

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a large, old tree with a thick, gnarled trunk and many branches. The tree is surrounded by dense green foliage and other trees in the background, creating a lush forest scene.

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18



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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: The new CLC property 'Wombat' is our first corporate land donation. It protects 4.8 hectares of habitat and is a key link for altitudinal migratory birds including Scarlet Robin between the Blue Mountains and Cumberland Plain.

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President's Report

The past year has seen Cumberland Land Conservancy Inc intensify its goal to restore the property 'Wallaroo' from its legacy as pastoral land while improving the remnant vegetation on our three other properties: 'Wombat' (Regentville), 'Marsdenia' (Llandilo) and 'Thornbill' (Agnes Banks).



Because 'Wallaroo' is the largest of our properties and the most altered by European farming practices it will require the most work, funding and longest term to bring to prime ecological function. Significant grant funding from the Commonwealth Government in 2017/18 enabled a great start to the task.

Our four properties provide essential links within the greater scheme that is the Cumberland Conservation Corridor – a strategy to preserve viable populations of the flora and fauna known to have inhabited the Cumberland Plain.

Continuing on from Koori Firesticks in the previous year we have engaged with Mulgoa Rural Fire Service to undertake fire management on 'Wallaroo' as part of our ongoing conservation management. Plans to undertake a burn at 'Marsdenia' are on hold due to drought conditions.

We are grateful to the Commonwealth Government, particularly former Environment Minister, The Hon Greg Hunt MP, who captured the vision and enabled Cumberland Land Conservancy Inc to acquire three of the properties now in our ownership. We also thank TransGrid for gifting the property 'Wombat' to us for environmental stewardship; Tanya Davies, Member for Mulgoa; Greater Sydney Local Land Services and Hally Labels for their role in grants for conservation management of the property 'Wombat'.

I also extend my heartfelt thanks to the members of Cumberland Land Conservancy Inc who, by their financial membership, are owners of the properties I have mentioned and have entrusted the more direct management role of the affairs of Cumberland Land Conservancy Inc to the Executive elected at annual general meetings.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wayne All'.

President



Our Purpose

Cumberland Land Conservancy (CLC) is a volunteer operated not-for-profit charity dedicated to acquiring land for conservation. We focus on the 'Cumberland Plain' of Western Sydney, one of the most heavily cleared landscapes in Australia. This region is now being cleared and developed at an even more rapid rate with little or no planning to conserve key linkages.

The CLC stands apart as the sole organisation successfully securing biodiversity corridors in this landscape. We strive to conserve the Cumberland Plain, engaging and empowering

the community and partnering with government and business to set a new standard in conservation land management.

This work would not be possible without the support of our members and volunteers. Each CLC member is a co-owner in our properties and a custodian on behalf of all the residents and wildlife of Western Sydney.



(above) The CLC property 'Wollaroo' is a key patch of Cumberland Plain Woodland © Mark Fuller/CLC



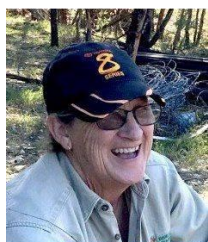
Who We Are

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

We are proud to welcome some new faces to our executive this year. 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.



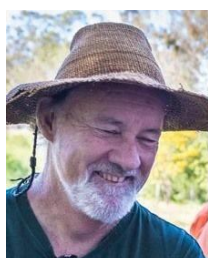
Vice President – Karen Barron Karen is a part-time Teacher of Natural Area Restoration and Conservation & Land Management at Richmond College TAFE and has vast experience and knowledge of restoration from working throughout the Cumberland Plain. Karen's connection with CLC's latest acquisition, 'Wombat', goes back to the initial weed control program in late nineties.



Treasurer – Ben Fuller Ben is completing his second year of a Bachelor of Business Course, majoring in Accounting at Western Sydney University. With a head for figures, Ben is keen to use his role with CLC to gain not-for-profit experience.



