



Volunteers



Management



Resource



2010 - 2011



Natural

Annual Report

Our Vision

To be recognised as the Peak Queensland organisation representing the interests of the Volunteer Natural Resource Management Sector by all levels of Government.

Our Mission

QWALC will deliver successful representation for all our members together with enhanced knowledge and understanding of our services to all stakeholders.

Our Values

Independence:

a single voice for the needs and aspirations of Volunteer Natural Resource Management groups.

Environment:

Recognising we have a duty of care to manage our natural resources.

Accountability:

Sound governance, economic, environmental and financial sustainability.

Advocacy:

Our contribution to setting state and national policies and priorities in natural resource management.

Cover: Top image courtesy of Carpentaria Ghost Map Program

Centre and bottom left image courtesy of Rhondda Alexander - Desert Channels

Bottom right image courtesy of SEQ Catchments

Header images on pages 2, 4 and 10 courtesy of David Thompson - Indigenous Landcare

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Our Roles

ADVOCACY

Advocates on behalf of NRM volunteers to ensure their contribution to the environmental health of Queensland is an important consideration in any decisions made regarding the sector.

ADMINISTRATION AND INSURANCE

Provide a support infrastructure for member groups, including administration and assistance with insurance.

REPRESENTATION

Be an independent voice for the needs and desires of volunteer NRM groups and represent them on various government and non-government committees.

NETWORKING

Facilitate the exchange of strategies, information, skills and resources. QWaLC's network provides a means of communication between members, industry, government and non-government organisations.

PROMOTION

Promote the on-ground achievements of volunteer NRM groups and individuals, including the State Landcare Awards and the Queensland Landcare Conference.

About QWaLC

QWaLC currently has 270 member groups, and 70 associate members, comprising approximately 23,000 volunteers.

Queensland Water and Land Carers Inc. (QWaLC) is the peak body for the volunteer community natural resource management (NRM) sector in Queensland. It is an independent, non-government, not-for-profit organisation, funded by the Department of Natural Resources and Water and established to support community volunteers in achieving sustainable resource use.

Formed in 2004 to replace the Queensland Landcare and Catchment Management Council, the organisation supports and represents a range of community groups such as Landcare; Coastcare; Bushcare; Watercare; Catchment Management; Friends of... groups; Progress Associations; and Environmental Councils.

QWaLC Staff for 2010 - 2011

Executive Officer

Vickie Webb - until December 2010, and consultation capacity until June 2011

Natalie Mogg - Acting January 2011 to June 2011

Community Relations Officer

Sarah Johnstone - on maternity leave as at June 2011.

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Annual Report 2010 - 2011

Board Members

Esma Armstrong OAM
CHAIR and SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND REPRESENTATIVE

Joe Crawford
DEPUTY CHAIR and FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND REPRESENTATIVE

Sue Ferguson
TREASURER and QUEENSLAND MURRAY DARLING REPRESENTATIVE

Maree Prior
BURNETT MARY REPRESENTATIVE

Trent Cini
CAPE YORK and TORRES STRAIT REPRESENTATIVE

Owena Reimers
CONDAMINE REPRESENTATIVE

Rhondda Alexander
DESERT CHANNELS REPRESENTATIVE

Robyn Mapp
FITZROY BASIN REPRESENTATIVE

Ian Adcock
NORTHERN and SOUTHERN GULFS REPRESENTATIVE

Alan Travers
SOUTH WEST QUEENSLAND REPRESENTATIVE

David A Thompson
INDIGENOUS LANDCARE REPRESENTATIVE

position vacant
BURDEKIN/MACKAY WHITSUNDAYS REPRESENTATIVE



Chair's Report

Esma Armstrong OAM

Looking back over the past 12 months it is impossible not to be inspired by the continued success of our organisation.

Eleven Regional positions on the Board of Directors for QWaLC were filled with the addition of an indigenous representative. Board meetings have been held quarterly in Brisbane and once a year in a NRM Region. The Executive Committee meets regularly. Teleconferences with Board members are held between Board meetings when necessary.

