

# Annual Review 2024



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**QWaLC**  
QUEENSLAND WATER & LAND CARERS



Front page photos by WaCC members:

Ed Parker: Koala release in Pooh Corner Bushland Reserve

Edith Wiskar: Platypus foraging in Ric Nattrass Creek, Darra

Photo of Swamp Wallaby from Brisbane City Council fauna camera in Wacol Bushland

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# President's Report

The past twelve months has been very exciting with a variety of activities and events. We focused on learning more about our native fauna and revegetating our local bushland. Our Pooh Corner Environment Centre (PCEC) and conservation projects have been proudly supported by Brisbane City Council and Jamboree Ward Councillor Sarah Hutton.

WaCC is always committed to promoting bushland conservation, providing educational programs and engaging the community by hosting events. We collaborate with all levels of government and community organisations to provide successful community events and outcomes. Key events in the past twelve months included: World Environment Day, Operation Platypus Community Planting, National Tree Day, the Peaks to Points Festival and educational walks to learn more about Koalas, Platypuses and Microbats.

Citizen Science projects have been a great opportunity allowing volunteers to collect data about the reintroduced Koalas in Pooh Corner Bushland Reserve, nest boxes installed in Newcomb Park and fauna cameras installed in Wacol Bushland. Our volunteers continue to assist Queensland University and Brisbane City Council with monitoring, tracking and collecting data about the relocated koalas. A successful grant from the Lord Mayor's Better Suburbs grant, 'City Critters' will enable us to extend these programs, and the research results will inform further research and guide future local bushland management decisions.

Managing our activities requires strong and ongoing reliable support, fortunately this is available from our active management committee, members, volunteers, Brisbane City Council (BCC), the BCC Creek Catchment Program and Queensland Water and Landcare (QWALC). We thank you all. Each of you has been essential to the ongoing success of our group. Our recently elected committee members are President: Lenore Bracey, Vice President: Brett Malcolm, Secretary: Wendy Santana, Treasurer: Lewis Luong, Committee Members: Ed Parker (facilities coordinator), and Lucy Hurrey.

We are grateful for the support and aid of the all the volunteers who make up the WaCC community. Our Site Supervisors, especially, who work most days of each week on bushland regeneration are amazing volunteers, they are Colin, Michael R., Lee-Anne, Susan and Michael C. and Lucy. Thank you all. Ed, and Michael R. have been very committed to installing and checking fauna cameras, tracking koalas and reporting the data and Edith often sits beside our creeks hoping to see and photograph a platypus. A big thank you to our Creek Catchment Officer (CCO), Wesley (Wes) DeMuth, who has been an inspiring and energetic team member, giving valuable advice, support and assistance with our current and potential projects.

Lenore

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# 1. Our Creek Catchments

**The Wolston and Centenary Creek Catchments** consist of the Wolston Creek and the Centenary Catchments across the City Council areas of Brisbane, Ipswich and Logan.

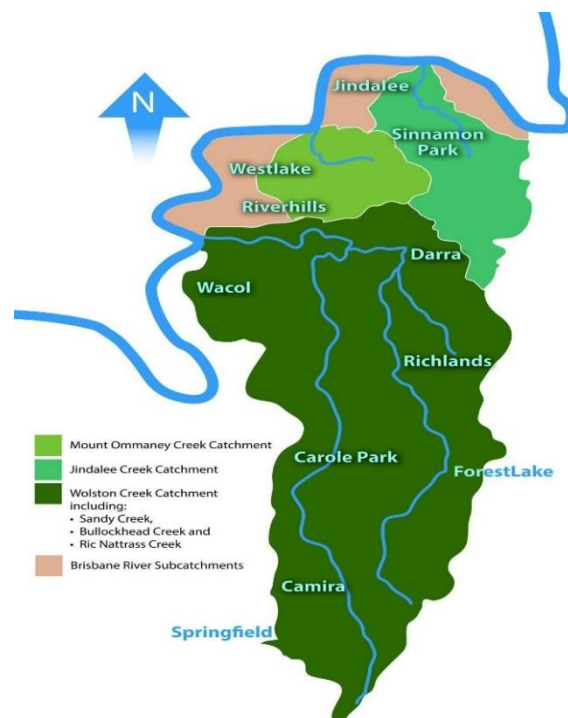
**The Wolston Creek Catchment** has three main tributaries merging into Wolston Creek: Sandy, Bullockhead and Ric Natrass Creeks. This catchment forms part of an important wildlife corridor from the Brisbane River through, Pooh Corner Bushland Reserve, Wacol Bushlands, continuing into the Greenbank Military Training Area 11 kilometres to the south.