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 – Peter Mobbs Peter Mobbs brings over 26 years of experience in bushland conservation & restoration. Peter is full time Teacher of Natural Area Restoration and Conservation & Land Management at Richmond College TAFE (retiring Dec 2018)



Our Conservation Impact

Our core purpose is the acquisition of land for conservation and especially the protection of wildlife corridors. The 2017/18 year has seen great outcomes in restoration of the three properties acquired last year, as well as the addition of a new property 'Wombat' by corporate donation bringing the total land under conservation to 49.61 ha. This land is owned under covenant by the members of CLC to protect and restore our native flora and wildlife.

The CLC has a particular focus on biodiversity corridors. Corridors are vital for maintaining connection between the small 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.

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

The CLC is the only organisation presently securing corridors in the Cumberland Plain.

Three of our properties now protect key links in the Cumberland Conservation Corridor. Our properties and their context in the corridor are shown in the map page 8.



(above) The Scarlet Robin is a migrant between the Cumberland Plain and Blue Mountains. This vulnerable species (NSW) relies on east-west corridors, such as the one protected by the CLC property 'Wombat', for its survival © Mark Fuller/CLC



Conservation Property Portfolio

Habitat protected forever...

Property	Area (hectares)	Endangered Ecological Communities & Threatened Species
'Wallaroo', Mulgoa	38.86	Cumberland Plain Woodland Cumberland Riverflat 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>)
Bartolo Reserve, Agnes Banks (‘Thornbill’)	2.20	Cumberland Shale-Gravel Transition Forest Cumberland Plain Land Snail (<i>Meridolum corneovirens</i>) Gravel Pea (<i>Dillwynia tenuifolia</i>) Square-tailed Kite (<i>Lophoictinia isura</i>)
'Marsdenia', Llandilo	3.75	Cumberland Plain Woodland Cumberland Plain Land Snail (<i>Meridolum corneovirens</i>) Bush Pear (<i>Marsdenia viridiflora</i> subsp. <i>viridiflora</i>) Sydney Bush-pea (<i>Pultenaea parviflora</i>) Juniper-leaf Grevillea (<i>Grevillea juniperina</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>)
Total area protected	49.61 hectares	12 threatened species 4 endangered ecological communities



'THORNBILL'

'MARSDENIA'

'WOMBAT'

'WALLAROO'



‘Wombat’ - Our New Reserve

CLC is proud to announce the latest addition to its conservation lands. CLC is placing a conservation covenant over the 4.80 hectare Regentville property donated by a corporate donor. The final allotment is slightly larger than the 4.5 hectares first negotiated.



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.

The site includes endangered Shale-Sandstone Transition Forest, the endangered Dural Land Snail (*Pommerhelix duralensis*) the largest known population of the regionally rare wattle *Acacia prominens*.



A wombat crosses beneath Mulgoa Road through the culvert (top); a Superb Fairy-wren (bottom) and Shale-Sandstone Transition forest (right) © Mark Fuller & Peter Ridgeway/CLC



‘Wallaroo’

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



‘Wallaroo’ was named after the Wallaroos that call this area home (above) and protects critically endangered Cumberland Plain Woodlands (below)

‘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 focus of our restoration efforts and community engagement. CLC has an equipment shed and toilet and we run regular volunteer working bees, wildlife surveys and education events at the site.



The vulnerable Varied Sittella (above) at ‘Wallaroo’ © Mark Fuller/CLC





‘Thornbill’ (Bartolo Reserve)

The Bartolo Reserve 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 and the former NSW Nature Conservation Trust. It protects Critically Endangered Shale-Gravel Transition Forest; Alluvial Woodland; the endangered Cumberland Plain Land Snail (*Meridolum corneovirens*) and the vulnerable Dillwynia tenuifolia.



(right) The property protects a valuable population of the threatened *Dillwynia tenuifolia*; (left) The vulnerable Square-tailed Kite calls the Agnes Banks site home; (below) Regenerating Shale-Gravel Transition Forest. © Mark Fuller/CLC





'Marsdenia'

This Llandilo property is 3.75 ha of high conservation bushland and part of a key corridor between the Wianamatta Regional

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

Park and the Wianamatta Nature Reserve. It was entrusted to CLC in 2017 by the Commonwealth Government and 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.

