



ANNUAL

REPORT

2021-22



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Cumberland Land Conservancy (CLC) is a volunteer operated not-for-profit charity dedicated to acquiring and managing land for conservation in perpetuity. We focus on the Cumberland Plain of Western Sydney, one of the most heavily cleared landscapes in Australia.

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Cover: *Dodonaea viscosa* (subsp. *cuneata*) (Hop Bush) at 'Marsdenia' Llandilo. Photo: © Mark Fuller

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## President's Report



It's amazing what consequences derive on the ground with the swing from drought of a few years ago to regular and, at times, heavy rain over the past 20 months.

Weeds such as *Tradescantia*, *Paspalum*, Fireweed and African Lovegrass have done well. The native grass *Microlaena stipoides* has also done well but other natives such as *Daviesia ulicifolia*, *Ozothamnus diosmifolius*, *Persoonia nutans* (to some extent) and *Hardenbergia violacea* have suffered. These circumstances were not predicted when preparing our major grant application a few years ago and this has impacted fulfilment of our predicted outcomes. On top of that, low lying areas on our largest property, Wallaroo', have been retaining surface water which has restricted vehicle movement on the property – everything takes longer to do with walking the means to access key areas of the 38ha of the property and gum boots often being the desired footwear.

I extend my deepest gratitude to the few volunteers who turn up regularly, braving rain and heat, to fulfil our "In-Kind" contribution toward grants received and, in addition, just playing a role in the control & removal of weeds, Streamwatch, Climate Watch, fauna surveys, pest management and other necessary works. As a multiple property owner, CLC has many demands upon available time.

I thank, too, those who occupied Executive and Property Management Committee roles over the past twelve months. Your contribution to the running of a viable conservation initiative has been invaluable.

The Commonwealth Government's Environment Restoration Fund (ERF) grant we have been working since early 2020 will expire on 31 December 2022. It has been absolutely vital in meeting the cost of contract work that volunteers could not fulfil. The new Commonwealth Government does not appear to offer a similar grant so we are having to look elsewhere for continued grant funding. It is a limited and competitive field so we look ahead with some degree of apprehension as to future grant funding.

On a brighter note, we thank Amazon Web Services for a grant of \$10,000 toward our conservation works. It has been applied to a project at 'Marsdenia' which was not covered in our ERF grant. Deep appreciation and thanks are also extended to the Estate of the late John Diamond (a pioneer of bush regeneration in Western Sydney) for a donation enabling replacement of our old grey Fergie tractor.

CLC has a long way to go in restoring the four properties in its care to something approaching its former natural state. I trust you will continue your support for this long-term goal.

President



## Our Purpose

Cumberland Land Conservancy Inc (CLC) is a volunteer operated not-for-profit charity dedicated to acquiring land for conservation. Our principal focus is on the 'Cumberland Plain' of Sydney, one of the most heavily cleared landscapes in Australia. This region is now being cleared and developed at a more rapid rate than before and with insufficient priority toward conserving key linkages.

CLC aims to secure biodiversity corridors through engagement with and empowering the community while partnering with government and business toward the goal of establishing and managing the corridors.

This work would not be possible without the support of our members, volunteers and sponsors – our longest serving sponsor being Hally Labels. To an even greater extent, the Commonwealth Government, through former Environment Minister, The Hon Greg Hunt MP, has been vital for the 'kick start' of the CLC initiative. Each CLC member is a co-owner in CLC properties and custodian on behalf of all the residents and wildlife of Western Sydney



*Scenes from the four CLC owned and managed properties © Mark Fuller/CLC*



## Who We Are

CLC is a completely volunteer driven not-for-profit charity. Our executive committee are elected by popular vote at the Annual General Meeting. Our current office bearers are as follows:



**President – Wayne Olling** Wayne brings a wealth of experience to the CLC having volunteered as an advocate for the Cumberland Plain environment with numerous conservation organisations for more than 20 years. In addition to his role for the CLC Wayne is Manager – Flora & Fauna with Blacktown & District Environment Group Inc.



**Vice President – Natalie James** Natalie began as a bush regenerator doing weed control and restoration works across Western Sydney. She is currently a weed control coordinator in local government. Qualifications include CLM III; Bachelor of Environmental Science and Management. Natalie is also Bushcare supervisor at ‘Thornbill’, Agnes Banks.



**Treasurer – Doug Meredith** Doug has had a life-long interest in conservation and biodiversity, particularly avian fauna. He is a member of CPA Australia, has a degree in accounting & economics, a master’s degree in accounting, a master’s degree in business administration and a graduate certificate in applied finance & investment, using these in many years’ experience in accounting, finance and management within the public, government and not for profit sectors.



**Secretary and Public Officer – Antony Lewis** Antony is a degree engineer in the food industry with a childhood background playing in Hunts Creek and Lake Parramatta. He is a long-time environment advocate who is also current Secretary of Blacktown & District Environment Group, and a community representative on Parramatta River Catchment Group and Blacktown Council Environment Advisory Committee.



