



2014-2015

**QWaLC**  
QUEENSLAND WATER & LAND CARERS

**ANNUAL REPORT**



# Queensland Water and Land Carers Annual Report 2014/2015

Queensland Water and Land Carers Inc. (QWaLC) is the peak body for NRM volunteers in Queensland.

We are an independent, non-government, not-for-profit organisation. QWaLC formed in April 2004 to fill an important need in supporting the valuable work of volunteer community groups in the Natural Resources Management sector across Queensland. We currently have a membership of over 300 groups with close to 30,000 individual members.

We work on behalf of thousands of natural resource management volunteers across our vast state.

## ROLE

As Queensland's peak body for NRM volunteers, QWaLC fulfills the following roles:

### Networking

QWaLC is part of a large NRM network that encompasses volunteer NRM groups, regional bodies, government representatives and industry personnel. We facilitate the exchange of strategies, information, skills and resources. We develop and improve links between volunteer NRM groups, regional organisations and government agencies.

### Promotion

QWaLC is dedicated to promoting the achievements of natural resource management volunteers across the state.

### Representation

A community representative board is a core pillar to the overall make up of QWaLC – and these members ensure that community volunteers have an opportunity to participate and contribute to policies and issues that specifically relate to their region at a localised level. It is the role of your Board members to ensure that they actively engage with member groups and bring forward their views and opinions to be represented at a State and National levels.

### Advocacy

QWaLC exists in Queensland to advocate specifically on behalf of NRM volunteers. The volunteer NRM sector is vital to the Queensland economy, investing many thousands of hours of volunteer's time into practical environmental

outcomes. QWaLC role is to ensure that this contribution is an important consideration in any decisions made regarding the voluntary NRM sector.

## Insurance

QWaLC assists groups in their practical work throughout the state by the provision of three vital insurance policies - Association Liability; Public and Products Liability; and Volunteer Accident.

## STRUCTURE

The organisation is answerable to our membership, which is made up of a broad range of volunteer NRM groups. Members include Landcare, Coastcare, Waterwatch, Bushcare, catchment associations, conservation groups regional bodies and sub-regional organisations.

The organisation is incorporated and governed by a constitution\* that sets out the objectives, powers and administrative arrangements.

QWaLC's network extends across the 14 NRM regions of Queensland, each of which is represented by a QWaLC board member elected from the regional groups. The board members participate on a board of management.

To view QWaLCs constitution go to: <http://QWaLC.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/2014.08.13.QWaLC-CONSTITUTION-Final.pdf>

## OUR PEOPLE

### Our Board

QWaLC's board is an integral part of its role as the peak body for natural resource management volunteers. The board consists of a community representative from across each of Queensland's NRM regions. This makes QWaLC truly representative of the NRM groups across Queensland, as our board members highlight the issues in each region.

**QWaLC Chair**

Rhondda Alexander

**QWaLC Deputy Chairs**

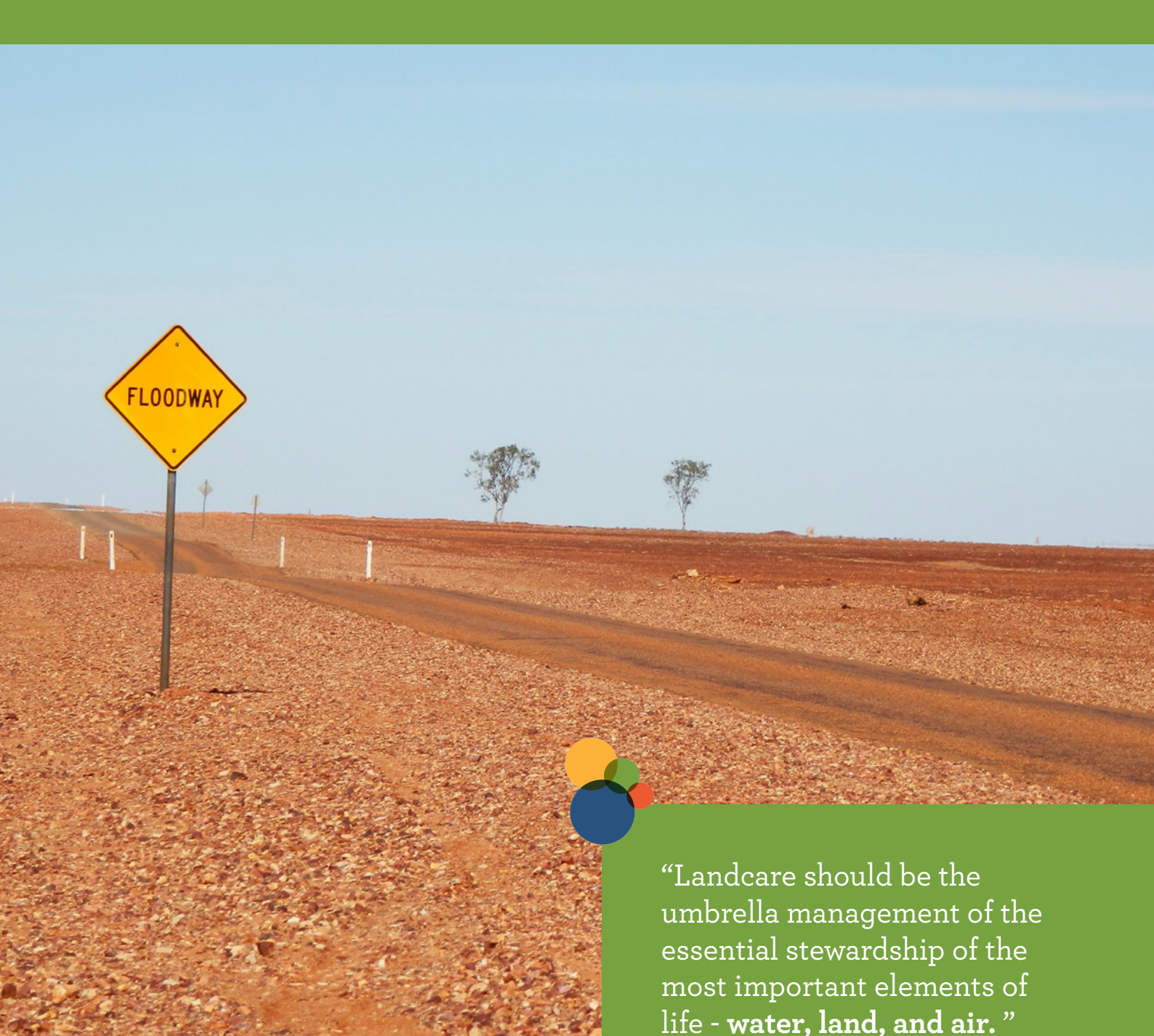
Mark van Ryt and  
John Giese

**Treasurer**

John Reghenzani

**Secretary**

Bardhold Blecken



“Landcare should be the umbrella management of the essential stewardship of the most important elements of life - water, land, and air.”

### Regional Board Representatives:

**Burdekin Dry Tropics/  
Mackay Whitsunday:**

Burnett Mary  
Cape York  
Condamine  
Desert Channels  
Fitzroy Basin  
Northern and Southern Gulfs  
Queensland Murray Darling  
South East Queensland  
Wet Tropics

Graham Armstrong  
(commenced February 2015)

Maree Prior  
John Giese  
Owena Reimers  
Rhondda Alexander  
Michelle Hanrahan  
Mark van Ryt  
Geoff Elliot  
Barhold Blecken  
John Reghenzani |  
Margaret Lane  
(resigned February 2015)

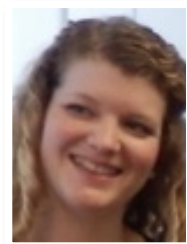
### Our Staff

**Executive Officer**  
Darryl Ebenezer



DARRYL EBENEZER

**Community Relations Manager**  
Anna Mirams



ANNA MIRAMS

# Chair's Report

## Rhonda Alexander



When I started to write this report, my first thought was "Where do I start?"

2014-2015 has been a busy, exciting and rewarding year for me as Chair of Queensland Water and Land Carers. The QWaLC Board and staff comprises a group of intelligent and interesting people who are dedicated to working with volunteers

in the environment sector of Queensland and I am very proud and protective of these people. I put this acknowledgement at the beginning of my report as without them we could not have done what we set out to do this year.

My utmost thanks to my Executive, Deputy Chairs, John Giese (Cape York) and Mark Van Ryt (Southern and Northern Gulf), for your whole hearted support this year. To Bardhold Blecken (SEQ), Secretary, thank you for your patience in 'governance training'. We look forward to having Bardhold back at the round table having had some time out due to illness over the past 12 months. To our Treasurer, John Reghenzani (Terrain), thank you for your patience and articulation in regard to looking after QWaLCs funds on behalf of members. I would also like to give my thanks to John's predecessor, Margaret Lane, who sadly had to step down due to an illness in her family. Our thoughts go out to you.