- 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)



Grevillea juniperina (above) and Cumberland Plain Woodland (below) at Llandilo © Peter Ridgeway/CLC





Restoring Our Reserves

CLC is developing new benchmarks for best practice conservation management & partnerships in the region. Our reserves are each restored under a comprehensive Plan of Management developed in partnership with industry experts.

Bush Regeneration

Bush regeneration is a key activity on all our reserves. Unlike weed control (for example brush mulching) bush regeneration focuses on enhancing the existing native species, generally using selective hand control of target weeds to tip the balance in the native's favor. This is a slower process but one which produces lasting results and a resilient ecosystem.

The majority of bush regeneration works are targeted at 'Wollaroo', our most historically impacted property, however our other properties also include previously disturbed areas which are the focus of restoration - for example the front portion of 'Thornbill' and around the dam at 'Wombat'.

CLC is a registered and insured Landcare group and we host monthly bush regeneration working bees with our members at 'Wollaroo' (alternative 2nd Saturday, 2nd Sunday) and every 3rd Saturday at 'Wombat'.

CLC is grateful to the Australian Government and the Greater Sydney Local Land Services who have provided grant funding to assist in our bush regeneration. These funds are employing professional bush regenerators who are supplementing our ongoing Landcare efforts. CLC also acknowledges the Green Army teams whose work managed by Conservation Volunteers Australia contributed to the recovery of 'Wollaroo' and 'Wombat'.

At 'Bartolo'/'Thornbill' our bush regeneration is coordinated and assisted by Conservation Volunteers Australia through a management partnership expiring in June 2019.



African Love-Grass being composted to allow native grasses to recolonise; 'Thornbill' reserve © Peter Ridgeway/CLC



Pest Management

Pest management is important in protecting the wildlife of the Cumberland Plain.

For operational reasons pest management operations are only permissible at 'Wallaroo', our largest property. To ensure success our pest management operations are conducted as regional campaigns in partnership with our surrounding landowners.

The last year has seen major expansion of our Deer and Fox management campaigns at 'Wallaroo'. CLC has coordinated both campaigns and run training and coordination workshops for our neighbouring landowners.

Works have been supported with grant funding and professional pest control by Eric Cope of Feral Whisperers.

CLC volunteers also undertake Carp control working bees along Mulgoa Creek during appropriate seasons. This work has supported a number of native fish species including Firetail Gudgeon and Australian Bass.

2017/2018 pest management outcomes

Landowners participating: 6

Deer controlled: 3

Fox controlled: 21

Carp controlled: 40



Fox baiting program at 'Wallaroo', Mulgoa

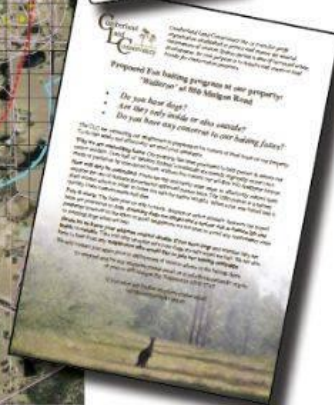
2017/18 Financial Year

Initial monitoring suggested a high level of Red Fox activity including scats, predation of Freshwater Turtle nests and sightings. Despite suitable habitat, there was an absence of terrestrial avian species such as Quail and Pipits.

August 2017 - CLC established the Mulgoa Vertebrate Pest Management (VPM) Group in partnership with Local Land Services. Baiting is coordinated with six local properties.

Sep 2017 - Second baiting campaign, no baits taken at 'Wallaroo', 17 taken by other properties. Reduced level of fox activity by conclusion of campaign.

May 2018 - Monitoring shows increased Fox activity instigating third baiting campaign; 4 baits taken.





Fire Management

Fire is a natural and necessary part of the Cumberland Plain ecosystems which have evolved in the presence of regular bushfire. These ecosystems have also been modified and managed by the fire practices of generations of Aboriginal custodians.