The map below shows the area travelled by these creeks on their way to entering Wolston Creek. Sandy Creek runs through the suburbs of Camira and Carol Park on its way through Pooh Corner Bushland Reserve to Sumner Park. Bullockhead Creek runs through the suburbs of Forest Lake and Richlands, through Wacol Bushland to Sumner. Ric Natrass Creek runs from Richlands through Wacol Bushland to merge into Bullockhead Creek.

Vegetation in parts of this catchment area has been classified as Endangered Regional Ecosystems or Of Concern. These classifications mean that the plant species and the soil types are either rare or significant.

**The Centenary Creek Catchments** consist of two main creeks, Mount Ommaney and Jindalee that flow into the Brisbane River to the north of Wolston Creek. This area is highly urbanised, mainly residential but with some natural bushland reserves.

## Suburbs within Wolston and Centenary Catchments





## 2. About WaCC

### **Formation of Wolston and Centenary Catchments (WaCC) Group**

Extensive prior efforts by local environmental groups and residents succeeded in forming WaCC as a Creek Catchment Group with Brisbane City Council (BCC) in 2008.

As a one of 12 Catchment Groups in Brisbane [Creek Catchments program | Brisbane City Council](#), WaCC volunteers continue to work tirelessly to regenerate the local bushland; to protect and increase biodiversity; and promote sustainable managing of local waterways. The total contribution of all these Catchment Groups results in thousands of hours of volunteer work. In total, Brisbane's Catchment groups and translates into the contribution of millions of dollars to the city's economy.

### **WaCC Administration**

WaCC is an incorporated not for profit volunteer environment organisation, registered with the Office of Fair-Trading Qld. As such, WaCC has regular Management Committee Meetings and Annual General Meetings (AGMs) with election of office bearers. The Treasurer prepares a monthly report and Liberty Wealth Accountants prepare an annual Financial Statement. To protect our volunteers, WaCC maintains insurance cover with Queensland Workcover and Queensland Water and Landcare (public liability insurance). WaCC acknowledges the importance of the Queensland State Government funding of our public liability insurance provided by [Queensland Water & Land Carers | \(qwalc.org.au\)](#) .

Membership with WaCC is set up through the payment of a membership fee and is open to individuals, households, and corporations. Email: [info@wacc.org.au](mailto:info@wacc.org.au)

### **Social Media and Communications**

WaCC maintains a website: <https://www.wacc.org.au> and manages a Facebook page with an average of 700 followers. <https://www.facebook.com/WolstonAndCentenaryCatchments/> and publishes posts on other local community Facebook pages.

Group emails also notify members, friends and volunteers of WaCC about relevant events and environmental news. Our fellow Catchment Groups and Brisbane Catchment Network post on their newsletters and Facebook pages to give WaCC exposure across Brisbane. Cr Sarah Hutton regularly adds our activities to the Jamboree Ward Newsletter, Instagram and Facebook.

You can also contact us on [info@wacc.org.au](mailto:info@wacc.org.au)

## Pooh Corner Environment Centre (PCEC)

WaCC has been managing and running the Pooh Corner Environment Centre (PCEC) since its opening in 2015. The PCEC is proudly supported by Brisbane City Council with funding and support for maintenance, utilities and fire safety services. Also, we thank the Natural Environment Water and Services division for the effort they put in to keep the surrounding parkland looking fabulous especially just prior to major events held at the PCEC.



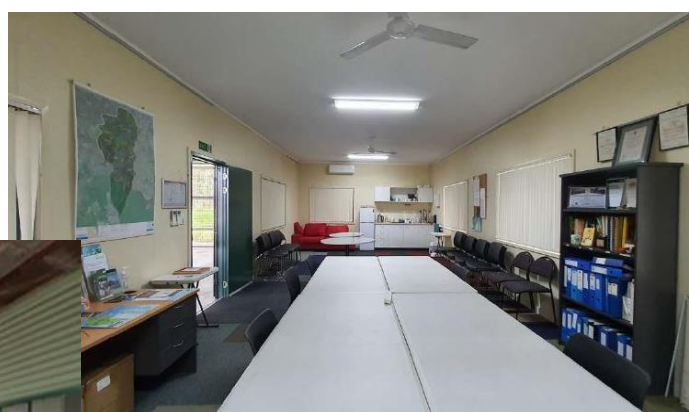
The Centre is available for hire by other environmental organisations and local community groups. For bookings contact [info@wacc.org.au](mailto:info@wacc.org.au)

The Centre has a spacious meeting room shown in the photo on the right and below right with facilities for providing minor catering, ideal for meetings with a projector available, and a breezeway shown in the photo below, for larger gatherings and workshops.



Annually, in conjunction with Cr Hutton we host the World Environment Day celebration at the PCEC with approximately 200 people attending. Other activities held at the Centre include native fauna presentations, koala monitoring visits, Native Bee Workshop, Guided bird and koala spotting walks. Nest box monitoring and data collection workshops, and guest speakers.

