

# Wolston and Centenary Catchments Inc.

## 2016 Annual Report



***“Our Catchments, Our Community, Our Commitment”***



Wolston and Centenary Catchments Inc.

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### **Cover image**

Superb Fairy-wren in a planted eucalypt – Wild About Your Creeks Project,  
Site 5-VMU1, 2015.

Photo by R. Jaensch

## President's Address

Welcome to country:

I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of this land, their elders, past and present and also the young leaders of tomorrow.

I would like to thank everyone for joining us at WaCC's Annual General Meeting. Our worlds are slowly being filled with more and more distractions, so prioritising your time to give back to your community and ensure the value and beauty of our natural places is truly altruistic and you all deserve a big pat on the back.

WaCC has been an incorporated group since 2012 and we have grown each year since then. We have applied for and completed many successful grants throughout the Wolston and Centenary region including large scale bush regeneration to promote healthy connectivity from the creeks to the river, important weeding projects to encourage and support native vegetation growth, and community planting events and gatherings to strengthen the connection with community and our green spaces.

I have personally undertaken my first project this year including a community planting event at Wood Park, the success of which filled me with great joy and a sense of accomplishment and connection with the community. This led to a stronger connection with the local Scout group, who followed up with a second planting a month later, and are now keen to continue with maintenance as custodians of the land. It is through connections such as these that lead to the success of projects. I attribute the success of the Wood Park project to joint partnerships with BCC, WaCC, Scouts, and importantly JRA, specifically Wayne Williams, a man who has single handedly ensured the success of hundreds of plants planted in the Wood Park area by ensuring their maintenance in the low times.

This leads to my point that we cannot do it all alone. Within WaCC we are blessed with invaluable members that form the backbone of this group. Our Treasurer Steve Bryett tirelessly gives up his precious time to keep our finances up to date, and has done an excellent job this year in streamlining our system and making it easier for everyone. So I would like to offer a big thank you to Steve. Our Secretary Lenore Bracey keeps us all in line and up to date with what needs to be done and I don't know what we would do without her. Without her we would surely crumble into an unorganised mess, we can't thank you enough. Ed Parker, again tirelessly overcommitting himself for the good of the community! This year he has played a pivotal role in the

maintenance and improvement of Pooh Corner Environment Centre (PCEC). A big thank you for all the hard work from volunteers from Centenary and District Environmental Action (CDEA), (Friends of Pooh Corner) FoPC, and WaCC for making PCEC the comfortable space it is today

One of the largest grants we have ever received will be completed this year, approximately \$76,000 for Everyone's Environment Grant Wild About Your Creeks, a 15 month project. The project aims were to improve creek zone connectivity for ground dwelling water birds adjacent to Wacol Bushland Reserve in Centenary Village, Darra. Thanks to the tireless efforts of project manager Courtney Loudon, the project has been a great success, hosting some great community events. The project included important water bird biodiversity surveys, community planting and education days, and an end of year gathering community engagement to celebrate our fantastic volunteers.

The area between Wacol Station Road and Spine Street has received more attention this year in association with BCC through CCA grants and will continue to be maintained and improved. This area represents an important corridor of green space, allowing animals to move through a connected landscape from the creeks to the river and surrounding bushland. Next year we will continue with our work to improve the green spaces of Wolston and Centenary Catchment. We also envision increasing the number of activities held at PCEC and to increase our social media presence.

It takes a tribe to run a community group. We have been fortunate to have the assistance of many volunteers throughout the community, and we would like to thank you all for making our planting and weeding days a great success this year. As I mentioned earlier, the success of this group does not come down to one individual, but every single person has an important role to play. From project managers who are on the ground – to financial members, whose support is more important than you can know! So I encourage you, and anyone you know to join us, in any way you can to help us achieve our goals of protecting and enhancing the natural values of the Wolston and Centenary Catchment. I can only hope that more people will support bush care and catchment groups like WaCC now and into the future.

With a new and improved environment centre to call home, the future for our Catchment looks bright.

*Katrin Lowe - President*

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# 1. Our Catchments

**The Wolston and Centenary catchments** consists of Wolston Creek and various sub-catchments in the Centenary suburbs, which feed directly into the Brisbane River. Together, these catchments are 66 square kilometres in size and are located within Brisbane, Ipswich and Logan City Council local government areas.