Facilitation for groups to have a better understanding of internal governance issues have been provided with training when necessary. Insurance is provided by DERM and managed by QWaLC. Workshops on Insurance were necessary for groups to understand about risk management working with volunteers. The process of registration of groups now works quickly and efficiently. There are 270 groups registered in Queensland with 23,000 individual volunteers.

QWaLC is the peak body for Landcare in Queensland representing on the board of the National Landcare Network. All State and Territories are represented. NLN has connections with State and Commonwealth governments, industries as well as Australian Landcare Council and Landcare Australia Limited and has had input into documents including Caring for our Country Business Plan and Australian Framework for Landcare.

Patron of QWaLC Governor of Queensland, Penelope Wensley, attends many functions involving QWaLC and Landcare. Her commitment and understanding to landcare is valued by all.

Charter for QWaLC is to call for Expressions of Interest for the State Landcare Conference and select a group or organisation to hold the state conference. QWaLC has a position on the organising committee. QWaLC organises the National and State Landcare Awards and assists with the Coastal Conference.

The Green Nomads project has been going steady throughout the State and will extend next year into a wider area.

Much has been achieved and it is time to review our strategic position to enable QWaLC to continue to improve and develop our organisation to benefit our members. As an organisation we have an obligation to deliver a service of excellence to the volunteer NRM groups and to the communities they serve recognising that a strong strategic plan is an essential tool for a successful organisation. It is with a feeling of great enthusiasm and confidence that I look forward to working with the Board of Directors, Executive Officer and staff to ensure that QWaLC continues to deliver a first class service to our members.

The Board is committed to supporting the Executive Officer and staff to achieve the outcomes that are identified in the Strategic plan.

There have been some staff changes at the office. I pay tribute to Vickie Webb, our past Executive Officer, who resigned after serving a four year term with QWaLC. During this time Vickie raised the profile of QWaLC not only in Queensland but nationally with the formation of the National Landcare Network.

Natalie Mogg was installed as Acting Executive Officer for a period of six months in December 2009. The position of Communication Relations Manager was held by Sarah Johnstone until June 2011. Thanks to Natalie and Sarah for their dedication to QWaLC.

Thanks to the staff of Queensland Water and Land Carers, Board of Directors, members and NRM volunteers for their dedication and commitment to protecting the environment and showing leadership in their respective communities.

E. Armstrong

Executive Officer's Report

Vickie Webb



This is my last Executive Officer report for Queensland Water and Land Carers. I have enjoyed my time with this organisation immensely and I am sorry to leave, but retirement or at least semi-retirement calls.

The last twelve months has again seen the continued growth of the Landcare movement and QWaLC's role as your representative body. QWaLC has continued to have meetings at both State and Federal level in relation to the next Caring for our Country program, to ensure Landcare and the NRM volunteer sector is included in development of this new program. Part of the discussion of these meetings is defining and clarifying the different roles played by Landcare and the Regional Arrangements process in delivering on-ground landscape management and change.

As members of the National Landcare Network, QWaLC was involved in organising, and participating in a forum to discuss the Action Plan for the Australian Framework for Landcare. We were also involved in a national meeting to discuss the Caring for our Country Business Plan and made submissions to both the Caring for our Country review and the review of the Action Plan.

QWaLC, as part of the National Landcare Network, is assisting to develop a Statement of Common Purpose between Landcare and the Regional NRM Working Group (National group for Regional Bodies), to establish an equitable working arrangement between the two groups.

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

Advocacy

- Worked closely with several groups who were having local issues with their respective Regional NRM Bodies, particularly in relation to the Regional Landcare Facilitator positions.
- Met with Commonwealth and State Ministers, and various Department representatives in relation to the new Caring for our Country program, the National Landcare Conference and the Regional Landcare Facilitator program.
- Worked closely with groups to assist them with their governance arrangements.

Representation

QWaLC staff have represented our members and the volunteer NRM sector on the following committees:

- National Landcare Awards Network with other states,
- Queensland Landcare Conference Committee,
- Queensland Coastal Conference Committee,
- Discussion Group about the delivery of future national natural resource management programs,

- Discussion groups (national and state) about co-operative working relations between Landcare and Regional NRM Organisations,
- Caring for our Country Stakeholder meetings,
- Review of Caring for our Country meetings,
- Community Awareness Grants Assessment Panel,
- Coastal and Marine Network,
- National Landcare Network (including being on the Executive Committee).

