingid bug throughout the area, with many CCC leaves showing signs of damage.



For the second reporting period, target areas included Sandy Creek, St Helens Creek and Annie Wood Park Mt Pleasant (24th May, 12th and 15th June).

PCL officers responded to a Walkerston landholder who suspected that he had CCC growing in his riparian vegetation on Baker's Creek. Officers carried out a site inspection on the 17th May and determined that the vines in question were not CCC.

On the 24th May, PCL's officer worked with contractors to treat CCC at the Sandy Creek site. This was a follow up treatment from the previous year's CCC program. CCC was mostly growing as ground cover with some new immature vines growing up trees. The small vines

were pulled down to the ground and a foliar spray treatment was used to treat both the vines and ground cover. Any large vines were treated using the cut and paste method and Vigilant gel. The survey and treatment areas is approximately 1Ha in size and is a high-density infestation site.

On the 12th June, PCL Officers carried out survey work at St Helens Creek. Stakeholders had reported seeing CCC growing near the bridge at St Helens Creek and a site inspection by Reef Catchment staff confirmed that it was CCC. PCL officers surveyed approximately 1km upstream on the Pratt property and 200m downstream from the bridge. Officers could only find one infestation site on the Pratt property located at the bridge and extending for approximately 70m upstream. The infestation is very high density but appears to be a small localised population. There was very little closed canopy riparian vegetation extending further upstream from this point, meaning that there was no ideal habitat for CCC to grow in. PCL officers also surveyed on the eastern side of St Helens Creek, around the front of the caravan park. Two locations of CCC were discovered. The first was a very small localised outbreak, which appears to have been treated before. The second was a very high-density localised outbreak which extended upstream for approximately 50m. Once the canopy cover opened up, officers noticed that the CCC stopped growing. There was also evidence of tingid bug at this site. Officers were only able to survey 500m upstream from the bridge along this side of St Helens Creek. Further access was restricted due to private property, shear/steep banks and water level. Total area for both infestation sites is approximately 0.25Ha.

On the 15th June, PCL's officer assisted Mackay Regional Council (MRC) with survey and treatment work of CCC at Annie Work Park. A stakeholder working in the area had identified the weed and reported it to MRC's Pest Management Officer who then reported it to PCL. The infestation was a high-density but appears to be a small localised population. Treatment methods included foliar spraying and cut and paste using Vigilant gel. There was also evidence of tingid bug at the site with many CCC leaves showing signs of damage. Treatment and survey area was approximately 0.34Ha.

3.3 DE MOLEYN'S LAGOON WETLAND MANAGEMENT CASE STUDY

(QLD GOVERNMENT THROUGH DEPT AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES)

31st March 2018 – 30 June 2018 (Project carried over into July 2018)

PCL had the pleasure of collaborating with the Department of Agriculture & Fisheries (DAF) on the development of a follow up wetland management case study for De Moleyns Lagoon. The first case study was developed by DAF in 2013 and highlighted some of the activities that were being commenced through the WATER project and also listed some of the features planned for 2014 onwards.

The new case study, developed by PCL, has focused on the works which have happened since 2014 and includes revegetation, weed control, vegetation transects and community events. The factsheet also included a current bird species list provided by Birdlife Mackay and had a strong focus on stakeholder collaboration and what can be achieved when stakeholders work together on a common goal. PCL's project officer, Kade Slater has enjoyed the opportunity to put his photographic skills into action and has taken some beautiful photos of the De Moleyns site and its wildlife. Kade's skills have enabled us to produce a very professional and high quality factsheet. Development of the draft document will be completed in the 2018/2019 financial year and is expected to be released publicly by DAF in late 2018.



PCL was also contracted by DAF to organise and deliver a Regional Community Wetland Field Day event. The event was held on the 8th June 2018 and had 22 stakeholders and community members attended. Participants visited the Lagoons Wetland and the Bakers Creek Wetland Treatment Train to learn about the importance of these wetlands and why they have been established in the Mackay region. Focus points included water quality improvements and the reinstatement of the fish ladder at Bakers Creek following Cyclone Debbie. Feedback from attendees about the event was very positive.



3.4 FAR BEACH WEED CONTROL & REVEGETATION

(REEF CATCHMENTS MWI LTD)

Former Project Officer Melissa **Spalding** worked with the PCL volunteer team conduct weed control and revegetation at Far Beach over seven sessions. The target weeds were Cenchrus echinatus (Seaforth Burr), and Macroptilium atropurpurem (Siratro). part of As site monitoring, several photo points were established to report the progress of the site. The



project was concluded at the end of the financial year by Kade with the final photo point monitoring and a site walk with Reef Catchments who were pleased with the progress.

