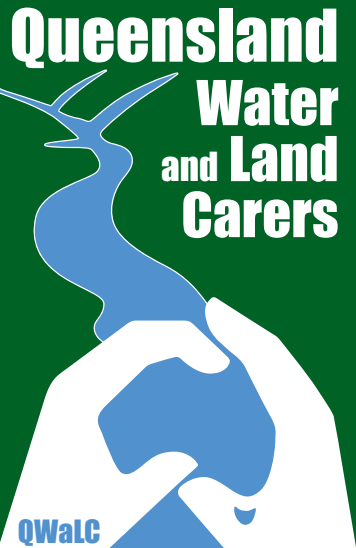


Volunteers

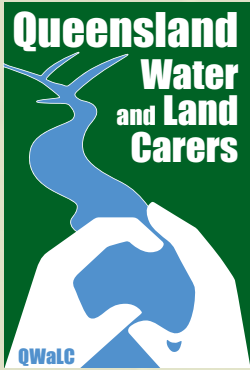


Natural Resource Management



2008

Annual Report



2008

Annual Report

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20,169

the number of NRM
volunteers QWaLC
represents



Chair's Report

Esma Armstrong OAM

The past year has been highly successful for Queensland Water and Land Carers (QWaLC). We have a full board of regional representatives attending meetings and networking in their regions with NRM volunteers and Regional Groups.

I would like to welcome Robyn Mapp from the Fitzroy Basin region and John Giese from Cape York to the Board. I would also like to welcome Ian Adcock in his new capacity as the Board Member for Northern and Southern Gulfs.

This year, we held board meetings outside the Brisbane city area, which reduced costs, as well as providing a relaxed style of networking for all board members, staff and visitors. The Minister for Natural Resources and Water, The Hon. Craig Wallace attended our Board Meeting in April 2008 and we welcomed his discussion and interest.

The QWaLC web page is regularly updated and has become a necessary form of communication to groups. It provides opportunities for training, meeting, networking and funding. There is also comprehensive information, and necessary forms, on becoming a registered volunteer NRM Group, including incorporation. The mail-out of the landcare magazine together with other information has been greatly appreciated by groups.

Facilitation for internal issues within groups has been acknowledged as an important service QWaLC has provided to volunteers. Three groups have benefited from this assistance, and all have reported that they are now operating under appropriate governance arrangements.

Insurance for NRM volunteers is provided by NRM and managed by QWaLC. This process has been streamlined and will work more efficiently in the future. During this year QWaLC has negotiated an increase in the upper age limit for insurance coverage for volunteers from 75 years to 90 years of age.

The 2008 State Landcare Conference will be held at Monto in September. I encourage you to attend, and I trust all who attend will share their experiences and benefit from sharing the experience of others. The 2009 State Landcare Conference will be held in Longreach. Landcare groups, Queensland Water and Land Carers and the Desert Channels Regional group are working together to organise this event.

Groups were provided with a training toolkit for managing their risk, through a shared project with Conservation Volunteers Australia and QWaLC. Thankyou to Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Grant for enabling this valuable information to be distributed.

The Governor of Queensland, Quentin Bryce agreed to become the Patron of QWaLC. We wish her good luck with her new venture as the Governor General of Australia.

As the chair of QWaLC - a state-wide organisation which takes grassroots issues to the State and Federal tables - I and the QWaLC Executive Officer, Vickie Webb, have been involved in advocating the needs of on-ground Queensland volunteers. As the NRM sector waited for news of the funding scheme to replace NHT2, we spoke to both Federal and State Ministers on behalf of our members. Erin Russell (Communications Manager) represented

the NRM volunteer sector on several committees, including the inaugural Coastal Conference Committee.

Volunteer NRM Groups will have an opportunity to apply for funding within the new Caring For our Country Program. This will give groups direct access to funding within several competitive rounds per year. Regional reports by Board Members have indicated that NRM volunteer groups are working well with Regional NRM Organisations in most regions. This will encourage collaborative approaches and projects within funding rounds.

The Australian Landcare Council (ALC) has been a vital link between on-ground NRM volunteers, QWaLC and the Commonwealth Government. It is currently undergoing a hiatus while a review is conducted. We hope it will not be too long before it is once again performing its vital contribution to the NRM volunteer sector in Australia. Thank you to Kirk Smith, Queensland Representative on the ALC for his continued support to QWaLC, and all NRM volunteers.

This year saw a 15% increase in nominations for the Biennial Queensland Landcare Awards. I congratulate all winners, and look forward to seeing them in Canberra in October 2008 to compete for the national title. Good luck to all.

Thankyou to staff - Executive Officer, Vickie Webb and Communication Manager, Erin Russell for the dedication and persistence they have given beyond the call of duty as QWaLC continues to expand and excel in the services provided to members throughout Queensland.

E. Armstrong

90 years
*the new age of
insurance policies*

11 years
*the average age of
QWaLC groups*

Executive Officer's Report

Vickie Webb

The last twelve months has seen Queensland Water and Land Carers continue to represent its members in many arenas. The profile of the volunteer NRM sector has been raised with the Governor of Queensland Quentin Bryce agreeing to become the Patron of our organisation. Next year, the 2009 State Landcare Awards will be held at Government House to recognize and acknowledge the valuable contribution made by volunteers in the NRM sector.

I would like to congratulate the winners of the 2007 State Landcare Awards. There were some very good entries in all categories and I know the judging panel had many hard decisions to make. I would also like to wish all winners good luck at the national awards which will be held in Canberra in October 2008. We are hoping to increase the number of Queensland national winners this year.

QWaLC has had meetings with both Federal and State Ministers in relation to the NRM volunteer sector and the new Caring for Our Country initiative. The main item discussed at these meetings was the need for equity in future funding initiatives.

