



ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2023-24



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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: Wombat Berry (*Eustrephus latifolius*) Pic: © Robert Shestanovich

Header: Double-barred Finch '*Stizoptera bichenovii*' Pic: © Mark Fuller

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# Contents

President’s Report .....	1
Our Purpose.....	2
Who We Are .....	3
Our Conservation Impact .....	4
Conservation Property Portfolio .....	5
Landscape Context Map .....	6
‘Wombat’ .....	7
‘Wallaroo’ .....	8
‘Thornbill’ .....	9
‘Marsdenia’ .....	10
Restoring Our Properties .....	11
Bush Regeneration .....	11
Pest Management.....	12
Operations.....	12
Fire Management.....	13
Wildlife Recovery .....	14
Monitoring Our Success .....	15
Vegetation Monitoring.....	15
Fauna Monitoring.....	16
Camera Observation .....	16
‘Streamwatch’ .....	17
Bird Surveys.....	18-19
Community Engagement & Volunteers .....	20
Get Involved .....	21
Finance & Governance Report .....	22
Where CLC Invested in 2020-21 .....	23
Volunteer Profile .....	24



## President's Report

We are nearing 10 year's operation of Cumberland Land Conservancy Inc (CLC).

When one considers the disparity of community involvement in on-the-ground conservation activities in Western Sydney and that CLC was, 10 years ago, a new initiative of community land ownership for conservation management in Greater Sydney (and remains the only initiative of that type there today) that is some achievement.

At the conclusion of the 2023/2024 membership year, CLC had 102 financial members. That number reflects a broad belief in the role CLC plays in recovering and sustaining the natural heritage of the Cumberland Plain as well as a desire in those people for CLC to continue. Being available for on-ground activities, however, is another thing. CLC therefore relies on a small number of dedicated volunteers with government grants and corporate sponsors to rehabilitate the ecology of the properties in our care.

That volunteer component includes weekly bush regeneration activities, feral pest control and bird and other fauna observers, the latter giving us an insight as to the effectiveness of our work.

In 2023-2024 we benefitted greatly from a NSW Government Environmental Trust grant for restoration and rehabilitation works at the property 'Wallaroo'. We have just completed the first of three years of delivery of that grant. We are also in the third and final year of a NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust grant for periodic slashing and brushcutting the pastoral grasses and herbs introduced by former landholders of 'Wallaroo'. Small grants of equivalent value have been obtained from the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust for all weed control works on 'Marsdenia' and 'Wombat'. A small NSW Government, Saving Our Species, grant has been worked at the property 'Thornbill' for sustaining and, hopefully, regenerating more of, the endangered *Persoonia nutans* plants existing on that property. Finally, as to grants, we have completed a Greater Sydney Landcare Network grant for restoration of Koala habitat at 'Wallaroo'. We thank each of those grant bodies for their support of our work. We thank, too, Amazon Web Services for ongoing support with volunteers and donations to specific projects on CLC properties, principally 'Wallaroo', because that is where the greatest need exists.

We were pleased to assist the education of TAFE students undertaking the Conservation and Ecosystem Management course and students of Nepean Christian School undertaking a Biology project.

Conservation land management on properties which have had past use for ecologically insensitive purposes is a long-term initiative and I thank the volunteers and members of the Committee of CLC for their efforts on the ground and in administration to achieve our goals. In monetary terms, the Valuer-General placed a value exceeding \$11M on the total of the CLC properties in year 2022 but we place a much higher value on our land holdings in their capacity to play an important part in sustaining the flora and fauna of the Cumberland Plain.

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** – The Scientific Officer position was unfilled in the 2023-2024 financial year.



## Our Conservation Impact

Our core purpose remains the acquisition of land for conservation toward protecting wildlife corridors. Weed control was our primary activity in Year 2023-24 on the 49.61 ha of land under our care. Increased fauna presence was a pleasing observation. Members of CLC are part owners of land in our care, the land also being subject to a Conservation Agreement with the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust for perpetual conservation management.

