

# Capricorn Coast Landcare Group



Beach clean up on Woppa (Gt Keppel Island)



I became president of Capricorn Coast Landcare in November 2017, after the passing of the much loved former president Alby 'Mr Landcare' Wooler. Together with a group of fellow farmers, Alby formed the group in 1987, and was president for 21 years until June 2017. His proudest achievement was the formation of the Junior Landcare movement in the 1990's. I share his belief that it is important to teach the children to love and protect our environment, because they are the ones who will inherit it.

In my mid-forties, I took a Bush Regeneration course at Richmond TAFE in the Hawkesbury. I worked with the National Trust before operating my own company, Bushland Management Services in the Hawkesbury, Blue Mountains & Sydney regions for 12 years. After taking early retirement and moving to Yeppoon in Central Queensland I began working with a few environmental groups, including Landcare, before being asked to fill the role of president.

We have an active Facebook presence to keep people informed of our activities, and our regular work areas now number 6, with occasional visits to the Keppel Islands to carry out weeding, planting or clean-up projects. We now have a pool of about 20 volunteers, with a regular attendance of 10 to 14 for each of our twice weekly working bees. We introduced morning tea and coffee for our volunteers, which often extends to an hour long session, and has become almost a social club. Volunteers bring home-made cakes, fruit and other items to share. Two of our volunteers regularly bring in home grown organic vegetables and fruit to give away.

We post regular progress reports for all our sites on our Facebook page; as well as informative articles on numerous environmental projects and activities outside of Landcare. I also post regular bird counts and photos from our sites. The reports add interest to our posts, and the data tracks the increasing health of our bushland communities, and shows the importance of creating wildlife corridors through our suburban areas.

Capricorn Coast Landcare work in conjunction with several other environmental groups including: Landcare Australia, Fitzroy Basin Association, Capricorn Conservation Council, Capricornia Catchments, Team Turtle, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority & Queensland Water & Land Carers, as well as working with Livingstone Shire Council on a number of projects.



Our electric van purchased with grant money.

As president of Landcare, I also sit on a number of council-run committees, as does our coordinator. These include an Environment and Regulatory Task Force; a Turtles, Dunes and Beach Behaviour panel; and a Recovery & Resilience Taskforce. I am also a member of the council-run Community Voice Panel for Environment, Waste & Water.

As well as the revegetation & regeneration of bushland sites, our Landcare group undertakes numerous other environmental projects every year, including rubbish clean ups and data collection, recycling, promotion of electric vehicles, junior landcare, workshops and participation in various community events.

People sometimes approach me and say things such as "I'd love to come along and help, but I can't bend over" or "I would love to help but I really can't do any heavy lifting." My answer is simple, "If you can hold a hose, do some watering, or grab a pair of tongs and pick up rubbish, then do that. Failing that, just come along and see what we do, have a cuppa and a chat."

It is my belief that we are not only here to look out for the environment, but also to look out for the community.



Weeding trip to Konomi (Nth Keppel) Environmental Education Centre



A volunteer team at one of our Farnborough Beach sites



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