In relation to our five key roles, QWaLC has achieved the following:

Advocacy

- Increased the age for insurance policies to 90 years
- Advocated for 4 groups whose registration was in jeopardy
- Worked closely with 3 groups who were having local issues with their respective Regional NRM Bodies.
- Met with Commonwealth and State Ministers

Representation

Over the last twelve months QWaLC staff have represented our members and the volunteer NRM sector on the following committees:

- Land for Wildlife
- Queensland Coastal Conference Committee (Chair of 2 sub committees)
- Coastal Information Website Committee
- Regional Communicators Network
- National Landcare Awards group with other states
- Discussion Group about the delivery of future national natural resource management programs from July 2008
- Rural Leasehold Land – Delbessie Agreement
- State Coastal Management Plan Review Meeting
- Caring for our Country Meeting
- Scoping Workshop – Sub Regional Co-ordinations Group
- 2009 Landcare Conference Steering Committee
- Community Awareness Grants Assessment Panel
- Envirofund Assessment Panel

Networking

- Continued the resource library
- Distributed the quarterly Australian Landcare Magazine, and other brochures
- Kept website upgraded to ensure it is a valuable resource. It currently contains:
 - 56 news articles and 144 photos
 - 280 resources such as files, downloads, emails and website links
 - 125 webpages including information on: Insurance; How to become a landcare group; News; Events; Partners; Group support; and Links to Commonwealth and State Government and Regional NRM Bodies

Promotion

- The Biennial State Landcare Awards were held in August 2007 – this year saw a 15% increase in applications.
- The Governor of Queensland became the Patron of QWaLC
- Government House instigated a Landcare Project to restore riparian vegetation on the grounds
- QWaLC assisted groups with linkages to large corporate organisations wishing to donate time and energy to volunteer NRM projects
- QWaLC partnered with Volunteering Australia in National Volunteering Week
- Worked with Conservation Volunteers Australia to distribute the Risk Management toolkit "In Safe Hands" to 100 member groups, thanks to Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Grant

Insurance

- Continued to administer the Insurance cover for volunteer NRM groups which is paid by Department of Natural Resources and Water.

Future Directions

Over the next twelve months the organisation will continue and increase its roles by being the:

- Interface between Government and volunteer NRM groups
- Interface between Regional NRM Bodies and Volunteer NRM groups
- Continuing Peak Body operation – assistance to groups with governance, registration
- Vital link between volunteer NRM groups and Caring For our Country program.



73 years

The age of the oldest NRM group in Queensland
- Bellthorpe Progress Association

Governor

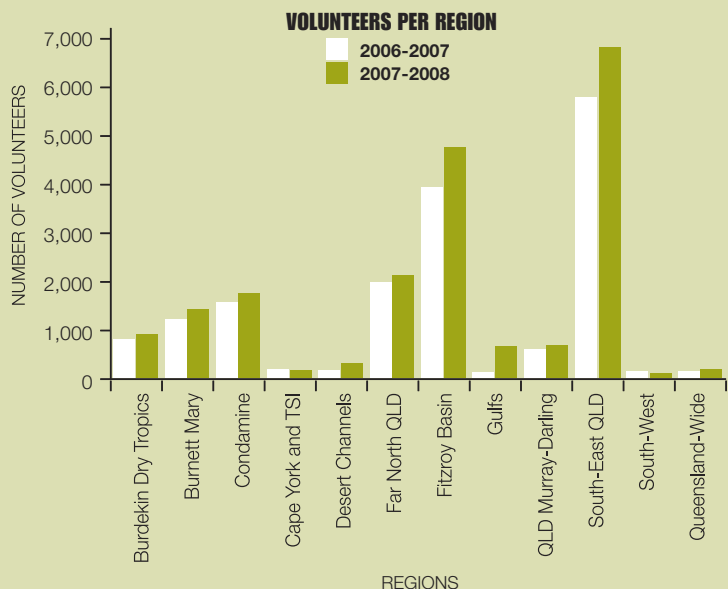
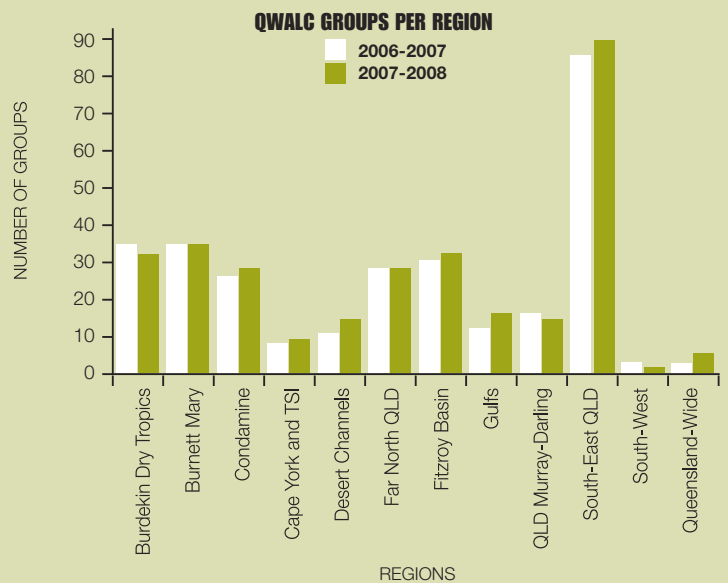
of Queensland became
Patron of QWaLC

Membership

Queensland Coastal Conference 2007

QWaLC was proud to be the Community Registrations Sponsor of the inaugural Queensland Coastal Conference, held in Bundaberg in September. Thirteen community representatives attended the event, which attracted 200 delegates from government, industry, academia and regional bodies. QWaLC was a member of the steering committee for the Conference. In 2008, we're once again actively involved in organising a community-relevant program for the 2009 Queensland Coastal Conference, to be held from 13-15 May 2009, on the Gold Coast.