**The Wolston Catchment area** is 44 square kilometres. Wolston Creek forms the downstream part of the catchment, which flows, into the Brisbane River. Feeding into Wolston Creek at Sumner Park are its two tributaries, Bullockhead Creek and Sandy Creek, which have their respective sources in the Greenbank Military Training Area 11 kilometres to the south. Much of the vegetation found in this area has been classified as Endangered Regional Ecosystems. This classification means that the plant species and the soil type in the bushland reserves are rare and significant.

**The Centenary Catchments** have a combined area of 22 square kilometres and consists of two main creeks, Mount Ommaney Creek and Jindalee Creek. There are several other minor, unnamed creeks and sub-catchments, which flow separately into the Brisbane River. This area is highly urbanised, mainly residential but with natural bushland reserves along the Brisbane River, creeks and other locations.

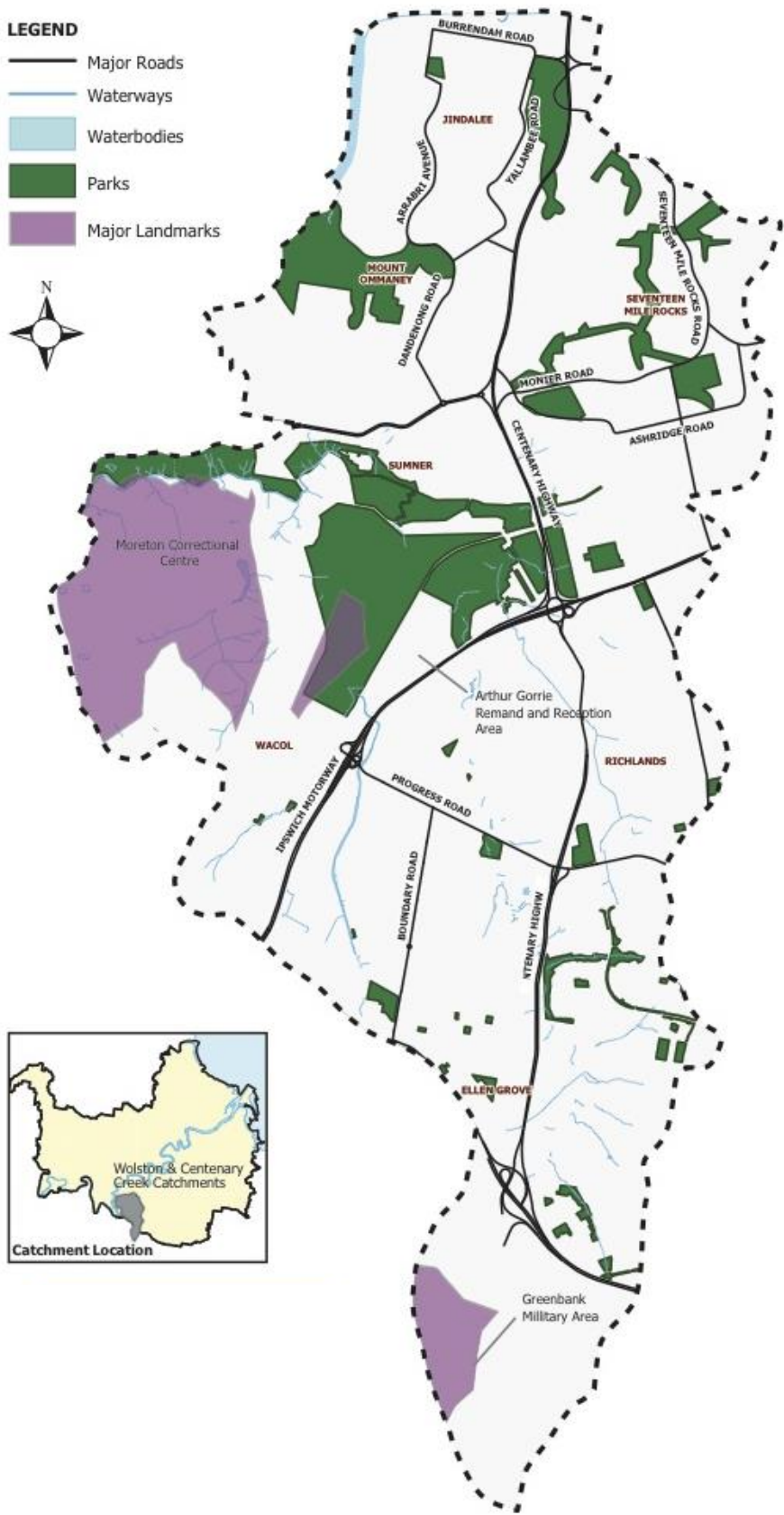
The catchments include all or part of the following suburbs:

Jindalee, Mount Ommaney, Westlake, Seventeen Mile Rocks, Jamboree Heights, Riverhills, Sinnamon Park, Middle Park, Sumner, Wacol, Ellen Grove, Richlands, Gailes, Carole Park, Darra, Camira and Springfield.