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.

The overarching strategy of CLC is discreet 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.



(top) Water Dragon (below) Swamp Wallaby surviving through habitat preservation at property 'Wombat' © Mark Fuller



## Conservation Property Portfolio

Habitat protected in perpetuity ...

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>Sauroconcha corneovirens</i> ) White-bellied Sea Eagle ( <i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i> ) Varied Sittella ( <i>Daphoenositta chrysoptera</i> ) Eastern Coastal Freetail Bat ( <i>Miconomus norfolkensis</i> ) Eastern Bent-winged Bat ( <i>Miniopterus schreibersii oceanensis</i> ) Large-eared Pied Bat ( <i>Chalinolobus dwyeri</i> ) Fishing Bat ( <i>Myotis macropus</i> ) Little Bent-winged Bat ( <i>Miniopterus australis</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>Sauroconcha 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>Sauroconcha corneovirens</i> ) Native Pear ( <i>Marsdenia viridiflora</i> subsp. <i>viridiflora</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> ) Large-eared Pied Bat ( <i>Chalinolobus dwyeri</i> ) Eastern Coastal Freetail Bat ( <i>Miconomus norfolkensis</i> ) Grey-headed Flying Fox ( <i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i> ) Little Bent-winged Bat ( <i>Miniopterus australis</i> )
Total area protected	49.61 hectares	16 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 remain critical to the seasonal migration of bird species which move from the Blue Mountains to the fertile Cumberland Plain each Winter while, at all times, sustaining terrestrial fauna habitat on the western limits of the Cumberland Plain.

Lantana has had a prolific presence since take-up of the property but gradual removal along with discreet plantings has benefitted bird biodiversity.



(above) Lace Monitor Lizard at ‘Wombat’  
© Robert Shestanovich



(above) Wallaroo with joey at ‘Wombat’  
© Mark Fuller



(above) Yellow-tufted Honeyeater at ‘Wombat’  
© Mark Fuller



## ‘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 ten threatened 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.



*(above) Echidna © CLC (top right) Chilean Needle Grass (mid right) delivering storage shed © CLC (lower right) White Wallaroo © Mark Fuller – all pics at ‘Wallaroo’.*

An emerging problem is invasive Chilean Needle Grass which appears to be coming from a neighbouring property, either wind-blown or on the coat of Macrofauna. Constant weeding and follow-up is essential.





## '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*.

For three years, CLC has been working a NSW Government Saving Our Species grant to protect existing and regenerate more *Persoonia nutans* plants on 'Thornbill'.



(left) *Acacia elongate* blossom.  
(above) *Persoonia nutans* fruit (below)  
Kangaroos on site. All pics © 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.

Negotiations have recommenced with Lend Lease for CLC to be gifted 8,000sqm of adjoining bushland to include in the 'Marsdenia' land holding.

Mother-of-Millions remains a problem weed to remove but we persevere with help from the NSW BCT Conservation Partnership Grant scheme.

'Marsdenia' comprises Critically Endangered Cumberland Plain Woodland and threatened flora and fauna including:

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



(above left) *Marsdenia viridiflora* subsp *viridiflora* in flower © CLC (above centre) Australian Golden Orb Weaver Spider © CLC (above right) Green Tree Frog © CLC all at 'Marsdenia'



## Restoring Our Properties

CLC applies best practice conservation management. Each property is 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. Notwithstanding that ideal, there are certain problem weeds for which selective chemical treatment is applied.

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’.

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



*(top right) Volunteer treatment of Mother-of Millions at ‘Marsdenia’ (above left) Volunteers weeding at ‘Marsdenia’ (above right) Volunteers weeding Fireweed at ‘Wallaroo’.*



## Pest Management

Vertebrate pests continue as a problem on the Cumberland Plain. Deer, Foxes and Carp occur at 'Wallaroo' with Deer and Foxes at 'Wombat'. Foxes occur at all CLC properties and rabbits are also evident at 'Thornbill'.