Meeting of the QWaLC Board members



4,000

*members for
Taroom Shire Landcare*

*- the largest
NRM group in
Queensland*

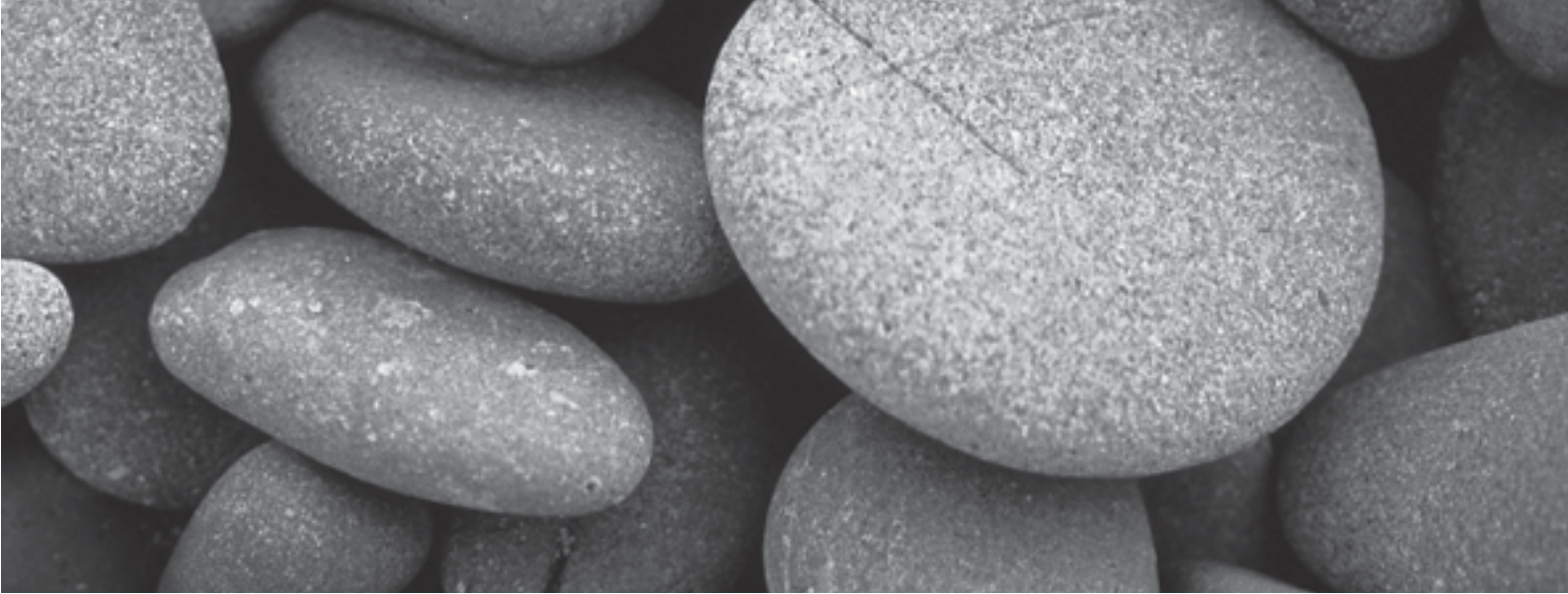
Membership Lists

Burdekin Dry Tropics

Burdekin Fish Restocking Association Inc.
Dalrymple Landcare Committee Inc.
Lynd Landcare Group Inc.
Lower Burdekin Landcare Association Inc.
Charters Towers and District Landcare Group
Balfes Creek Catchment Care Group
Seventy Mile Range Landcare Group
Hann Creek Landcare Group
Three Rivers Landcare Group
Lower Cape River Landcare Group
Cape Campaspe Landcare Group
Burdekin-Bowen Integrated Floodplain Management
Advisory Committee
Belyando Crossing Landcare Group
Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association Inc.
Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group Inc.
OUCH Volunteers
Whitsunday Catchment Landcare
Blackjack Weed Group
Headwaters Landcare Group
Upper Houghton Landcare Group
Magnetic Island Nature Care Association
Coastal Dry Tropics Landcare Inc.
Herveys Range Landcare Group
Friends of St Helens Beach Environment Inc.
St Helens Bush and Beach Association
Burdekin Dry Tropics Board
Houghton River Catchment Coordination Committee
Keelbottom Landcare Group
Mingela North Landcare Group
Mt Leyshon Landcare Group
Pentland Landcare Group
Upper Cape Landcare Group
Farrier Island Coastcare

Burnett Mary

Tiaro and District Landcare Group Inc.
Central Burnett Land Management Advisory Group Inc.
Miriam Vale Rural Science and Landcare Society Inc.
Burnett Catchment Care Association Inc.
Lower Mary River Landcare & Catchment
Gayndah Landcare Group Inc.
Kingaroy Landcare Group
Baffle Creek Catchment Management Group Inc.
Isis Landcare Group Inc.
Mary River Catchment Coordinating Association Inc.
Gympie & District Landcare Group Inc.
South East Burnett Landcare Group Inc.
North Burnett Landcare Group Inc.
Smalls Creek Landcare Group Inc.
Bundaberg & District Urban Landcare Association Inc.
Kolan Shire Landcare Association Inc.
Gaeta & District Progress & Landcare Association
Noosa & District Landcare Group Inc.
Friends of the Burrum River System Group (Inc.)
Djaku-Nde & Jangerie Jangerie Aboriginal Corporation
Boyne Landcare Group
Fraser Island Defenders Organisation (Ltd)
Woongarra Coast Monitoring and Education Project
Auburn River Landcare Group
Brooweena Landcare Group
Kenilworth & District Landcare Group
Residents of Coonarr Beach
South Burnett Landcare Project Committee
St Johns Creek Landcare Action Group
Upper Boyne Landcare Association
Agnes Water Landcare Group Inc
Mount Perry Resource Management Group Inc
Bat Rescue Inc. (Sunshine Coast)
Cooloola Coastcare Association Inc.
Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group
Turtle Care Volunteers Queensland



Condamine

Clifton Landcare Group
Yamsion Rangemore Landcare Group
Square Top Action Group
North East Downs Landcare Group Inc.
Toowoomba Landcare Group
Lagoon Creek Landcare Group
Condamine Headwaters Landcare Group Inc.
Brigalow Jimbour Floodplain Group Inc.
Pittsworth & District Landcare Association Inc.
Kumbarilla & Districts Landcare Group
Dalby Wambo Landcare Group Inc.
South Myall Creek Catchment Landcare Group Inc.
Condamine Catchment Management Association Inc.
Allora Landcare Group Inc.
Chinchilla District Landcare Group Inc.
Cambooya Landcare Association Inc.
Condamine Catchment NRM Corporation (Condamine Alliance)
Millmerran Landcare Group Inc.
Central Downs Landcare Group Inc.
Leyburn & District Progress Association Inc.
Aubigny Catchment Group
Quinalow Landcare Group
Moola Creek Landcare Group
Oakey Urban Landcare Group
Friends of Escarpment Parks
Friends of Myall Creek
Toowoomba and Regional Environmental Council
Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc. (HOPE)

Cape York and Torres Strait

Mitchell River Watershed Management Group Inc.
Wattle Hills Landcare Group
Weipa Catchment Coordinating Group Inc.
South Cape York Catchments
Cape Protects Group
Cape York Development Association
CYMAG Environmental Inc
Peninsula Pastoralist Landcare Committee
Bana Yarralji Bubu Inc.