The significant natural assets in Wolston and Centenary catchments include:

Pooh Corner, Wacol Bushlands, Wolston Creek Bushland Reserve, Pullen Reach, Bushland Reserve, Rocks Riverside Park, Mount Ommaney Bushland Reserve, Edenbrooke Park, Pooh Corner and Wacol Bushland Reserve.

# Map of Wolston and Centenary Catchments

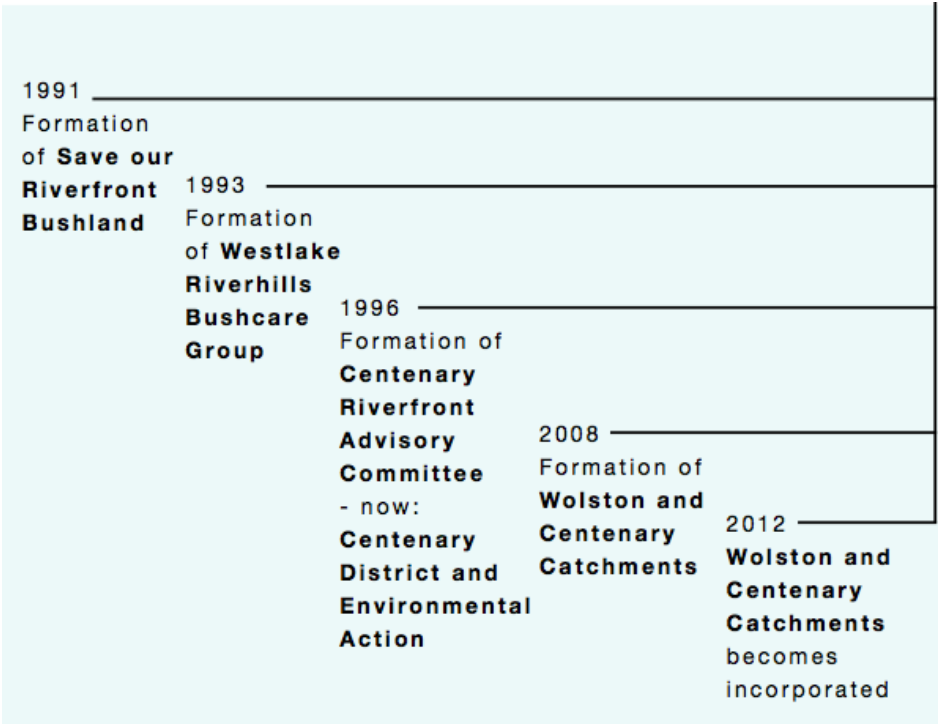


# 2. Wolston and Centenary Catchments Association

## 2.1 History

WaCC was formed in 2008 as the community-based catchment group to oversee and drive the community's involvement in protecting and enhancing the environment in the area covered by the Wolston and Centenary catchments. In 2012 the group was formally incorporated and a new management team appointed.

### Timeline of WaCC



## 2.2 Mission Statement

To protect and enhance the natural environment and resources within and around Wolston and Centenary Catchments.

## 2.3 Membership

WaCC membership is open to individuals, families, community groups, schools and corporations who subscribe to our objectives.

WaCC currently has 51 financial members.



## 2.4 Organisational Structure

The management committee consists of the following roles:

**President:** Katrin Lowe

**Vice-President:** Courtney Loudon

**Secretary:** Lenore Bracey

**Treasurer:** Steve Bryett

The Pooh Corner sub-committee consists of the following roles:

**Coordinator:** Ed Parker

**Committee Members:** Julie Vejle and Shealagh Walker

## 3. Reports

### 3.1 Year in Review

#### Community Events

WaCC has been involved in a number of events throughout the year engaging with the community and developing partnerships with local groups.

WaCC held events as part of the Peaks to Point Festival, organising a guided walk at White Rock, a bird walk through Pooh Corner and a history talk on Pooh Corner. Community planting events were held at Jindalee Recreation Reserve, Wood Park and sites adjacent to Wacol Bushland Reserve.