3.5 FORESTRY DEMONSTRATION SITE SUPPORT

(REEF CATCHMENTS MWI LTD)

31st August 2017 – 26th June 2018 Final year of funding

PCL was engaged by Reef Catchments to support the forestry demonstration site project. This was the final year of funding for this project under the Queensland Government funded QNRM04 Sustainable Agriculture Project. Key activities included support and development of the forestry demonstration site, a forestry field day and support and attendance at the Forestry Working Group meetings.

The forestry field day was held on the 2nd November 2017 at Mt Spencer in Nebo and included a tree felling demonstration and a tour of the Nebo sawmill. The day had a great turn out with 15 stakeholders attending. Topics of discussion included:

- Sustainable sawmill practices in privately owned native forests;
- Working with landholders to supply native timbers to clients;
- Species selection that is fit for purpose;
- Benefits to the landholder and grazing practices.

Feedback from the day was very positive and attendees enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about sustainable forestry practices.

A project plan was developed for the Eungella demonstration site and submitted to Reef Catchments in December 2017. PCL's officer worked closely with the working group and the landholder to further develop the demonstration site and work on a species list for plot and guard trees.

Progress at the site was ceased when the landholder was taken ill. Discussions were held with Reef Catchments on how to best deliver on our project milestones and it was decided that a PCL officer would attend the Syntropic farming workshop held in the Atherton Tablelands in June 2018.

Syntropic Farming is a system of Regenerative Agroforestry that is the brainchild of Swiss farmer and scientist, Ernst Götsch. Since the 1980's, Ernst has rehabilitated thousands of acres of cleared and degraded land back into the lush rainforest it once was, while also producing abundant food crops. He now spends his time refining his methods and teaching others. Thiago Barbosa has been a long-time student of Ernst Götsch, and now practices Syntropic Farming in the Byron Bay region of NSW. Thiago passes on the information through courses and workshops such as the Introductory Syntropic Farming Course on the Atherton Tableland attended by Wendy Eiteneuer.

Syntropic Farming is an exciting concept that may improve agriculture and agroforestry outputs in this region. This system can be replicated anywhere, regardless of the location, land size, or the soil type, and results in improved soil quality while also requiring significant reductions in water and nutrient inputs. The five key principles of this method are:

- **Ground Cover** no bare dirt ever. If earth is not covered by a living plant, it must be covered with mulch. Mulch may consist of external input such as hay/straw or forest mulch, or it may be pruned material such as grasses, leaves & branches from within the system itself.
- Maximise Photosynthesis maximising the amount of photosynthesising foliage sequesters carbon, improves soil quality and produces abundant supplies of food. Multi-level vegetation has a greater surface area of photosynthesising foliage than a single level or monoculture crop does.
- **Natural Succession** as a rainforest has a natural succession where there is always new life to replace old, so does a Syntropic Farming system. As the system matures, it should change what it is producing at each stage and begin to self-sow the next generation.
- **Stratification** using plants with differing light requirements creates a multilayered system of great diversity, creating resilience. Because the plants all have differing light requirements, they all have the opportunity to thrive within a smaller area than what would be used in a monoculture planting. Having this diversity means that if one crop doesn't produce as planned then another should be there either in its place or within a shorter time span than if having to replant from scratch.
- **Management** managing a Syntropic system involves harvesting, pruning and monitoring to maintain groundcover. If planned correctly, harvesting should be a continual process. Each time vegetation is removed the soil needs to be covered i.e. If a lettuce is cut then the bare patch is covered with cut grass. Pruning should be a regular occurrence, with all the organic material being returned to the system.

What Syntropic Farming does is reproduce the interdependent relationships within a rainforest. If planned correctly a Syntropic system can produce an almost continual harvest of vegetable, fruits, herbs, flowers, fibres and/or forestry timber over a 20-40 year span. A key characteristic is the wide variety of plants with all different lifespans and light requirements that are planted at a very high density, just as you would see within a rainforest.

Forestry and Agroforestry projects monitored in the Mackay Whitsunday region previously have not been successful because of wind damage sustained from cyclones. It would be recommended to conduct trials of Syntropic farming methods in order to assess whether the dense, multi-layered vegetation of Syntropic systems would withstand the effects of cyclones better than previous Forestry and Agroforestry trials – in theory the vegetation's density and variety may provide enough protection to Forestry species to prevent the wind damage formerly seen in Forestry trials.

3.6 O'CONNELL RIVER DISASTER RECOVERY PROJECTS

(REEF CATCHMENTS MWI LTD)

PCL coordinated the delivery of revegetation and maintenance works three project sites along the O'Connell River. These sites along the riverbank were on private property and were target sites for remediation works, strategically chosen in consideration of the impact of high erosion rates should these sites be left untouched. In February, officer project Melissa Spalding assisted Aaron from Whitsunday Environmental Services in infill planting and planting in extended revegetation sites, two of which were reprofiled following cyclone damage. Provisions maintenance works - brush cutting and watering - are



crucial to the success of these new plants and will be carried out by Whitsunday Environmental Services. In total, 2,350 native species were planted across the three sites, the majority of which were sourced from Whitsunday Landcare and the remaining from MNEC nursery.