The PCEC is located at 100 Wolston Rd Wacol, next to the Pooh Corner Bushland Reserve public picnic area with public toilet facilities.



Our PCEC Co-ordinator, Ed Parker, ensures the facility is checked and read for use.

## 3. Our Local Fauna

### 3.1 Nest Box Installation, Newcomb Pk, Riverhills

The Installation was funded by the Suburban Enhancement Fund, and we thank Cr Sarah Hutton, Jamboree Ward BCC and our Creek Catchment Officer (CCO) Wes DeMuth for their support. The nest boxes were installed on 13th Feb 2024.



Thanks to Wes and Dom of Hollow Log Homes, who design and build nest boxes for Australian native wildlife.

Installation of artificial nest sites can help many native animals to survive or return to a disturbed environment, especially like this site where

the present trees are too young to provide enough



suitable nest holes. Not all bush areas, or trees are suitable for installing nest boxes, but this site and

twelve of the trees were particularly suitable. The nest boxes will provide nest sites, refuge and breeding space in the years until the present trees are mature. The nest boxes may attract some native bird species back to the area now that there are more available nest sites. The nest boxes are designed to target species and to keep the Indian Myna's out.



### 3.2 Nest Box Monitoring

The nest boxes need to be inspected annually to check that no pest species have taken up residence and to ensure the boxes are in good condition. WaCC successfully gained funding from the Lord Mayor's Better Suburbs Grant Application 'City Critters' in July this year. This funding will cover the monitoring of the twelve nest boxes installed in February this year in Riverhills.

In October this year, Dr Tamielle Brunt from Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland inspected the twelve nest boxes as part of the City Critters Project and provided a citizen science workshop following the nest box inspections. Dr Tam provided a report about the data collection and interpretation of results. We found a Rainbow Lorikeet sitting on an egg, a possum and evidence showing that others had been visiting a couple of the nest boxes.





Dr Tam, photo on the left, had the camera on an extendable pole focussed on the inside of each of the twelve nest boxes while the adults and young children took turns working together while learning how to use the hand-held LCD wireless monitor which showed what was in or evidence of what had previously visited each nest box. They would then announce what they viewed and report it to the data monitoring person who wrote it on the list along with the position of each nest box.

I loved seeing everyone, and having a quick turn with the monitor myself, so intently watch the monitor. Everyone quickly picked up the process, maybe we inspired some future ecologists at this event. The photos below show Rosie and Noah diligently checking their observations on the monitor. This is the sort of monitor we like children and adults watching.



The group then went to the Pooh Corner Environment Centre where Dr Tam talked about a range of native animals and detailed the benefits of installing nest boxes.

### 3.3 Koala Relocation Project - Pooh Corner Bushland Reserve

The Koala Research Program is a collaborative initiative between the Brisbane City Council, and various research institutes including the University of Queensland. The Project aim is to re-establish the healthy population of koalas in the Pooh Corner Bushland Reserve. It is run by Dr Sean FitzGibbon, Dr Bill Ellis and the team from the Koala Ecology Group and has resulted in the successful release of carefully selected koalas.

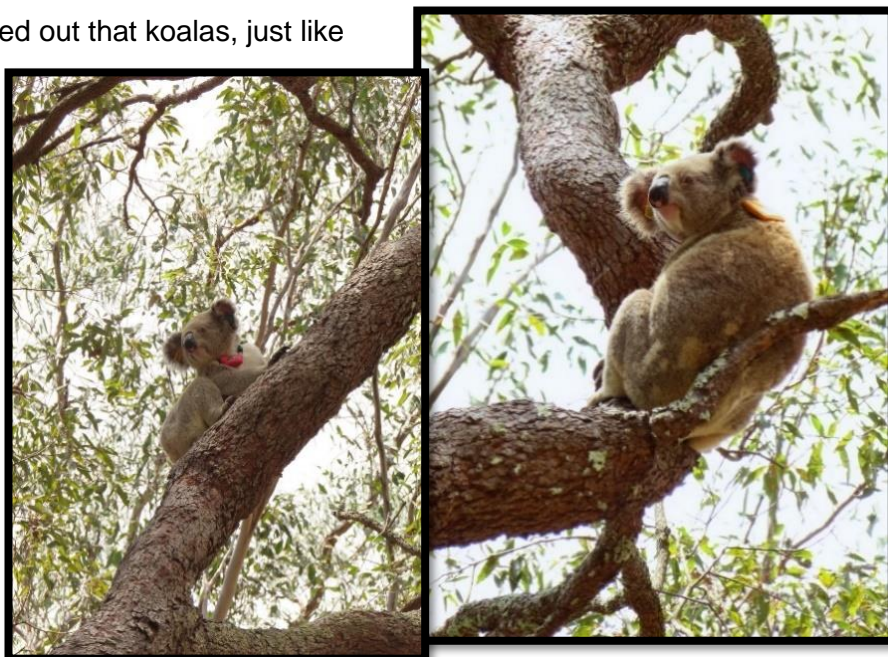
The first koala was released on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022 and a total of 16 koalas now reside across Pooh Corner Bushland Reserve and nearby Wacol Bushland Reserve. There are now eight females, three males and three joeys living.