Desert Channels

Desert Uplands Build Up & Development Strategy Committee
Upper Landsborough Catchment Landcare Group Inc.
Towerhill & Torrens Creek Catchment Landcare Group Inc.
Longreach Landcare Group Inc.
Desert Channels Queensland
Wokingam Landcare Group Inc.
Aramac Landcare Group
Ilfracombe Landcare Group
Blue Bush Landcare
Channel Landcare
Diamantina Headwaters Landcare
Western River Landcare
Williams Valley Landcare

Membership Lists

Far North Queensland

Johnstone Region Landcare Group Inc.
Hinchinbrook Landcare Group Inc.
Kuranda Envirocare Inc.
Cairns Urban Landcare Inc.
Johnstone River Catchment Management Association
Barron River Integrated Catchment Management Association
Trees for the Evelyn and Atherton Tableland Inc. (TREAT)
Cardwell Shire Catchment Association Inc.
Mulgrave Landcare & Catchment Group Inc.
North Johnstone & Lake Eacham Landcare Association Inc.
Mt Fox District Landcare Group
Mt Garnet & District Landcare Group Inc.
terrain NRM
Aboriginal Rainforest Council Inc.
Johnstone Ecological Society Inc
Herbert River Catchment Group Inc.
Tolga Bat Rescue and Research Inc.
Tree Kangaroo & Mammal Group Inc.
Frog Decline Reversal Project Inc.
Japoon/Mena Creek Landcare Group
Johnstone Shire Revegetation Volunteers
Trinity Inlet Catchment Association Inc
Malanda & Upper Johnstone Catchment Landcare Group
Low Isles Preservation Society
Mission Beach Seabed Watch Inc
Kuranda Conservation Community Nursery Inc.
Treeforce Association Inc
Cairns & Far North Environment Centre
Russell Landcare and Catchment Group

Fitzroy Basin

Callide Valley Landcare Group
Taroom Shire Landcare Inc.
Baralaba Landcare Inc.
Port Curtis Catchment Working Group
Lake Maraboon Landcare Group Inc.
Mackenzie River Big Bend Landcare
Mimosa Catchment Landcare Group Inc.
Wycarbah & District Landcare Group Inc
Dawson Catchment Coordinating Association
The Caves District Landcare Association Inc.
Wowan Dululu Landcare Group
Clermont District Landcare Association Inc.
Capricorn Coast Landcare Group Inc.
Morinish Landcare Group
Fitzroy River & Coastal Catchment Inc.
Fitzroy Basin Association
Central Queensland Forest Association Inc.
Alpha/Jericho Landcare Committee
Bauhinia Landcare Group
Bogantungan Reserve Committee
Central Highlands Natural Resource Management Group
Duaranga Central Districts Landcare
EnviroLink
Fitzroy Basin Elder Committee Inc.
Gemfields Landcare Group
Gracemere & Districts Landcare
Marlborough District Landcare
Nebo Broadsound Landcare Group Inc.
Peak Downs Landcare Committee
Theodore Landcare Group
Waterwatch
Tannum Boyne Coastcare
Comet Sustainable Farming Association Inc.



90 groups
listed as members of
South-East Queensland

Northern and Southern Gulfs

Irvinebank Landcare Group
Northern Gulf Resource Management Group
Jamarr Envirogroup
Mt Isa Fish Stocking Group Inc
Barkly Landcare
Camooweal Landcare Association
Carpentaria Landcare Group
Cloncurry Landcare Group
Fairlight Creek Landcare
Hughenden Landcare
Mt Isa Landcare
CLEAN - Climate Landcare Environment Action Network
Richmond Landcare Group Inc.
Wildlife Conservancy of Tropical Queensland (WCTQ)
Gregory River Landcare Group
McKinlay Shire Landcare Group

Queensland Murray-Darling Basin

Nindigully Landcare Group Inc.
Mitchell & District Landcare Association Inc.
Maranoa Balonne Catchment Management Association Inc.
Murilla Landcare Group Inc.
Waggamba Landcare Group Inc.
Tara & District Landcare Group
Granite Borders Landcare Committee (Stanthorpe Landcare)
Border Rivers Catchment Management Association
Maranoa Regional Landcare Association
Dirranbandi Landcare Group Inc.
Warroo Balonne Region Landcare Inc.
Roma Community Garden Group
Queensland Murray Darling Committee Inc.
Upper Dawson Landcare Group
Inglewood Shire Landcare Inc.

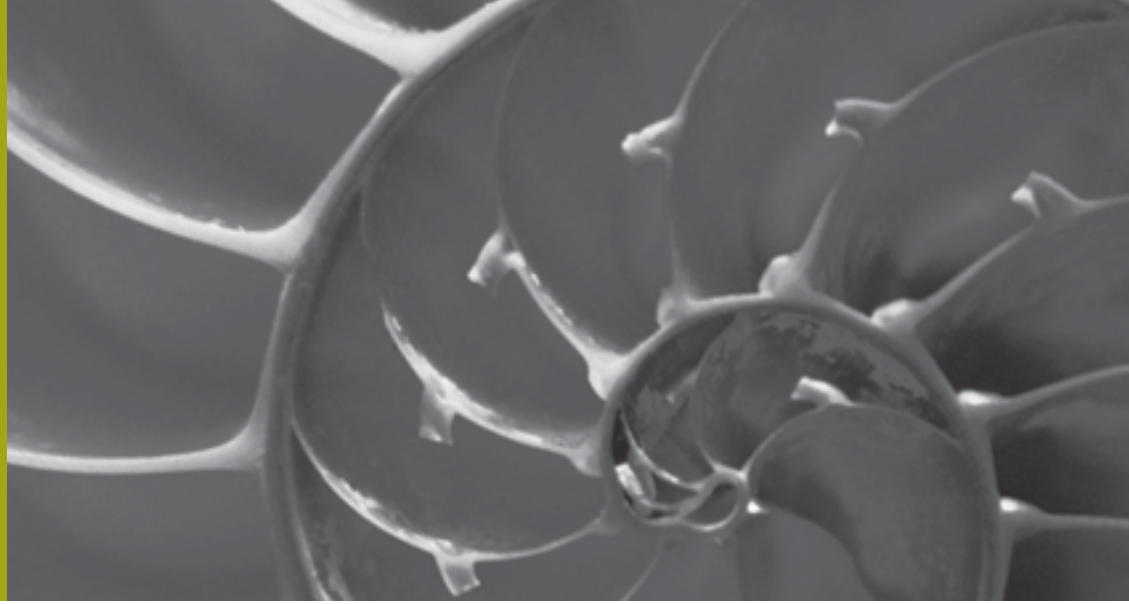
South-East Queensland

Norman Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee (N4C) Inc.
Caboolture Region ICM Group
Pumicestone Region Catchment Coordination Association Inc.
Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee Inc.
Mt Nebo/Mt Glorious Environmental Protection Association
Pine Rivers Catchment Association
Maroochy Landcare Group Inc.
Moggill Creek Catchment Management Group Inc.
Tamborine Mountain Landcare Inc.
Moreton Bay Coastcare
Beechmont Landcare
Petrie Creek Catchment Care Group Inc.
Oxley Creek Catchment Association Inc.
Erapah Creek Catchment Landcare Association Inc.
Barung Landcare Association Inc.
North East Landcare & Catchment Management Group
Pullen Pullen Catchments Group
Springbrook Catchment Management Landcare Group Inc.
Friends of Federation Walk Inc.
Friends of Lagoon Creek Group Inc.
Noosa Integrated Catchment Association Inc.
Logan & Albert Conservation Association Inc.
Friends of CREEC Association Inc.
West Moreton Landcare group Inc.
Bremer Catchment Association Inc
Lockyer Valley Landcare Inc
Lockyer Catchment Association
Logan & Albert Rivers Catchment Association Inc.
Coomera River Catchment Group
Coolum District Coast Care Group
Gold Coast Catchment Association
Upper Brisbane Region Catchment Network Inc.
Beaudesert Landcare Group Inc.
Boonah & District Landcare Inc.
The Hut Environmental and Community Association Inc.