Today, fire is a necessary tool in maintaining asset protection, ecological processes and Aboriginal cultural practices.

CLC has developed a detailed Fire Management plan for each property in consultation with the Rural Fire Service and local Aboriginal community to address each of these needs.

CLC currently undertakes ecological burns in collaboration with the Rural Fire Service and undertook a cultural burn in partnership with the Koori Firesticks program.



An ecological burn at 'Wallaroo' undertaken in collaboration with the RFS allows for regeneration of native flora species © Linda Brown/CLC

Wildlife Recovery

‘Wallaroo’ is the largest CLC property and has the greatest historic habitat damage. CLC worked with Australian National University and Greater Sydney Local Land Services to establish a quantitative baseline fauna survey and recommendations for returning fauna habitat to the site (see ‘Monitoring our Success’).



A ‘habitat hollow’ created in a live tree provides roosting habitat for native microbat species at ‘Wallaroo’ © Mark Fuller/CLC



An Eastern long-necked turtle suns itself on an artificial habitat island at ‘Wallaroo’, The artificial islands provide a safe refuge away from Foxes ©Mark Fuller/CLC

CLC has responded to these studies by supplementing tree hollow habitat with **arboreal habitat hollows** in partnership with Sydney Arbor Trees and **terrestrial hollow logs** with Friendly Fred’s Arborists. CLC cooperated with PhD Student Reannan Honey from the University of Technology Sydney who is researching the temperature variations in arboreal hollows and is investigating which animals are using them. She installed wildlife cameras and temperature data loggers on two habitat trees at Wallaroo

CLC has also installed **floating islands** in farm dams to improve access for aquatic wildlife.



Monitoring Our Success

Monitoring and adapting our practices is key to the successful restoration of our ecosystems.

CLC has completed benchmark surveys for fauna and flora at each of our properties which allow us to look back and measure the conservation outcomes of our work. Surveys at 'Wallaroo' have been undertaken in conjunction with the Australian National University.

Our regular monitoring includes weed density mapping, threatened species monitoring, native flora monitoring, and terrestrial wildlife survey (spotlighting and automated camera methods).

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

Vegetation Monitoring

Monitoring vegetation health is key to assessing and adapting our bush regeneration programs, and it is important to choose the best tool for the job.

Most monitoring tools assess changes in vegetation structure (e.g. canopy cover). However, in the grassy woodlands of the Cumberland Plain it is the ground covers which are the most sensitive to land management and the most important component for long-term health and resilience of the ecosystem.

We also need a tool which can detect changes at an annual timescale to allow us to assess and adjust our work as we progress in restoring our properties.

In 2018 CLC established Checking for Change transects on 'Wallaroo', 'Marsdenia' and 'Thornbill' and on four reference sites.

The Checking for Change methodology was developed by the CSIRO to provide land managers with a simple tool to monitor environmental land management impacts. This method is sensitive to changes in land management in a relatively short time-frame (2 to 6 years) and focuses on ground-level indicators including groundcover, leaf litter, bare ground (interstitial space) and the invertebrate fauna.

In the 2017/18 year we completed our benchmark or initial monitoring of each property. We have also recorded local 'reference' sites to which we can compare our properties over time.

In the first year, CLC recorded differences between our conservation properties and the reference sites.

The Checking for Change assessments will be repeated yearly with the cooperation of volunteers and is a valuable tool for our adaptive management approach.

CLC also utilises drone images created by Terratest and photo points to record changes of canopy health and vegetation structure.

‘Streamwatch’

Our ‘Wallaroo’ property incorporates approximately one kilometre of Mulgoa Creek, a key regional waterbody. Monitoring this aquatic ecosystem requires regular measures of water quality, fish, and macroinvertebrates.

CLC has partnered with the ‘Streamwatch’ program operated by the Australian Museum and with assistance from Conservation Volunteers Australia.

‘Streamwatch’ is a citizen science water quality monitoring program that empowers community groups to monitor and protect the health of local waterways.

