

ANNUAL
REPORT
2022-2023

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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: Ephemeral wetland at 'Wallaroo' Mulgoa. Photo: © Mark Fuller

Header: *Marsdenia viridiflora* at 'Marsdenia'. Photo: © Mark Fuller

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President's Report



Cumberland Land Conservancy Inc (CLC) is about to complete nine years of operation and it's has been my honour to have been President for those years. A few dedicated people have seen us through to this time and I give my heartfelt thanks to those who turn up regularly to manage the properties in CLC's care and to do the administrative work necessary for the organisation to function. They know who they are.

Last year, I commented on our having to deal with the effects of excessive rain. This year I report on having to deal with potential drought conditions. 'Thornbill' at Agnes Banks appears to be often in a "rain shadow" and 'Marsdenia' at Llandilo is not much better. Bushcare at these two properties was curtailed in the month prior to the AGM for fear of doing more harm than good by removing just stunted weeds while exposing, to the air, nearby roots of native species which are struggling to survive without disturbance. In terms of contract bush regeneration, CLC has been afforded scope to judiciously undertake weed management through success in obtaining grants as follows:

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 'Wallaroo' – | NSW Environmental Trust grant - \$56,500pa for next thirty-four months
Biodiversity Conservation Trust grant - \$15,000pa for next 18 months
GSLN grant of \$10,000 for next 10 months |
| 'Wombat' - | Biodiversity Conservation Trust grant - \$15,000pa for next 30 months |
| 'Marsdenia' – | Biodiversity Conservation Trust grant - \$15,000pa for next 30 months |
| 'Thornbill' - | Saving Our Species grant - \$12,000 for next 8 months |

CLC is also thankful to Amazon Web Services for donations made in recent years with the latest donation being for the purchase of a larger shipping container to fully house the tractor also acquired via a donation with our great thanks, to the Estate of the late John Diamond. The Estate of the late John Diamond, through the role of Georgina San Roque, continues to support the functions of CLC. With all that said about CLC's funding sources, I am confident that we are well placed to gain ground in conservation management for at least the next couple of years.

Each passing year reveals to me the necessity of a conservation land manager such as CLC to exist on the Cumberland Plain of Sydney. My hope is that members will see the need and plan for the future by ensuring CLC continues and, actually, grows to meet the coming challenges.

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 – Martin O'Reilly Martin is a passionate advocate for the protection of both the natural environment of Western Sydney and the environment more broadly. Martin has a B.A., LLB and, for almost 20 years, occupied the position of President of Blacktown & District Environment Group Inc.



Scientific Officer – Yogesh Nair Yogesh has 13 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 2022-23 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 seasonal migration of bird species which move from the Blue Mountains to the fertile Cumberland Plain each Winter.



(above) Broad-palmed Frog at 'Wombat'. © Mark Fuller



(left and above) Magnificent Spider and egg sac at 'Wombat' Feb 2023 © CLC



‘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) Rainbow Lorikeets and other fauna find habitat at ‘Wallaroo’ © Mark Fuller (above) some of the AWS volunteers May 2023 © CLC (below) Eastern Grey Kangaroos on the hop © Mark Fuller – 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*.



(above left) *Dillwynia tenuifolia*
(above) *Persoonia nutans* in flower (below)
volunteers at work © Natalie James





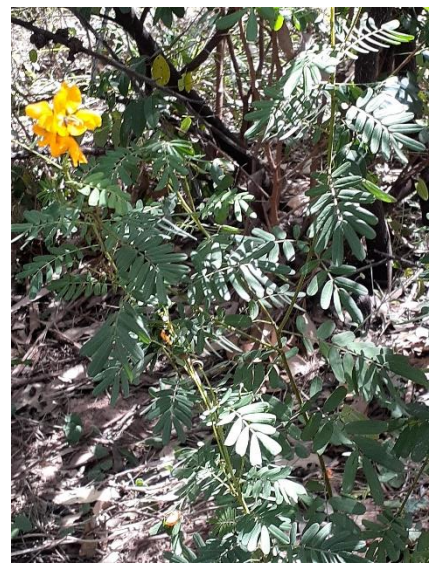
'Marsdenia'

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) Lace Monitor Lizard © CLC (above centre) white flowering *Indigofera australis* © CLC (above right) *Senna barronfieldii* all at 'Marsdenia' © 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 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 4th Saturday at ‘Thornbill’.

Contract bush regeneration works target each of the four properties while we have grant or donation funding for the works.