Michelle Hanrahan (Fitzroy), Geoff Elliot (QMD), Graham Armstrong (Mackay/Whitsunday - replacing Margaret Lane), Owena Reimers (Condamine), and Maree Prior (BMR), you have been a true and strong members of the Board and I sincerely thank you for your support throughout the year.

To our Community Relations Officer, Anna Watson, who looked after me and made life easier when I had to do some travelling and to Rhonda Sorensen, our Communications Officer, thank you for the hard work you have both put in. To our hardworking, ever moving, and a 'good coffee' expert Executive Officer, Darryl Ebenezer, thank you for your support and guidance, and your trust in me to carry out my role as Chair. I hope I am a wiser Chair and individual as a result of all of our interesting discussions and experiences over the past 12 months.

It is wonderful to report that Queensland Water and Land Carers is growing with over 300 incorporated groups, as well as a number of unincorporated groups, with approximately 30,000 volunteers who make a vast contribution to managing our natural resources right across the State.

What does it mean to be a volunteer? Volunteers come in all shapes, sizes and ages and I guess the question to ask is - **why do we do it and what is a volunteer worth?**

*First the reason - because we believe in what we are doing.*

a) **volunteers are the human bridges in our communities** connecting our people in networking, advocacy, promotion and representation and by doing these important social connections, they are then covered by our insurance which enables our volunteers to be safe and confident in what they are doing.

b) *monetarily* - we are governed by performance measurement, so if it cannot be measured then it does not count. A University of Adelaide study has found that **volunteering in Australia is now worth more than the mining industry**, declaring the true extent of its monetary value to be more than \$200 billion a year. Its economic contribution to Australian society outstrips revenue sources from agriculture, mining and the retail sector according to Dr. Lisel O'Dwyer, a Senior Research Associate in the University of Adelaide's School of Social Sciences.\*

An exciting part of our year was our Listening Forums. These were conducted by each Board member throughout their region which meant quite a few kilometers travelled and long hours meeting with our volunteers. The help and input of many groups and individuals was also crucial in hearing the voice of our members. The idea was to meet with our volunteers to discuss the strength, health, strategic opportunities, and direction of the Landcare movement over the next three years.

The answers and questions were very varied from region to region, but overall Landcare is still very strong, but is encumbered by lack of funding and on ground help such as coordinators. Also we need to take on board that Queensland is in the worst drought in history with over 80% of our land mass declared drought stricken. For those that live on the land, or who have family and friends that do, this is a very stressful period. Carrying out 'listening forums' in these areas was a real privilege and it allowed us to highlight to these folk of how important they and their work are to us (the nation) as well as to allow their wisdom and experience to speak into our future plans. I clocked up over 4000 kilometers throughout the State. The result is that I would highly recommend these forums for the future. We need to be talking with our volunteers over a cuppa and in 'their patch'.

At this stage I would like to acknowledge the significant support and funding provided by the Queensland Government through the Department of Natural Resources and Mines. This support and funding enables QWaLC to continue supporting our volunteers and to



# You see things and you say, “Why?”, but I dream things that never were: and I say “Why not?”

Thomas Edison

maintain and engage in partnerships that support our communities of natural resource managers.

This year saw one of our tasks nearing fruition, although not completed yet. This was forming alliances and signing of MOU's with the Regional NRM Bodies throughout Queensland. QWaLC look forward to building on these partnerships into the future. It was great to meet with the Chairs and Executive Officers of these regions and hear their aspirations, especially as we are both working towards the same goals.

As the Queensland representatives, Darryl and I have attended all National Landcare Network (NLN) meetings which were held in Adelaide, Caloundra, Sydney and Perth. I was nominated to the position of Secretary for the NLN which allows QWaLCs members to be strongly represented at the national level. Funding from Landcare Australia Limited was received to help with the 2015 Landcare Awards which took place at the Reef, Range and Red Dust 2015 Conference in Caloundra. This was a tri-partisan conference which saw QWaLC successfully partner with the Australian Coastal Society and the Queensland Regional NRM Groups Collective.

QWaLC was invited to participate in the monthly Regional Landcare Facilitators telelinks. This, along with participation in regional RLF Committees in some regions, adds to the information that our Board members collect and share to the benefit of all members.

The Green Nomads Project still remains a priority and will be further activated in the coming year.

This period, sadly, saw the passing of Russel Fry, a Queenslanders. Russel was an Australian Government Individual Landcarer Awards winner. I would like to suggest that our land care people stand up for these awards as the recognition of your hard work not only lifts up your individual or group effort but also provides a positive avenue to inform the broader community on what is happening past their 'back fence'. I was honored to be nominated for the Bob Hawke Landcare Award and the Landcare Honor Board. These awards help to raise awareness of our movement and pay tribute to the place we all have in managing our natural resources.

QWaLC was able to support the Maleny Wood Expo 'Wootha Prize' again this year. 2016 will mark the 20th Anniversary of the Maleny Wood Expo and we encourage members to be part of this celebration if you can. It was pleasing for QWaLC to be able to support a number of Landcare groups to acknowledge and celebrate some major milestones.

Our quarterly Board meetings have been well attended by representative Board members. The Executive have met monthly with the Executive Officer providing regular updates to the Board and meeting with me on a regular basis.

Our 2015 Annual General Meeting will be held in Brisbane, where we will welcome some new Board members. We will also farewell some of our hard working and loyal members who will be stepping down - Owena Reimers from Condamine; Maree Prior from Burnett Mary Region and myself from the DCQ region. To Owena and Maree, thank you for your support of QWaLC and whilst we will miss your wisdom on the Board we know that your passion and personal investment into our natural resources will go on in other forums.

I would like to close by acknowledging the support we have received from the State and Federal Governments, the National Landcare Network, Landcare Australia Limited, the Queensland Regional NRM Groups Collective and Regional NRM Bodies, and all our natural resource management volunteers.

To all the people in our drought stricken areas of the State, having both a personal (being born into outback Queensland) and professional connection, my heart and thoughts go out to you.

To the many people behind the scene, you are always in our thoughts as we could not keep going without you. We have very exciting and challenging times ahead of us, but I have complete faith in our volunteers and in Queensland Water and Land Carers.

**Rhonda Alexander, Chair**

\*Dr. Lisel O'Dwyer's research findings form a chapter "Positive Ageing: Vounteering" published by Volunteering SA and NT



# Executive Officer's Report

Darryl Ebenezer



The last twelve months has seen continued growth in our membership and in my discussions and meetings with many groups and individuals from around the State I am constantly impressed by the quality and diversity of activities being undertaken. Whether it's growing tube stock with the help of volunteers

and students or getting into the nitty gritty of feral animal control, the enthusiasm and professionalism is something to see.

QWaLC has continued to be active across our five key roles of: Advocacy, Representation, Networking, Promotion and Insurance.

We are maintaining constructive relationships and partnerships with other groups and organisations, including the National Landcare Network, Queensland Regional NRM Groups Collective and the Regional Bodies, Landcare Australia Ltd, Conservation Volunteers Australia and Greening Australia.

The support and ongoing funding provided by the Queensland Government through the Department of Natural Resources and Mines is especially acknowledged. This support is essential in facilitating Natural Resource Management Volunteers and Groups to make a difference in their communities. It also allows your Board members to meet and convey the work and activities occurring in their respective regions. This information is then provided back to relevant Government Departments and Officers, the National Landcare Network and Landcare Australia Ltd.

Funding for a number of activities under the project 'A Queensland Community of Water and Land Carers - Involved, Informed and Capable' was also received from the Commonwealth Department of the Environment. Part of this funding provided the opportunity to talk with and listen to members in more than 40 locations around the State. The information from these forums is being used to inform and influence our discussions and requests. Activities assisting groups to better understand programs such as 'Green Army' and '20 Million Trees' as well as our work with the National Landcare Network were enabled by this project.

Funds to assist in the preparations to hold the 2015 Landcare Awards were also received from Landcare Australia Ltd.

Over the last 12 months QWaLC staff and various Board members have represented members and the volunteer NRM sector on the following committees:

- Queensland's 'Reef, Range Red Dust Conference' held in Caloundra in September 2015;
- National Landcare Network with other States and Territories;
- discussion group about the delivery of future national NRM programs;
- listening forums across the State;
- the State Governments' Everyone's Environment Grants Assessment panel;
- Queensland Regional Achievement & Community Awards; and
- Regional Landcare Facilitator Teleconferences.

We have been pleased with the positive response from all 14 Regional NRM Bodies and the Regional Groups Collective to our request to develop and implement a 'Memorandum of Understanding' process. Chairs, CEO's and staff have all been supportive and proactive in wanting to build on and enhance relationships with the broader voluntary sector.

We have completed MOU's with 8 of the 14 Regional Bodies and have discussions underway with the remaining 6. We would expect these remaining MOU's to be completed by the end of 2015. These MOU's will be followed up with activities and plans specific to each region.