cont'd over

140

files available for download
on the QWaLC website



South-East Queensland cont'd

Peregian Beach Community Association
Maroochy Mooloolah Catchment Coordinating Association Inc.
Brisbane Valley-Kilcoy Landcare Group Inc.
Mooloolah River Waterwatch & Landcare Inc.
Communities for Sustainable Futures-McPherson Range Group Inc.
North Pumicestone Waterwatch
Sunshine Coast Environment Council Inc.
NRMSEQ
Maroochy Waterwatch Inc.
Men of the Trees
South Stradbroke Island Landcare Group
Rosalie North Landcare Group Inc.
SEQ Catchments (Ipswich)
Emu Creek Catchment Landcare Group Inc.
Bellthorpe Progress Association Inc.
FEAT Blackbutt/Benarkin
Gold Coast & Hinterland Environment Council Assoc. Inc
Currimundi Catchment Care Group
Crows Nest Creek Catchment Group
Yarraman Creek Environment Group
Friends of Oxley Common Inc.
South East Queensland Catchments Ltd
Australian Freshwater Turtle Conservation & Research Association
Vera Street Community Garden Inc.
Atkinson/Buaraba Catchment Landcare Group
Biggera & District Landcare
Dayboro District Landcare Group
Elanora Wetlands Bushcare Group
Friends of Currumbin
Loders Creek ICM Community Association
Manduka Community Settlement Co-op
Mudgeeraba Catchment Management Group
Numinbah Valley Landcare Group
Scenic Rim Farm Foresters
Six Mile, Woogaroo & Goodna Creeks Catchments Group
Stumer Creek Catchment Care Committee

Sustainable Ecotourism Noosa Association
Tallebudgera Catchment Care Group
Tooway Creek Catchment Care
Helidon Hills/Murphys Creek Landcare Group Inc.
Forest Farmers Association Qld Inc
Bayside Creeks Catchment Group
Loders Creek Catchment Association Inc
Bat Care Brisbane Inc
Moreton Island Protection Committee Inc
Noah's Ark Wildlife Coalition
Save Our Waterways Now (SOWN)
Night Eyes Association Inc.
Moreton Bay Environmental Alliance
Redcliffe Environmental Forum
The Web Incorporated, Brisbane Region Environment Council
Sunshine Coast Groundwater Investigation Group
Oxley Creek Environment Group
Richmond Birdwing Recovery Network
Friends of Stradbroke Island

State-Wide

Nature Refuge Landholder's Association (NaRLA) Inc
Landcare Queensland
Queensland Mycological Society Inc.
Queensland Litter Prevention Alliance

South-West Queensland

South West NRM Ltd

4 groups

were approved for insurance as a result of QWaLC's intervention

Advocacy

"Our group expanded so quickly that we didn't have the necessary processes in place for our organisation. When our regional body withheld funding, QWaLC stepped in and sorted out the problem between us, even engaging a consultant to conduct a governance audit. Now we're receiving funding from the regional body, and are confident in our processes."

President, SEQ group.

"The Mitchell River Watershed Management Group, a remote Far North Qld catchment organisation found themselves struggling to address funding applications to the new 'Caring for Country' Projects. The Group who are members of QWaLC appealed to them for assistance in addressing this issue. QWaLC wrote a letter advocating on behalf of Mitchell River Watershed Management Group and supporting their proposal for funding, which was put forward to Canberra to assess. The proposal was successful and the Catchment Group are now in receipt of funding to continue their good on-ground work.

We would like to thank QWaLC for assisting us in this process, and advise all members to use the services of their Peak Body."

Secretary, Mitchell River

"I recognise the importance and value of community volunteer participation in Australian Government natural resource management and environmental programs. I am committed to ensuring the Landcare and similar volunteer groups continue to have the opportunity to participate in the delivery of such programs."

*Peter Garrett AM,
Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts,*

*in response to QWaLC's meeting with the Special Minister of State,
Senator the Hon John Faulkner MP.*

3 groups

and their respective regional bodies were mediated between on local issues

Regional Reports



Burdekin Dry Tropics

Jim Meteyard

This year has been mostly 'wait and see' with the election changing many areas of Landcare. In my area, our highlight was the Landcare conference in Mackay. This was highly successful with excellent attendance - although I would have liked to have seen more on-ground volunteers attend. Once again, Vickie and Erin are to be congratulated on the Awards Night dinner which went off well with the winners being approved by the attendees. Congratulations on all who won and also congratulations to all who entered, it was good to see so many worthy entrants. I was manning the QWaLC Information Booth much of the time and feedback was positive.

I have attended landcare meetings for Upper Houghton and BIFMAC as well as Dalrymple Landcare. I also keep in touch with Burdekin Dry Tropics through the Chairman Mark Stoneman and CEO Bob Frazer. They seem to have been busy and interacting well with the groups. Both Mark and Bob try to attend as many meetings as they can and keep in touch with the ground roots.

The next year is hard to predict as all the regions have less funds promised to them. It will be very disappointing if the new Federal Government relaxes in the efforts to keep Landcare a vibrant movement.



Burnett Mary

Lin Fairlie

It has been a mixed year for this region, both in terms of rainfall and success of groups - but these factors are not necessarily related.

The Burnett Mary Regional Body (BMRG) has funded a number of projects of varying sizes in certain parts of the region in line with the Regional Investment Strategy (RIS). One of the most successful was the series of three or four day Grazing Land Management Workshops. These were a partnership with DPI, Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee and the Beef Liaison Group. The use of local networks has been very important in this project. Ag Force has been involved in other areas and in other projects.

As part of the EPA's 'Back on Track Species Prioritisation Framework', BMRG has undertaken a Multispecies Recovery Plan for the region. While this has not yet resulted in on-ground funding it is hoped that the results will be included in the RIS for the next round of funding and involve local groups.

The National Landcare Program (NLP) has been an important source of on-ground funds for a number of landcare groups and it is unfortunate that funding of NLP appears to have ceased. Funds from Rainforest Recovery have been devolved through BMRG to some landholders with valuable remnants on their properties.