**Scientific Officer – Yogesh Nair** Yogesh has 11 years of experience in bushland conservation, restoration, site supervision, project management, environment consultant (Botanist & Ecologist) including veg assessments and developing management plans. Qualifications include CLM III; Advanced Dip. App. Environmental Management; BSc and MSc in Biodiversity Conservation. management plans.



## Our Conservation Impact

Our core purpose is the acquisition of land for conservation, especially the protection of wildlife corridors. Year 2021-22 saw continued weeding on the 49.61 ha of land under management and continued presence of the fauna we protect. The land is owned by the members of CLC with each parcel subject to a Conservation Agreement with the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust to protect and restore native flora and wildlife.

As suggested already, CLC has a particular focus on biodiversity corridors. Corridors are vital for maintaining connection between the shrinking patches of habitat in the Cumberland Plain - none of which are of sufficient scale to survive in isolation. Corridors are also vital in providing links for migratory wildlife including a number of endangered bird species which rely on the Cumberland Plain.

CLC targets acquisitions in the *Cumberland Conservation Corridor*, a corridor plan for the region developed by community volunteers & biodiversity experts. The *Cumberland Conservation Corridor* was incorporated, largely unmodified, into the NSW Government's Biodiversity Investment Opportunity map for the Cumberland IBRA Subregion.

CLC is the only community-based organisation presently securing corridors in the Cumberland Plain.

All our properties now protect key links in the Cumberland Conservation Corridor. Our properties in corridor context are shown in the map on page 6.



*(above) Connected corridors are essential for sustaining populations of larger terrestrial fauna such as shown above. © CLC (top) © Mark Fuller (bottom)*



## Conservation Property Portfolio

Habitat protected forever...

Property	Area (hectares)	Endangered Ecological Communities & Threatened Species
'Wallaroo', Mulgoa	38.86	Cumberland Plain Woodland Cumberland River-flat Eucalypt Forest Cumberland Plain Land Snail ( <i>Meridolum corneovirens</i> ) White-bellied Sea Eagle ( <i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i> ) Varied Sittella ( <i>Daphoenositta chrysoptera</i> ) East-coast Freetail Bat ( <i>Mormopterus norfolkensis</i> ) Eastern Bent-winged Bat ( <i>Miniopterus schreibersii oceanensis</i> ) Fishing Bat ( <i>Myotis macropus</i> ) Grey-headed Flying Fox ( <i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i> ) Koala ( <i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> )
'Thornbill', Agnes Banks	2.20	Cumberland Shale-Gravel Transition Forest Cumberland Plain Land Snail ( <i>Meridolum corneovirens</i> ) Gravel Pea ( <i>Dillwynia tenuifolia</i> ) Nodding Geebung ( <i>Persoonia nutans</i> ) Square-tailed Kite ( <i>Lophoictinia isura</i> )
'Marsdenia', Llandilo	3.75	Cumberland Plain Woodland Cumberland Plain Land Snail ( <i>Meridolum corneovirens</i> ) Native Pear ( <i>Marsdenia viridiflora</i> subsp. <i>viridiflora</i> ) Sydney Bush-pea ( <i>Pultenaea parviflora</i> ) Juniper-leaf Grevillea ( <i>Grevillea juniperina</i> ) Grey-headed Flying Fox ( <i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i> )
'Wombat', Regentville	4.80	Cumberland Plain Woodland Shale-Sandstone Transition Forest Dural Land Snail ( <i>Pommerhelix duralensis</i> ) Varied Sittella ( <i>Daphoenositta chrysoptera</i> ) Grey-headed Flying Fox ( <i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i> )
Total area protected	49.61 hectares	15 threatened species 4 endangered ecological communities



'THORNBILL'

'MARSDENIA'

'WOMBAT'

'WALLAROO'



## ‘Wombat’

‘Wombat’ is a gift to CLC by TransGrid and is well endowed with canopy and a carpet of the native grass *Microlaena stipoides*. It is also rich in fauna activity including birds which inhabit and migrate between the eastern limits of the Blue Mountains and the western limits of the Cumberland Plain.

The property is a key link between Blue Mountains National Park and Mulgoa Nature Reserve. These east-west links are critical to the annual migration of Scarlet, Flame and Rose Robins, which migrate from the Blue Mountains to the fertile Cumberland Plain each winter.



(top) White-throated Gerygone at ‘Wombat’.  
© Mark Fuller (bottom) Echidna at ‘Wombat’.  
© Mark Fuller



The rural dam on the property filled in February 2020 and another downpour in February 2021 caused the dam wall to fail. It is too costly to repair so we will prevail with half dam water storage capacity.



## ‘Wallaroo’

‘Wallaroo’ is a 38.86 hectare property at Mulgoa entrusted to CLC by the Commonwealth Government via the former NSW Nature Conservation Trust. ‘Wallaroo’ protects critically endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland, River-flat Eucalypt Forest, Alluvial Woodland and affords habitat and/or foraging for eight endangered species.