We also made a small contribution as Silver sponsors to enable the inaugural Australian Citizen Science Conference to be held in Canberra in July 2015. Look up **citizen science** and see what activities you might be able to engage in.

QWaLC assists a wide range of groups and individuals with over 430 telephone calls/email enquiries per month. These enquiries cover a diversity of questions and discussion points such as:

- insurance - Certificates of Currency; holding special events and how that affects insurance coverage; claims/notifications/advice;
- assistance for groups - governance, conflict resolution, policies, procedures;
- information about other like-minded groups in Queensland;
- OH&S information and the implications for volunteer groups;
- how to register to become a member of QWaLC;
- information about grant opportunities and letters of support for grant applications;

- enquiries about participation as Green Nomads;
- information about programs such as the State Government Environment Program, 20 million trees and the Green Army program; and
- information about the National Landcare Network and the National Landcare Program.

In 2014, two insurance brokers were engaged to provide quotes on:

- 1) Public Liability;
- 2) Volunteer Accident; and
- 3) Association.

AON was successful in its tender. There were no claims in 2014/15. Thanks to the diligent and careful work of our volunteers our premiums remain static. A significant number of groups are using the “In Safe Hands” resource from Conservation Volunteers Australia as a basis for their risk mitigation and volunteer safety activities. There are also links to resources provided by Volunteering Queensland on our website. Starting in October 2015 quotes will once again be sought from brokers to ensure affordable coverage continues over the years 2015/16. In my role as Executive Officer of QWaLC I am a member of the National Landcare Networks Sub-Committee on ‘Insurance for Volunteer NRM Groups’.

We have commenced planning for the QWaLC Board elections to be held in late 2015. I would like to thank the current Board members for their contributions over the 2014/2015 year. A special thanks to Anna Mirams and Rhonda Sorenson for their contributions over the year.

The base-line data obtained through the late 2014 Members’ Survey (to which more than 200 members responded) continues to be invaluable. This information has been used to advance the goals and aspirations of QWaLC’s members. This annual survey will be undertaken again in November 2015, and this will build on information already gathered. Please take the time to respond to the survey as this is an important tool to capture a range of information about the work of NRM volunteers around the State. This information is crucial

in emphasizing the importance of your voluntary work across the State to a broad range of stakeholders.

Some of QWaLC’s key activities:

- **Listen** through the Annual Membership and Insurance **Survey**.
- **Negotiate** and **implement** ongoing **Insurance** coverage.
- Plan the **2015 State Landcare Conference** held in conjunction with the **State Landcare Awards**;
- **Inform** and **receive feedback** from our membership through our website and social media tools.
- **Represent community NRM volunteers** on steering committees and in forums and discussions.
- **Engage directly** with community NRM Volunteer groups across the State.
- **Advocate** through meetings with Government Ministers and Departmental Staff.
- Contribute to the National Landcare Network
- **Improve understanding, awareness and relevance** of insurance, in particular around the policies and their implication for **practical on-ground** risk management practices specific to NRM Volunteers.
- **Listen and respond** to members through both formal and informal opportunities around the State.
- **Work with** the Queensland Regional NRM Groups Collective to assist their members to provide **better services** to the Landcare movement and the broader NRM volunteer sector.
- Provide small amounts of **sponsorship** such as for the Wootha Prize at the Maleny Wood Expo.
- **Support member groups** to celebrate 20 and 25 year milestones.

*Darryl Ebenezer*, Executive Officer

**“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not”** Dr. Seuss, from ‘The Lorax’



PERTH NATIONAL LANDCARE MEETING 2015



LISTENING OPPORTUNITIES TOWNSVILLE



CAPE YORK



# Treasurer's Report

John Reghenzani



On Margaret Lane's resignation in February 2015, I was pleased to take over the reins as QWaLC Treasurer. My thanks to Margaret for her work on the Executive as Treasurer and for her contribution to QWaLC during her term as a Board member. During the period of Treasurer I report here (from February

to the end of this financial year), I have been ably assisted by QWaLC Executive Officer, Darryl Ebenezer and QWaLC contract accountant, Dorian Pozzan. Their assistance has made my job much easier. I am pleased to report that QWaLC auditor, John Gosper Audit and Assurance Pty Ltd has provided a favorable independent assessment of the Association's Financial Reports.

My Treasurer's report is designed to better inform members about how QWaLC is travelling financially. I have decided to add a little more from my own perspective, as a new member on the QWaLC Board. I was appointed not only to represent the Wet Tropics electorate, but as your Treasurer, my duty is to ensure the finances of the Association are well managed, thereby benefiting members throughout the entire State. QWaLC performs many functions, but one, that of supplying insurance cover is absolutely essential. Without insurance cover, because of associated risks, volunteer organisations caring for the land would probably cease to operate.

Members can see for themselves from the audited 2014-2015 financial statements that QWaLC has performed much better this year than in the previous year. QWaLC is a not-for-profit organisation, so does not make profit as such. It is the objective of the Board to run a very lean and efficient organisation. The Board's aim is to expend funds to achieve the objectives of the Association, while achieving only a very small operating margin of surplus. It is not the Board's objective to accumulate an excessive surplus.

While comparing this year to the previous year, the Income and Expenditure Statement shows net surplus has increased by almost \$170,000. It is important to point out that the majority of this amount (approx. \$120,000) has been a provision for the Landcare Awards and the Reef, Range and Red Dust – Landcare Conference (31 August to 2 September 2015). QWaLC is looking after the administrative financial arrangements for this Conference. Organisational duties are being shared with our Conference partners, the Queensland Regional NRM Groups Collective and the Queensland Coastal Society. Additional funds showing as a surplus are project funds received in 2014-2015, due to be expended in 2015-2016. A good part of QWaLC's sound financial position can be attributed to QWaLC's Executive Officer, Darryl Ebenezer, under the guidance and support of QWaLC Chair, Rhondda Alexander.

My ongoing vision as Treasurer, is to ensure that QWaLC finances are appropriately administrated, ensuring that Directors have access to information necessary to fulfil their financial administrative obligations. Presentations have been prepared on financial literacy for Director's and use of Xero (QWaLC's on-line accounting package). My plan is to deliver these presentations over the coming financial year. Investigations are underway regarding QWaLC's banking needs, in particular, access to services suitable for an organisation with a widely separated and remotely based Board of Management.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with Chair, Rhondda, the Executive and the other members of the QWaLC Board. I feel invigorated by the enthusiasm of this group and know that, like myself, they are dedicated to supporting volunteers working to manage our State's natural resources.

*John Reghenzani*

GAICD, BAgSc (2A Hons), QDA (Hons)  
QWaLC Inc. Director and Treasurer







# REGIONAL REPORTS FROM THE BOARD:



## CONDAMINE REGION

### Owena Reimers

Changes in how the State and Federal government distributes funding and grants has had devastating effects on landcare groups in the Condamine region. Landcare groups are struggling to survive and some have folded

altogether. All other groups either have no staff or only part time staff which is putting huge pressure on the volunteer sector of these groups.

Condamine Alliance, the Regional Body for the region, has drastically reduced their staff. Few groups have sufficient funds to maintain an office with the result that when landholders and community members want advice there are very few places they can go for help.

During the year Condamine Alliance signed a MOU with QWaLC.

Some landcare groups received funding from the Regional Body to run events such as workshops, field days and bus trips.

Bus trips visited:

- the University of Queensland, Algae Energy Farm at Pinjarra Hills,
- the Mt Sylvia Dolomite Mine,
- UQ Gatton campus and
- the Queensland Herbarium.

Groups held field days with the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to inform landholders how to manage native vegetation and fire management using the new Native Forest Management practices codes. African Boxthorn management days looking at different methods of eradication were very well attended.

One of our Landcare Groups, North East Downs Landcare Group, Oakey was nominated in the Landcare Community Group Section of the 2015 State & Territory Landcare Awards (Qld).

Two landcare groups held dinners to celebrate 25 years of Landcare.

Condamine Catchment Management Association held a listening forum in conjunction with one of their general meetings and an on line survey was conducted in the region.

Some areas of the Condamine were badly affected by drought and were drought declared while other areas had really good seasons.

As a Board Member of QWaLC, I was able to attend meetings around the Condamine region. I will be standing down from QWaLC at the next AGM, so I would like to say 'thank you' to the Board members who were there in my time, and wish the members who are also leaving all the best for the future and I would also like to welcome in advance the new Board members.



## SOUTHERN & NORTHERN GULF

### Mark Van Ryt

In July 2014 the newly reformed Mount Isa Landcare Group Executive met for a planning meeting. We then conducted a "scoping" spray along Gorge Creek near Mount Isa assessing the spread of rubber vine a weed

of national significance.