(top pic) Volunteers weeding at ‘Thornbill’ (centre pic) Volunteers weeding at ‘Marsdenia’ (bottom pic) Morning Tea is always a welcome break for volunteers.



Pest Management

Vertebrate pests remain a problem in Mulgoa Valley where CLC has two properties. Deer, Foxes and Carp occur at 'Wallaroo' with Deer and Foxes at 'Wombat'. Foxes occur at 'Marsdenia' and 'Thornbill' and rabbits also evident at 'Thornbill'.

Sadly, funding finished for feral pest management in December 2022 so CLC has been reliant upon periodic volunteer culling of Deer and Foxes at 'Wallaroo'.

Greater Sydney Local Land Service operates a Deer culling program in Mulgoa Valley so CLC will derive some benefit from that.

'Thornbill' and 'Marsdenia' are situated near residential properties so culling of Foxes at those properties is problematic. Domestic animals would be vulnerable to standard vertebrate pest management techniques so that means is not employed. We are hoping the Foxes at 'Thornbill' will control, to some extent, Rabbits known to visit that property.

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 for most of the reporting period hindered the carp control regime.



*(top) Fallow Deer (bottom left) Fox drinking from dam
(bottom right) Fox on the prowl - all at 'Wombat'.
© Mark Fuller*

Operations

During the year 2022-2023 there were six Red Deer, one Fallow Deer and two Foxes removed from 'Wallaroo'.

At 'Wombat' no shoots occurred due to safety concerns with respect to TransGrid and Endeavour Energy power lines.



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 property neighbours.

During 2022-2023 recurring rains inhibited the conduct of burns. No burns could be done during the burn seasons.

Two pile burns occurred at 'Wombat' with TAFE students under instruction. Photos below are from one of those pile burns.



Series of pics showing stages of a pile burn at 'Wombat'. Pile burns comprise accumulated woody weeds removed earlier. The burn allows regeneration of native flora species. © CLC



Wildlife Recovery

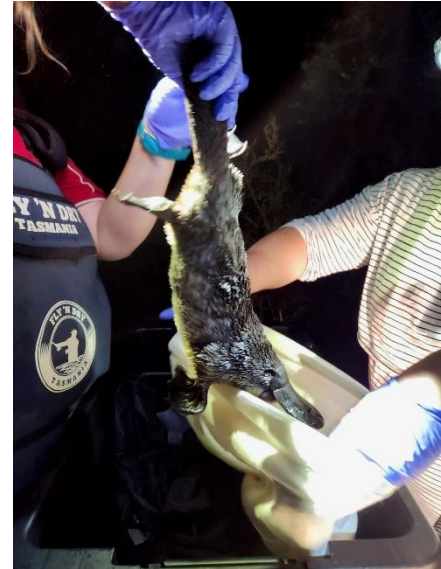
Weed removal/management, discreet plantings and ensuring minimum fauna disturbance is our priority.

Perhaps the one fauna presence of note above previous years was the sighting of a Platypus in March 2023 in Mulgoa Creek on an adjoining property then a sighting, a few months later, by an Endeavour Energy contractor of a Platypus in the creek within the 'Wallaroo' boundary. All sites had presence of Eastern Grey Kangaroos and both 'Wallaroo' and 'Wombat' had Swamp Wallaby, Wallaroo and Wombat presence. All sites had Lace Monitor presence. Bird diversity continues to increase at 'Wallaroo' and 'Wombat'.

There was a fear that we may have lost the Buff-fronted Thornbills at 'Thornbill' but a sighting of a small number occurred during this reporting period. It is encouraging to see seasonal visitor birds using properties such as 'Wallaroo' and 'Wombat' for nesting.

Birds are still using the sites for nesting and it is encouraging to see seasonal visitors doing this on an annual basis.

(In order from top right) Platypus catch & release next to 'Wallaroo'; Bearded Dragons have been seen on two properties; A Dusky Woodswallow in nesting mode at 'Wombat'.





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 the first half of 2022-2023 to add to earlier mapping at the larger property 'Wallaroo'.

The report found that weed density is greater in some areas of the property from when the monitoring commenced. This is due to the heavy rain over the previous three years aiding weed growth and regeneration. The riparian vegetation of Mulgoa Creek within the property was found to have improved in its native vegetation cover.

We must expect that turning a former grazing and 'pasture improved' environment into one dominated by native vegetation cover is a long-term project and is costly.

The three other sites under our care are less problematic than 'Wallaroo' and earlier desirable outcomes are being experienced there. Minimum monthly assessment of all properties occurs so we are aware of where resources need to be directed.

Without doubt, funding for contract bushcare is a necessity in the long term.