The current system of funding is certainly different from a landcare group point of view. It remains to be seen how the medium to larger groups with the need for a coordinator, and who are not successful in attracting/applying for funding buckets in competition with larger commercial organizations, will continue in their current form.

10 year
anniversary for
Land For Wildlife



Cape York and Torres Strait

Ian Adcock

NRM Groups are still active across the Cape and throughout the Islands. A name change by the Annan-Endeavour River Group to Southern Cape York Catchments, will better reflect their area of operations, bringing together Laura, Normanby and the Bloomfield mob.

Mitchell River Watershed Management Group is the largest single Catchment Group, operating across 75,000 square kilometres from the Wet Tropics on the East Coast to the Gulf of Carpentaria. The Mitchell River straddles the regional body, Northern Gulf to the south and Cape York to the north. Under the umbrella of Mitchell they have, Irvinebank Landcare, Julatten Landcare, and Cattle Creek Horticultural Landcare Group. All of these group's are very active and healthy. GROWCOM have, in conjunction with Mitchell River, conducted field days promoting the strategic use of irrigation water and a workshop on grant application writing.

The NLP Program has been a fantastic success across Cape York. This program has been administrated by the Peninsula Landcare Group. Unfortunately the NLP program has come to the end of its life in the format as we know it.

The end of NHT has everybody wondering where we go now. What will happen to the smaller Landcare Groups. "Caring for our Country" seems to pose more questions than answers. I suppose we will in time, come to work with this new innovation and move on to applying ourselves. The next twelve months will very interesting indeed.

Cape York still does not have a designated or recognised Regional Board, despite assurances by State and Federal Governments that it will happen. The question is when.

This will be my last report as the Cape York and Torres Strait representative. I am moving on to represent Northern and Southern Gulf on the QWaLC Board. Temporarily John Giese from Cooktown, will be the new representative, until the next Board elections. John is a former Cook Shire Councillor, who has extensive experience in all aspects of landcare.



Condamine

Warren Wilson

The NRM groups within the Condamine region have been active and with a good performance record. They have been working hard accomplishing on-ground projects, working with schools, and conducting seminars. These have all benefited the rural, peri-urban and urban dwellers, as well as local councils.

Landcare facilitators and staff have provided major and tireless support to the groups. The South Myall Landcare group controlled the Correctional Service work gang (prisoners nearing the end of their sentences). They have provided a work force for fencing, tree planting, spraying of weeds both on property and council controlled land across most of catchment area.

A small group, Friends of Myall Creek, in Dalby (11 members) with the support of the town and local council have scored a major coup in obtaining good funding, basically from the Murray Darling Basin Commission for "A Demonstration Reach". A long term project for a 20km stretch of land to cover revegetation, riparian protection, restocking native fish species, re-snagging, bank stabilisation, weed and pest management and management practices that improve water quality and reduce runoff and erosion.

An issue of concern is the coal seam gas water, which could result in a major environmental hazard to the surrounding agricultural lands. The water is evaporated in ponds leaving salt behind. While it is not known exactly how much salt will result, the amounts generally being quoted vary from 200,000 tonnes to 500,000 tonnes, depending on the number of mines involved.

Another concern is the limited information on what funding will be available for the next financial year from both the Federal and State Governments. It is difficult for groups to keep functioning and to maintain staff and facilitators when funding is not secure.



Desert Channels Qld

Elizabeth Clark

The season in the Desert Channels Qld (DCQ) area this year is patchy. There have been some good rains, but on the whole the area is still in the grip of drought which restricts many landcare activities.

There has been some really good work done by project officers, especially in the areas of feral animal and weed control. Both issues are of prime importance and it is essential that these projects are continued and not allowed to lapse and cause all the good work to be lost. Many properties are being run by very few people, or just a caretaker, and consequently landcare issues are not being addressed as would normally happen. This area relies heavily on volunteers to tackle these problems. DCQ would have one of the highest number of volunteers of any NRM region.

The lack of resources, both physical and financial, as well as the security of funding for projects to continue and bear fruit is a major concern. DCQ has been very active and is starting to be recognized and respected for having runs on the board. They assisted with obtaining fifty-three NLP projects under the Protecting our Future round, and eleven under the Landcare Drought round. They have conducted some very successful field days, which have provided property owners the opportunity to showcase completed on-ground projects. Topics covered included property planning, use of GPS, and setting up photo monitoring sites.

Workshops on "Natural Sequence Farming" were hosted in partnership between Desert Uplands Committee and Desert Channels Queensland. One hundred and fifty local landholders attended these informative workshops. The other main area where Desert Channels Queensland has assisted landcare groups and others has been in the conducting the ever popular waterwise gardening workshops around the area.

The Landcare Groups of Western Queensland and Desert Channels Queensland were successful in their bid to host the 2009 State Landcare Conference. This bid represents a new direction in hosting the State Landcare Conference and involves a consortium of groups, including Longreach Landcare Group, Tower Hill Torrens Creek Landcare Group, Upper Thomson Landcare Group, Ilfracombe Landcare Group, Channel Landcare Group, Aramac Landcare Group and Desert Channels Queensland.



Far North Queensland

Joe Crawford

Throughout Far North Queensland (FNQ), landcare, catchment and conservation groups continued to be active in 2008. Water plans have been developed for many northern rivers and farmers continue to improve their practices to reduce sediment and fertilizer run off to the Great Barrier Reef. Allocation of money to the various primary industry groups should further advance this trend.

Terrain has developed good relationships with all partners in natural resource management and Regional councils are also becoming more involved.

The scrapping of Envirofund grants has left some small groups unsure of their future and the trend towards bigger more expensive projects may only exacerbate this uncertainty.

FNQ has enjoyed a successful natural resource year and is well organized for a successful future.

Group at Mitchell



Fitzroy Region

Robyn Mapp

There have been a number of combined Landcare field days and group visits within the Fitzroy Region in the last year and this has helped to strengthen the ties between the volunteer groups and to promote the need for recognition of group initiatives by the Regional NRM Group.

The regional process has been made more problematic again with the change in government and uncertainty of policies. This highlights the importance of a stable and committed volunteer sector in the NRM industry of the region. A further difficulty is the mobility of young staff in remote areas and the essential need for volunteers to keep the local movements on track.

Landcare groups are often project innovators with needs and initiatives outside the processes of the regional groups. These require respect and support and may eventually become mainstream. As examples, soil biology, Natural Sequence Farming and peri-urban initiatives are important to individual groups in the Fitzroy Region.

Several groups continue to run significant not-for-profit nurseries and are continuing to support other community groups with inexpensive or free trees. Many other groups are important centres for their communities, fulfilling important social as well as NRM roles and sometimes even raising funds for local charitable needs. Most of the groups have several projects about which they are passionate and funding to support these projects is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain.