In August I attended a QWaLC meeting in Cairns. I also attend a Northern Gulf Catchments meeting at Mount Molloy where I spoke about the role and functions of QWaLC. I have facilitated Erica Blumson, their Education Officer, to complete a Sunfish Angler Education Instructors course. This will enable her to access funds to conduct Angler Education (AE) events for children in remote Gulf communities. We use these AE events to deliver a strong NRM message. While in Mareeba I also spoke at length with Ian Adcock, my predecessor on the QWaLC Board. I learnt a great detail about the history and function of NRM groups in Cape York, in particular the Mitchell River Catchment. I later nominated Ian for the Queensland Landcare Honor Roll, celebrating 25 years of Landcare.

In early October the Mount Isa Landcare returned to Gorge Creek with a full team to spray a rubber vine infestation and conduct a general meeting to adopt a constitution and move to incorporate. This will allow the group to register for QWaLC insurance. This landcare activity was reported in our regional newspaper with a half page of photos. In this month I also began my assistance in the eventual formation of the Northern Landcare Indigenous Corporation (NLIC).

In September I attended the National Landcare Conference in Melbourne. I was selected by the Regional Landcare Facilitator (RLF), Pru Wharton, to represent the region. The conference noted the 25 year milestone of Landcare in Australia, how successful the movement was and how it had now spread to many countries worldwide. While at the conference I felt a sense of optimism talking to people from the populated South East and South West of Australia. The trees that had been felled during early settlement were being replaced; the birds were coming back; the water cycle restored - in general land management had improved. Meanwhile in the North and West of the Great Divide, we have a different combination of problems. For us it is primarily noxious weeds and feral pests.

In November I travelled to the Gregory River with Pru Wharton, to conduct a general meeting of the Gregory Landcare Group, and took the opportunity to use the travel time to plan landcare activities throughout the year. We discussed the QWaLC Listening Forums and planned a collaborative effort on five children AE events in the Southern Gulf. Pru is supportive of my efforts to promote and develop landcare in the region. In

November I led Mount Isa Landcare back to Gorge Creek for an afternoon follow up on the rubber vine. Later on in November I attended the QWaLC AGM in Caloundra where we meet the members of the National Landcare network. At the meeting the Board adopted a revised constitution and I was elected as Deputy Chair.

The Christmas recess has been used to continue planning of our events, to hold meetings and network. I have met with the Mount Isa Water Board to discuss possible weed projects and raising community awareness. Whenever I have an opportunity I speak about Landcare, QWaLC and weeds of national significance. I have formed a working partnership with the Mount Isa Scouts. The scouts are keen to get involved with Mount Isa Landcare. They need to participate in three environmental activities to have enough points for the "Landcare Badge". Their involvement will eventually include a few camping trips so they will be eligible for a Jamboree next year.

In February with the assistance of the RLF and Southern Gulf Catchments, Mount Isa Landcare conducted a "belly ache Bush" walk down Corella Creek with the Mount Isa Scouts. The weather was hot but the event was highly successful in helping control this weed outlier. The scout troop gave tremendous feedback on the activity and was keen to do more. We followed up by participating in "clean up Australia day".

In March/April I completed delivery of five Junior AE activities. These events are funded by the Department of Primary Industries, coordinated state wide by Sunfish Queensland and are run through the account of QWaLC member, the Mount Isa Fish Stocking Group. I coordinated activities across the region at Camooweal, Mount Isa, Julia Creek and Richmond. A total of 90 kids participated. These children were taught about responsible and sustainable recreational fishing and to practice "catch and release". Also in April, on behalf of Gregory River Landcare, I travelled to Burketown and refreshed the vegetable and herb gardens at Burketown State School and kindergarten. Later that week at the Gregory River Landcare AGM I handed over the position of Secretary.

In June Mount Isa Land care conducted a campaign against rubber vine in Gorge Creek, 18k to the East of Mount Isa. On three occasions groups of volunteers walked the creek spraying the weed in an effort to eradicate it. In June I also hosted a "Listening Forum" in Mount Isa attended by QWaLC Chair Rhondda Alexander, local NRM staff, local landholders and the general public. We are endeavoring to bring the Regional NRM Body Southern Gulf Catchments to sign-off on an MOU with QWaLC. This effort is duplicated for Northern Gulf Catchments. In preparation for the State Landcare conference in Caloundra I nominated a local champion for a State Landcare award. Finally The Northern Indigenous Landcare Group based in Mount Isa, have registered with QWaLC.

**“We don’t inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.”**



## BURNETT-MARY REGION

### Maree Prior



The continuing rollercoaster of Australia’s Natural Resource Management has seen yet another iteration of Landcare. Celebrating its 25th anniversary last year (2014), it is fitting

that the original name of Landcare should now be secure as not only an Australian Government supported program, but an Australian ethic along with ‘mateship’ embedded in the school curriculum. Mates for Landcare may be the way forward?

In support of Landcare in the Burnett-Mary, it has been my pleasure to work with the Steering Committee for the Regional Landcare Facilitator Program 2013-2018 in the Burnett-Mary Region. The committee comprises a representative from each of the following organisations:

DAFF; QWaLC; CQU; BMRG; and 4 x members of Landcare and industry groups.

This representation provides equitable representation across landcarers, industry, education and science.

Partnerships, communication and education are fundamental for the implementation of best practice landcare and I have been fortunate to witness these

growing strengths across the Burnett-Mary. MRCCC is a major catchment organisation for half of the region and along with its many partners, continues to inspire and educate our community from school children to politicians and on-ground land managers. With regret I have had little opportunity to visit the Burnett, but the Landcare Facilitators have been connecting with numerous groups in these parts so I am confident they have the necessary support.

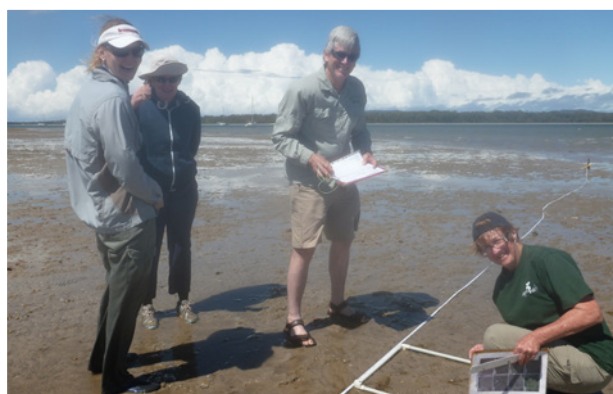
To ensure Landcare strength in the coming years QWaLC and BMRG need to retain a strong partnership, as I have endeavored to continue this year.

Along the coast, I was able to highlight the Gympie Region’s Cooloola Coast to Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss, and that it has one of the last remaining NATURAL coastlines in the South East Queensland and Burnett-Mary Region with adequate erosion prone buffers for retreat in many places. There is a real need for a national approach to integrated coastal foreshore and dune management, and not have the task left to local governments without adequate resourcing.

I wonder if Australia can afford to ‘hard wall’ the whole coastline along with the inevitable sand nourishment programs for beaches that suffer the impacts!

Queensland Water and Land Carers, the Australian Coastal Society and the Queensland Regional Natural Resource Management Bodies are combining to bring you the very best stories from a ‘community of many hands’ in September this year. I am sure the Reef, Range, Red Dust conference will be a great event attended by many delegates from around the State.

Finally, I will be vacating the Burnett-Mary position this year as per the QWaLC constitution. The Burnett-Mary has a wealth of talented natural resource managers and volunteers. I encourage any one of you to step up to this role and make a difference to your greater catchment.



SEAGRASS MONITORING AT TIN CAN BAY DURING THE TIN CAN BAY SEAFOOD FESTIVAL 2015. (l-r) Alana Kippers, Marie Kirby, Vaughn Kippers, Norma Sanderson.



## MACKAY/WHITSUNDAY

### Graham Armstrong

During 2014-15 the broad focus for the NRM community in the Mackay/Whitsunday revolved around the health of the Great Barrier Reef which brought the Cane Growing and Coal Production industries into

the media spotlight. Unfortunately, the QWaLC Board Member representing the region (Margaret Lane) resigned early in 2015 for personal reasons.

Reef Catchments lead a number of initiatives enabling community and industry groups to have structured input into regional NRM issues. Significant initiatives were the consultation processes around the development of the NRM Plan for Mackay, Whitsunday, Isaac (2014-2024) and a series of workshops discussing Climate Change adaptation – the potential effects on regional communities and natural ecosystems. Toward the end of the year Reef Catchments began hosting the community consultation processes involved in the development of the inaugural Healthy Rivers to Reef Report Card for the rivers from Bowen to Sarina. The three local Landcare Groups (Pioneer, Sarina and Whitsunday) were involved in these consultation processes. Reef Catchments and Cane Grower Organisations in the region also continue to demonstrate and promote best practice methods and support cane growers in the adoption of improved practices designed to reduce agricultural run-off affecting the Reef. Feral Pig control was also a major focus for the Mackay Regional Pest Management Group with collaboration between regional Councils, Reef Catchments, Landcare Groups and Queensland Parks and Wildlife.