(top) weeds dominating paddock (bottom) riparian margin dominated by native grass © CLC



Fauna Monitoring

During the reporting period CLC participated in the Bats in Backyard survey scheme conducted by the NSW Government. A bat detector was set up by CLC at 'Wallaroo' and 'Wombat'. Nine species of bat were detected at each property with three species being listed as 'Vulnerable' under the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act.

A minimum of one monthly (but usually more) walk arounds on each property take note of fauna presence/activity. As indicated earlier in this report, Macropod presence is commonly observed and reptiles well represented – not always recorded through camera lens.

What has been observed gives satisfaction that CLC is playing a role in providing habitat for fauna when so much habitat is being lost on the Cumberland Plain.

Camera Observation

Usually, night time is when there is greater activity of terrestrial fauna so cameras are needed to monitor activity.



Eastern Grey Kangaroos 'Wallaroo' © Mark Fuller



*(above) Eastern Brown Snake 'Wombat' © CLC
(below) Wombat footprint at "Wombat" © CLC*



Swamp Wallabies at 'Wallaroo'. © CLC





‘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.

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.

‘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.



Volunteers undertaking Streamwatch © CLC



Carp fishing/removal is periodically part of Streamwatch © CLC



Bird Surveys 2022-2023

‘Wallaroo’

90 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’.

Zonal abundance/species data provides detail of habitat use and bird activity. Creek Zone A recorded 365/44 spp,; Zone B recorded 412/34 spp,; Zone C recorded 665/44 spp and Zone D recorded 281/33 spp. In the hills Zone E recorded 108/25 spp,; Zone F recorded 322/42 spp,; Zone G recorded 120/11 spp and Zone H recorded 142/24 spp and the central grassland of Zone I, recording 211/7 spp.

A unique record was that of a Platypus located in Mulgoa Creek by Michelle Ryan in March 2023 while undertaking research for WSU on an adjoining property. The trap site was 20m downstream. CLC’s Streamwatch program and Riparian restoration work at ‘Wallaroo’ help to provide suitable habitat for this iconic species.

‘Wombat’

Surveys at ‘Wombat’ recorded 1,250 individuals of 84 bird species. Just over 100 volunteer hours were spent in the monthly surveys. Regular bushcare surveys assist, with 61 species recorded to date

‘Marsdenia’

Two ‘incidental’ bird surveys at ‘Marsdenia’ (Dec 2022 & April 2023) recorded 50

individuals of 17 bird species, with further fauna sightings recorded at Bushcare events. Of the 45 bird species recorded to date, interesting recent additions include several Pacific Baza (*Aviceda subcristata*), a large Lace Monitor and recurrence of Eastern Grey Kangaroo.

‘Thornbill’

Four Bird surveys at ‘Thornbill’ recorded 153 individuals of 37 bird species, with additional data gathered from Bushcare events. A small mob of Eastern Grey Kangaroo remain a regular fixture. A declining species in western Sydney, the Painted Buttonquail (*Turnix varius*) seen on April 2023 is a notable record among 65 species recorded to date.



(top) Bird observers at ‘Wombat’ on a frosty May morning (bottom) Morning tea provides time to compare observations at ‘Wallaroo’ © Mark Fuller



Fauna recorded at 'Wallaroo' July 2022 to June 2023

Maned Duck	<i>Chenonetta jubata</i>
Pacific Black Duck	<i>Anas superciliosa</i>
Brown Quail	<i>Synoicus ypsilophorus</i>
Pacific Koel	<i>Eudynamis orientalis</i>
Channel-billed Cuckoo	<i>Scythrops novaehollandiae</i>
Shining Bronze Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx lucidus</i>
Brush Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis variolosus</i>
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis flabelliformis</i>
Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>
Crested Pigeon	<i>Ocyphaps lophotes</i>
Bar-shouldered Dove	<i>Geopelia humeralis</i>
Buff-banded Rail	<i>Hypotaenidia philippensis</i>
Dusky Moorhen	<i>Gallinula tenebrosa</i>
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>
Australasian Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio melanotus</i>
Baillon's Crake	<i>Zapornia pusilla</i>
Australasian Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus novaehollandiae</i>
Little Pied Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo melanoleucos</i>
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Australian White Ibis	<i>Threskiornis molucca</i>
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
White-faced Heron	<i>Egretta novaehollandiae</i>
Square-tailed Kite	<i>Lophoictinia isura</i>
Wedge-tailed Eagle	<i>Aquila audax</i>
Grey Goshawk	<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>
Brown Goshawk	<i>Accipiter fasciatus</i>
Collared Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter cirrocephalus</i>
Swamp Harrier	<i>Circus approximans</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>
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>
Rainbow Lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus moluccanus</i>
Satin Bowerbird	<i>Ptilonorhynchus violaceus</i>
Variagated 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>
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>
Weebill	<i>Smicronis brevirostris</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 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>
Fairy Martin	<i>Petrochelidon ariel</i>
Golden-headed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola exilis</i>
Silvereye	<i>Zosterops lateralis</i>
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</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>
Common Brushtail Possum	<i>Trichosurus vulpecula</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>Intellagama lesueurii</i>
Lace Monitor	<i>Varanus varius</i>
Red-bellied Black Snake	<i>Pseudechis porphyriacus</i>
Eastern Water Dragon	<i>Intellagama lesueurii</i>