Across the span of two weeks, Melissa teamed up with Aaron to tackle this revegetation project. The humidity was broken only by heavy rain on a couple of the days, which made the work interesting but mostly just muddy. Melissa learned first-hand the physicality and various strategies associated with large-scale revegetation works. Difficult-to-access sites make the work that much more "fun", no doubt these works were not lacking in adventure. Photopoint monitoring points will be maintained by Reef Catchments so that the progress of the site can be assessed.

3.7 POND APPLE IN THE HABANA REGION

(REEF CATCHMENTS MWI LTD)

31st August 2017 – 19th May 2018 Final year of funding.

Pond Apple (*Annona glabra*) is a **restricted invasive plant** under the QLD *Biosecurity Act 2014*. It poses a significant environmental threat to Northern Australia and is capable of replacing entire ecosystems.

In 2009, a fruit was brought to the attention of local Biosecurity Officers in Mackay by a concerned landholder. The fruit was collected from a tributary creek within the Reliance Creek catchment, just north of Mackay, and was identified as Pond Apple. Upon identification, an extensive search was carried out to ascertain the degree of infestation. Surveys found that the infestation spanned across approximately 21.6 hectares of the Reliance Creek Catchment.

Knowing how invasive Pond Apple could be, members of the Mackay Regional Pest Management Group (MRPMG) were keen to work together to eradicate this pest from the Mackay region.

Since 2011, PCL have been involved in the monitoring and control of Pond Apple in the Reliance Creek catchment. Mackay Regional Council's Pest Management Officer and PCL's Project Officer have continued to survey, monitor and treat any identified Pond Apple species each year, with funding provided by Reef Catchments. These ongoing efforts have seen Pond Apple numbers decline drastically and the infestation zone reduced from 21.6 ha to 3.6 ha. Surveys carried out in the December 2017 and April 2018 did not locate any Pond Apple trees or seedlings, which is a fantastic outcome for the project and one that could only be achieved through collaborative partnerships and community involvement.

Funding opportunities, including the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country program and now the NRM Investment program through the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines, has enabled the ongoing eradication strategies and efforts, and has ultimately led to the success of this project. Mackay Regional Council will continue surveying in a reduced area for the next couple of years to ensure that the eradication of Pond Apple from the Mackay region is complete.

The following is a statement from Michelle Smith, Principal Biosecurity Officer for Biosecurity Queensland:

"The project undertaken by Pioneer Catchment Landcare and Mackay Regional Council (with support from Reef Catchments) has been invaluable in controlling and eradicating Pond Apple from the Habana region. Pond Apple is a major environmental weed, and the tropical conditions in this region are ideal for establishment, infestation and rapid spread. On behalf of Biosecurity Queensland's Invasive Plants and Animals Program, I commend all involved in the project for their diligence and commitment to the project to ensure that the Mackay region remains free of incursions of this highly invasive plant."

3.8 RELIANCE CREEK PALM VINE FOREST WALK & WEED CONTROL

(REEF CATCHMENTS MWI LTD)

4th September 2017 – 4th November 2017

PCL was engaged by Reef Catchments to host a Reliance Creek Palm Vine Forest Walk as well as hold two volunteer days carrying out weed maintenance at the site. The project was funded through the Inlands National Landcare Program with the intent of protecting Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) values in the Mackay Whitsunday region. The Reliance Creek National Park is home to the endangered palm vine forest and provides habitat for 23 listed threatened species and 18 migratory species, as listed under the *EPBC Act* 1999.

PCL coordinated and participated in two volunteer weed control days. Priority weed species identified at the site included Cat's Claw Creeper, Ruellia, Hymenachne, and Guinea Grass. Weed control work was carried out by the PCL volunteer team. A total of 36 volunteer hours were spent hand weeding around revegetation and spreading forest mulch. The steam weeder was also used to help control Ruellia infestations along the park access road and around revegetation.



The Reliance Creek Palm Vine Forest Walk was held on Friday 27th October 2017. The event was well attended with 33 people coming along to learn more about the palm vine forest. PCL had developed a case study of the Reliance Creek site which outlined the importance of the area and the on-going challenges that it faces. This was provided to attendees on arrival. There was an information sheet about the Jewel Beetle (developed by Gympie & District Landcare) and the use of biological control on Cat's Claw Creeper. Bundaberg Regional Council also sent up 52 Jewel Beetles to release on the day. Other display material included information about PCL and current programs and Weeds of the Mackay Whitsunday Region books. Feedback by attendees received on the day was extremely positive.