The CLC ‘Streamwatch’ volunteers undertake monthly readings of water temperature, dissolved oxygen, phosphorous, conductivity, turbidity and pH on a monthly basis (2nd Saturday of the month).

Participating volunteers learn how each of these parameters influences water quality and take an active part in the monitoring process. Once the data is collected it is entered into a database from the Australian Museum.

Soil Analysis

Soil health plays a very important role in the recovery of habitats. Agricultural practices can alter soil characteristics such as nutrient content, soil aeration and compaction, hindering the regeneration of native plants and favouring weed species.



CLC volunteer Linda Brown undertaking water sampling at Mulgoa Creek; ‘Wallaroo’ incorporates 1 km of this key waterway © Mark Fuller/CLC

Prior to acquisition by CLC ‘Wallaroo’ was used for cattle grazing and viticulture. Past land management practices involved land clearing, pasture improvement (fertilisation) and tilling.

In 2017 CLC conducted a baseline soil chemical analysis to understand the current soil properties and investigate approaches to improve soil health. This data will improve our understanding of the ecosystem as a whole and guide future restoration of the property.

Koalas at ‘Wallaroo’

CLC regularly monitors threatened species on its properties. During a scat survey in June 2018 CLC volunteers recorded Koala scats on ‘Wallaroo’ which were verified via DNA testing from the University of Sydney to be of a female chlamydia-free Koala – though likely transitory.



Bird Surveys

The abundance, relative ease of detection and diversity of bird species makes them an ideal group for more regular fauna monitoring.

CLC has developed partnerships with both the Blue Mountains and Cumberland Bird Observers Clubs (BMBO & CBOC) to conduct surveys at 'Wallaroo' on the first Monday of every month.

Supplementary data were collected with additional surveys conducted monthly by Green Army volunteers at 'Wallaroo' and by Conservation Volunteers Australia at 'Thornbill', Agnes Banks.

The species list for birds and other wildlife seen at 'Wallaroo' continues to grow as more surveys are conducted. A monthly checklist is useful for monitoring changes in phenology (seasonal activity) such as migration and breeding activity that also links to CLC's involvement with the Climate Watch program.

As the number of species becomes larger, species ecology can be used to inform habitat restoration and requirements. Wetland species such as Waterfowl, Cormorants, Herons, Ibis, Spoonbill, Crakes and Shorebirds have all been recorded at 'Wallaroo'. Whether it be the relationship and variety of flowering Eucalypts to the various Honeyeater species, or the small bush birds feeding on the invertebrates, all point to an area that is high in diversity.



*Rufous flanks and a pale chin identify a visiting Tasmanian Silvereye (top) from our resident Cumberland birds (lower birds) at 'Wallaroo'.
Photo © Mark Fuller/CLC*

Other examples include seven species of Cuckoo recorded at 'Wallaroo' - these require a robust population of host species if they are to breed successfully. The role of predators in maintaining healthy populations of prey species is well-known. Twelve species of raptor seen at 'Wallaroo' is testament to the high biodiversity found on the property. Conversely, further terrestrial bird species should be recorded as fox control continues.



Wallaroo Monthly Bird Checklist

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Brown Quail												
Black Swan												
Australian Wood Duck												
Grey Teal												
Chestnut Teal												
Pacific Black Duck												
Hardhead												
Australasian Grebe												
Spotted Dove												
Brown Cuckoo-Dove												
Common Bronzewing												
Crested Pigeon												
Peaceful Dove												
Bar-shouldered Dove												
Tawny Frogmouth												
Australasian Darter												
Little Pied Cormorant												
Great Cormorant												
Little Black Cormorant												
Australian Pelican												
Black Bittern												
White-necked Heron												
Eastern Great Egret												
Cattle Egret												
Eastern Cattle Egret												
White-faced Heron												
Nankeen Night-Heron												
Straw-necked Ibis												
Royal Spoonbill												
Yellow-billed Spoonbill												
Pacific Baza												
Whistling Kite												
Brown Goshawk												
Collared Sparrowhawk												
Swamp Harrier												
Wedge-tailed Eagle												
Nankeen Kestrel												
Peregrine Falcon												
Brown Falcon												
Australian Hobby												
Purple Swamphen												
Dusky Moorhen												
Eurasian Coot												
Baillon's Crake												