Our resolute WaCC members, Ed and Michael are giving their time to be involved in the citizen science support for the Project and have been trained to track the koalas and upload data to provide ongoing research. They are also collating observation data for GPS satmap images of the koalas' movements and noting their preferred host trees. Koala images are available along with other information about other species this Bushland on [Two more koalas to call Brisbane home](#) and inaturalist <https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/projects/pooh-corner-bushland-reserve>

The present population has settled in well and the evidence is there to see in the three new joeys, thriving. There is further carrying capacity in the Reserve to allow the release of more koalas and if anyone wishes to participate in the citizen science reporting or be notified when we have a koala walk, they can contact our secretary at [info@wacc.org.au](mailto:info@wacc.org.au)

Dr Sean FitzGibbon has pointed out that koalas, just like humans, have very specific food preferences. He has observed that the blue gum (*E. tereticornis*) is preferred by Matilda and the gum - topped box (*E. moluccana*) is preferred by Chandler.

Photos of Lady Jane taken in November 2023 by Ed Parker. She was released in 2022 and by mid-2023 had produced a joey which was named Glenda.



### 3.4 Platypus Monitoring Survey

The platypus is an iconic semi-aquatic mammal endemic to Eastern Australia. Platypuses inhabit a range of waterway types, land uses, and environmental conditions, but their general habitat requirements include permanent water, abundant macroinvertebrates, and stable earthen banks for burrows.

The Wolston Creek Catchment is not an easy catchment for the platypuses to live in. Their territory does run through some natural good quality bushland but also some industrial and residential areas where the surface drainage runs into the creeks. We collaborate with [Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland | Your voice for your wildlife](#) through Dr Tamielle Brunt. Our resolute volunteers have collaborated with residents for more than a decade, to increase knowledge about how to improve platypus habitat in this Creek Catchment area. Each sighting and photograph from residents like Edith who loves to sit at potential sites along the creek to catch a glimpse of a platypus, brings such excitement and joy to the residents and to our volunteers when she announces a sighting and sends us photos.

If there has been a long gap between sightings, there is widespread concern amongst locals and WaCC that something is amiss in the Creek Catchment. Fortunately, we now have environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling science to tell us what is happening. Water samples from the creeks are sent for analysis for any platypus DNA. These samples can tell us that platypus do inhabit our creeks but cannot tell us the gender, age, or how many there are, or exactly when they visited the area. This is why observations from nearby residents is essential to compliment the eDNA sampling.

### 4.5 Frogs in our Environment

I took the photo below on the right is from Brett's Facebook page *Brett Finds Frogs*: [\(20+\) Facebook](#)



Where and when possible, Brett obtains a permit to allow him to bring along a frog or a cane toad. Brett likes to educate people so they can like frogs and learn to distinguish brown frogs from cane toads. There are brown coloured frogs that may look like a toad, so it is important to know the difference. Apparently, it is all in the eyes.



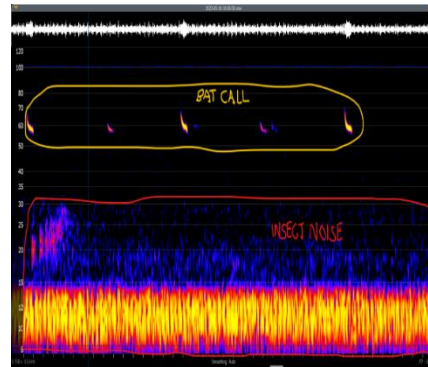


### 3.5 Bat Discovery Walk

In April this year WaCC co-hosted a night walk, through Pooh Corner Bushland Reserve to search for Microbats, in conjunction with Brisbane Catchment Network and Cubberla-Witton Catchments Network. Anabat Walkabout detectors were used to record the bat calls, but they also pick up other sounds from swarms of insects. The noise from insects makes it more difficult to pick out the sounds of specific bat species but some species were identified.

Below is a list of species that can be found in the Pooh Corner Bushland Reserve:

- *Chalinolobus gouldii* – Gould's wattled bat
- *Miniopterus australis* – little bent-winged bat.
- *Miniopterus orianae oceanensis*
- – eastern bent-winged bat
- *Saccolaimus flaviventris*
- – yellow-bellied sheath-tailed bat.