3.9 RUBBER VINE SURVEY & CONTROL

(REEF CATCHMENTS MWI LTD)

13th October 2017 – 1st June 2018 Final year of funding.

PCL were once again engaged to deliver the 2017/18 Rubber Vine survey and control project in the Mackay region. Officers worked closely with Mackay Regional Council's Pest Management Officers to treat and control known rubber vine outbreaks within the Pioneer Valley.

Approximately 27 ha have been monitored for Rubber Vine during the 2017/18 project period and identified outbreaks in those areas have been treated using best practice methods. We have learnt that the Rubber Vine infestation in the Pioneer Valley is far more extensive than initially thought. infestations were identified as we gained access to areas on were properties which previously inaccessible by foot.



This year we have discovered

many more mature rubber vine plants. They have been easier to identify due to their large unmistakeable seed pods being visible from the tops of the tree canopies. Majority of these vines were well hidden from other vegetation, so the only way they were identifiable was by their seed pods. A possible recommendation for future surveys would be to try and carry them out when the rubber vine is seeding to enable easier identification of obscured or hidden vines.

3.10 SUPPORT OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE SUGARCANE DEMONSTRATION SITES

(REEF CATCHMENTS MWI LTD)

In collaboration with Farmacist, eight sustainable agriculture case studies were completed and delivered to Reef Catchments. Additional deliverables included four field days assisting

Farmacist at the trial sites, and coordination of two sustainable agriculture field walks. Case study findings generate interest in sustainable agriculture and help identify practices that can increase the viability of sustainable agriculture in the region.

3.11 WEED WORKSHOP SUPPORT AT HOMEBUSH

(REEF CATCHMENTS MWI LTD)

PCL ran a stall and plant giveaway with MRC Pest Management Officers Shelley and Maria and the Pest Trailer. The day had a good turnout of private landholders, and PCL sold several Weeds of the Mackay Whitsunday Region books, which offered the opportunity to talk to landholders and give advice on weed management.



4 REGIONAL LANDCARE FACILITATOR

We thank Juliane Kasiske for her work as Regional Landcare Facilitator.

With experience in a range of sectors, including the Marine, Coastal & Biodiversity space and Sustainable Agriculture, Juliane enjoys collaborating with the agricultural community, including Landcare groups, to be able to support producers adopting sustainable farm and land management practices. RLF-supported events have covered innovation and technology, erosion and soil health, climate change, improved nutrient and herbicide efficiency, weed and pasture management and much more.

RLF funding of PCL activities totalled \$1,955 in the 2017-18 financial year, consisting of the following:

- \$1,100 Moama Soil Conference,, July 2017
- \$35 Weed Books prizes for Grazing Forum, March 2018
- \$160 St Helens Creek Rehab Project, April 2018
- \$660 Freckle Farm, May 2018

4.1 VICTORIAN NO-TILL FARMERS CONFERENCE, MOAMA

(REGIONAL LANDCARE FACILITATOR)

Dave Hunter of PCL and Simon Mattsson of CQSHS attended the Victorian No-Till Farmers' Conference under funding received through the Regional Landcare Facilitator. Dr Christine Jones and a range of other excellent speakers from the USA and Canada provided a wealth of information on regenerative agriculture.

Dave and Simon then presented what they took away from the conference at the Healthy Soils symposium held in Mackay on the 31^{st} November 2017. Please refer to the Chair's Annual Report (Pg 2) for more details.

4.2 ST HELENS CREEK REVEGETATION & MAINTENANCE

(REGIONAL LANDCARE FACILITATOR)

PCL received a small amount of funding from the RLF to assist with some weed maintenance work at our St Helens Revegetation site. The St Helens project was initially funded under the National Landcare Program in 2015/2016. Local landholders have donated their time to assist with ongoing weed maintenance at the site, which is greatly appreciated. The revegetation has grown significantly and held up very well against cyclone Debbie in 2017.

4.3 FRECKLE FARM FIELD DAY

(REGIONAL LANDCARE FACILITATOR)

Each year PCL, Sarina Landcare (SLCMA) and Whitsunday Landcare work together with the RLF to host a field day to showcase sustainable farming practices in the region. This year's event was held at Freckle Farm, Eton.

Landholders, Rob Bauman and Deb McLucas began Freckle Farm with a few hens and pigs and over the years the set-up grew. Today they have a sustainable farming system where they have a mission to educate, connect, and inspire everyone in the farming, food, and local community space.

The field day was attended by 40 landholders and Landcare members all keen to learn more about Rob and Deb's journey and how they have achieved great success on their farm. Activities included a farm tour, discussions on weed management and farm biosecurity, a drone demonstration to share how drones can be used as a tool for surveying large areas, and a very yummy lunch provided by Freckle Farm.



5 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 organisations met three times per year to encourage networking and collaboration. This year, each Landcare group took turns in hosting the meeting. It provided a great opportunity to see the other Landcare group's headquarters and nurseries. A key supporter of the CQCLN is Kapow Interactive who provides the group's websites.