Black-fronted Dotterel												
Masked Lapwing												
Glossy Black-Cockatoo												
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo												
Galah												
Long-billed Corella												
Little Corella												
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo												
Rainbow Lorikeet												
Little Lorikeet												
Australian King-Parrot												
Crimson Rosella												
Eastern Rosella												
Red-rumped Parrot												
Eastern Koel												
Channel-billed Cuckoo												
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo												
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo												
Fan-tailed Cuckoo												
Brush Cuckoo												
Pallid Cuckoo												
Azure Kingfisher												
Laughing Kookaburra												
Sacred Kingfisher												
Rainbow Bee-eater												
Dollarbird												
White-throated Treecreeper												
Satin Bowerbird												
Superb Fairy-wren												
Variegated Fairy-wren												
White-browed Scrubwren												
Weebill												
Brown Gerygone												
Wt-throated Gerygone												
Striated Thornbill												
Yellow Thornbill												
Yell-rumped Thornbill												
Brown Thornbill												
Spotted Pardalote												
Striated Pardalote												
Eastern Spinebill												
Lewin's Honeyeater												
Yell-faced Honeyeater												
Wt-eared Honeyeater												
Fuscous Honeyeater												
Wt-plumed Honeyeater												
Bell Miner												

Noisy Miner												
Little Wattlebird												
Red Wattlebird												
Scarlet Honeyeater												
New Holland Honeyeater												
Brown-headed Honeyeater												
Noisy Friarbird												
Eastern Whipbird												
Varied Sittella												
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike												
Crested Shrike-tit												
Golden Whistler												
Rufous Whistler												
Grey Shrike-thrush												
Olive-backed Oriole												
Dusky Woodswallow												
Grey Butcherbird												
Australian Magpie												
Pied Currawong												
Rufous Fantail												
Grey Fantail												
Willie Wagtail												
Australian Raven												
Leaden Flycatcher												
Restless Flycatcher												
Magpie-lark												
White-winged Chough												
Jacky Winter												
Rose Robin												
Eastern Yellow Robin												
Golden-headed Cisticola												
Silvereye												
Welcome Swallow												
Fairy Martin												
Tree Martin												
Red-whiskered Bulbul												
Common Blackbird												
Common Starling												
Common Myna												
Mistletoebird												
Double-barred Finch												
Red-browed Finch												
European Goldfinch												
Chestnut-breasted Mannikin												
Australasian Pipit												

Community Engagement & Volunteers

In 2017/2018 CLC has 117 registered members. This year, member volunteers have contributed an estimated 275 hours of bush regeneration, pasture slashing, habitat installation, fire management, pest management, monitoring & reporting.

CLC has had 68 education & community events including two camping weekends. Our 'Intrepid Landcare' event trained young adults in bush regen skills, traditional Aboriginal culture, microbat survey and included an enjoyable evening around the campfire. The other campout also trained participants in bush regeneration skills followed by an evening with astronomy and bush poetry.

CLC also has regular community engagement events with monthly bird surveys that are open to the public.

The Cumberland Bird Observers Club (CBOC) recently donated six pairs of binoculars for the CLC. These will greatly improve future CLC activities such as the monthly bird surveys.

Our facebook presence has also ramped up with 451 people now following our work.

'Wallaroo' Interpretive Trail

As part of CLC's ongoing commitment to sharing of knowledge, seven interpretive signs have been erected to form an 'Education Trail' at 'Wallaroo'.

The trail begins at the container/toilets area where three signs describe environmental restoration works being conducted at 'Wallaroo', also its Wetlands and Grasslands.

It is hoped that these areas can act as outdoor classrooms for groups of school students or other parties who may be interested in learning more about the Cumberland Plain.