‘Wallaroo’ is a former grazing property and

contains significant areas of exotic vegetation as well as other areas in need of weed and feral animal management. This site is the major focus of our restoration efforts and community engagement. CLC has two equipment sheds and a toilet. We run regular volunteer working bees, wildlife surveys and education events at the site.



*(left) Eastern Grey Kangaroos © Mark Fuller (above) Dwarf Green Tree Frog (below) Volunteers – all pics at ‘Wallaroo’.*





## ‘Thornbill’

‘Thornbill’ at Agnes Banks protects 2.2 hectares of high conservation bushland in Sydney’s north west. The property forms part of a key corridor between the woodland on Western Sydney University Richmond Campus and the Agnes Banks Nature Reserve.

This acquisition was entrusted to CLC by the Commonwealth Government via the former NSW Nature Conservation Trust. It protects Critically Endangered Shale-Gravel Transition Forest; Alluvial Woodland; the endangered Cumberland Plain Land Snail (*Meridolum corneovirens*), *Persoonia nutans* and vulnerable *Dillwynia tenuifolia*.



(left) Christmas Jewel Spider  
(above) *Lisanthe strigose* subsp *Strigose* in flower  
(below) Eastern Grey Kangaroos © Natalie James





## 'Marsdenia'

This Llandilo property is 3.75 ha of high quality conservation bushland and part of a key corridor between the Wianamatta Regional Park and the Wianamatta Nature Reserve. It was entrusted to CLC in 2017 by the Commonwealth Government via the former NSW Nature Conservation Trust.

The site is located within the Richmond Woodlands Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) which protects the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot.

The site protects Critically Endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland and threatened flora including:

- Cumberland Plain Land Snail (Endangered, NSW)
- *Grevillea juniperina* subsp. *juniperina* (Vulnerable, NSW)
- *Marsdenia viridiflora* var. *viridiflora* (Endangered population NSW)
- *Pultenaea parviflora* (Endangered, NSW; Vulnerable Commonwealth)



(above left) *Ajuga australis* (above right) Little Corella (below) *Dillwynia seiberi* at 'Marsdenia' © Mark Fuller/CLC



## Restoring Our Properties

CLC applies best practice conservation management. Our properties are being restored under a comprehensive Plan of Management developed in partnership with conservation experts.

### Bush Regeneration

Bush regeneration is a key activity on all our properties with discreet planting regimes. Bush regeneration facilitates native seed regeneration through selective hand control of weeds to favour of native species. This is a slower process but one which produces lasting results and a resilient ecosystem.

CLC is a registered and insured Landcare group and we host monthly bushcare activities – 1st Saturday at ‘Marsdenia’, 2nd Saturday at ‘Wallaroo’, 3rd Saturday at ‘Wombat’ and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday at ‘Thornbill’.



*(above top) Ehrharta is an invasive grass at all our properties (above bottom) Ehrharta removed leaving native grasses to benefit (left) Volunteer bushcarers attend to weeds by hand weeding. © Wayne Olling*

The majority of contract bush regeneration works target ‘Wallaroo’, ‘Wombat’ and ‘Marsdenia’, our most weed impacted properties.



## Pest Management

Vertebrate pest management is essential to protect fauna and flora. Deer, foxes and carp occur at CLC properties 'Wallaroo' and 'Wombat' and are the main focus of activity.

Deers are an increasing problem in Greater Sydney. They display aggressive and intimidating behavior to residents, livestock and native herbivores. Antler rubbing has damaged juvenile trees significantly.

CLC undertakes recurring deer culls and liaises with Sydney Local Land Services in this.

Foxes decimate native wildlife. Mange affected foxes can also transfer the disease to Wombats. We are thankful that a rogue alsation/dingo cross no longer is a problem.

Mulgoa Valley Vertebrate Pest Management Group has periodic community forums to address vertebrate pest control. This will be an aid to the broader control of these pests.

Carp present as a threat to native fish species and adversely impact on creek bank stability. Our Streamwatch activities regularly pursue carp. However, constant rain and flooding of Mulgoa Creek in the past twelve months has disrupted the carp control regime.



*(top) Deer at 'Wallaroo' (bottom left) Fox at 'Wallaroo' (bottom right) Carp catch. © CLC*

## Operations

Since fox baiting operations commenced tethered baits have been taken and 12 CPEs have been fired. More than 30 foxes have been removed over those years. 1 fox was removed in the past 12 months by shooting and 4 by baiting.

During the year, Deer culls at 'Wallaroo' resulted in 6 Fallow Deer and 1 Red deer being removed. At 'Wombat' no shoots occurred due to safety concerns.



## Fire Management

Fire is a recurring element of the Cumberland Plain. Ecosystems accommodate, even benefit from, the occurrence of fires so long as the fires are not too frequent.

Today, fire is a necessary tool in maintaining asset protection, ecological processes and control of weeds.