6.1 GREAT COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER

The Great Community Fundraiser is an initiative of the Mackay North Rotary Club and North Jacklin Motor Group. In 2018, the raffle prize for the fundraiser was a new Mitsubishi Lancer. Our congratulations go to the prize-winner, Cathy Knudsen, who purchased her ticket through Dragons Abreast.

Through PCL's involvement with the Great Community Fundraiser, \$700 was raised to go towards Landcare activities. Our thanks go to those who contributed their time by selling raffle tickets, and we are particularly appreciative of Dave Hunter's efforts as he out-sold everyone else by a long margin.

7 ADMINISTRATION MATTERS

7.1 MEMBERSHIP

PCL finished the 2017-18 year with a total membership of 91, a rise from 67 in the previous year.

With 36 new memberships approved by our Management Committee during the year, it seems attrition at renewal time was this year much lower than previous years.

We thank our new and continuing members for their support.

7.2 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Committee elected at the November 2017 AGM was made up of the following members:

Dave Hunter - Chair

Dianne Williams - Deputy Chair

Mark Radke - Treasurer

Wendy Eiteneuer - Secretary (Non-voting)

Irene Champion – Committee Member

Representing Native Plants Queensland, SGAP (Qld Region) Inc. Mackay Branch

Kate Finch - Committee Member

Grant Howard - Committee Member

Di Salau - Committee Member

Laura Whitbread - Committee Member

The Committee was, however, saddened to accept the resignation on Grant Howard in February 2018 and Laura Whitbread in September 2018, both due to changes in work circumstances making their attendance at meeting impossible. We thank them both for all their contributions to PCL.

7.3 FINANCES

Appendix 1 contains the full audited Financial Statements for 2017/18, as well as the associated Independent Audit Report. These were provided by our appointed auditor, Bennett Partners Chartered Accountants.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

There are so many that contribute to the achievements of the organisation during the year that we can't thank them all individually, but some we particularly acknowledge:

- **Our Volunteers**. Volunteers are Landcare's bread and butter. New volunteers join our activities regularly, but we particularly value those who have supported PCL for years. We recognise and applaud all our volunteers, but we make particular mention of:
 - o **Di Salau**, who continues to provide IT support, policy development and participation on the Management Committee;
 - o Margaret Lane, who has continued to advocate for PCL.
 - o The members of our **Pioneer Volunteer Team**, who donate considerable time and effort in the nursery and at PCL project sites; and
 - o **Gerard Masters**, who continues to fold and prepare PCL's newsletters each month. **Thank you** all of you for your contributions.
- Reef Catchments Mackay Whitsunday Isaac Ltd, who each year provides technical support and resource sharing, and who continues to involve PCL in 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, Gerard, Jono, Sue, the Habitat Restoration Team, the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens staff, and the Pest Management Officers who have collaborated and generously shared their knowledge.
- **Native Plants Qld Mackay Branch,** for representation on the Management Committee, supplying plants for our projects 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 as part of the Central Queensland Coast Landcare Network.
- Deborah Metters of Healthy Land & Water for her generosity with delivery of Land for Wildlife Training for officers of Central Qld Coast Landcare Network and Mackay Regional Council.
- **Qld Parks & Wildlife Service** officers, for their advice, technical support and collaboration with Landcare field events and developing projects for grant applications.
- **Phil Trendell** of Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for project advice & support of Landcare activities.
- **Biosecurity Queensland** staff, for their advice and technical support, and for their collaboration on field events.
- **Megan Taylor** of **Kapow Interactive** for her ongoing support for CQCLN websites.
- The range of other **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 contribution, Thank You!

PROJECT FUNDING & OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS BY:



































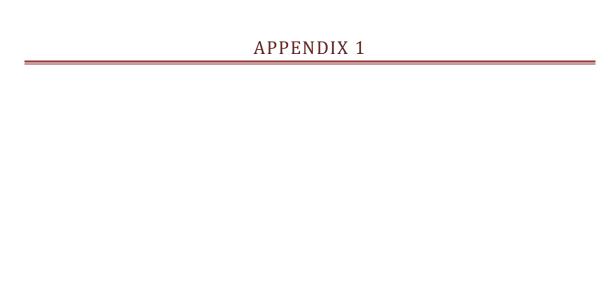












Independent Audit Report on 2017/18 Financial Reports

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

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COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Your committee members submit the financial report of the Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group Inc. for the financial year ended 30 June 2018.

Committee Members

The names of committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Dave Hunter (Chairman)

Di Williams (Deputy Chair)

Wendy Eiteneuer (Secretary)

Mark Radke (Treasurer)

Di Salau

Laura Whitbread

Principal Activities

The principal activity of the association during the financial year was to promote healthy and sustainable landcare within the Pioneer catchment region.