Members participated in Clean Up Australia Day in March, which was held at Pooh Corner and resulted in the removal of a large amount of rubbish from a key site within Wolston Catchment.



Clean Up Australia Day 2016



Peaks to Points 2016 – White Rocks guided bushwalk

## Guest Speakers

WaCC engaged speakers during the year to present at general meetings. The following presentations were provided:

**Matt De Glas**, Regional Coordinator Natural Environment South, Brisbane City Council

Topic: Pooh Corner – the understated gem

**Jessica Cappadonna**, PhD Student, Queensland University of Technology

Topic: How to engage citizen scientists with bioacoustics. Case study: Eastern Bristlebirds.

**Roger Jaensch**, Nature Conservation Consultant

Topic: EEG Urban Wild Spaces - Bird Survey



Guest Speaker, Jessica Cappadonna & WaCC President, Katrin Lowe

## Marketing and Communications

Improving social media and marketing has been a key focus for WaCC this year. Our utilisation of Facebook and other social media platforms has resulted in an increase in activity on the WaCC Facebook page, diversity in our approach to event marketing and access to a larger portion of the community.

A redesign of the WaCC website was a significant project undertaken this year. The website is now fully functional and provides updated information about the organisation.

[www.wacc.org.au](http://www.wacc.org.au)



## Volunteer Engagement

WaCC has engaged over 400 volunteers through community planting days, Clean Up Australia Day and Peaks to Points Festival activities. WaCC welcomes all volunteers and supports the opportunity for members to apply for grants within our catchment and undertake formal project management roles.



## 3.2 BCC Catchment Officer's Report

The Brisbane City Council Conservation Community Partnerships Program has had another wonderful year working alongside Wolston and Centenaries Catchments. This past year has seen a number of significant bush regeneration and community engagement projects started, continued or finished. It has been my pleasure, as WaCC's Creek Catchment Officer, to be able to offer advice, assistance and strategic alignment of WaCC's projects with Council's programs.

At the end of 2015, WaCC was successful in securing almost \$45K to manage priority weed infestations in three geographically important reserves through the Council Community Conservation Assistance program. The three reserves run between Pooh Corner and the Wolston Creek Bushland Reserve, and have not had active weed management for many years. I congratulate WaCC for submitting these applications as the ecological importance of managing the corridor between these larger natural areas, skirting Bullockhead Creek, into Wolston Creek cannot be overstated.

I have also had the pleasure to work with WaCC, Friends of Pooh Corner and the Centenary District Environment Association, to negotiate signs and communication nodes at the Pooh Corner Environment Centre, where WaCC has been holding their monthly meetings for almost a year now. Together, we are working to harness the potential of engaging the industrial and general community, to come together in a variety of ways, to care for and/or appreciate the natural values of Pooh Corner in particular, and the wider Wolston and Centenary creek catchments in general.

In August 2016, the Conservation Community Partnerships Program hosted a Restoration Celebration event at the Wolston Creek Bushland Reserve, and recognised the consistent and hard work of a WaCC member, Julie Vejle. Together with Carole Bristow, Julie works tirelessly in the restoration of native vegetation at the Wolston Creek bushcare site. As a founding member of WaCC, Julie has worked with me over the years, to secure funding to address weed infestations in the reserve, peripheral to her bushcare site. WaCC has given support over the years for these strategic bush regeneration projects in Wolston Creek Bushland Reserve to restore an area impacted by agricultural practices, and home to a number of rare endemic plant species.

The members of WaCC have also participated in a number of training courses and seminars, offered through the Creek Catchments Program, that demonstrates their willingness to learn, engage with other catchment group members and use their new knowledge to improve outcomes for Wolston and Centenaries Catchments.

I sincerely appreciate the ongoing opportunity to work closely with this team of passionate and visionary people.

*Donna Edwards - Brisbane City Council Creek Catchment Officer*

## 3.2 Pooh Corner Environment Centre – Coordinator's Report

WaCC was granted occupancy by Brisbane City Council of the new Pooh Corner Environment Centre (PCEC) facility on 27th May 2015. After its first successful year of occupancy WaCC had its annual licence renewed in recent months.

As well as providing WaCC with a venue for its office-based activities and public meetings, it is also a new responsibility for WaCC in taking on its role as property manager.

PCEC has provided a home base for WaCC and its partner organisations, FoPC (Friends of Pooh Corner) and CDEA (Centenary and District Environment Action), being the groups that were involved with the saving of Pooh Corner and development of the PCEC facility.