CLC has developed a detailed Fire Management plan for each property in consultation with the Rural Fire Service, Fire and Rescue and nearby neighbours.

During 2021-2022 recurring rains inhibited the conduct of burns. Only one burn occurred. That was at 'Wallaroo' on 5 Sept 2021. Pictures from the event are presented below.

Pile burns have been prepared at 'Wallaroo' and 'Wombat' but recurring rain has prevented the conduct of the pile burns.



*Series of pics showing the ecological burn at 'Wallaroo' which removes weeds and seeds and allows regeneration of native flora species as occurred in bottom right pic. © CLC*



## Wildlife Recovery

As with the previous year, the focus was more on weed removal/management, discreet plantings and property management.

Kangaroos, Wallaroos, Wallabies and Wombats occur on 'Wallaroo' in varying numbers as does the occasional Lace Monitor Lizard. Bird diversity numbers remain healthy but more so on 'Wallaroo' and 'Wombat'. All sites had presence of Eastern Grey Kangaroos and both 'Wallaroo' and 'Wombat' had Wombat presence. We are sad to report we found Kangaroo joey caught in a wire loop of the boundary fence at 'Thornbill'. The joey was freed and held for WIRES to rescue but WIRES let us know later that the joey had to be put down because she had severed a tendon. Her Mum must have appreciated the attempt at help because she is now a little less scared of our member who tried the joey rescue.

We have lost some of our Fire-tailed Gudgeons and other native fish from our first dam. They have been washed out of the overflow channel.

Birds are still using the sites for nesting. Purple Swamp Hens utilized the artificial island on the dam at 'Wallaroo' and produced 3 chicks.

*(In order from top right) Wombat sighted with night camera; Kangaroos mating; Lace Monitor taking refuge up an Ironbark; One of a family of Purple Swamp Hens which produced chicks on the artificial island at 'Wallaroo'.*





## Monitoring Our Success

Monitoring the effect of what we are doing is critical to ensuring we are playing our part in providing a refuge from ill effects of bush clearing on the Cumberland Plain.

Regular monitoring includes weed density mapping, photo points, threatened species monitoring, native flora monitoring, terrestrial wildlife survey (spotlighting and automated camera methods), macroinvertebrate sampling, bird and other fauna surveys.

This work has already informed our property management and will be important as our restoration efforts progress over time.

### Vegetation Monitoring

Monitoring vegetation health is key to assessing and adapting our restoration programs. For long term monitoring, photo points and transects with nested quadrats are used to assess canopy cover and plant species.

As in earlier years, a specialist contractor team was engaged in 2021-22 to add to earlier mapping at the larger property ('Wallaroo').

The report concluded: *"In conclusion, the study area has shown that there has been an overall reduction of native and exotic species, even considerably so in PO2. Native coverage has overall increased throughout the plots.*

*Combination of increased La Nina events, leading to increased coverage of grasses, and possible sinense of species sensitive to moist conditions have in turn reduced species diversity.*

*Areas notably more diversity in native species have some visible bare ground which predominantly have been created by Macropods resting or feeding within*

*the areas. When La Nina finishes, grasses should generally reduce in thickness allowing more light in thus again we should see an increase in species.*

*The plots are in moderate to high condition, exotic species composition may be high, but the overall richness is low to moderate, which means with efficient weed treatment such as flame-weeding and chemical application, these species can be controlled, reduced and eliminated over the long-term. As for the diversity composition and structure, it is obvious that the site has been cleared in the past, and how that has affected the diversity on site today. Despite the years of land use, the floristic survey shows a moderate diversity in species composition and an overall high structure throughout these areas of the site. Improving diversity in composition will take time in future floristic surveys to observe how the study area regenerates post weed treatment and can be encouraged using grassland burns or thinning thickets of shrub.."*

The three other sites under our care are less problematic as 'Wallaroo'. Overall, funding for contract bushcare is needed in the long term.



(top) PO1 May 2022 (bottom) PO1 Sept 2020. © CLC



## Fauna Monitoring

Casual and targeted fauna monitoring along with camera observation identified varying populations of Macropods at 'Wallaroo' but, generally, on the increase. A Wombat was seen on night camera at 'Wallaroo' but no burrow found. Plentiful scats of Macropods and Wombats were evident at 'Wombat' and an Echidna was observed *in situ*. 'Marsdenia' had occasional Eastern Grey Kangaroos and Lace Monitor Lizards while 'Thornbill' supports a small mob of Eastern Grey Kangaroos, a Bearded Dragon Lizard and a few frog species.

Red-bellied Black and Brown Snakes were seen at 'Wallaroo' and a Red-bellied Black Snake seen at 'Wombat'. Turtles are in the dams at 'Wallaroo' and 'Wombat'. Possum presence has been observed at those two sites as well. Avian fauna is addressed later in this report.



*Bearded Dragon at 'Thornbill'. © Mark Fuller*

## Koalas

No further activity of Koalas was observed at 'Wallaroo' but a thermal device picked up a possible Koala at night at 'Wombat'. A Platypus was observed in Mulgoa Creek a few hundred metres north of 'Wallaroo'.