Significant Changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee.

Dave Hunter
Chairman

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the Year ended 30 June 2018

	Note	2018	2017
Revenues from Ordinary Activities			
Operational Revenues	2	265,640	279,023
Other Income	3	481	876
Total Revenues from Ordinary Activities		266,121	279,900
Expenses from Ordinary Activities			
Motor Vehicle Expenses	4	5,873	2,655
Marketing Expenses	5	12,347	17,066
Administration Expenses	6	29,394	23,828
Employee Related Expenses	7	121,722	106,801
Provision for Unexpended Funding		96,785	129,550
Total Expenses from Ordinary Activities		266,121	279,900
Profit/(Loss) from Ordinary Activities			-

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION As at 30 June 2018

	NOTE	2018	2017
Current Assets			
Cash Assets	8	113,462	139,183
Total Current Assets	_	113,462	139,183
Total Assets	_	113,462	139,183
Current Liabilities			
Payables	9	3,478	2,650
Provision for Employment Entitlements		13,198	9,292
Provision for Grants	10	4,578	13,772
Provision for Special Projects	11	539	6,108
Provision for Auspiced Grants	12	16,382	14,036
Provision Discretionary Funds	13	17,427	13,454
Total Current Liabilities		55,601	59,312
Total Liabilities	_	55,601	59,312
Net Assets	_	57,861	79,871
Opening Members Funds			
Discretionary Reserve Funds	14	57,861	79,871
Retained Profits	_	-	-
Members Funds	_	57,861	79,871

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

NOTE 1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This financial statements cover Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group Inc. as an individual entity. Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group Inc. is a not-for-profit Association incorporated in Queensland under the Associations Incorporation Act (QLD) 1981 (as amended by the Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Act (QLD) 2007) the Act"). The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

Significant accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and are consistent with prior reporting periods unless otherwise stated.

a. Income tax

The Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group Inc. is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

b. Fixed assets

Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group Inc. fully depreciates assets in the first year of purchase This has no tax implication as Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group Inc. is a non profit association and does not pay income tax.

c. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short term highly liquid investments.

d. Provision for projects

These provisions represent monies received for work that has not been completed at year end.

e. Revenue and other income

Revenue is recognised when the amount of the revenue can be measured reliably, it is probable that economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the Association and specific criteria relating to the type of revenue as noted below, has been satisfied.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

NOTE 1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

e. Revenue and other income (cont)

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is presented net of returns, discounts and rebates.

Sale of goods

Revenue is recognised on transfer of goods to the customer as this is deemed to be the point in time when risks and rewards are transferred and there is no longer any ownership of effective control over the goods.

Grant revenue

Government grants are recognised at fair value where there is reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and all grant conditions will be met. Grants relating to expense items are recognised as income over the periods necessary to match the grant to the costs they are compensating.

Interest revenue

Interest is recognised using the effective interest method.

f. Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the statement of assets and liabilities are shown inclusive of GST.

g. Employee provisions

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee provisions have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

	2018	2017
NOTE 2: OPERATIONAL REVENUES		
Reserve Fund	49,023	99,012
Auspiced Grants	26,836	28,837
Grants	163,365	115,699
Operating Support	26,416	35,475
	265,640	279,023
NOTE 3: OTHER INCOME		
Interest Earned	481	876
	481	876
NOTE 4: MOTOR VEHICLE EXPENSES		
Fuel & Oil	1,403	752
Vehicle Hire	350	1,142
Trailer Registration & Insurance	3,403	726
Repairs & Maintenance	717	34
	5,873	2,655
NOTE 5: MARKETING & OTHER EXPENSES		
Member Support	1,794	3,014
Newsletter	109	68
Other	10,443	13,984
	12,347	17,066
NOTE 6: ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES		
Repairs and Maintenance	1,309	130
Equipment	597	2,058
Gifts & Donations	372	6
Insurance	819	819
Other Expenses	918	98
Postage & Delivery	285	319
Printing & Photocopying	467	269
Professional Fees	21,153	14,649
Subscriptions	621	303
Supplies	1,485	2,627
Telephone & Internet	1,368	2,550
NOTE # DAIDLOYNEND DELATED EXPENSES	29,394	23,828
NOTE 7: EMPLOYMENT RELATED EXPENSES		
Professional Development	1,400	1,757
Salaries & Wages Invoiced	120,321	107,353
	121,722	109,110