CLC has been reliant on periodic volunteer culling of Deer and Foxes at 'Wallaroo'.

'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.

## Operations

During 2023-2024, six Fallow Deer from 'Wallaroo'. A GSM camera was set up to aid monthly visits for that activity. At 'Wombat' no shoots occurred due to safety concerns with respect to TransGrid and Endeavour Energy power lines.



*(top) Fallow Deer near 'Wombat' © Mark Fuller  
(middle) Fallow Deer at 'Wallaroo' (bottom) Carp in Mulgoa Creek 'Wallaroo' © Mark Fuller*



## 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.

An ecological burn occurred at 'Wallaroo' in December 2023 in a location which later was subject to an extensive planting regime.

Long standing hope of an ecological burn at 'Marsdenia' was again disappointed due to unfavourable weather conditions and our inability to obtain the necessary support of Fire & Rescue NSW.

Of encouragement has been the extent of native plant regeneration on the locations where pile burns were undertaken by TAFE students at 'Wombat' last year.



*Series of pics showing stages of the ecological burn at 'Wallaroo' Dec 2023. Pics on left are the burn in progress and pics on right are the end result and mop-up. © CLC*





## Wildlife Recovery

Weed removal/management, discreet plantings and ensuring minimum fauna disturbance are our priorities.

It was a positive sign to see an Echidna feeding on an ant population of 'Wallaroo' this past year. All sites had presence of Eastern Grey Kangaroos and both 'Wallaroo' and 'Wombat' had Swamp Wallaby, Wallaroo and Wombat presence. Possibly due to the neighbour introducing cattle to his property, Macropods increased in number at 'Wallaroo', Again, all sites had Lace Monitor presence. Bird diversity continues to increase at 'Wallaroo' and 'Wombat' with nesting activity a recurring observation.

Experts attending the Frog Habitat Field Day in Nov 2023 commented on the merit of the permanent and ephemeral dams at 'Wallaroo' in sustaining frog populations. That view is supported by our own, several, observations of Red-bellied Black Snakes in and around the dams – obviously feeding on frogs.

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) permanent dam and ephemeral dam; Red-bellied Black Snake; Australasian Grebe nest and eggs- all pics at 'Wallaroo'. Top two pics © CLC, bottom two pics © Mark Fuller*





## Monitoring Our Success

CLC is constantly observing what is taking place on the properties it manages because widespread land clearing on the Cumberland Plain makes our members conscious of what refuge the properties offer.

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.

### 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.

An Environmental Trust grant for habitat restoration and rehabilitation at 'Wollaroo', for three years, includes a vegetation monitoring component.

We must expect that turning properties with a past history of environmentally insensitive activity into one dominated by native vegetation cover is a long-term project and is costly. In the interim, a NSW Biodiversity Conservation Trust grant to engage contract slashing and brushcutting of recurring pastoral grasses and herbs is a real benefit.

The three other sites under our care are less problematic than 'Wollaroo'. Visible progress

in native vegetation regeneration gives us encouragement. 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) Areas dominated by Lantana at 'Wombat' are gradually cleared to a) not denude the property of suitable habitat for fauna and, b) ensure that our volunteers can monitor and remove recurring Lantana and other exotic vegetation so that native vegetation dominates. © CLC*



## Fauna Monitoring

CLC continues to participate in the Bats in Backyard survey scheme conducted by the NSW Government. The next planned survey is scheduled for the early part of the 2024-2025 year. In Winter 2024, CLC assisted a research student complete a project at 'Wombat' on Rose, Flame and Scarlet Robin habitat.



*(above) Swamp Wallaby 'Wombat' © Mark Fuller*

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 elsewhere on the Cumberland Plain.



*(above) Lace Monitor Lizard in hollow © Mark Fuller*

## Camera Observation

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



*(above) Eastern Grey Kangaroos at 'Wallaroo' © Mark Fuller*



*(above) Dural Land Snail shell 'Wombat' © Mark Fuller*



## ‘Streamwatch’ and “Climate Watch’

‘Wallaroo’ incorporates about 500 metres 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.