For many of the groups, the question of succession is becoming important and also the problem of attracting new and/or younger members. Landcare groups rely on field days and working days to increase membership but in many areas there is so much competition from other community organizations that it becomes very difficult. Community partnerships and combined days appear to be one solution used by several of the groups. There have been some notable exceptions to this such as the highly successful Baralaba Forum which attracted around 170 attendees, mostly from the rural sector.

Regional Reports



Queensland Murray - Darling Basin

Sue Ferguson

During the past year the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin region has been the recipient of both drought and flooding rain. Red Country that looked desolate was magically turned into a green carpet, however the heavier Black Country took quite a while to respond. There are still many areas (in the east) that have not shown such a good response and are certainly in need of much more rain.

Maranoa Landcare and QMDC have held Pasture and Weed Id Days to help landholders keep up to date with pasture plants and identify 'unknown' plants and how to deal with them.

Carpbuster days have been held around the QMDC Region with great success and much enthusiasm in St George, Thallon, Surat, Goondiwindi, Mungindi and Dirranbandi providing an opportunity to raise awareness of the damage these fish cause to those who use our waterways.

Queensland Winter Crop production meetings were held in Roma, Condamine and St George. Agforward has been busy in the area with vegetation management, computer mapping and GPS use days being held. A forum highlighting healthy soils has also been the focus of a meeting at Kangaroo Valley.

Dick Richardson, a farmer, trainer and consultant from Vryburg, South Africa was the guest speaker at a Holistic Management Field Day held at Muckadilla. Fifty people attended and it was felt to have been a great day for sharing thoughts and ideas. Dick believes "...human stress needs to be reduced by limiting risk and fear with good planning".

Goondiwindi held a 'Tie Up the Black Dog' event in December and following its success and enormous community interest another was also held in Roma in April. The day was divided into two sections and guest speakers held the audience captivated as they told their own personal stories of having had depression or bipolar and what it was like to live with a sufferer. The journeys these people have taken are amazing and gave hope that somewhere there is a light at the end of the tunnel. The common message was that they didn't do it alone but with help from doctors, family and friends.

Even though QWaLC has been operational for a number of years, I still have to remind people within the QMDC who we are and what we can do for them. Some are still unaware that they have to register and will then qualify for any assistance they require and be covered by insurance.

Our region is still involved with the Board of Great Artesian Basin Consultative Council, Queensland Great Artesian Basin Advisory Council, Maranoa Balonne CMA, and also South West Queensland Electricity Board (Ergon).

20,000+
*individuals are members
of QWaLC*



South East Qld

Esma Armstrong

South East Queensland (SEQ) NRM volunteers have continued their many activities throughout the year. Groups working on coastal and inland projects in rural, urban, and peri-urban areas have, by their continuous hard work, made a significant difference to specific areas in the heavily populated SEQ.

Water, or the lack of, continues to be a major concern in SEQ. Community groups have been consulted on how they can be involved with the SEQ Regional Plan for environmental management, including water and other demands of the proposed increased population for SEQ.

NRM groups are meeting with South East Queensland Catchments Regional group to determine the future direction of the regional SEQ NRM plan. This gives groups an opportunity to have input to identify priority areas and where the funding may go in the future.

SEQ Catchments Regional Group has been responsible for some learning and training opportunities for groups. Strong leadership supported by on-ground project coordinators have been the driving force for successful projects. Face to face meetings with groups throughout SEQ have also raised the profile of QWaLC.

There is a real problem for the landcare/catchment sector representatives on the NRMSEQ Board in getting information out to their groups because of a lack of administration support.

Groups are concerned that the level of funding from SEQ Catchments may decrease, as a result of a decrease in the Regional Groups funding under Caring for our Country. A loss of funding will make it very difficult for some groups to function and survive. However other groups will carry on as they are not totally dependent on funding from the regional group. Many groups have been successful in obtaining corporate funding for specific projects.



South West Qld

Alan Travers

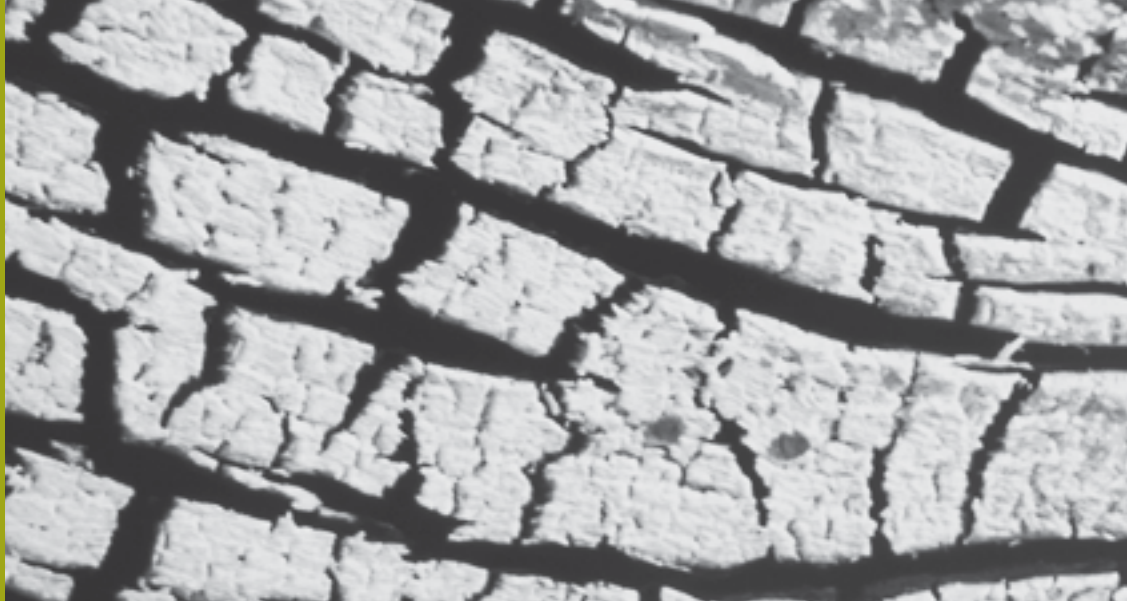
Some parts of the South West received beneficial rain during December and January, but the drought persists over much of the area.

Landcare has continued to have a strong presence in the region and three new groups have been formed over the past year.

Many much needed natural resource management projects of various natures have been accomplished by individuals and groups working through programs sponsored by South West NRM Ltd. Partnerships such as this are essential, and I would encourage groups to take advantage of the many benefits available by becoming members of their peak body, Queensland Water and Land Carers.