### **Facility establishment and fitting out**

With the assistance of these groups and funding grants from various sources, the facility has been fitted out with furnishings, including seats, tables, kitchen equipment and vertical blinds. Donated secondhand furnishings include desks, PCs and lounge chairs. Most recently, a further grant enabled the office/meeting/kitchen to be fitted with carpet tiles. This enhancement not only improved the comfort and appearance, but greatly improved the acoustics of that space.

Signage design and planning is currently under way and it is expected that initial signage will be installed within the next few months.

The facility has recently been allocated a new street number, 100 Wolston Road, Wacol, which enables navigation for visitors via Google Maps or GPS (once updated).

### **Usage of the facility**

For the 62-week period 27th May 2015 to 31st July 2016, recorded usage statistics are as follows: 62 days used, 29 events held, 790 user/visitor person hours and eight (8) organisations involved.

The facility has proved a boon to WaCC and its supporter organisations as a base for our activities, and a physical location for promotion of our activities to the general public. Ongoing planning will be looking at expanding the use and usefulness of the facility for our own purposes and potentially for more local groups. Communications planning and signage will assist this objective.

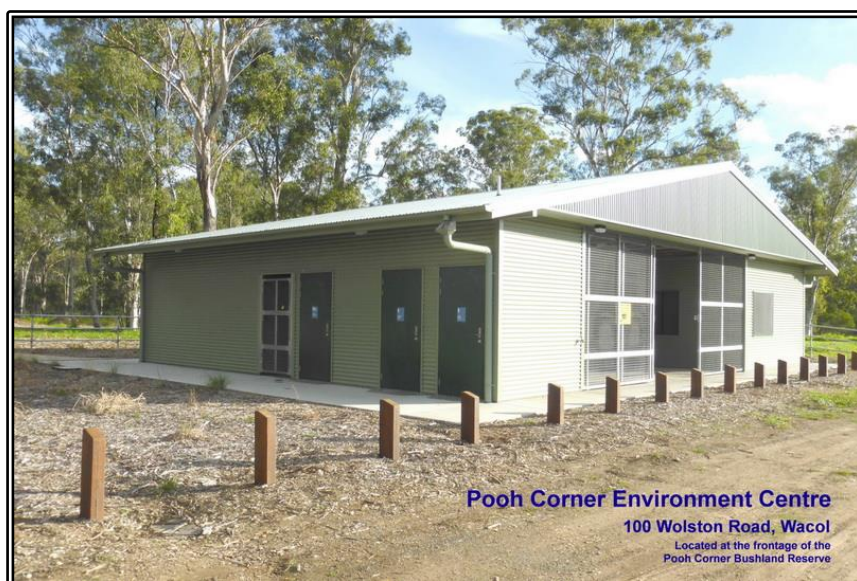


## Acknowledgements

In closing I wish to acknowledge the assistance and support of: Julie Vejle and Shealagh Walker as fellow PCEC sub-committee members and who assisted with procurement of furnishings; the WaCC executive and membership; and members of CDEA and FoPC.

I also acknowledge grant support from Brisbane City Council (Environmental Grant and two Lord Mayor's Suburban Improvement Fund grants) and a federal government grant via Department of Social Services.

*Ed Parker – Coordinator, Pooh Corner Environment Centre*



New furnishings and floor tiles purchased for the PCEC

## 4. Our Projects

### 4.1 Wild About Your Creeks

#### Everyone's Environment Grants – Urban Wild Spaces Pilot, Round 3

The Queensland Government's Everyone's Environment grants – Urban Wild Spaces Pilot funded the Wild About Your Creeks project, providing \$77,165 to rehabilitate four key sites within Wolston Catchment. The aim of the project is to protect creek-zone birds, including priority species such as crakes and rails. The main priority is to improve habitat connectivity within the catchment by restoring native vegetation along the creek zone of four key sites in Darra. The project provided the opportunity to engage Roger Jaensch a nature conservation consultant focusing on wetlands and waterbirds. Roger was contracted by WaCC to conduct bird surveys before and after weeding and planting of the waterways. This informed the waterway management plan for each site and provided a greater understanding of the area's bird biodiversity.

#### Map of Project Sites



#### Key Outcomes

- Six community planting days held – guest speakers and educational activities were provided.
- 6614 plants planted and weed control completed on the four sites.
- Before and after weeding bird surveys conducted and report provided to WaCC.
- Community partnership developed with local Dera Sacha Sauda group.
- First Aid Kits and materials for planting and maintenance purchased.