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

CLC’s ‘Streamwatch’ volunteers undertake monthly (2nd Saturday) readings of water temperature, dissolved oxygen, phosphorous, conductivity, turbidity and pH. During the year the readings for each were reasonable acceptable given many agricultural uses of the land upstream.

Macroinvertebrate surveys are also conducted periodically in the creek and 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 Atlas of Living Australia.

‘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.



*(above) Section of Mulgoa Creek within ‘Wallaroo’  
© CLC*



*(above) Demonstration of Streamwatch to the public during an Open Day event on a rainy day at ‘Wallaroo’© CLC*



## Bird Surveys 2023-2024

### ‘Wallaroo’

8 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 habitat use and bird activity. All zones recorded a higher species number than last year (in brackets). Creek Zone A recorded 310/60 spp. (365/44); Zone B recorded 386/51 spp. (412/34); Zone C recorded 276/52 spp. (665/44) and Zone D recorded 357/48 spp. (281/33). In the hills Zone E recorded 285/42 spp. (108/25) Zone F recorded 276/46 spp. (322/42) Zone G recorded 105/26 spp. (120/11) and Zone H recorded 153/34 spp. (142/24) and grassland of Zone I, recorded 68/19 spp. (211/7).



*A Shining-bronze Cuckoo had a green rather than brown cap, a diagnostic of a sub species that breeds in New Zealand. © Mark Fuller*

An Echidna seen in the Ironbark woodland (Zone E) along with the Platypus seen in Mulgoa Creek previously shows that ‘Wallaroo’ provides habitat for both monotremes.

### ‘Wombat’

Over 100 volunteer survey hours at ‘Wombat’ recorded 1,380 individuals of 89 bird species, an increase over last year’s result. Regular bushcare surveys assist with information exchanged.

### ‘Marsdenia’

32 individuals of 11 bird species were recorded including periodic Pacific Baza (*Aviceda subcristata*) and Eastern Grey Kangaroos occasionally observed.

### ‘Thornbill’

Three bird surveys at ‘Thornbill’ recorded 64 individuals of 12 bird species. One of the most reliable species recorded at Thornbill is the Common Bronzewing (*Phaps chalcoptera*) that, despite its name is actually a declining western Sydney species.