## Soil Analysis

As with last year, a lack of funding prevented CLC from undertaking soil analysis this year.

## Camera Observation

Usually, night time is when there is greater activity of terrestrial fauna so cameras are needed to monitor activity. However, regular activities also capture images.



*Eastern Grey Kangaroos at 'Wallaroo' © CLC*



*Platypus sighting in Mulgoa Creek © Lisa Harrold*



## 'Streamwatch' and "Climate Watch'

'Wallaroo' incorporates about 1km of Mulgoa Creek, a key regional waterbody. Monitoring this aquatic ecosystem requires regular measures of water quality, fish, and macroinvertebrates.

CLC is a registered 'Streamwatch' group with Greater Sydney Landcare Network which took over the program from the Australian Museum.

'Streamwatch' is a citizen science water quality monitoring program empowering community groups to monitor and protect the health of local waterways.

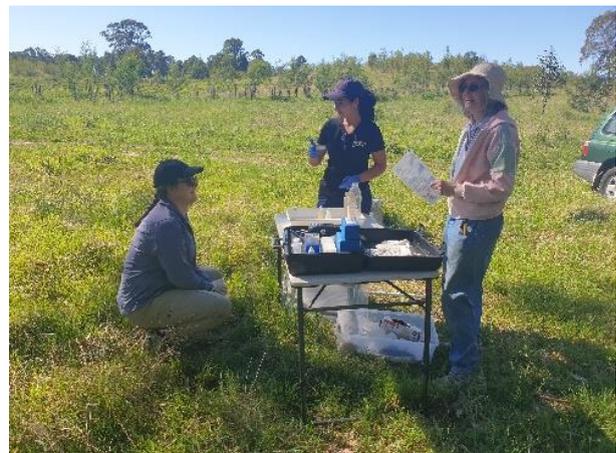


*Water Dragons are often seen during 'Streamwatch'*

CLC 'Streamwatch' volunteers undertake monthly (2nd Saturday) readings of water temperature, dissolved oxygen, phosphorous, conductivity, turbidity and pH.

Macroinvertebrate surveys are also conducted in the dams on 'Wallaroo'.

Volunteers learn how each parameter influences water quality and take an active part in the monitoring process. Once the data is collected it is entered into a database with the Australian Museum.



*Analysis of samples © Linda Brown*

'Climate Watch is also a citizen science project which involves periodic observation of target species of flora & fauna to assess changes which might be influenced by climate change. The data is uploaded to the Earthwatch website.



*Climate Watch in progress © Mark Fuller*



## Bird Surveys 2021-2022

### 'Wallaroo'

88 bird species and were observed. Over 250 volunteer hours were spent in the monthly surveys by up to 8 persons, split into two groups, the 'Creekers' and the 'Hillbillies'.

Data collected in monthly zonal species/abundance counts provides detail of habitat use and bird activity. Zone A recorded 57 species (42 last year) and similarly Zone B recorded 52 (42 last year). Zone C recorded 55 species (46 last year) and Zone D recorded 44 (down from 48 last year). In the hills Zone E recorded 46 species (44 last year) and Zone F had 50 species, up 1 from 49 last year. Zone G had 31 species (29 last year) and Zone H had 29 a significant drop from 35 last year). The lowest score was the central grassland of Zone I the 13 species a big improvement from the 2 species recorded last year.

One new species for the property is the Pied Butcherbird (*Cracticus nigrogularis*), seen on the CBOC outing in February, bringing the total number of bird species recorded at Wallaroo to 166 to date.

### 'Wombat'

Surveys at Wombat recorded 1,293 individuals of 88 bird species. Over 100 volunteer hours were spent in the monthly surveys including 33hrs by 15 persons of the CBOC outing on 19 February 2022. Regular bushcare surveys assist, with 61 species recorded to date

### 'Marsdenia'

Bird surveys at Marsdenia from July 2021 to June 2022 recorded 95 individuals of 26 bird species, including 2 Blue-faced Honeyeaters (*Entomyzon cyanotis*) seen being relentlessly pursued by Noisy Miners on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Additional bushcare surveys included sightings of a Pacific Baza, with 42 species recorded to date.

### 'Thornbill'

Bird surveys at Thornbill recorded 104 individuals of 24 bird species, 21 of which were recorded 19 Dec 2021. Noisy Miners remain the most abundant with Common Bronzewing and White-winged Choughs also seen in flocks. Additional bushcare surveys assist, with 61 species recorded to date.