## 4.2 Jindalee Recreational Reserve

### **The Lord Mayor's Community Sustainability and Environmental Grants Program (2013/2014) – Grants Round 2 \$8200.00**

Due to the work carried out with this funding, the impact of invasive species was reduced. The project removed a range of weeds from along an urban storm water drain in Jindalee that leads into the Brisbane River. The treated areas were then replaced with about 700 native species, including ground covers and shrubs.

After the contractor treated the site, WaCC organised a community planting day and invited the local community to participate. This helped raise awareness about the importance of healthy Catchments, and how individuals can assist in enhancing and improving the health of local Catchment.



Dera Sacha Sauda volunteers working hard at our community planting day

### 4.3 Naver Street (Wood Park) Phase 2 & 3

#### **The Lord Mayor's Community Sustainability and Environmental Grants Program**

The Naver Street Park Restoration Project is located within the riparian vegetation area of a gully, which eventually flows into the Brisbane River. The gully is located in Wood Park (formerly Naver Street Park), Middle Park QLD 4074. Phase 3 aimed to manage re-invasion of weeds in and around sections VMU1 and 2 (4000sqm), targeting weeds including Glycine vine, Lantana, Cobbler's Peg, Leucaena, Leucocephala and exotic grass species.

The \$13552 of funding allowed significant works to be achieved on the ground through collaboration with various partners including the Scouts for the nearby Scout Den. Regular maintenance works to consolidate Phase 1 and 2's achievements were carried out by Jamboree Resident Association (JRA; manual weed removal, infill planting & general maintenance).



Scouts volunteers at our community planting day



## 4.4 Administration Grants

### **The Lord Mayor's Community Sustainability and Environmental Grants Program (2014/2015) with total funding of \$5560.00**

The successful application and expenditure of these two Brisbane City Council grant funds enabled WaCC to continue to carry out administration activities crucial to the organisation. It involved organising and engaging general meetings, catering, stationary purchases and ensuring accountability through good bookkeeping and end of financial year auditing.

These two projects ensured that WaCC maintained a high standard of governance and accountability, attract members and volunteers to participate in catchment management, biodiversity conservation and nature appreciation activities, and provide a base for further successful grant applications.

During the time of these grants, membership increased steadily reaching 51 members.

## 4.5 Pooh Corner Environment Centre (PCEC) Grants

This year we successfully applied for two grants, which enabled fitting out the PCEC, one from The Lord Mayor's Community Sustainability and Environmental Grants Program for \$7619.00, and the second one for \$1020.00 was the Federal Government Volunteer Grants. These grants enabled spending on chairs, floor tiles and other equipment and some operating costs to keep the centre running. Additionally, a sign for the centre is currently being organised for the front of the building from this funding.



PCEC Coordinator, Ed Parker at Pooh Corner

## 5. Auditor's Statement of Accounts

### WOLSTON AND CENTENARY CATCHMENTS ABN : 71 225 469 038

#### PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Grant Income	75,654.59	34,491.72
Interest Received	975.72	865.10
	<u>76,630.31</u>	<u>35,356.82</u>
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>		
<b>Sundry Income</b>		
Memberships	500.00	245.00
Donations	100.00	-
Grant Administration Income	-	600.00
	<u>600.00</u>	<u>845.00</u>
	<u>77,230.31</u>	<u>36,201.82</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Accountancy	1,705.00	1,485.00
Administration Charges	441.96	600.00
Advertising & Promotion	728.64	2,703.15
Bank Charges	-	22.50
Bookkeeping Expenses	1,876.25	1,406.25
Catering Expenses	1,554.05	974.71
Computer Expenses	997.00	40.95
Consultants Fees	7,650.00	3,900.00
Depreciation	527.00	535.00
Event Presentation	3,030.00	-
General Expenses	228.62	1,612.81
Gifts	100.00	-
Hire of Plant/Equipment	1,234.48	1,805.00
Insurance	290.00	290.00
Licences, Registrations, Permits	546.95	48.25
Petty Cash	-	743.60
Plants and Regeneration	54,977.00	19,785.93
Postage	122.40	120.00
Printing & Stationery	596.61	198.85
Staff Amenities	-	63.49
Training Expenses	-	390.00
	<u>76,605.96</u>	<u>36,725.49</u>
<b>Profit (Loss) for the year</b>	<u>624.35</u>	<u>(523.67)</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.  
These statements should be read in conjunction with the attached Audit Report.  
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