

Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group Inc.

Annual Report 2019/20



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CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT

What a tumultuous year it has been for PCL. Early in the year, our Coordinator Carla Lambropoulos resigned and moved a new position with Reef Catchments, where she is still able to work closely with her replacement, Nichole Zahra. I feel Nichole has been on a vertical learning curve ever since she started. To her credit Nichole has taken on the role of PCL Coordinator with gusto and, dare I say, she is now starting to feel comfortable in the position. Project Officer Kade Slater also moved on to new pastures early in 2020, and we were fortunate to be able to recruit a very competent replacement in the form of Tom Crow relatively quickly. Then we had CoVID-19 and all the complications caused by the lock down that started around the time Tom started in his new role as Project Officer. In spite of all the vagaries of CoVID lockdown, Nichole and Tom have both taken to their respective positions with great enthusiasm and I would say they are gaining confidence daily. It has been comforting to know our long standing and valued Administration Officer, Wendy Eiteneuer, has been able to call on her vast experience to help Nichole and Tom settle into their new roles, albeit from a distance at times because of the uncertainties of the CoVID protocols that have seemed to change on a weekly and sometimes a daily basis.

We have had a similar turnover in the membership of the Management Committee (MC) with Irene Champion, Di Salau and Mark Radke standing down. Fortunately we welcomed Sharon Dwyer, a primary producer, to our MC at last year's AGM. Sharon has become a real asset to the MC with her enthusiasm in all facets of PCL's activities. With her ability to decipher complex documents she has taken on the role of reviewing our policies and procedures no small task. Early in 2020 we advertised for someone to fill the volunteer role of Treasurer on the committee and we were able to recruit Nancy Pratt. Nancy is also a primary producer as well as being a very competent and active Treasurer in which role she has had to work through the complexities of the "Job Keeper" funding made available by the Federal Government. Nancy is doing a marvellous job in making sure we keep all projects on budget. Fortunately for PCL we have gained the services of Councillor Fran Mann on the MC as well. Fran has proven to be a valuable and active member of the MC and is able to call on her vast experience in our local government to advise us on the best way to approach most issues. Di Williams continues as a proactive Deputy Chair in spite of the isolation bought on by CoVID-19. Di is also a primary producer and I value her judgment and I frequently seek her advice on the day to day issues faced by our organisation.

Landcare revolves around its members especially those that volunteer on a regular basis in helping out in the nursery and the office and out in the field when we have projects on. Once again CoVID-19 has intervened in 2020 and has meant we have not had as much contact time as we would normally expect.

We continue to have a close working relationship with our Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator, Julia Kasiske. Julia has an uncanny ability to attract speakers of world renown such as Dr Christine Jones, eminent Soils Ecologist to present at the annual Healthy Soils Symposium held in November 2019. These are supported by Reef Catchments Mackay Whitsunday and funded by the Federal Government through the National Landcare Program and the Queensland Government through the Water Quality Program. The presentation by Dr Christine Jones was extremely valuable to anyone interested in human health let alone soil health. Julia has been trying to enlist the services of the well-respected, in regenerative agriculture circles, speaker, Nicole Masters from New Zealand for this year's Healthy Soils symposium. Unfortunately to no avail, however she has secured the services of Graeme Sait, CEO of Nutritech Solutions instead. Graeme has a wealth of knowledge of soil health in relation to human health.

Of course our most important relationship in the community is with the Mackay Regional Council through the funding they provide for PCL to do so much work with our local community. We value being able to situate our office at the Mackay Natural Environment Centre at Swayne street and the assistance given to us by Sue McCormack. I see it as a natural mix of skills from both sides with mutual benefits. We also have close working relationships with Lisa Kermode and Johnathon Dykyj, which we have built over a number of years.

We continue to enjoy a good working relationship with our major natural resource management group Reef Catchments Mackay Whitsunday. From the chair Julie Boyd, and Katrina Dent at a management level through to all the staff at the Mackay and Proserpine offices. I don't dare start to mention any staff individually lest I leave someone out. Actually I think we have a very intimate sharing of knowledge between all three Landcare groups and RCMW, which is only natural because we share similar goals.