The Anabat Walkabout Detectors are a method of recording bat sounds and is extremely useful to ecological science. In the days following the night walk the bat sounds detected are provided in the form of a screenshot of spectrograms as shown above right, which are generated from a selection of the recordings taken on the night walk. The sounds from the bats are then shown and circled in one of the spectrograms as above.

I took these photos below showing everyone assembled in the picnic area being briefed by Jutta from the Cubberla-Witton Catchments Network in preparation for the walk.





## 4. Key Events

### 4.2 World Environment Day

World Environment Day was celebrated on Sunday 2nd June, at our Pooh Corner



Environment Centre and surrounds. Brisbane City Council's Jamboree Ward Cr Sarah Hutton - Councillor for Jamboree Ward funded the event in conjunction with WaCC and Centenary and District Environment Action (CDEA) CDEA Home - Centenary and District Environment Action. Photo

taken by Vaughan Kippers on the left shows the event nestled under the gum trees of Pooh Corner Bushland Reserve and in front of the Pooh Corner Environment Centre. Cr Hutton officially opening the event – photo by Theresa. Later I photographed Cr Hutton when she couldn't resist a close encounter with the wombat that Martin brought along from Geckoes.



The Councillor's successful with solutions for use watching and koala spotting, and various children's activities, and a wildlife presentation by Geckoes Wildlife were all enjoyed by those who attended. So many children and adults loved the Wombat.

support and resources made the day hugely around ten stalls showing various sustainable in everyday life. Guided walks for bird



I took the photos below as I walked around watching all the happy face. The Jamboree Ward photographic competition was very popular with residents, including children and when the Geckoes Wildlife Show began, they all moved into the PCEC Breezeway. Our BCC Creek Catchment Officer Wes enjoyed educating everyone with his 'What Scat is That' activity enabling people to assess their skills in matching the scat to its fauna producer. Linda, Martin and staff from the Jamboree Ward were eager to show everyone the native plants that were available for free to those who wanted them. Two kids enjoyed patting the Wombat while Martin held it and the hard-working volunteers from [Kiwanis Brisbane](#) on the BBQ provided free sausage sizzle.







Dr Tam from Wildlife Preservation Society Qld had everyone fascinated when she talked about our local Platypuses – this and the other photos on this page taken by Theresa.



As President I gave a summary of WaCC projects and activities, note that I am wearing my WaCC shirt completed with logo. The project that enabled the purchase of work shirts for our regular Bushcare volunteers was proudly supported by Brisbane City Council funding.

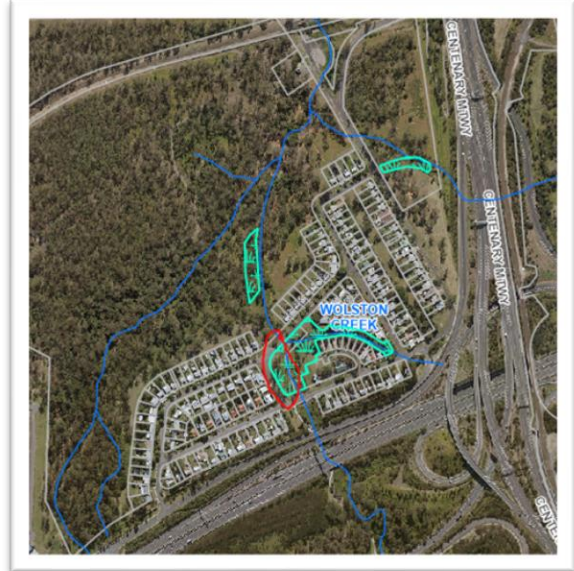
The photo below shows the group ready for the early morning Bird Walk through Pooh Corner Bushland Reserve. which was organised by CDEA.



## 4.3 Operation Platypus

WaCC and BCC have focussed on projects that aim to close the gaps in vegetation along the riparian areas of the Wolston, Bullockhead and Ric Natrass Creeks where Platypus were spotted in recent years.

WaCC partnered with BCC's Creek Catchment Program, Community Conservation Partnerships (CCP) and the Natural Environment and Waterways (NEWS) team. NEWS provided major funding for this riparian rehabilitation project. We organised a very successful community planting event where 200 volunteers from the local community attended and planted 1400 plant species of native plants on the upper banks. BCC supplied 3000 plants, and erosion control matting in this part of Ric Natrass Creek. This planting will be watered and have weeds removed for six months; this should ensure a 90% survival rate.



With platypus numbers declining in Brisbane Waterways, it is crucial that we rehabilitate their habitat by increasing the density of vegetation along our creek lines; keep the waterways clean by preventing erosion and sediment moving into the creeks; and providing protection for platypuses while they forage.