Bird observers at 'Wallaroo' © Doug Meredith & Mark Fuller



## Fauna recorded at 'Wallaroo' July 2021 to June 2022

Maned Duck	<i>Chenonetta jubata</i>
Pacific Black Duck	<i>Anas superciliosa</i>
Musk Duck	<i>Biziura lobata</i>
Pacific Koel	<i>Eudynamys orientalis</i>
Channel-billed Cuckoo	<i>Scythrops novaehollandiae</i>
Shining Bronze Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx lucidus</i>
Pallid Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis pallidus</i>
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis flabelliformis</i>
Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Macropygia phasianella</i>
Crested Pigeon	<i>Ocyphaps lophotes</i>
Peaceful Dove	<i>Geopelia placida</i>
Bar-shouldered Dove	<i>Geopelia humeralis</i>
Buff-banded Rail	<i>Hypotaenidia philippensis</i>
Dusky Moorhen	<i>Gallinula tenebrosa</i>
Australasian Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio melanotus</i>
Australasian Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus novaehollandiae</i>
Little Pied Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo melanoleucos</i>
Australian White Ibis	<i>Threskiornis molucca</i>
Black Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus flavicollis</i>
White-faced Heron	<i>Egretta novaehollandiae</i>
Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus axillaris</i>
Brown Goshawk	<i>Accipiter fasciatus</i>
Collared Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter cirrocephalus</i>
Whistling Kite	<i>Haliastur sphenurus</i>
White-bellied Sea Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>
Oriental Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>
Laughing Kookaburra	<i>Dacelo novaeguineae</i>
Sacred Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus sanctus</i>
Azure Kingfisher	<i>Ceyx azureus</i>
Rainbow Bee-eater	<i>Merops ornatus</i>
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Galah	<i>Eolophus roseicapilla</i>
Little Corella	<i>Cacatua sanguinea</i>
Australian King Parrot	<i>Alisterus scapularis</i>
Red-rumped Parrot	<i>Psephotus haematonotus</i>
Crimson Rosella	<i>Platycercus elegans</i>
Eastern Rosella	<i>Platycercus eximius</i>
Musk Lorikeet	<i>Glossopsitta concinna</i>
Rainbow Lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus moluccanus</i>
Satin Bowerbird	<i>Ptilonorhynchus violaceus</i>
White-throated Treecreeper	<i>Cormobates leucophaea</i>
Variiegated Fairywren	<i>Malurus lamberti</i>
Superb Fairywren	<i>Malurus cyaneus</i>
Eastern Spinebill	<i>Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris</i>
Scarlet Myzomela	<i>Myzomela sanguinolenta</i>
Noisy Friarbird	<i>Philemon corniculatus</i>
New Holland Honeyeater	<i>Phylidonyris novaehollandiae</i>
Brown-headed Honeyeater	<i>Melithreptus brevirostris</i>
White-naped Honeyeater	<i>Melithreptus lunatus</i>
Lewin's Honeyeater	<i>Meliphaga lewinii</i>
White-plumed Honeyeater	<i>Ptilotula penicillata</i>
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	<i>Caligavis chrysops</i>
Red Wattlebird	<i>Anthochaera carunculata</i>

Noisy Miner	<i>Manorina melanocephala</i>
Spotted Pardalote	<i>Pardalotus punctatus</i>
Striated Pardalote	<i>Pardalotus striatus</i>
White-browed Scrubwren	<i>Sericornis frontalis</i>
Brown Gerygone	<i>Gerygone mouki</i>
White-throated Gerygone	<i>Gerygone olivacea</i>
Brown Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza pusilla</i>
Yellow Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza nana</i>
Striated Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza lineata</i>
Eastern Whipbird	<i>Psophodes olivaceus</i>
Australian Magpie	<i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i>
Grey Butcherbird	<i>Cracticus torquatus</i>
Pied Butcherbird	<i>Cracticus nigrogularis</i>
Pied Currawong	<i>Strepera graculina</i>
Black-faced Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina novaehollandiae</i>
Australian Golden Whistler	<i>Pachycephala pectoralis</i>
Rufous Whistler	<i>Pachycephala rufiventris</i>
Grey Shrikethrush	<i>Colluricincla harmonica</i>
Olive-backed Oriole	<i>Oriolus sagittatus</i>
Willie Wagtail	<i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>
Grey Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albiscapa</i>
Magpie-lark	<i>Grallina cyanoleuca</i>
Leaden Flycatcher	<i>Myiagra rubecula</i>
Restless Flycatcher	<i>Myiagra inquieta</i>
Australian Raven	<i>Corvus coronoides</i>
Eastern Yellow Robin	<i>Eopsaltria australis</i>
Rose Robin	<i>Petroica rosea</i>
Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>
Welcome Swallow	<i>Hirundo neoxena</i>
Australian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus australis</i>
Little Grassbird	<i>Poodytes gramineus</i>
Golden-headed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola exilis</i>
Silvereye	<i>Zosterops lateralis</i>
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
Mistletoebird	<i>Dicaeum hirundinaceum</i>
Red-browed Finch	<i>Neochmia temporalis</i>
Double-barred Finch	<i>Stizoptera bichenovii</i>
Eastern Dwarf Tree Frog	<i>Litoria fallax</i>
Eastern Common Froglet	<i>Crinia signifera</i>
Striped Marsh Frog	<i>Limnodynastes peroni</i>
Eastern Grey Kangaroo	<i>Macropus giganteus</i>
Black Wallaroo	<i>Macropus bernardus</i>
Black Wallaby	<i>Wallabia bicolor</i>
Fallow Deer	<i>Cervus dama</i>
Eastern Snake-necked Turtle	<i>Chelodina longicollis</i>
Eastern Water Dragon	<i>Intelligama lesueurii</i>



## Community Engagement & Volunteers

CLC had 75 financial members in the year.