Local conservation lobby groups and their supporters were actively presenting information campaigns highlighting the impacts of the Coal Industry expansion on the Reef. Mackay Conservation Group and Environment Council of Central Queensland (a new member organisation of QWaLC) lead the campaign against Coal Mine Expansion and Coal Port Development providing a voice for those in the community who see such projects as impacting on Great Barrier Reef health and global efforts to curb the drivers of Climate Change.

The three long established Landcare Groups in the region worked hard to adapt to changes in funding that occurred at State and Federal level, battling with issues of staff retention and recruitment in an era of uncertain funding streams. The completion of various projects meant an end to three year funded projects and the beginning of working more closely with our regional NRM group on mainly one year funded projects. Practical support from Reef Catchments with administrative processes and awarding contracts for on

ground revegetation and weed control projects were certainly helpful. These projects along with some grant funded projects focused on riparian repair (e.g. Pioneer and O'Connell Rivers and Galbraith Creek (Cannonvale) and critically endangered beach front vine forests (e.g. Conway Beach and Cannonvale Beach). This shorter time for projects provides significant challenges for our groups. In spite of this they all continue to work closely together and with the community to respond to local and regional issues and Local Government remains a key supporter for the Landcare groups.

Nurseries continue to be a main source of seedling tube-stock for revegetation projects and community plantings and some expansion of this capacity was possible due to the work of volunteers and external funding.

#### Public Engagement/Education

An active Public engagement/education focus was evident during the year from a wide range of Community Groups. A selection of events is presented here to provide insight into the range of activities that were conducted. These are often in addition to the routine programs and funded projects being undertaken by these groups and their volunteers throughout the year.

Examples of public engagement activities:

- The Beautiful Walks program around Mackay held by Mackay Conservation Group.
- Nature Whitsunday Celebrations event bringing together community groups and hosted by Environment Council of Central Queensland.
- ReefBlitz – a 2 day citizen science event at Cannonvale Beach organised by Great Barrier Reef Foundation and Earthwatch and supported by local community groups including Whitsunday Catchment Landcare.
- Beach monitoring activities along turtle nesting beaches from October 2014 to April 2015 organised by Mackay & District Turtle Watch. At the National Landcare conference in Melbourne in September they were a finalist and were awarded “Highly Commended” in the Coast Care category.
- The Sarina Landcare native Garden Competition.
- 25 years of Landcare public celebrations by each Landcare Group and 25 years of Landcare display at the Mackay Library.
- One of the most active and well supported community organisations focusing directly on the Reef, Beaches and Islands is ECO Barge Clean Seas. The organisation reached a milestone in September 2014, running its 150th clean-up trip since the launch of the Whitsunday Marine Debris Removal Program in July 2009.

- The public Welcome and Farewell of the migratory shorebirds to the beaches in the Mackay region hosted by Reef Catchments and Mackay regional Council and supported by Birdlife Mackay.
- The re-formation by the Queensland Department of Environment of the Proserpine Rock Wallaby Recovery Group with community volunteers from Fauna Rescue and Whitsunday Landcare joining the team.

### Research Participation

Mackay & District Turtle Watch also commenced a radio tracking program in partnership with researchers from James Cook University. In August the Mackay Regional Council recognised the work

of individual volunteers in supporting the Eungella Biodiversity Study an international scientific project funded in partnership between the Council and Griffith University. The Eungella Honeyeater Survey conducted in Crediton State Forest by Mackay Conservation Group and Birdlife Mackay was a volunteer based program.

In summary the community NRM groups in CQC region experienced a year of challenge and change adapting to new funding sources and maintaining a focus on the job at hand both in a practical on-ground way and by presenting a community voice in the management of the land and sea for the long term benefit of our communities and the ecosystem services upon which we depend.



## CAPE YORK REGION

### John Giese

Cape York Peninsula is one of the last true ecological frontiers, but despite its unique environmental values, the challenges for land managers are constant and relentless.

The approximate area of

Cape York is 157,000 square kilometers. The Groups up here in the far north are still here but just. As all levels of Government reduce funding, the NRM Boards struggle to keep groups going through lack of funds, so as you can imagine there is no good news coming out of the Far North.

My real fear is that some of the Groups will basically give up. For example, if you have been spending "X" amount of dollars fighting a declared weed over a long period of time and then suddenly your funding is cut by heaps or you don't get any funding at all, you see years and years of damn hard work going down the gurgler.

This is the situation right now and it is hard to keep the people focused. I hope this financial situation can be turned around and soon.

South Cape York Catchments have undertaken works including feral pigs exclusion fencing, cultural heritage protection and water quality monitoring. Other groups include Wenlock River Group, Weipa Landcare Group, and Mitchell River Catchment Group.

Rubber vine, sicklepod, pond apple, feral pigs, wild dogs, climate change, fire, and erosion are just a few of the threats being tackled by graziers and traditional owners but further funding is required to continue these on ground projects.

We had a successful Listening Forum in Cooktown with quite a few people getting together to talk about the three Landcare questions that were asked by QWaLC.

As a Board member and one of the Deputy Chairs, I have been able to attend Board meetings and Executive teleconferences to give up to date reports on what is happening in my area. I have also been more than happy to support our Chair Rhondda and our Executive Officer Darryl, plus being able to work with a Board that is dedicated to Natural Resource Management volunteers.

Feral pigs on the Cape





“Where the people lead, the politicians will follow.”



## QUEENSLAND MURRAY DARLING BASIN Geoff Elliot

In November of 2014 I attended QWaLC’s AGM at Caloundra and commenced as the Queensland Murray Darling Basin Representative. During December 2014 to January 2015 I then made contact with most of the

Landcare Groups in the region, including QMDC Regional Body to inform them of their representation to QWaLC body and to find out about current and future projects. (See appendix 1 & 2 - attached reports from regional Landcare groups, and QMDC).

My first QWaLC Board meeting as the QMD representative took place in February 2015 in Brisbane. This was followed up with a meeting between QMDC and QWaLC to establish and formalize a Memorandum of Understanding which has been mutually agreed upon and signed.

The months of May and June involved attending the QMDC National Landcare funding announcement on behalf of QWaLC and reporting the relevant information to regional Landcare groups after which I met with Goondiwindi Regional Council in relation to Landcare groups partnering the Federal Government Drought Assistance Feral Pest Control Program.

The ‘QWaLC Health of Landcare Survey’ was circulated via email throughout regional Landcare groups and I attended face to face meetings with five of these groups as well as tele-link meetings with chair/ coordinators of the additional 3 Landcare groups.



ST GEORGE WITH DIRRANBANDI & NINDIGULLY LANDCARE GROUPS 26TH MAY 2015



MITCHELL LANDCARE GROUP 31ST MAY 2015



## FITZROY REGION Michelle Hanrahan

In November 2014, I was invited to join the Board of QWaLC as a representative of the Fitzroy region. Although this position had been vacant for some time, I was honored to have been approached. The Fitzroy

region is quite large, covering just over 142,660 km<sup>2</sup> and had significant agricultural and mining industries, as well as being the largest river basin flowing into the Great Barrier Reef lagoon. The Fitzroy Basin is also the largest river system draining to Australia's East Coast.

Within the Fitzroy region, we have conducted two Listening Forums on behalf of QWaLC. These forums were to get promote QWaLC and the work it does as well as to capture feedback from community members on their knowledge of QWaLC and their thoughts of what QWaLC does and should be doing.

The listening forums were held at Rockhampton and Middlemount and were well attended by approximately 120 people. Rhondda Alexander, Chair of QWaLC, attended the Rockhampton forum.

During May 2015 we also held a QWaLC community breakfast at the office of Capricornia Catchments Inc. (formerly Fitzroy River and Coastal Catchments Inc.) during the 2015 Beef Week celebrations. This was a chance for people attending Beef Week to attend

and network. People attending came from all over Queensland. The QWaLC flag was also flown at the Fitzroy Basin Association's site at Beef Week which saw over 100,000 people attending over 5 days.

Landcare is still an integral part of the Fitzroy region, with groups spread all over our region. The groups are as varied as are their locations. In the Rockhampton-Capricorn Coast region a new Landcare Group has been formed – the Capricorn Equine Landcare Group Inc. This group has no “geographical” location as such, but is a group of people with shared interests in both land management and horses. There was also one nomination from the Fitzroy region for the Individual Landcarer Award.

Social media is becoming an increasingly important tool for Landcare groups in our region, even though access to the “net” is still impossible/very difficult in a lot of areas in our region. We have seen the creation of quite a few group Facebook Pages. Please, take the time to have a look, “share” and “like” them at your leisure!