The Google map on the above right shows the location(circled in red) in Centenary Village, nestled between the Centenary Highway and the Ipswich Motorway, Darra.

Edith took some great photos below, firstly of the WaCC team plus a visiting platypus (thanks to BCC's Amanda) and our Creek Catchment Officer, Wes, second from the left.





The photos below show how everyone got into the planting while two some local cuties were introduced to a koala and an Echidna by D'Aguilar [Up Close and Personalised Wildlife Experiences](#)! Months later the plants are all doing well and have successfully survived some of the normal bouts of local flooding.





## 4.4 Peaks to Points Festival

The Peaks to Points Festival (P2P) [www.peakstopoints.com.au](http://www.peakstopoints.com.au) is held every two years to celebrate the local government and their communities' efforts in protecting and caring for our environment by showcasing the achievements of the creek catchment groups along the southern side of the Brisbane River. Each community catchment group plays a vital role in ensuring the protection and health of our catchments and natural areas.

WaCC participated in the festival by hosting community events. We held a Native Bee Workshop at the Pooh Corner Environment Centre in July. Ian Driver from A Green Soul Native Bees <https://www.agreensoul.com.au/> presented an information session on both stingless and solitary native bees. Following the session participants built their own native bee nests. In Spine St Park we held a planting day as part of this festival.



WaCC also had a stall at the Peaks to Points Family Community Day held on Oxley Common.





## 4.5 National Tree Day

Planet Ark **National Tree Day** is an annual event in Australia, organized by Planet Ark in partnership with Toyota Australia and its Dealer Network. The aim of National Tree Day is to encourage people to engage with native wildlife and learn more about their surrounding environment by planting native trees and shrubs with their community.

Our Planet Ark National Tree Day event this year was held in Spine St Park, Sumner. This planting extends the area planted out by the BCC Public Works Order that funded the first part.

WaCC received \$1050.00 funding from the Planet Ark Tree Day seedling bank that paid for the purchase of 517 plants from wallum Nurseries. The native plants chosen were a range of native species which will be different sizes when they are full grown.



They will form a layer of low bushes, mid-size trees and very large Eucalypts which are suitable for koalas.

There are ongoing debates about the safety of bringing pets to planting events, but it can be managed correctly. The below



photo of Yoori and her pooch, Louie, shows a very safe example. Yoori, who is a nearby resident in the village, took her little pooch to the planting secured in a backpack and could take her for a walk and a break away from the others when needed.

Jess Pugh MP in the photos below attended, with her little one. This year WaCC funded Angie's Barista Koffee Van which was a welcome site and made the best coffees and other drinks to keep us going. Leigh took all these wonderful photos that show how we all enjoyed the event. Maria brought her whole family including their teenage daughters and grandmother. Grandma put assembled tree covers faster than anyone I had ever seen. All we had to do was provide her with a chair and then we had trouble keeping up with her. We had representation from a range of age groups and those who brought the whole family.









## 4.6 Corporate Day – Quorum Software

In March 2024 our Creek Catchment Officer Wes, with assistance from Michael and I, organized a Corporate Planting Day in Wacol Bushland., photos below. The group planted 150 plants and cleared many weeds. We estimated that the volume of work the Quorum volunteers completed in three hours was the equivalent of Michael working over three days on his own. This sort of effort is very inspiring to our volunteer bush carers at WaCC.





## 5. Regular Bushcare Sites

WaCC follows the principles of bush regeneration, considering the existing ecosystem strengths and where possible assisting natural regeneration. For more information on the principles of ecological restoration and rehabilitation, repairing degraded bushland and riparian areas, and choosing the right method for your site, visit the Australian Association of Bush Regenerators website at ([www.aabr.org.au/learn/what-i-bush-regeneration/general-principles/](http://www.aabr.org.au/learn/what-i-bush-regeneration/general-principles/)).

Maintaining several Bushcare sites is attributed to our team of enthusiastic and knowledgeable volunteers who persistently check plant survival rates while removing weeds. The combination of this strength and our partnership with the [Creek Catchments program | Brisbane City Council](#) combined with BCC's willingness to improve Platypus Habitat, through its Platypus Strategic Plan resulted in the revegetation project called 'Operation Platypus' (see 4.1) In June this year and support for other nearby projects.

### 5.1 Wolston Creek Bushland Reserve (WCBR)

WCBR is the largest of WaCCs management sites, covering about 47ha next to Sumners Road, Riverhills. Historically this Reserve was saved from other developments by residents lobbying government and it became a Bushland Reserve in 2003, and Warner Dakin began the first Bushcare. The site is currently co-managed by WaCC and BCC's Habitat



Brisbane. This Reserve is a unique treasure worthy of preservation for future generations. It is a very pleasant Reserve to stroll through, as the photos on the right show, and currently volunteers are focussing on controlling weeds.