Further along the trail, alongside Mulgoa Creek, two signs highlight the Riparian and Alluvial Woodland habitats present there.

The trail continues over the hill, where two more signs highlight the Ironbark and Grey Box dominated Shale Hills Woodlands.



The environmental education trail at 'Wallaroo' © Peter Ridgeway/CLC

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.



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 Conservation Volunteers Australia, Greater Sydney Local Land Services, Commonwealth Department of Environment & Energy, the former Nature Conservation Trust of NSW and the NSW Environment Minister's Conservation Fund. Together we have helped deliver the 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 are available including financial support, in-kind support, workplace volunteering and land negotiations.

CLC expresses its heartfelt thanks to the ongoing corporate support provided by Apple Australia, Hally Labels, Hill Rogers and TransGrid which have assisted in restoring our local 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 schools program which facilitates on-site school-based science programs contributing to scientific literature.

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 arrange 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.

Sources of income 2017/18

Cash at bank – 30 June 2017	\$18,171
Grant funding – 2017/18	\$557,800
Membership fees (excludes carry-over memberships)	\$766
Donations	\$1,760
Service	\$0
Interest	\$228
Total	\$578,725

Expenditure (\$476,461)

Greater Sydney Local Land Services Grant Funding

In the 2017/18 financial year, CLC received two grants from Greater Sydney Local Land Services but because they were received in late June no expenditure was incurred against the grants in this reporting period.

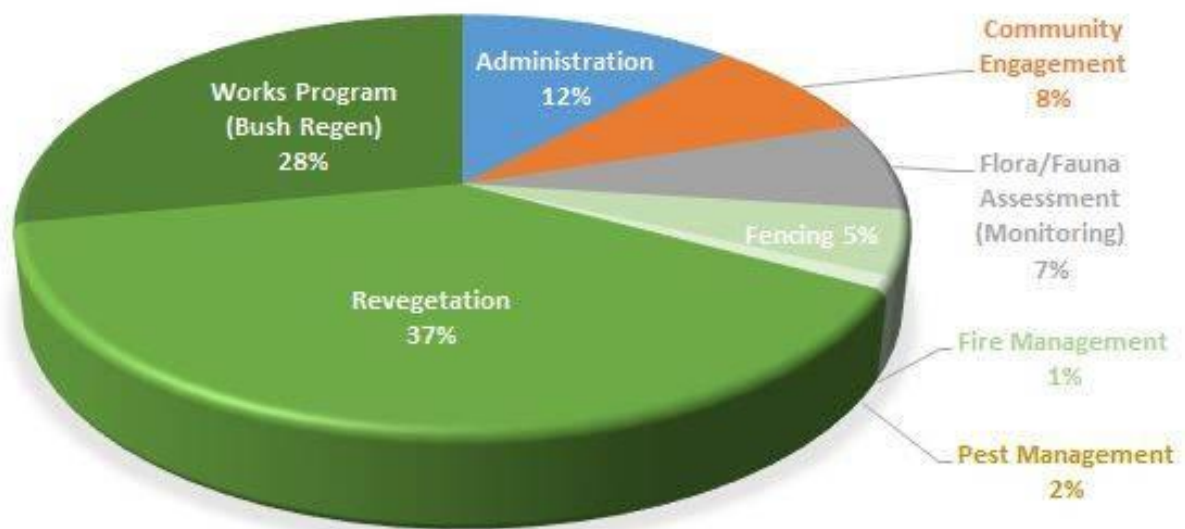
‘Wombat’ Property Restoration Project

CLC received \$17,800 (GST excl.) for works involving removal of Lantana and other invasive weeds, undertake plantings and install tree habitat for fauna. This project will be completed by June 2019.

Mulgoa Vertebrate Pest Animal Group

In effect, CLC manages this grant of \$23,750 (GST excl.) through Greater Sydney Local Land Services by coordinating Fox and Deer control on various privately owned properties in the Mulgoa Valley. CLC provides team members who liaise with property owners and facilitate Fox and Deer management on participating properties.