	2018	2017
NOTE 8 CASH ASSETS		
Petty Cash	47	47
General Operating Account	16,775	9,012
CQSHS - Trading Account	13,536	11,181
Business Online Saver	83,104	118,944
	113,462	139,183
NOTE 9: PAYABLES		
GST Payable	1,990	2,395
CBA Business Credit Card	1,488	255
	3,478	2,650
NOTE 10: PROVISION FOR GRANTS Raffle Ticket Sales		
Income	328	-
Expenditure		-
Unexpended Income	328	-
RC - CCC Reliance		
Income	5,463	3,850
Expenditure	(5,463)	(3,850)
Unexpended Income	-	-
RC- Far Beach		
Income	5,688	5,123
Expenditure	(5,688)	(5,123)
Unexpended Income	-	-
RC - Fishways		
Income	1,375	1,375
Expenditure	(1,375)	(1,375)
Unexpended Income	-	-
RC - Forestry	6,000	
Income	6,900	-
Expenditure Unexpended Income	(6,900)	
RC - O'Connell River		
Income	23,713	-
Expenditure	(23,713)	_
Unexpended Income	-	-
RC- Reliance Creek		
Income	3,500	4,750
Expenditure	(3,500)	(4,750)
Unexpended Income	-	-

OTE 10: PROVISION FOR GRANTS (CONT)	2018	2017
Pond Apple (Reliance Creek)		
Income	1,725	_
Expenditure	(1,725)	_
Unexpended Income	-	-
RC - Rubber vine 2017/18		
Income	4,315	-
Expenditure	(4,315)	-
Unexpended Income	-	-
MRC - Marian Riverbank		
Income	1,007	1,007
Expenditure	-	-
Unexpended Income	1,007	1,007
Landcare Support 2015		
Income	-	2,644
Expenditure		(2,644
Unexpended Income	-	-
Log Jam Project		
Income	-	300
Expenditure	_	(300)
Unexpended Income	-	-
PF - Kindy Beachcare Day		
Income	-	751
Expenditure		(751)
Unexpended Income	-	-
MRC - Land for Wildlife		
Income	-	1,904
Expenditure		(1,904)
Unexpended Income	-	-
Peri- Urban Grant		
Income	-	329
Expenditure		(329)
Unexpended Income	-	-
Ruellia Trial Income	_	3,206
Expenditure	_	(3,206)
Unexpended Income		(3,200)

	2018	2017
OTE 10: PROVISION FOR GRANTS (CONT)		
RC - Cloudbreak Farmtour		
Income	-	550
Expenditure	-	(550)
Unexpended Income	-	-
MRC - Land for Wildlife		
Income	-	10,999
Expenditure	-	(10,999)
Unexpended Income	-	-
MRC - Peri Urban		
Income	5,000	5,000
Expenditure	(5,000)	-
Unexpended Income	-	5,000
CQU - Camping Trip		
Income	250	250
Expenditure	-	-
Unexpended Income	250	250
RC - Sugarcane Trials Support		
Income	10,450	5,225
Expenditure	(10,450)	-
Unexpended Income	-	5,225
Landcare Support 2017		
Income	-	20,000
Expenditure	-	(20,000)
Unexpended Income	-	-
NLP -St Helens Creek		
Income	2,435	10,277
Expenditure	(2,435)	(7,987)
Unexpended Income	-	2,290
NLP - Owens Creek		
Income	-	2,712
Expenditure	-	(2,712)
Unexpended Income	-	-
NLP -Far Beach		
Income	-	2,313
Expenditure	-	(2,313)
Unexpended Income	-	-

OTE 10: PROVISION FOR GRANTS (CONT)	2018	2017
RC - Weed Workshop Income	575	_
Expenditure	(575)	_
Unexpended Income	-	-
RC - Grazing Forum		
Income	-	450
Expenditure		(450)
Unexpended Income	-	-
RC - Pond Apple	1.705	2 200
Income	1,725	2,200
Expenditure Unexpended Income	(1,725)	(2,200)
RLF - Freckle Farm		
Income	600	-
Expenditure	(600)	-
Unexpended Income	-	-
RC Rubber vine Extension		
Income	-	7,000
Expenditure		(7,000)
Unexpended Income	-	-
DAF - De Moleyns		
Income	8,500	-
Expenditure	(8,500)	-
Unexpended Income	-	-
GBRMPA - MCC Wetland Income	3,000	
Expenditure	3,000	_
Unexpended Income	2,993	<u> </u>
MRC - Gooseponds		
Income	4,950	-
Expenditure	(4,950)	
Unexpended Income	-	-
MRC - Landcare Support 2017/18		
Income	28,275	-
Expenditure	(28,275)	-
Unexpended Income	-	-