Community Engagement & Volunteers

CLC had 104 financial members in the year.

Like the previous year there were 4 occasions of TAFE students being invited onto CLC properties for training in bush regeneration. More than 50 participants were involved i.e. in excess of 12 per event. Intrepid Landcare conducted a campout out at 'Wallaroo' with 7 participants involved over the weekend.

Our Facebook presence continues and has in excess of 1,000 followers.

Greater volunteer turnout for bushcare would be most welcome.

CLC values highly the help of Amazon Web Services (AWS) in offering its employees as volunteers to undertake works on CLC properties and also offering financial support through donations to work that requires more professional contract engagement.

Of great benefit, too, has been the relationship established with the Estate of the late John Diamond. Donations received through the administrator of the Estate have been put to good use in a) in the purchase of a tractor and b) commencing the means to achieve financial security in future years.

These relationships have been a boon to CLC and we hope AWS and the Estate of the late John Diamond find they are making a useful contribution to flora & fauna habitat restoration in Western Sydney

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



Pics above in order of appearance (top) community volunteer work day recovering footbridge washed away in flood (middle) AWS volunteers during lunch break on volunteer day (bottom) TAFE students in ecological burn training. © CLC



Get Involved

CLC's work brings together a broad community of people who striving to secure and protect our natural environment. Supporters help as financial donors, volunteers, pro bono service providers, partners/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; NSW Environmental Trust, NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust, 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

CLC offers opportunities for cost-effective and meaningful change for Western Sydney's environment. CLC encourages corporate support and is presently seeking new corporate partners. Diversity of opportunities exist e.g. 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 that portion resting in Western Sydney can be sustained. CLC offers venues and trainers for education and on-ground experience. CLC is a player in the Earthwatch driven citizen science program and has worked with TAFE institutions and Nepean Christian School staff, the latter referring students for biology projects.

Private Benefactors

CLC encourages private benefactor support and, once again, we express our deepest thanks to the Estate of the late John Diamond for ongoing support.

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) to ensure tax deductible gift recipient status for donations of \$2 or more to that fund.

Our financial statements are independently audited. Below is a summary of the key items from the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023.

Sources of income

Grant funding	\$123,798
Donations	\$74,700
Membership fees & other income	\$4,989
Interest	\$138
Total income	\$203,625