Networking

- Green Nomads Initiative,
- Ensuring QWaLC website is updated and provides a valuable resource.

Web pages include information on:

- > Insurance
- > How to become a Landcare group
- > News
- > Events
- > Partners
- > Group support
- > Links

Promotion

- The State Landcare Awards,
- Assisting groups with linkages to corporate organisations wishing to donate time and energy to volunteer NRM projects.

Insurance

- As a result of the huge increase of Association Liability last year, QWaLC has negotiated a new policy with a different Insurance Broker for this years policy.
- The other two policies remain the same.

Future Directions

Landcare still has a vital role to play in upcoming issues such as Climate Change, Food Security, and the Carbon Farming Initiative. The movement is still strong and continuing to make its mark.

The future directions for QWaLC will be something determined by the new Executive Officer and the QWaLC Board, but I have no doubt it will continue to grow and meet the needs of its members and the Landcare movement.

Regional Reports



Burnett Mary

Maree Prior

I joined Queensland Water and Land Carers in late 2010 due to a vacancy left by a previous representative, Lin Fairlie. Following QWaLC elections for the Burnett Mary region this year, I was voted to represent the region for the full 3 year term, so thank you for your support.

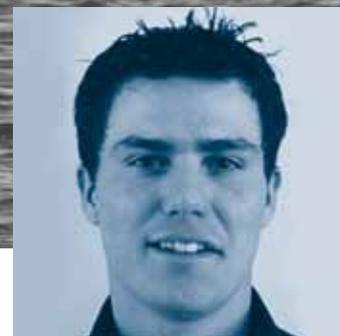
As my experience in Natural Resource Management is mainly coastal and wetlands related, I intend to link up with the Landcare facilitators and QWaLC's new EO, Richard Murphy, to tour the Burnett Mary and meet as many of our members as possible during the new year (2012). Judging by the excellent response from 20 member groups who contributed photos of their Landcare projects for the Queensland Landcare Conference 2011, I am looking forward to seeing first hand the excellent work being carried out in the Burnett Mary under some very challenging circumstances.

This year seems to have been a year of 'getting back to normal' after the floods. 'Getting back to normal' may become the norm, according to keynote speaker at the Qld Landcare Conference in Apr 2011, Dr John Williams, NSW Commissioner for Natural Resources and member of the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists. Dr Williams spoke about food security whilst maintaining our environment in a time of rising costs for energy and diminishing supplies of essential soil nutrients within a spectre of climate change.

The Burnett Mary, now with UNESCO Man and the Biosphere status and so many active land and coast carer's, is well placed to be a leader in high quality food production while maintaining our internationally acclaimed natural environment.

I look forward to the interesting times ahead and thank the QWaLC board and staff for their support during the past year.

A passionate manager of natural resource projects including practical on-ground works and community engagement and awareness raising through the visual arts, Maree has had an interesting and diverse career including teaching, tutoring and project management activities. Completed postgraduate studies in Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Regional Ecosystems Training in 2009. Project Development Officer for Cooloola CoastCare since 2004 and NICA.



Cape York and Torres Strait

Trent Cini

Cape York has now appointed their very first NRM body Cape York NRM; this is a big milestone for the region and has been along time coming. The various groups throughout the region are now eagerly awaiting the outcomes of the appointment of the new group.

There is a new Landcare facilitator placed in the region currently hosted by the Cook Shire Council, he is keen to kick some goals and help the region move towards more sustainable practices and assist with the carbon farming initiative.

QWALC is little known within the region due to lack of representation for a short period of time however it is hoped during the next year this can be increased. As well as this, I hope to increase my understanding of the groups' objectives and the assistance that we can provide for the volunteer sector.

Trent studied Environmental Science at the University of New England, majoring in Environmental Rehabilitation. Since 2006, he has worked as a Project Officer and later as a Project Manager for the Cape York Weeds and Feral Animals Program and was a part of the development of Nationally Accredited Training Packages for Environmental Managers throughout the Cape York region.



"... aspiring to be the umbrella group for environmental groups in the area."