<https://www.facebook.com/CapCatchments?fref=ts>

[https://www.facebook.com/CapricorniaEquineLandcareAssociation?fref=pb&hc\\_location=profile\\_browser](https://www.facebook.com/CapricorniaEquineLandcareAssociation?fref=pb&hc_location=profile_browser)

<https://www.facebook.com/Capricorn-Coast-Landcare-Group-Inc-213218805445439/timeline/>

<https://www.facebook.com/TaroomShireLandcare?fref=ts>



## SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND Bardhold Blecken

Membership has increased during this reporting period from 95 member groups to 110 as 15 new groups were accepted. The region has not seen any shires drought declared.

The substantial projects (with funding received from the Queensland Government DEHP) completed during the 12 months were:

- Austinville weed eradication Project; and
- Coomera Waterhen Lake Wetland Project.

Progress has been made on the DEHP funded project of Eco Village swale restoration in the Currumbin Valley. I am pleased to report that this project is on schedule and on budget for completion in the 2015 financial year.

Notable events included the Gold Coast Catchment Association, a member Group of QWaLC, holding a training event for potential leaders in youth Landcare with the support of QWaLC. This resulted in the founding of a Landcare Youth group, named “Gold Coast Intrepid Landcare”. This group is now well established and has completed substantial planting in co-operation with the Rivermount School at the Gold Coast. Nerang River Keepers conducted the annual “Big tree Planting day” at the Country Paradise Parklands Community Centre which has so far seen the impressive planting of over 13,000 trees on the site.

Unfortunately I fell ill in May 2015 and could for this reason not be as active as I would have liked.



## DESERT CHANNELS QUEENSLAND

### Rhondda Alexander

My promise to get to you last year eventuated this year! It was great to be home, but also heartbreaking to see our beautiful land experiencing a drought of such magnitude, and to hear and see what our people are going through as well.

At the time of writing this the Desert Channels region is in one of the worst droughts in history. As you can imagine it is not easy for the Landcare Groups to function as most people are more concerned with coping with the drought than with running a Landcare group. When you think of drought, you also think of water, and there is a growing concern with CSG drilling, management of the western rivers, and the management of the Great Artesian Water system.

Wild dogs are a huge problem with the result graziers are resorting to enclosing their properties with dog proof fencing with the support of funding. Kangaroos are another problem but some of this problem is because of progress in the grazing industry. Other feral animals of concern are feral pigs and cats, plus some native parrots. The development of drones for weed control is also being researched. These pests, as well as woody weeds, not only affect the biodiversity of the DCQ region but also the biodiversity of the Lake Eyre Basin which is largely in the DCQ region, which means that all Landcare groups, NRM groups, and Local Councils are partnering up for a mammoth job.

The Channel Landcare Group has set up a website for all the Landcare groups in the DCQ area to use, but as

I have not had a lot of time to spare, I have not been able to do any work with the web site. Some assistance with this site would be gratefully received as I feel that it would be a good way for the Landcare groups in the DCQ area to communicate with each other and also to capture the history of each group so that it is not lost.

A few things that have happened in the DCQ region is the Winton Agreement - a coordinated action between DCQ, Flinders Shire Council, Winton Shire Council, Southern Gulf Catchments and Biosecurity Queensland to eradicate core infestations of prickly acacia (*acacia nilotica*) in their respective area. There was a discovery of a new population of the Edgbaston Goby in another bore drain.

Junior Landcare in the Muttaborra area has been busy with tree planting at the school and also an excursion. The Waddi Tree Project in Boullia area is still progressing with funding from the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife.

Helen Cross, the RLF set up the new Regional Landcare Steering Committee with the following membership - Helen Cross RLF, Peter Klem-Senior lands Officer with DNRM, John Fisher - Landcare and grazier, Elizabeth Clark - Landcare and grazier, Peter Whip - Grazier and Agri Business Consultant, David Phelps - Principal Scientist Grazing Lands, Rhondda Alexander - ex-grazier and Chair QWaLC. Meetings will be held quarterly.

The Weeds Symposium is to be held in September 2015 in Longreach, which will be great for our area and hopefully I will be able to attend.

My thoughts and phone line are open at all times if anyone wants to have a chat.



THE ROAD AHEAD WILL BE CHALLENGING.







# WET TROPICS REGIONAL REPORT

## John Reghenzani

February 2015 saw me appointed Wet Tropics representative, additionally joining the Executive Committee as Treasurer. After 30 years of coastal Queensland sugar-industry research and eight years

managing Terrain NRM's Reef Rescue program, working with committed individuals representing volunteer land carers, has been fulfilling and enjoyable. Born and raised in Far North Queensland, I love this most diverse Queensland region. The Wet Tropics, while possessing unique natural beauty, has its challenges. Climatic and topographic variability pose difficulties for the population. Landholders and volunteers are confronted by environment, infrastructure, World Heritage Rainforest and Great Barrier Reef damage by cyclones, torrential downpours, droughts, invasive pests, feral animals and more.

With reduced regional body support, QWaLC member groups need more, not less, assistance to remain viable, ensure members welfare and continue the essential job of managing Wet Tropic's natural resources. QWaLC ran two regional listening forums learning what our members wanted.

We are actively campaigning based on what we have been told. Our member groups continue to make credible progress. A few examples, by no means an exhaustive list, include: revegetating riparian and wildlife corridors, Trees for the Evelyn and Atherton Tablelands Inc. (TREAT); small farms field day, Eacham Landcare and landholder skills and knowledge program (beekeeping; weed identification; chemical use; firearm safety; rainforest revegetation; beef management; fencing and chainsaw operation), Malanda and Upper Johnstone Landcare.

Malanda Beef Plan Group Inc., Northern Wildlife Conservation Inc. and Tree Roo Rescue and Conservation Ltd are welcomed to QWaLC.

These new groups are improving land management, wildlife conservation and protection through:

- Invasive weed control and beef production optimisation,
- Improved knowledge and conservation of aquatic wildlife, and
- Endangered Tree Kangaroo preservation.

I look forward to ongoing engagement with our 34 regional groups.





# FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE



## QUEENSLAND WATER AND LAND CARERS INC

### COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Your committee members submit the financial report of Queensland Water & Land Carers Inc. for the financial year ended 30 June 2015.

#### Committee Members

The names of the committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are

Rhondda Alexander	Margaret Lane (resigned 15 February 2015)
Graham Armstrong	Maree Prior
Bardhold Blecken	John Reghenzani
Geoff Elliott	Owena Reimers
Sue Ferguson (resigned 25 November 2014)	Rhonda Sorensen (resigned 25 November 2014)
John Giese	Karen Tully (resigned 25th November 2014)
Michelle Hanrahan	Mark Van Ryt

#### Principal Activities

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were to act as the peak body for the volunteer NRM groups (Landcare, Coastcare etc) in Queensland and to represent and advocate for these groups.

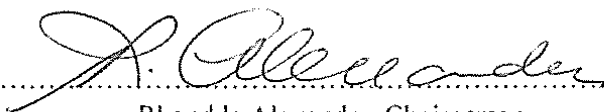
#### Significant Changes

No significant change in nature of these activities occurred during the year.

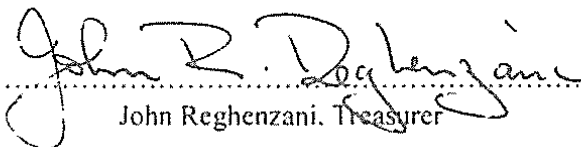
#### Operating Result

The profit for the year amount to \$188,416 (2014 year profit \$18,587).

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee.



Rhondda Alexander, Chairperson



John Reghenzani, Treasurer

Dated this 30th day of September 2015

QUEENSLAND WATER AND LAND CARERS INC.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	Note	2015	2014
		\$	\$
<b>INCOME</b>			
Grants		494,000	353,000
'Reef, Range & Red Dust' Conference Income		54,169	-
Interest		4,265	2,611
Sundry Income		-	4,337
		<u>552,434</u>	<u>359,948</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Audit Fees		2,080	2,080
Bad Debts Written Off		-	1,523
Bank Charges		208	191
Bookkeeping		5,943	4,767
Computer Software & Expenses		5,423	1,610
Conference Registrations & Sponsorship		-	1,791
Consultancy Fees		2,300	2,600
Consultants & Forums - Department of Environment		42,393	-
Donations & sponsorships		6,876	-
Depreciation Expense		7,246	8,037
Dues & Subscriptions		4,071	407
Honorariums		7,056	7,392
Insurance		43,997	42,126
Licence Fees		71	226
Meeting Expenses		269	242
Promotion & Marketing		6,067	19,406
Provision for Annual Leave		8,556	4,816
'Reef, Range & Red Dust' Conference Expenses		6,081	-
Rent		3,395	9,346
Small Grants - Condamine Headquarters Landcare		-	20,000
Small Grants - Upper Thompson		-	2,500
Stationery, Postage & Printing		2,245	4,669
Sundry expenses		812	1,367
Superannuation		9,620	9,524
Telephone & Internet		5,870	5,027
Travel & Accommodation		80,671	68,544
Wages & Salaries		106,941	117,669
Website Maintenance		5,319	4,780
Workers' Compensation		508	721
		<u>364,018</u>	<u>341,361</u>
Net Surplus / (Deficit)		<u>188,416</u>	<u>18,587</u>