Expenses

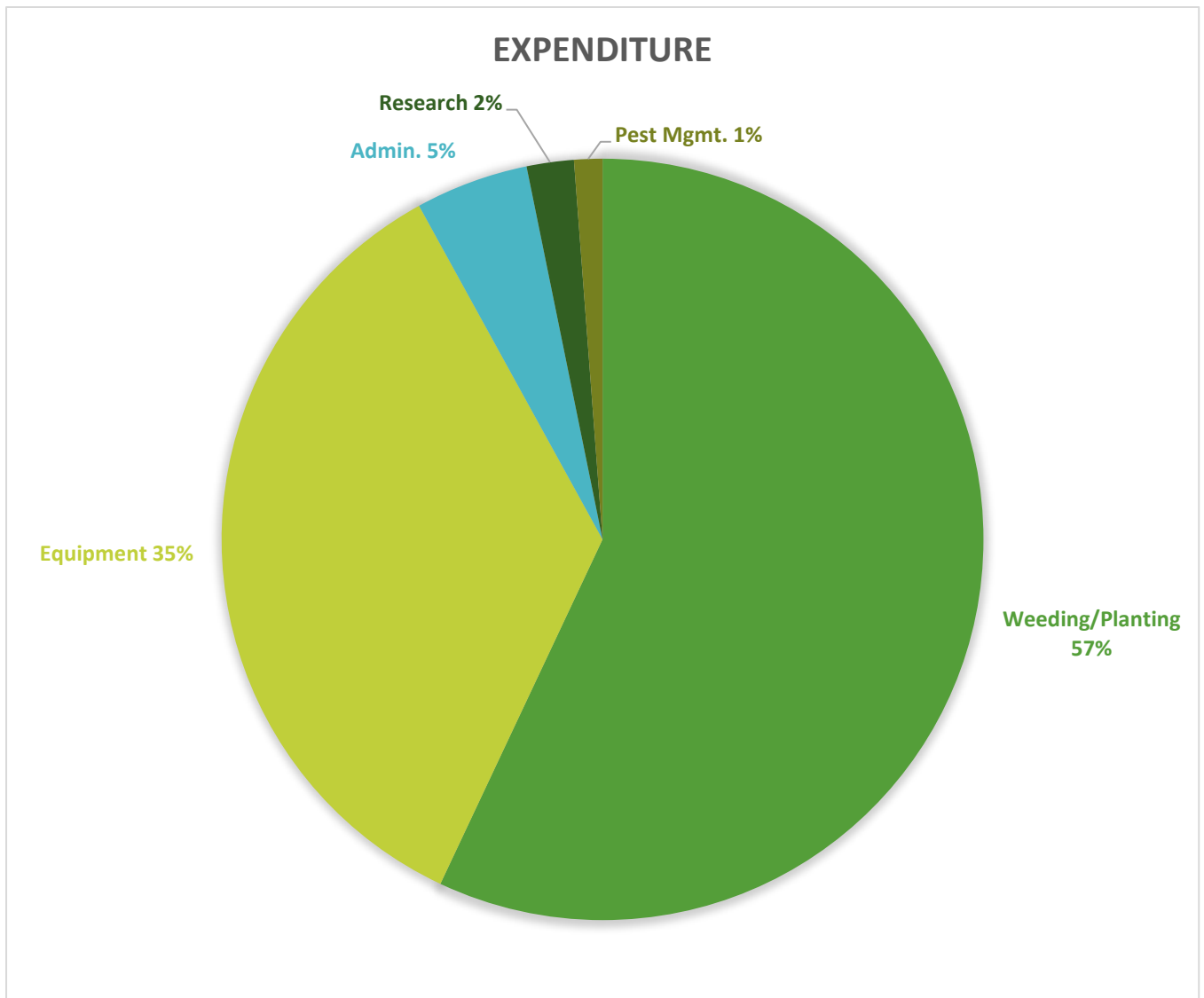
Payment to suppliers (incl. ERF, BCT, SOS grants)	\$127,428
Purchase of operating equipment	\$49,494
Total expenses	\$176,922

Cash held

Cash at bank at beginning of year	\$115,695
Net funds inflow for the year	\$26,703
Cash at bank at end of year	\$142,398



Where CLC Invested in 2022-2023





Volunteer Profile

Les Cormack



"My interest in the bush really started when I began doing long bushwalks in the Blue Mountains and Snowy Mountains, despite having gained an Environmental Science degree in the seventies. There being no jobs in that field, I ended up in a completely different job stream and connected to the bush via long, sometimes solo bushwalks. I started volunteering in conservation in the mid 80s when we formed a conservation group in Springwood and had great fun being the link between Upper and Lower Mountains Conservation Societies. We were quite politically active. After leaving the mountains in the late 80s I didn't really get back to volunteering until I retired about 6 years ago. I've been with the same Bushcare group in Warrimoo for six years and this helped cement my interest in the area. Subsequently we've revitalised the Fitzgeralds Creek Catchment Group and Streamwatch and been politically active via a Facebook group which I started, which has been an interesting exercise in promoting awareness of the area and getting people involved.

I started volunteering with CLC doing bird surveys, firstly at *Wallaroo* and then *Wombat*. For several years it was just two of us, surveying *Wombat* and we turned up every month in drought, heat waves, freezing mornings and post wildfires. My personal philosophy is that whilst you may be a volunteer, you nevertheless need to turn up and shape your life around it, within limitations of course. Others depend on you day to day and organisations such as CLC rely on you to provide critical information and maintain momentum, upon which they can build.

Being a mountains person and knowing that country, I'm very interested in the location of *Wombat* and *Wallaroo* properties as links between the sandstone mountains and the Cumberland Plain. I use iNaturalist all the time on the block to log the presence of unusual plants and to help me identify them, being so different from "up the hill". Finding rainforest plants on *Wombat* after the Lantana has been cleared has been a real eye opener. I always talk up volunteering and hope we can continue to engage people to join us." Les Cormack