	2018	2017
NOTE 10: PROVISION FOR GRANTS (CONT)		
MRC - LFW 2017/18		
Income	12,739	_
Expenditure	(12,739)	-
Unexpended Income	-	-
MRC - LFW Training		
Income	2,455	-
Expenditure	(2,455)	-
Unexpended Income	-	-
Total Provision for unexpended Grants	4,578	13,772
NOTE 11: PROVISION FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS		
Nursery Operations		
Income	6,108	6,981
Expenditure	(5,569)	(873)
Unexpended Income	539	6,108
Total Provision for Special Projects future expenditure	539	6,108
NOTE 12. AUCDICED BROJECT BROVICIONS		
NOTE 12: AUSPICED PROJECT PROVISIONS MacKillop Wetlands		
Income	_	499
Expenditure	_	(499)
Unexpended Income	-	-
CQSHS		
Income	23,990	25,493
Expenditure	(10,454)	(14,303)
Unexpended Income	13,536	11,190
Morag McNichol Reserve		
Income	2,519	2,519
Expenditure	-	-
Unexpended Income	2,519	2,519
Marian Community Group		
Income	327	327
Expenditure	-	-
Unexpended Income	327	327
Total Provision for Auspiced Projects future expenditure	16,382	14,036
-		

OTE 13: DISCRETIONARY PROVISIONS	2018	2017
Project Officers	_	84,914
Expenditure	_	(86,519)
Unexpended Income	-	(1,605)
Salaries	129,664	10,417
Expenditure	(120,490)	(10,417)
Unexpended Income	9,174	-
Communication Strategy	4,000	1,800
Expenditure	(613)	(201)
Unexpended Income	3,387	1,599
Audit & Bookkeeping	1,500	25,562
Expenditure	(1,400)	(24,130)
Unexpended Income	100	1,432
Management Committee	2,210	2,909
Expenditure	(1,000)	(1,699)
Unexpended Income	1,210	1,210
Member Support	1,200	1,000
Expenditure	(806)	(1,034)
Unexpended Income	394	(34)
Business Support	6,500	10,716
Expenditure	(5,819)	(7,118)
Unexpended Income	681	3,598
Information Technology	1,500	2,000
Expenditure	(877)	(1,272)
Unexpended Income	623	728
Sundry Reimbursements	3,441	25
Expenditure	(3,389)	(25)
Unexpended Income	52.00	-
Product Sales	1,922	745
Expenditure	(150)	(41)
Unexpended Income	1,772	705
Motor Vehicle	4,945	7,600
Expenditure	(5,392)	(2,655)
Unexpended Income	(447)	4,945

	2018	2017
NOTE 13: DISCRETIONARY PROVISIONS (CONT)		
Interest	481	876
Expenditure		-
Unexpended Income	481	876
Total Discretionary Provisions for future expenditure	17,427	13,453
NOTE 14: RESERVES		
Asset Replacement Reserve	22,500	18,000
Nursery	955	9,955
Salary Reserve	-	15,868
Business Support	6,588	4,370
Motor Vehicle	4,335	2,888
General Reserve	23,483	28,790
Total Reserves	57,861	79,871

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report as set out on pages 3 to 14:

- Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group Inc. as at 30 June 2018 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
- At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf

Chairman	White I	
	Dave Hunter	
Treasurer	, mpR adhe	
	Mark Radke	
Dated this 31st	day of October 2018	



Partners
Darryl Camilleri
Chris Sammut
Paul Hinton
Therese Scotton
Geoff O'Connor
John Lavis
Ryan Leach
Brenton Lazzarini

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF

PIONEER CATCHMENT & LANDCARE GROUP INC.

Report on Audit of the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group Inc. (the association), which comprises the Statement of Financial position as at 30 June 2018, and the Statement of comprehensive income for the year ended, and notes to the financial statements, including summary of significant accounting policies and the committee statement.

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section of out report, the accompanying financial report of the Association for the year ended 30 June 218 is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act (QLD) 1981 (as amended by the Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Act (QLD) 2007).

Basis for Qualified Opinion

It is not practical for the Association to maintain an effective system of internal control over cash receipts until their initial entry in the accounting records. Accordingly, our audit in relation to cash receipts was limited to the amounts recorded in the accounting records.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards. Out responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report is prepared to assist the Association in meeting the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (QLD) 1981 (as amended by the Association Incorporation and Other Legislation Act (QLD) 2007). As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for the Association and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than the Association. Our opinion is not modified in respect of the is matter.

GPO Box 2561, Brisbane QLD 4001 Phone: 07 3221 6200

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Partners
Darryl Camilleri
Chris Sammut
Paul Hinton
Therese Scotton
Geoff O'Connor
John Lavis
Ryan Leach
Brenton Lazzarini

Responsibilities of the Committee for the Financial Report

The committee is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act (QLD) 1981 (as amended by the Association Incorporation and Other Legislation Act (QLD) 2007), and for such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the committee is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the committee either intends to liquidate the Association or cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The committee is responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are consistent material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonable be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

Paul Hinton (CA)

Bennett Partners Chartered Accountants

31/10/18

Date

Level 3,400 Queen Street, Brisbane QLD 4000 GPO Box 2561, Brisbane QLD 4001 **Phone: 07 3221 6200**

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