QUEENSLAND WATER AND LAND CARERS INC.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES STATEMENT  
AS AT 30 JUNE 2015

	Note	2015	2014
		\$	\$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash		228,624	77,626
Receivables		46,000	0
Prepaid Insurance		19,192	17,736
Total Current Assets		<u>293,816</u>	<u>95,362</u>
<b>NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Computers at Cost		11,532	11,532
Less Accumulated Depreciation		<u>-11,449</u>	<u>-11,339</u>
		83	193
Website at Cost		30,014	30,014
Less Accumulated Depreciation		<u>-28,262</u>	<u>-21,418</u>
		1,752	8,596
Furniture & Fixtures at Cost		4,222	4,222
Less Accumulated Depreciation		<u>-2,904</u>	<u>-2,612</u>
		1,318	1,610
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>3,153</u>	<u>10,399</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u>296,969</u>	<u>105,761</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Heritage Visa Card		-1,574	3,001
PAYG Withholding Payable		1,689	1,444
Provision for Annual Leave		14,863	6,307
GST Liability		12,253	11,316
Superannuation Payable		<u>2,350</u>	<u>4,721</u>
		<u>29,581</u>	<u>26,789</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<u>29,581</u>	<u>26,789</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>267,388</u>	<u>78,972</u>
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>			
Accumulated Funds at the beginning of the year		78,972	60,385
Net Surplus/(Loss) for the period		<u>188,416</u>	<u>18,587</u>
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS AT YEAR END</b>		<u>267,388</u>	<u>78,972</u>

## QUEENSLAND WATER AND LAND CARERS INC.

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

#### **Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act Queensland. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

**a. Income Tax**

The Association has self assessed and understands that it is tax exempt.

**b. Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)**

Depreciation on the website has been calculated on the straight line basis over the asset's expected useful life. The furniture and fittings and computers are depreciated between 10 -66.67% using diminishing value method.

**c. Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand and deposits held at call with banks.

**d. Revenue and Other Income**

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. Revenue is recorded on receipt or banking, whichever occurs first.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

**e. Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included in the statement of financial position.

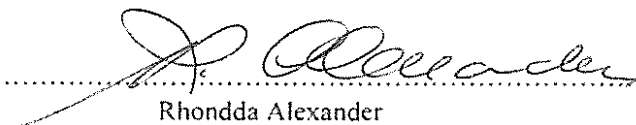
**f. Employee Benefits**

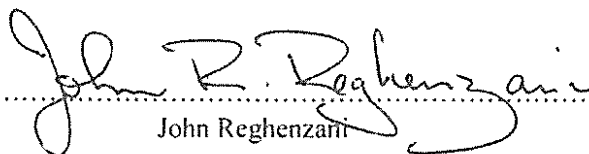
Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

QUEENSLAND WATER AND LAND CARERS INC.

ANNUAL STATEMENTS GIVE TRUE AND FAIR VIEW OF FINANCIAL  
POSITION AND PERFORMANCE OF INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION

We, being members of the committee of Queensland Water and Landcarers Inc. certify that -  
The statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of the financial position  
and performance of Queensland Water and Landcarers Inc during and at the end of the  
financial year of the association ending on 30 June 2015.

Chairperson .....  .....  
Rhondda Alexander

Treasurer .....  .....  
John Reghenzani

Dated this 30th day of September 2015

# JOHN GOSPER AUDIT AND ASSURANCE PTY LTD

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF QUEENSLAND WATER AND LAND CARERS INC

### Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Queensland Water and Land Carers Inc (the association), which comprises the committee's report, the assets and liabilities statement as at 30 June 2015, the income and expenditure statement for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the statement by members of the committee.

#### *Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report*

The committee of Queensland Water and Land Carers Inc is responsible for the preparation of the financial report, and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (Qld) 1981 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### *Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

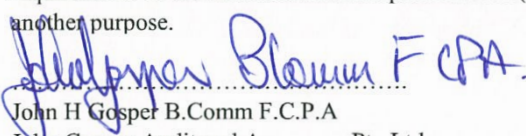
We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### *Opinion*

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Queensland Water and Land Carers Inc as at 30 June 2015 and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and the Associations Incorporation Act (Qld) 1981.

#### *Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution*

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Queensland Water and Land Carers Club Inc to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (Qld) 1981. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

  
John H Gosper B.Comm F.C.P.A.  
John Gosper Audit and Assurance Pty Ltd  
PO Box 2075, Toowoomba QLD 4350

Dated this second day of October 2015





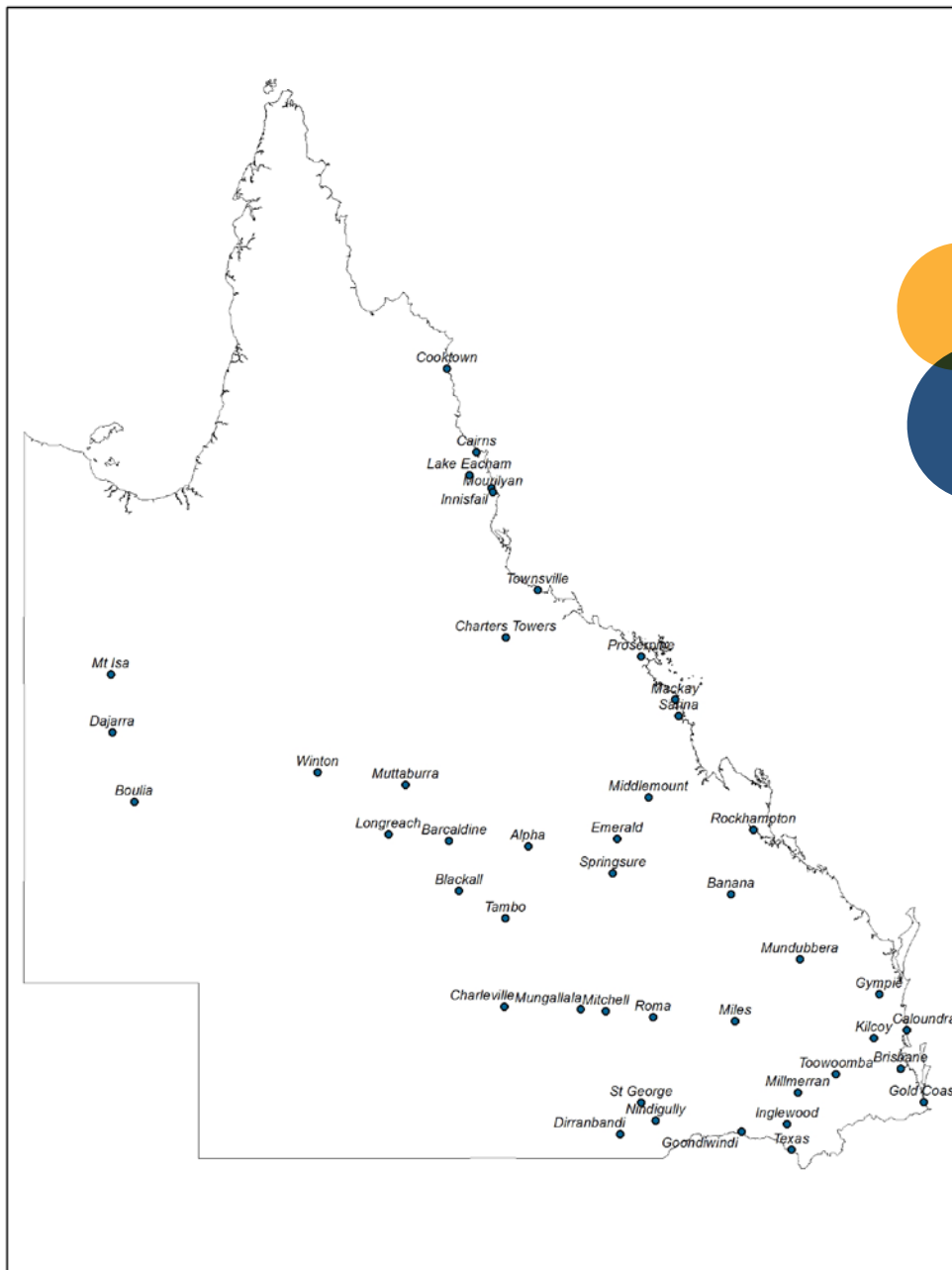
# Future Strategic Direction & Key Activities

The strategic direction and key activities that will be addressed during the next three years will emerge from the 2015 Listening Forums where the membership were widely consulted either in person through one of the many forums or via telephone or email.