On 31 December 2022, CLC will finish an Environment Restoration Fund grant which is \$400,000 rolled out over three years. The grant was achieved by Melissa McIntosh MP, Member for Lindsay, as a Commonwealth Government commitment to the environment and we are very thankful for this commitment.

Covid-19 constraints on people gathering had an impact on the conduct of volunteer activities. Regular community engagement events such as bushcare, Streamwatch, Climate Watch and bird surveys continued as Covid-19 restrictions permitted and were open to the public. Rather than hosting a field trip of Australian Land Conservation Association (ALCA) members in April 2022, CLC conducted a livestream tour of the property 'Wallaroo' via our Facebook page. The event was a success with over 1,000 views of the event recorded.

During the year there were 4 occasions of TAFE students being invited onto CLC properties for training in bush regeneration. A total of 44 participants were involved i.e. 11 per event.

Our Facebook presence continues and has over 900 followers.

Greater volunteer turnout for bushcare would be most welcome.

We are really grateful for Amazon Web Services (AWS) reaching out and offering its employees as volunteers to undertake works CLC has on its agenda. This relationship has been a boon to CLC and, we hope, AWS finds it is making a useful contribution to flora & fauna habitat restoration in Western Sydney.



*(top) AWS volunteers at 'Wallaroo' (bottom) TAFE students prepare log habitat at 'Marsdenia' © CLC*

If you are interested in helping CLC protect & restore our environment please contact [president@cumberlandlc.org.au](mailto:president@cumberlandlc.org.au) or speak to any of our committee members.



## Get Involved

CLC's work brings together a broad community of committed people who strive to secure and protect our natural environment. Supporters participate as financial donors, volunteers, pro bono service providers, partners and collaborators and all are fundamental to our success.

### **NGO and Government**

CLC encourages partnerships with other NGOs and government agencies to deliver real conservation outcomes for Western Sydney. CLC extends its gratitude to the wonderful support of our current partners including Melissa McIntosh MP, Member for Lindsay; Greater Sydney Local Land Services; Greater Sydney Landcare Network. Together we have delivered best possible land management and conservation options for the Cumberland Plain.

### **Corporate**

Our work offers an opportunity to provide cost-effective and meaningful change for Western Sydney's environment. CLC encourages corporate support for our conservation work and we are presently seeking new corporate partners. A diversity of opportunities exist, including financial support, in-kind support, workplace volunteering and land negotiations.

CLC expresses its heartfelt thanks to the ongoing corporate support provided by Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Nexia Australia, each of which has assisted in restoring the environment in Western Sydney.

### **Schools and Educational Institutions**

CLC seeks involvement of schools and educational institutions in understanding the function of the nation's natural heritage and how the representation resting in Western Sydney can be assisted in function. CLC offers venues and trainers for education and on-ground experience to this end. CLC is a player in the Earthwatch driven citizen science program and has worked with Nepean Christian School staff and students when we hosted students undertaking a biology project over three days at 'Wallaroo'

### **Members & Volunteers**

None of CLC's work would be possible without the dedication and expertise of our volunteer base. Whether visiting as a Landcare volunteer or assisting behind-the-scenes there are numerous opportunities to help protect and restore our local environment. Regular volunteer opportunities including Landcare and biodiversity survey & monitoring are advertised on the CLC webpage calendar. For other opportunities please contact us to discuss an opportunity that suits



# Finance & Governance Report

CLC is a volunteer operated not-for-profit incorporated association and is registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). CLC complies fully with ACNC regulations and, for our Public Fund, requirements of the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Our financial statements are independently audited. Below is a summary of the key items from the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2022.

## Sources of income

Grant funding	\$183,700
Donations	\$71,614
Membership fees & other income	\$1,667
Interest	\$106
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$257,087</b>