This bushland is home to a range of native flora and fauna species. It has 7 flora species that are rare to Brisbane vegetation.

Additionally, there are many bird species, kangaroos, wallabies and echidnas. The Reserve has grassed walking tracks from end to end. The Wolston Creek Bushcare Group works on removing weeds to allow space for native plants to emerge (natural regeneration). No planting is conducted in this site. Informal working bees are held from 7.30am to 10am every fourth Sunday of each month, weather permitting. Lee-Anne is the current very dedicated Team Leader. To find a Bushcare Group near you, phone BCC on 3403 8888

## 5.2 Wolston Road Park, Sumner

This Park is rather wild and beautiful in sections, as the photos I took and shown below show. I took these photos below when Wes, our Creek Catchment Officer and I inspected the area earlier this year, to plan potential projects. I love walking through this site. It is an



example of how a natural area can survive with our care despite being near an industrial site. Rubbish dumping occurs on occasion and the stormwater runoff from the industrial area requires regular monitoring for unwanted substances sometimes that can occur due to industry failures.

150 canopy trees, 200 shrubs and 400 ground layer native species were planted in Wolston Rd Park and are thriving. This was possible with the grant funding received from BCC Lord Mayor's environment grant in 2022.



Flooding occurs regularly but the site vegetation species that are conditions.

This site requires a frequent maintenance schedule as the photos below show. The photo on the left shows the site following recent work and then in the photo on the right how it can quickly be covered in weeds in a month or two especially during summer.



The local kangaroos love to nibble on the new leaf tips and rest in the shade. This means the tree covers must be regularly checked and adjusted as the plant grows. As soon as new shoots grow over the top of the tree guards the kangaroos will feed on them, so we must raise the tree covers regularly.



## 5.3 Spine Street Park, Sumner

This site is bound by the Centenary Highway, the Ipswich Rail line, Wolston Road and Spine Street. Bullockhead Creek forms a semicircle through the middle and therefore the area is prone to flash flooding and has recovered well from floods over the past few years.

Although surrounded by industrial development, the area contains high environmental values and is an amazingly quiet tranquil spot to do some Bushcare or to walk through. While sitting near the creek to have a cuppa after Bushcare you can only hear the bush sounds of birds and the wind blowing through the canopy and you will see the occasional bush turkey wandering past.



Since 2018 this site has been maintained by extensive weeding and planting projects with work funded by the BCC Community Conservation Assistance Program, Lord Mayor's environment grants program and recently bush regeneration projects funded from Public Works Orders and supported by the Creek Catchment Program.

There are three dedicated volunteer bush carers who work regularly on this site. They have managed to rescue small native plants that have grown naturally, and place tree covers around them. This will help them to grow more quickly and stop the kangaroos nibbling on the new shoots.

The photos below show our bush carers discovering young plants in amongst the weeds and while onsite taking a break to contemplate their great work.





As mentioned in 4.4 of this Review we held our Planet Ark National Tree Day event at this site. Recently, Spine St Park had weeding and planting conducted through funding from a Public Works Order. This enabled a continuation of maintenance from last year's work by students from the Students Catchment Immersion Program (SCIP) which is a Queensland University of Technology volunteer program partnered with Brisbane City Council.

Unfortunately, as shown in the photos below, rubbish is often found in this creek and on the banks amongst the weeds. As you can see in the photos below there is quite a number and a variety of items. WaCC doesn't expect its volunteers to be taking rubbish away, but some volunteers are eager to get it out of the area because it is such an eyesore and harmful to the animals and birds. It also becomes a hazard to people who walk through the area and to our bush carers.