38

*people from across
Queensland attended
the AGM*



Networking and Promotion

AGM

The AGM, held via teleconference to make it accessible to all members, was attended by 38 people from across Queensland.

Groups whose members attended the meeting included: Mt Isa Fish Stocking Group, Lower Burdekin Landcare Association, Cape York Peninsula Landcare, Trinity Inlet Catchment Management Association, South Stradbroke Island Landcare Group, Gympie and District Landcare, Upper Cape Landcare Group, Vera Street Community Garden, CYMAG Environmental, Pioneer Catchments and Landcare Group, Bremer Catchment Association, Northern Gulf Resource Management Group, South Myall Catchment Landcare, Granite Borders Landcare Committee, Dirranbandi Landcare Group, and Gympie Landcare.

Volunteering for Wild Places Scholarship

Enabling on-ground volunteers to network with all levels of the NRM sector is part of QWaLC's networking role. QWaLC sent volunteers to the inaugural Queensland Coastal Conference, 2007 Queensland Landcare Conference and the Volunteering on the Edge - Volunteering for Wild Places, Wildlife and Cultural Heritage Conference.

This year, QWaLC has successfully networked individual on-ground NRM groups with major corporate sponsors. As the demand for green initiatives increases, more and more corporations are contacting QWaLC to roll out green initiatives. In the past six months alone, we have brought together on-ground groups with international companies, including a sponsor of the Australian Open and an organisation of 24,000 employees.

Governed by our strict commitment to working to the benefit of our groups, QWaLC receives no money for linking groups and sponsors and puts sponsors directly in touch with groups rather than accepting sponsorship for ourselves.



The Honorable Craig Wallace, Minister for Natural Resources and Water with Bob Speirs



Insurance

QWaLC successfully negotiated an increase in the age limit for insurance policies to 90 years in response to the feedback from members.



The Iningai mob visiting Stratford



Dave Thompson at the Stratford art site

Website

1/3

of our membership promote their groups on the website

100 +

pages of information

68 *news pages*

6 *pages of insurance information*

199 *weblinks*

58 *email contacts*

140 *files for download*

163 *images*

397 *resources on NRM issues*

163 *events listed in the past year, held in 63 locations across Queensland - from Weipa to Wyandra and Mt Isa to Mackay*

Financials

QUEENSLAND WATER AND LAND CARERS INC.

INCOME STATEMENT

FOR THE YER ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Grants	225,000	225,000
Interest	1,954	6,928
Donations	20,000	0
Other Income	2,500	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	249,454	231,928
EXPENSES		
Bank Charges	193	0
Consultancy Fees	3,857	0
Conferenced Expenses	18,384	10,289
Depreciation Expense	1,535	1,396
Distribution of Grant	22,955	0
Governance Training	0	13,737
Legal & Accounting	3,983	0
Meeting Expenses	1,161	47,060
Employment Expenses	156,151	115,142
Postage	5,163	0
Rent	6,000	0
Telephone	1,690	0
Travel	23,911	0
Computer Software	936	0
Freight	181	0
Gifts	1,269	0
Licence Fees	500	0
Office Expenses	1,191	16,225
Parking	776	0
Promotion	1,246	10,195
Risk Project	0	21,136
Sponsorship	3,499	0
Stationery	3,564	0
Survey Expense	0	15,000
Small Assets Written Off	163	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	258,308	250,180
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Surplus/ Deficit)	-8,854	-18,252

QUEENSLAND WATER AND LAND CARERS INC.

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2008

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	142,277	141,480
Sundry Receivables	0	460
Conference Loan Receivable	0	39,600
GST Receivable	1,920	0
	<hr/> 144,197	<hr/> 181,540
NON CURRENT ASSETS		
Plant and Equipment	9,678	5,852
Less Accumulated Depreciation	-4,657	-3,122
	<hr/> 5,021	<hr/> 2,730
TOTAL ASSETS	<hr/> 149,218	<hr/> 184,270
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Conference Loan Refundable	0	39,600
PAYG Withholding Payable	12,955	0
Sundry Creditors and Accruals	2,946	2,499
	<hr/> 15,901	<hr/> 42,099
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<hr/> 15,901	<hr/> 42,099
NET ASSETS	<hr/> <hr/> 133,317	<hr/> <hr/> 142,171
MEMBERS' FUNDS		
Accumulated Funds at the beginning of the year	142,171	160,423
Net Surplus/(Loss) for the period	-8,854	-18,252
	<hr/> 133,317	<hr/> 142,171
ACCUMULATED FUNDS AT YEAR END	<hr/> <hr/> 133,317	<hr/> <hr/> 142,171



Government House Landcare Project

During 2008, Governor of Queensland, Ms Quentin Bryce AC, became the Patron of QWaLC and expressed that she would be keen to involve Government House in a landcare project.

Working in collaboration, QWaLC, Save Our Waterways Now (SOWN) and the staff of Government House conducted a bushland survey of the grounds in April. From this survey, a species list and planting regime was developed and undertaken in July 2008.

The day was very successful and everyone, including Government House staff, had a great time. Our thanks to Mark Crocker for these wonderful photos.



Representation

- Caring for our Country
- Group Registrations
- ALC Briefings
- LAL Advisory Committee Briefings
- Land for Wildlife 10th Anniversary
- SEQC's Regional Investment Strategy
- 2009 Queensland Landcare Conference Steering Committee
- Board Meetings Held Outside Brisbane
- Full Board
- Coast Info Website
- Policies and Procedures
- Membership

Advocacy

- Bilateral Agreement Discussion
- Pre-Caring for our Country Discussions
- Disputed Group Registrations
- Review of QWaLC, Insurance and Community Grants
- Board Meeting with Honorable Craig Wallace, Minister for Natural Resources and Water
- Meeting with Senator John Faulkner
- Meetings with DNRW
- Mitchell River
- Governance Audits
- Regional NRM Body and Group Mediation

Networking

- Contributing to New Group Formations through Resources and Advice
- Emails
- Website
- Resource Library

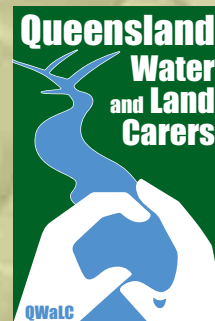
Promotion

- 2007 Queensland Landcare Awards
- 2008 National Landcare Awards
- 2009 Queensland Landcare Awards at Government House
- Governor as Patron
- Government House Landcare Project
- Sponsor of the 2008 Landcare Conference
- 2007 Queensland Landcare Conference – sent delegates, registration desk

Insurance

- Group Registrations
- Insurance – age limit, re-do administration
- Risk Management Training

State and National Linkages



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