## Landcare Listening Forum | 2015

During the first half of 2015, Queensland Water and Land Carers (QWaLC) held a series of 'listening forums' across the State. A series of five questions were put to the various forum participants and were also distributed electronically in areas where it was difficult for the members to attend in person.

The map below shows the majority of the places that forums were held:



The following is a snapshot of the 1078 recorded responses.

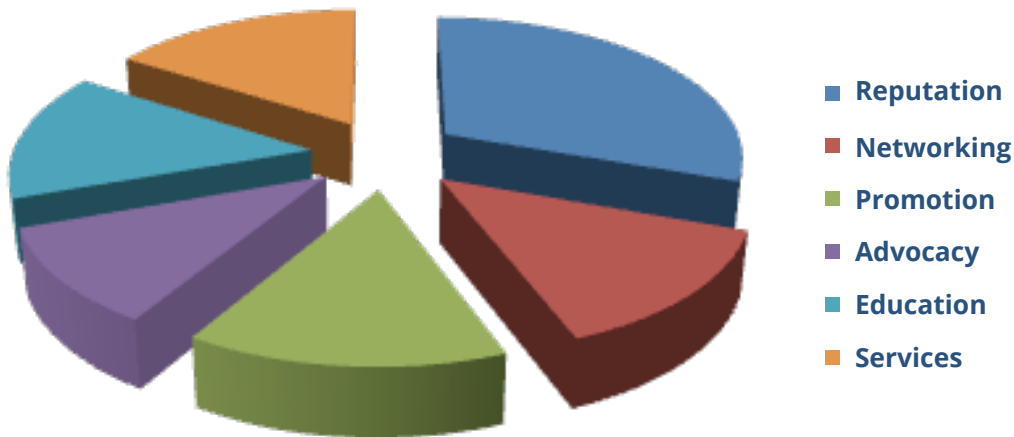
## What our members told us:

### Question 1

#### What are 3 strengths of the Landcare movement in Queensland that we should build on? (279 responses):

Whilst there was a wide variety of responses, the main themes that emerged were: Reputation & Networking | Promotion and Advocacy | Education and Services.

### STRENGTHS

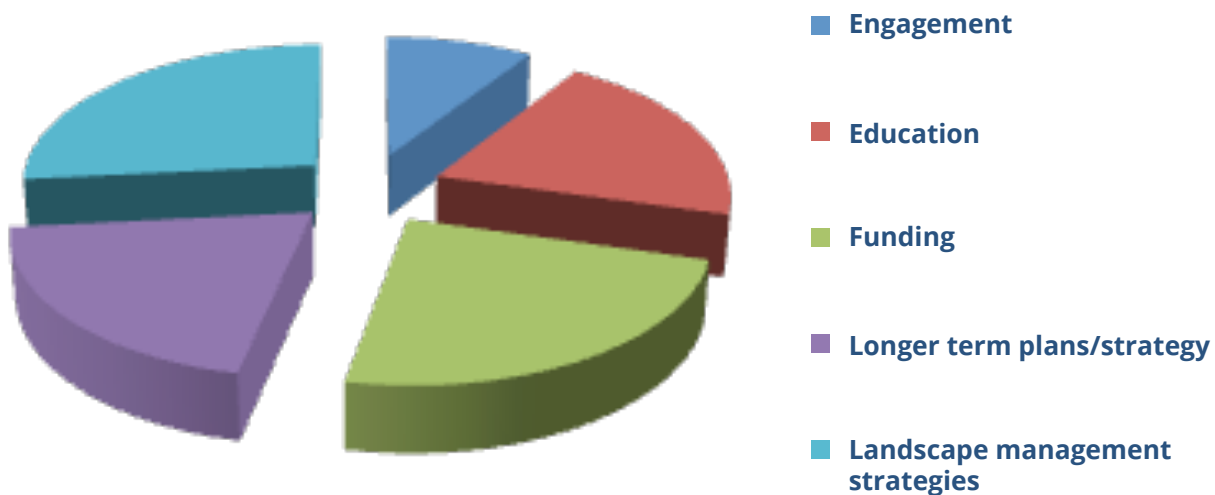


### Question 2

#### What do you think are strategic opportunities available to you in your local area? (282 responses)

The majority of the strategic opportunities put forward fell into the following areas: engagement; education; funding; longer term plans and projects and landscape management strategies.

### STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES



### Question 3

**Where do you see the Landcare movement heading in the next 3 years?**  
(194 responses)

## MEMBERSHIP LED DIRECTION OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS.

### Vision, Ethic and the Landcare Name

Unified vision and consolidated organisational structure with Landcare building on its name and increasing in strength and breadth. Leaders providing direction, supported by members and the broader community to retain independent grassroots but having a partnership arrangement with government at all levels. Continuation of current services, such as providing advice, the facilitation of regional, cross regional, state and national networking opportunities and organising collective insurance cover. Generally positive about the future of the movement, depending on government recognizing the role of Landcare and its members and providing adequate support through funding and other resources. Landcare needs to be innovative in its approach.

### Funding

Learn to do more with less and consider what projects can be achieved without funding. Decline/total lack of dedicated funding is seen to be one of the main threats to Landcare, natural resources and the environment by limiting on-ground work and may result in groups being information and education providers. Explore non-government funding sources. If funding can be secured Landcare will be at the forefront for delivering on-ground activities. Results come from the efficient, effective and sustainable allocation of funding, supported by ongoing obligatory management.

### Networking and Volunteers

Networking is of great importance and is highly valued. Engagement of young people is a high priority. Capturing of current experience would provide 'insurance of continuity' in the event of a 'membership gap'. It was recommended for groups to have engagement with a broad age range, differing viewpoints and to use social media. Having less formalized group structures should be considered with people volunteering around areas of specific (and often short term) interest in a more ad-hoc fashion with a paid coordinator and small core group of organizers for planning and momentum.

### Education and Capacity

Maximise education opportunities, particularly for young people, to learn from one another and invited experts in a social setting. Promotion of Landcare at

events not traditionally thought of as being linked to NRM through good partnership arrangements and mutual promotion.

The appointment or reappointment of regional paid full or part time coordinators was another common priority. Retention and enhancement of current capacity; coordination of projects and people; communications; partnering; research and assistance in securing of funding were all key reasons put forward to have dedicated Regional Landcare Coordinators.

### Partnerships and Engagement

The successful engagement of community and working with a diverse range of external groups is key to being strong and effective. Landcare has a role in uniting and formalizing Landcare's partnering (i.e. MOUs) with other NRM organisations and all levels of government and should direct effort into partnering with commercial companies as well as conservation and other environmental groups to access innovative ideas and technologies, greater scope for communication and the sharing of resources.

### Landscape Management

A core component of the movement with varied thinking on future priorities and direction, ranging from continuing with grassroots on-ground projects (i.e. weed management) to having a role of restoration and resilience building projects on behalf of governments.

### Advocacy and Promotion

Priority should be given to continuing to advocate to all levels of government on the role of Landcare and its members, the importance of volunteers in managing our natural resources and the promotion of rural and urban needs. Support the government by seeking to contribute to Government policy. Communications (via social media campaigns) should highlight the many urgent issues and promote the great outcomes of the many significant projects undertaken across the State to focus political and ideological changes. As government will find it very difficult to meet environmental targets without more support for and from the Landcare movement we need to articulate that partnering with Landcare is a win/win situation and provides a direct connection to landholders and the general community at the grassroots level.

## Other issues of importance:

- Reduction of paperwork.
- Funding to be directed to Landcare.
- Cut the cost of chemicals.
- Facilitating organic farming and backyards.
- Toxicology as a primary investigation tool.
- Funding of small scale specific needs.
- Continuity with successive governments.
- Promotion of removal of top barbed wire.
- Centralizing information via host website.
- Learning new techniques and skills such as planning.
- Support from the regional groups coordinator.
- National NRM Policy Council.
- Statistical leverage for advocacy.
- Clarification of roles.
- Use of Plans.
- Supporting our member's health and wellbeing.
- Inform of changes to legalization.
- Recognition by Government of extension work.
- Tax incentives for Landcare activities.
- Commercial recognition of good environmental practices.
- Weed control.
- Traditional Owner engagement and knowledge.

## Members want:

- Free access to "The Hands".
- Promotion of Green Nomads.
- Notification of funding opportunities.
- 'Auspicing' in addition to incorporation.
- Development of a mobile App.
- Scouts Landcare badge.
- Army forces.
- Expanded definition of Landcare Group.
- Landcare is not just voluntary.
- Facebook site.
- Professional Leadership.
- Resilient organizational and operational structures.
- Recycling and refundable deposits.
- QWaLC - broader role, strong voice, input into policy, ensure all groups are aware of QWaLC's role and services.



## PEOPLE WE WORK WITH:





Proudly supported by



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