One area that we have been looking at for some time is Deductible Gift Recipient status. This would allow us to attract funding for restoration works from private enterprise and for them to get a tax deduction for their donations. We needed three people to sit on a separate committee to oversee the management of any funds donated and I am happy to say we now have those people. They are, in no special order Cr Karen May, deputy mayor of MRC, Cr Fran Mann and Aaron Cockings an accountant from Shepherd and Dudley. Aaron has a genuine interest in Regenerative Farming practices and how it contributes to human healthy through growing healthy crops in healthy soils. This committee is yet to have it's first meeting but we look forward to big things in 2021.

On a personal note I have decided to stand down from my position as chair of PCL. When I originally agreed to take over the chair's position it was on the condition it was at arms length. This was of necessity because of the distance our property is from Mackay and the fact that I am still farming full time. It worked very well in the early years because the staff we had were very experienced in project management and were grateful to be able to make decisions on a daily basis that did not need micro managing by the MC. Unfortunately things change and I find all the legislative requirements behind our policies and procedures a bit daunting and I think it is time to hand over to a safer set of hands. I am not intending to retire from the MC just from the leadership role. I intend to give my successor all the support and help that I can.

Dave Hunter,

Chairman Pioneer Catchment Landcare

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

PCL PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

1 PCL VOLUNTEER TEAM

2 MACKAY REGIONAL COUNCIL

2.1 LANDCARE SUPPORT

2.1.1 GARDENS FOR WILDLIFE

2.1.2 FAR BEACH RESTORATION WORKS

2.1.3 RUBBERVINE TREATMENT WORK

2.1.4 MADEIRA VINE TREATMENT WORK

2.1.5 WORKING WITH STAKEHOLDERS TO DEVELOP AND SUPPORT PROJECTS

2.1.6 SUPPORTING LOCAL SCHOOLS

2.1.7 SUPPORTING COMMUNITY GROUPS

2.1.8 WORKSHOPS AND FIELD DAYS

2.1.9 PROMOTIONS, DISPLAYS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

2.1.10 ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS DAYS

2.1.11 NEWSLETTER

2.2 LAND FOR WILDLIFE

2.3 'INTREPID WAY' WORKSHOP

3 FUNDED PROJECTS & GRANTS

3.1 DISASTER RECOVERY – ST HELENS CREEK

REEF CATCHMENTS LTD

3.1.1 PLANTING

3.1.2 MAINTENANCE

3.2 REEF TRUST IV – ST HELENS CREEK

REEF CATCHMENTS LTD

3.3 JOHN BREEN PARK

REEF CATCHMENTS LTD

3.4 LANDCARE CONFERENCE

REEF CATCHMENTS LTD

3.5 NRM PLAN SURVEY

REEF CATCHMENTS LTD

3.6 NRM BARRIERS ASSESSMENT

REEF CATCHMENTS LTD

**3.7 RAISING THE PROFILE OF THE LOCAL WATER MOUSE,
XEROMYS MYOIDES**

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT
NATIONAL LANDCARE PROGRAM – ENVIRONMENT SMALL GRANTS

**3.8 MACKAY CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
PIONEER RIVER WETLAND RESTORATION**

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT
GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY – REEF GUARDIAN GRANTS

**3.9 MACKAY WHITSUNDAY WETLAND WORKING GROUP
MEETING SUPPORT**

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT DEPT AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

3.10 EUNGELLA LANDHOLDERS' SOCIAL NETWORKING EVENT

NQ DRY TROPICS

**3.11 GRANT TO PURCHASE FIELD EQUIPMENT:
RAPID-SPRAY, BRUSHCUTTER, DRILL & AUGER**

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT DEPT JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL
GAMBLING COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

3.12 THE GREAT COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER (RAFFLE)

ROTARY CLUB OF MACKAY NORTH IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NORTH JACKLIN MOTOR GROUP

4 CENTRAL QUEENSLAND COAST LANDCARE NETWORK

4.1 REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL LANDCARE FACILITATOR (RALF)

4.2 WEBSITE

4.3

5 ADMINISTRATION MATTERS

5.1 MEMBERSHIP

5.2 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

5.3 POLICY OFFICER'S REPORT

5.4 FINANCES

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*Natural resource management in our community is enriched by your contribution.
Thank you!*

PROJECT FUNDING & OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS BY:



APPENDIX 1

Independent Audit Report on 2013/14 Financial Reports