*(above) Bird observers at ‘Wallaroo’ © Mark Fuller*

**Bird species recorded at 'Wallaroo' from July 2023 - June 2024  
(103)**

Australasian Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus novaehollandiae</i>	Crimson Rosella	<i>Platycercus elegans</i>
Pacific Black Duck	<i>Anas superciliosa</i>	Eastern Rosella	<i>Platycercus eximius</i>
Hardhead	<i>Aythya australis</i>	Satin Bowerbird	<i>Ptilonorhynchus violaceus</i>
Chestnut Teal	<i>Anas castanea</i>	Eastern Spinebill	<i>Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris</i>
Grey Teal	<i>Anas gracilis</i>	Scarlet Honeyeater	<i>Myzomela sanguinolenta</i>
Maned Duck	<i>Chenonetta jubata</i>	Brown-headed Honeyeater	<i>Meliphreptus brevirostris</i>
Australasian Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio melanotus</i>	White-naped Honeyeater	<i>Meliphreptus lunatus</i>
Dusky Moorhen	<i>Gallinula tenebrosa</i>	Fuscous Honeyeater	<i>Ptilotula fusca</i>
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Yellow-faced Honeyeater	<i>Calinavis chrysops</i>
Little Pied Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo melanoleucos</i>	Noisy Miner	<i>Manorina melanoccephala</i>
Little Black Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax sulcirostris</i>	Lewin's Honeyeater	<i>Meliphaga lewinii</i>
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Noisy Friarbird	<i>Philemon corniculatus</i>
Australasian Darter	<i>Anhinga novaehollandiae</i>	Red Wattlebird	<i>Anthochaera caunculata</i>
Australian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus conspicillatus</i>	White-throated Treecreeper	<i>Comobates leucophaea</i>
White-faced Heron	<i>Egretta novaehollandiae</i>	Superb Fairywren	<i>Malurus cyaneus</i>
White-necked Heron	<i>Ardea pacifica</i>	White-browed Scrubwren	<i>Sericornis frontalis</i>
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	White-throated Gerygone	<i>Gerygone olivacea</i>
Nankeen Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax caledonicus</i>	Spotted Pardalote	<i>Pardalopus punctatus</i>
Australian White Ibis	<i>Threskiornis molucca</i>	Striated Pardalote	<i>Pardalopus striatus</i>
Straw-necked Ibis	<i>Threskiornis spinicollis</i>	Brown Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza pusilla</i>
Latham's Snipe	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>	Yellow Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza nana</i>
Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus axillaris</i>	Striated Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza lineata</i>
Wedge-tailed Eagle	<i>Aquila audax</i>	Magpie-lark	<i>Gallinago cyanoleuca</i>
White-bellied Sea Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	Grey Butcherbird	<i>Cracticus torquatus</i>
Swamp Harrier	<i>Circus approximans</i>	Australian Magpie	<i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i>
Pacific Baza	<i>Aviceda subcristata</i>	Grey Butcherbird	<i>Cracticus torquatus</i>
Collared Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter cinnacephalus</i>	Pied Currawong	<i>Strepera graculina</i>
Brown Goshawk	<i>Accipiter fasciatus</i>	Black-faced Curckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina novaehollandiae</i>
Grey Goshawk	<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>	Grey Shrike-thrush	<i>Colluricincla harmonica</i>
Brown Falcon	<i>Falco bergrora</i>	Olive-backed Oriole	<i>Oriolus sagittatus</i>
Pacific Koel	<i>Eudynamis orientalis</i>	Eastern Whipbird	<i>Psophodes olivaceus</i>
Channel-billed Cuckoo	<i>Scythrops novaehollandiae</i>	Crested Shrike-thrush	<i>Falcunculus frontatus</i>
Shining Bronze Cuckoo	<i>Chrysocolaptes lucidus</i>	Rufous Whistler	<i>Pachycephala rufiventris</i>
Fan-tailed Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis flabelliformis</i>	Australian Golden Whistler	<i>Pachycephala pectoralis</i>
Brush Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis variolosus</i>	Australian Raven	<i>Corvus coromoides</i>
Rainbow Bee-eater	<i>Mereops ornatus</i>	Rose Robin	<i>Petroica rosea</i>
Oriental Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>	Eastern Yellow Robin	<i>Eopsaltria australis</i>
Laughing Kookaburra	<i>Dacelo novaeguineae</i>	Rose Robin	<i>Petroica rosea</i>
Sacred Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus sanctus</i>	Wistletoebird	<i>Dicaeum hirundinaceum</i>
Azure Kingfisher	<i>Ceryx azureus</i>	Willie Wagtail	<i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>
Crested Pigeon	<i>Cycophaps leucostes</i>	Grey Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albiscapa</i>
Brown Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Macropygia phasianella</i>	Rufous Fantail	<i>Rhipidura ruficeps</i>
Peaceful Dove	<i>Geopelia placida</i>	Restless Flycatcher	<i>Mysia iniqua</i>
Bar-shouldered Dove	<i>Geopelia humeralis</i>	Leaden Flycatcher	<i>Mysia rubecula</i>
Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>	Welcome Swallow	<i>Hirundo neoxena</i>
Galah	<i>Eolophus roseicapilla</i>	Golden-headed Cisticola	<i>Cisticola exilis</i>
Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo	<i>Zanda funerea</i>	Silvereye	<i>Zosterops lateralis</i>
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	<i>Cacatus galerita</i>	Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>
Long-billed Corella	<i>Cacatus tenuirostris</i>	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
Little Corella	<i>Cacatus sanguinea</i>	Red-browed Finch	<i>Neochmia temporalis</i>
Australian King Parrot	<i>Alisterus scapularis</i>	Double-barred Finch	<i>Stizoptera bichenovii</i>
Rainbow Lorikeet	<i>Trochilostus moluccanus</i>		



## Community Engagement & Volunteers

CLC had 102 financial members in the year.