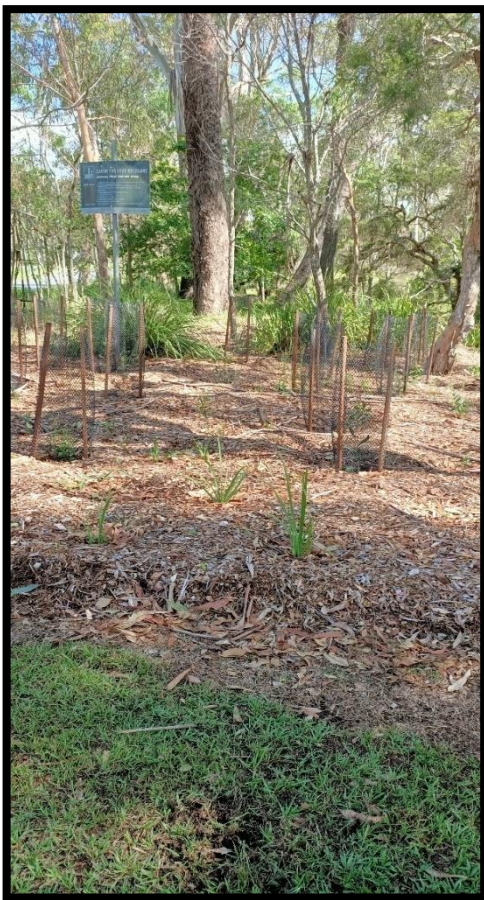




## 5.4 Sanananda St Park Centenary Village Darra

The aim at this site is to re-establish, regenerate, and expand the riparian corridors of Bullockhead Creek by controlling weeds, stabilizing the site with native vegetation, and encouraging natural regeneration of the area. Michael has looked after one section of this Park for many years and now Lucy and local bush carers from the Village including Yoori and Ethan look after a nearby section a few hundred metres away. This new section has shown its ability to regenerate itself. There are new native plants popping up everywhere amongst the recently planted native species. Lucy's is using the solarisation technique with special mats to successfully remove weeds around the plantings.

Michael and I successfully applied for a grant through the Lord Mayors Environment Sustainability Grants. This work will take place in early 2025 to revegetate a 280m<sup>2</sup> section of the park with 600 plants.



This spacious Park (below photo) and picnic area is a great place for kids to play. The photos above show WaCCs original planting area in the park.





## 5.5 Wacol Bushlands – Wau Road Centenary Village, Darra

While some previous work was carried out by WaCC volunteers, including revegetating a frog pond in 2012, we have been working actively to revegetate the banks of Ric Nattrass Creek in this site since 2014 with regular Bushcare, especially by Michael who will work on the site each week.

The past planting of native species is doing well, despite local flooding events and the main activity now is continuous weeding and infill planting to improve the density of vegetation. This site has the potential to encourage more ground dwelling birds that usually go unseen. Increasing the planting density with low growing shrubs and native grasses will encourage small birds and protect them from predators.

Further information on the many species that Michael has observed residing in this bushland can be found on the below link:

<https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/people/michaelrouse>



We have borrowed and installed BCC fauna cameras in this Bushland. The photos below show some sightings caught by the cameras and show two Swamp Wallabies having a bit of a spar and an echidna enjoying foraging



amongst the ground litter. This experiment is a forerunner to a project that will begin in 2025.

Two of our volunteers are experimenting with the best areas to place the cameras. Kangaroos and Wallabies in this Bushland follow their favourite tracks through the bush. The cameras need to be placed strategically along these tracks to ensure the number and quality photos taken.



## **5.6 Owen Stanley Place Park, Ramu St. Darra**

Owen Stanley Place Park stretches from Ramu St, across Ric Natrass Creek to Owen Stanley Place.

Our Operation Platypus Community planting event was held on the Owen Stanley Place side of Ric Natrass Creek, and I talked about this successful day in 4.3 of this Review.

On the Ramu St side of Ric Natrass Creek there is a strip of the park along the Creek that was originally a part of the construction work storage site during the upgrade of the Centenary Highway and Ipswich Motorway intersection. The site has been revegetated and the soil regenerated over the many years following. The density of the vegetation was partially restored following the completion of the work and then WaCC volunteers took over the site and have continuously planted native species and removed weeds from the site. We held a variety of community planting events with locals, university students and regular Bushcare is conducted by Michael.

Presently the site is showing its resilience by surviving regular local floods and thriving saplings, half of which are now more than two metres tall. The aim is to fill in the gaps of the tall trees along the Creek banks. A continuous vegetation line and varying levels of vegetation improve the water quality by keeping it cooler and provides a better habitat for local platypus, birds, fish, and lizards.

## 5.7 Newcomb Park, Sumners Road, Riverhills

This Park is a very degraded site due to earlier usage both during the construction and growth of the suburb. This has resulted in significant habitat disturbance with less mature trees and few hollows suitable for nesting. Residents lobbied for a Bushcare group to look after this strip of land next to Newcomb Park in 2021 and WaCC agreed to gain Council approval and take on the site. Colin and nearby residents over time have been conducting regular Working Bees. Colin in photo on the right, works onsite most days of the week.

WaCC has sourced plants from nursery run by Save Our Waterways Now (SOWN) and through our BCC Creek Catchment Programme. Wes our Catchment Officer has provided great support with tools, plants, and advice on weed management. There was a dense plantation of *Leucaena* onsite but about two thirds of the plants have been removed.

The plantings supplied via a BCC Public Works Order are growing fast and can be seen in the middle section of the photo below left just behind the new March 2024 planting section with tree guards in the foreground.

Photos below and right show the March planting.