## Expenses

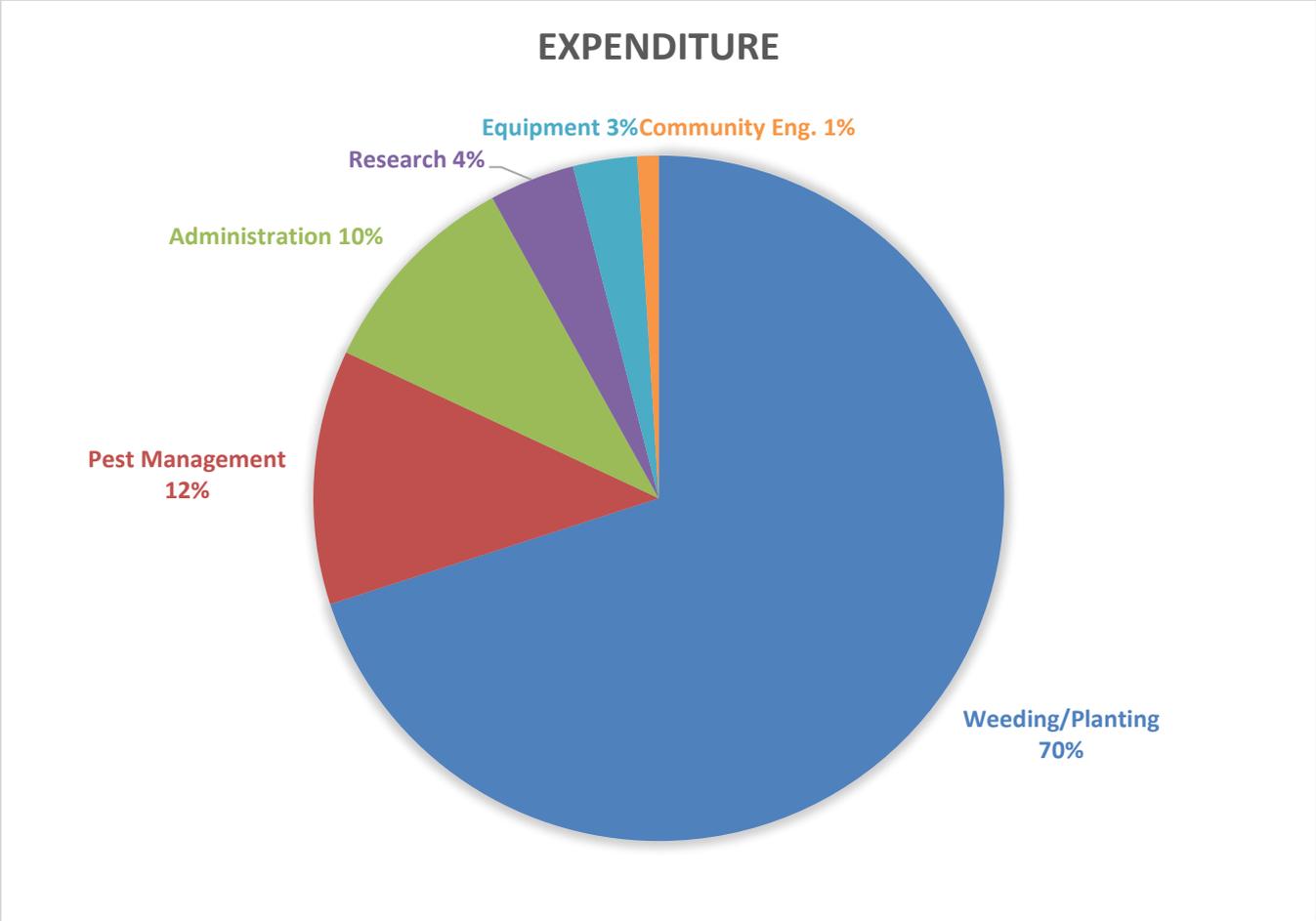
Grant funding (incl. ERF grant pest mgmnt.)	\$139,748
Pest management GSLLS Grant	\$9,999
Non-Grant related administration	\$1,143
Depreciation	\$2,000
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$152,890</b>

## Cash held

Cash at bank at beginning of year	\$24,269
Receipts	\$257,087
Payments	(\$165,661)
<b>Cash at bank at end of year</b>	<b>\$115,695</b>



# Where CLC Invested in 2021-22





## Volunteer Profile

### Natalie James



*"I was first exposed to bush regeneration during my university studies at Charles Sturt University in Albury Wodonga. It was a requirement of the course to undertake work experience so I volunteered to do bush regeneration. It was here that I was first introduced to Privet, learned what cut and paint was and participated in tree planting. I thought to myself this is an awesome job being outside working in the environment and the feeling of being able to make a difference for the greater good. After moving back to my birth place of the Hawkesbury I was employed with a bush regeneration company where I learnt all the practical skills of the trade and was introduced to the bushland of Western Sydney and the Cumberland Plain. Often, we would appreciate our bushland surroundings and marvel at the plants and animals who called it home. In 2018 I was employed into a traineeship and was able to study Conservation and Land Management at Richmond TAFE. At the completion of my studies, I was asked to join CLC and was offered the role as a property manager. I ran the first official Bushcare group at CLC's Thornbill property in August of 2019 and still remain the supervisor to this day. It has been a true labor of love and privilege to be able to see natural regeneration occur as we continue to suppress the weed seed bank. Every month when I go back to visit, I am amazed at how much progress a few years myself and the volunteers have made. Being a part of CLC enables myself to continue learning about my surroundings, keeps my mind active and my soul full. It is important to ask questions and seek answers to our surroundings as it gives us connection and place."* Natalie James