CLC was again pleased to help TAFE students undertaking the Diploma of Conservation and Ecosystem Management course being invited onto CLC properties for training in ecosystem management. More than 40 participants were involved with a total of 284.5 hours of instruction involved.



CLC helped students and teachers of Nepean Christian School undertake a Biology project over three days. There were 20 participants plus a CLC representative and a total of 95 hours involved.



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

We thank Amazon Web Services (AWS) which offers its employees as volunteers for works on CLC properties and also offers financial support. Funding a new storage container was the biggest contribution in the 2023-2024 year.

The Estate of the late John Diamond continues to be of immense support to achieve financial security in future years by donating toward establishment of a Trust to fund our activities.



Such relationships are a valuable contribution toward flora & fauna habitat restoration in Western Sydney.

If you, too, 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.

*Pics above in order of appearance (top) TAFE students doing the theoretical side of studies (middle) Nepean Christian School students doing Biology project (bottom) members of the public receiving conservation instruction at Open Day. All pics at 'Wollaroo' © CLC*



## Get Involved

CLC brings together a striving to secure and protect our natural environment. Supporters help as financial donors, volunteers, pro bono service providers, partners/collaborators - all fundamental to our success.

### **NGO and Government**

CLC encourages partnerships with NGOs and government agencies to deliver real conservation outcomes for Western Sydney. CLC extends its gratitude for the 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 opportunity for cost-effective and meaningful change for Western Sydney's environment and encourages corporate support. Diversity of opportunities exist e.g. financial support, in-kind support, workplace volunteering and land negotiations. CLC expresses its heartfelt thanks for ongoing corporate support provided by Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Nexia Australia, each of which has assisted CLC in its goals.

### **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 2024.

### Sources of income

Grant funding	\$122,650
Donations	\$59,320
Membership fees & other income	\$2,804
Interest	\$2,369
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$187,143</b>