Where CLC Invested in 2018/2019

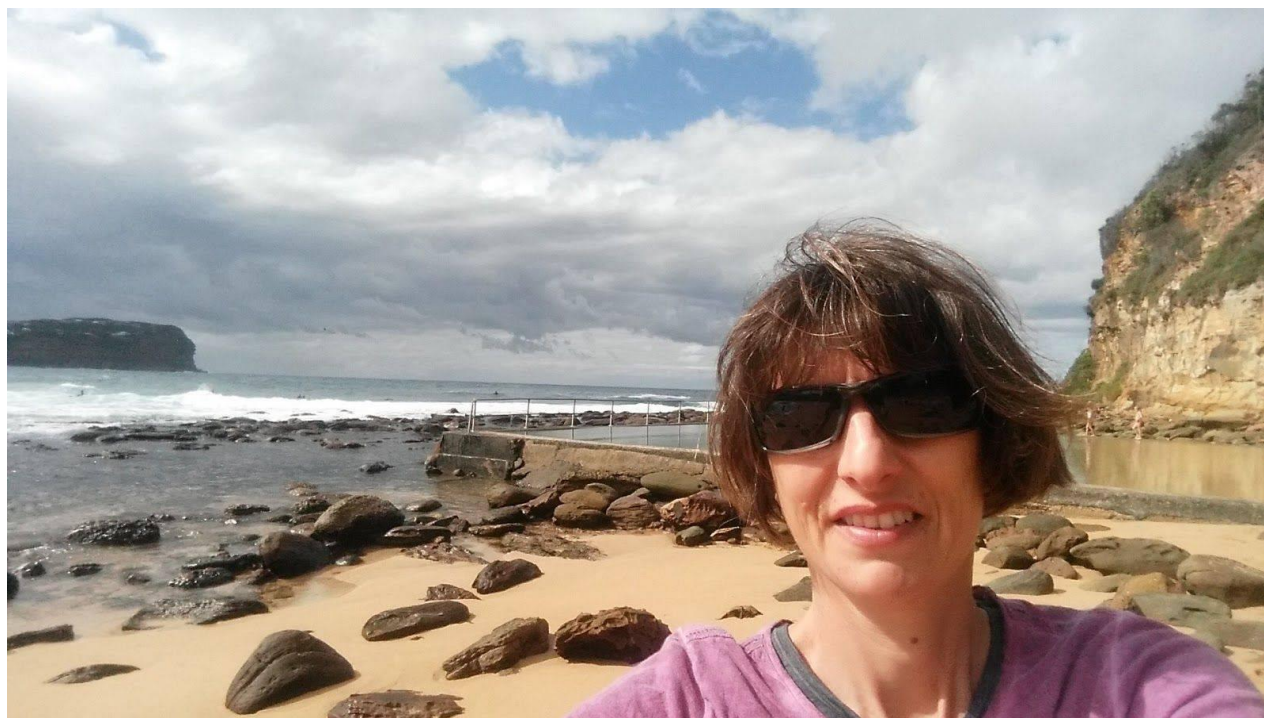




Volunteer Profile

Claire Gauci

"I love being at 'Wallaroo'. There's something magical about those rolling hills and grassland. It takes me back to the original reasons I was drawn towards the native landscape. Once I started learning about what's going on in the bush I realized it's not all peaches and cream out there - there's negative stuff going on out there as a consequence of what us newcomers to Australia have done. I like to feel that I can help repair some of this damage."



"I also like being able to bring my kids and pass on to them the importance of conservation work and volunteering." "I joined CLC as an alternative conservation option for those bits of bushland that the three levels of government have rejected and I'm happy that CLC is taking a proactive role in this – power to the people!"

Claire is a trained Bush Regenerator and was a founding member of Blacktown & District Environment Group more than 20 years ago. She married Marty Gauci and they have three children. Claire works with Blacktown City Council and joined Cumberland Land Conservancy (CLC) when it first formed and has served on the Property Management Committee and supervised volunteers on bushcare days since the property, 'Wallaroo', came into ownership of CLC.