### Expenses

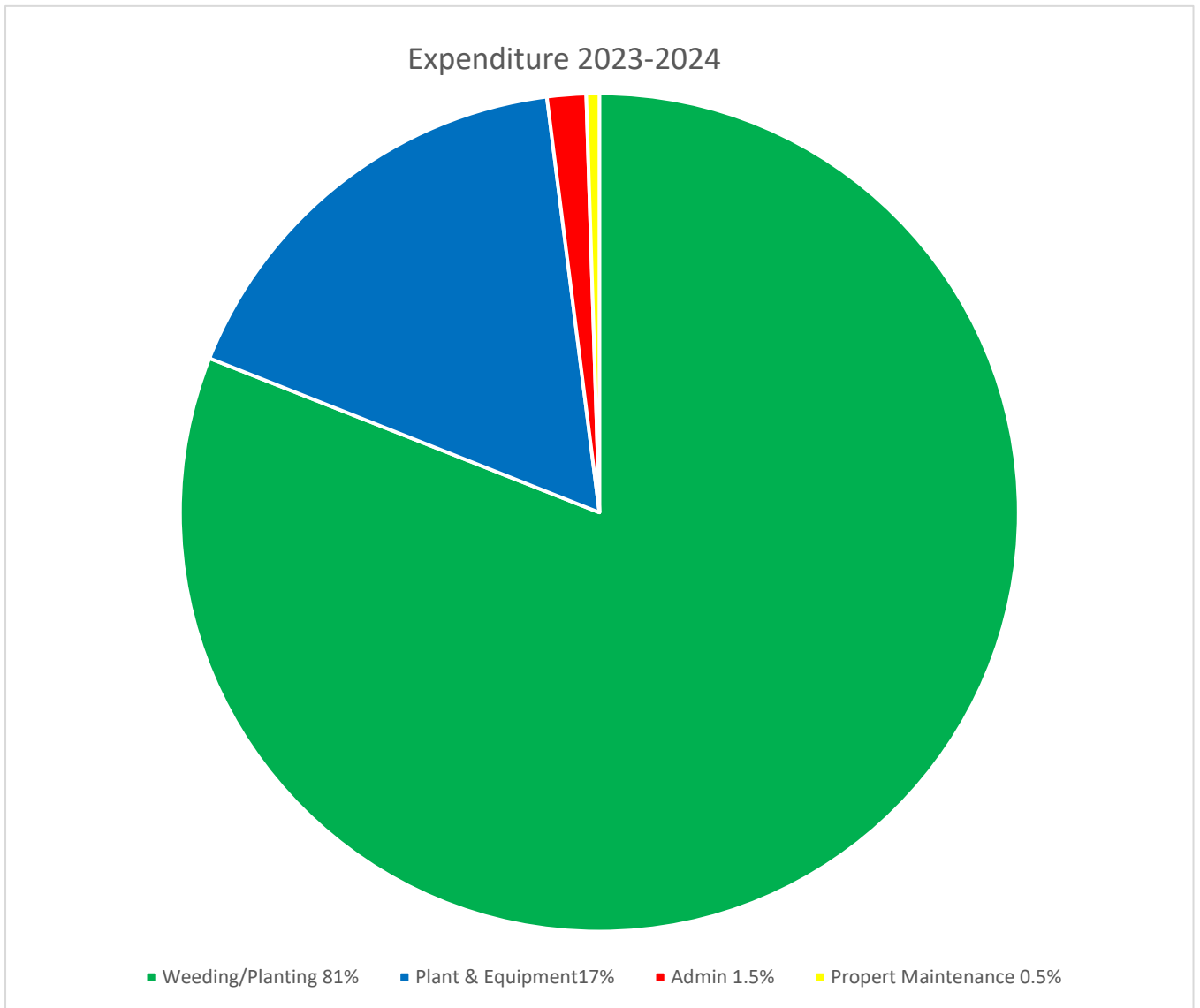
Payment to suppliers (incl. ERF, BCT, SOS grants)	\$106,376
Purchase of operating equipment	\$15,724
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$122,100</b>

### Cash held

Cash at bank at beginning of year	\$142,398
Net funds inflow for the year	\$65,043
<b>Cash at bank at end of year</b>	<b>\$207,441</b>



## Where CLC Invested in 2023-2024





## Volunteer Profile

### Brian Kirkman



I was fortunate to grow up with a father who instilled in me a quiet but profound respect for native animals. As a child, I remember finding a blue-tongue lizard in our backyard. I was eager to keep it as a pet and placed it in a timber box we had around the house. My dad, however, gently explained that it wasn't right to keep the lizard confined—it deserved to live freely in the garden, where it belonged. I was upset but ultimately agreed with his wisdom.

Surprisingly, that lizard rarely left a favourite section of the garden. Over time, it became accustomed to me picking it up. For five or six years, whenever I spotted it, I would carefully carry it around. It stayed in the vegetable patch for many years, even remaining there when my family eventually sold the house. That experience taught me an invaluable early lesson: coexistence with nature is always the best approach.

I joined CLC shortly after my wife, Nikki Kirkman, became a member in 2020. It gave me an opportunity to contribute my corporate skills to securing funding and applying my professional expertise to support the native wildlife at Wallaroo. I'm particularly grateful to the patient CLC members who have helped me distinguish between weeds and native plants—an area where I'm still very much a learner. Clearly, my strengths lie more with fauna than flora!

With an operational management background and years of experience working for a multinational, I have a strong interest in streamlining processes and finding effective solutions. CLC has been a perfect fit, providing a supportive environment where I can apply these skills to the preservation of Sydney's rapidly diminishing open spaces, particularly in the western suburbs.