Condamine

Owena Reimers

During the past year I have attended meetings, (firstly as a member of these groups and secondly as QWaLC representative) Darling Downs Regional Landcare (DDRL), Condamine Catchment Management Association (CCMA) and Condamine Alliance (CA)

Darling Downs Regional Landcare (DDRL) consists of the seven landcare areas in the Condamine Region.

- **Chinchilla Landcare Group** - No subgroups. Lack of funding has seen this group lose their full time coordinator, vacate their office and move to the local show grounds to share an office with the show society. Their executive uses a contractor to help them administer any on ground work. The group is starting to make ground as members take on a more active role in the group.
- **Brigalow Jimbour Floodplain Landcare Group** - 6 sub-groups - Due to lack of funding and loss of a full time coordinator the group shifted their transportable office to the local showgrounds and now employed a part time coordinator.
- **North East Downs Landcare Group** - 16 subgroups - The group maintain an office in Oakey with an employed part time coordinator. The group formally employed a Special Projects Officer and a full time coordinator. The group is in the process of adding another sub group that has recently formed. I am the Community Support Officer for NED and I have regular contact with the landcare members.
- **Toowoomba Landcare Group** - 12 subgroups- They maintain an office in the regional body's office and employ a part time coordinator.
- **Central Downs Environment Council** (in recession) - 4 subgroups. One of the sub groups maintains an office in Cambooya. The other groups are still functioning within the area.
- **Condamine Headwaters Landcare Group** - 4 subgroups. They maintain an office in Warwick and employ a full time coordinator plus other project officers who deal with specific projects.
- **Millmerran Landcare Group** -1 subgroup. They have an office in Millmerran and employ a part time coordinator.

DDRL have a "Natural Member" and Landcare director on the board of CA.

All the groups and the subgroups are still active. Some groups are social groups as they do not have the capacity to access funding for projects. The majority of groups continue to draw on funds accumulated over the years, grants that they are fortunate enough receive and project work from other sources.

Condamine Catchment Management Association (CCMA) – The group no longer maintains an office or employs a coordinator, when needed they employ a project officer who deals with specific projects. They have a "Natural Member" and a director on the board of CA.

Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) - The group is a member of CCMA. I have regular contact with this group. HOPE has recently been recognised by QCC as the regions environmental group and therefore will now receive the environmental funding from DERM which had previously been allocated to TREC. Due to this change Toowoomba Regional Council has withdrawn their support of cheap rent at the former TREC office in Laurel Bank Park and HOPE is negotiating to take over the premises due to their change of status. HOPE is aspiring to be the umbrella group for environmental groups in the area.

Toowoomba and Regional Environmental Council (TREC) - The group has a "Natural Member" and a director on the board of CA. The group are members of CCMA and have a board member on CA so I have regular contact with this group. TREC have recently had their funding from DERM withdrawn as a result they have vacated their office at Laurel Bank Park and moved to an office in the Queensland Murray Darling Committee office building. TREC will continue to function at a reduced level of financial support. They have a new president Stephen Gotz and they are presently restructuring how they do their business.

Condamine Balonne Water Committee (CBWC) - The group has a "Natural Member"/ Director on the board of CA. I maintain contact with

Regional Reports

"...trying to maintain and build stock numbers after drought, frost and rain affecting feed..."



Condamine cont'd

(CBWC) in my role as CCMA director on the board of CA. CBWC have an office in Dalby members regularly conduct water monitor from Killarney to Dirranbandi. They are supported by three local councils.

I have regular contact with the Regional Landcare Facilitator (RLF) employed by Conservation Farmers Inc. (CFI)

Condamine Alliance (CA) – I am the CCMA Director on the board. CA have recently formed a community engagement committee and as I am part of this committee I actively support them having interaction with the Natural Resource Management Community and the General Community. I regularly update them on QWaLC's role in the region.

In my various roles I attend meetings and answer to the best of my ability any questions about insurance and the Green Nomads. I distribute any written or verbal information that I have regarding QWaLC.

Currently the Community Support officer for North East Downs Landcare Group, and member of Quinalow, South Myall and Darling Downs Regional Landcare Groups. Member of Condamine Catchment Management Association and their Director on the board of Condamine Alliance the Regional body for Condamine. Owena lives on a grazing and grain property at Quinalow on the Darling Downs.

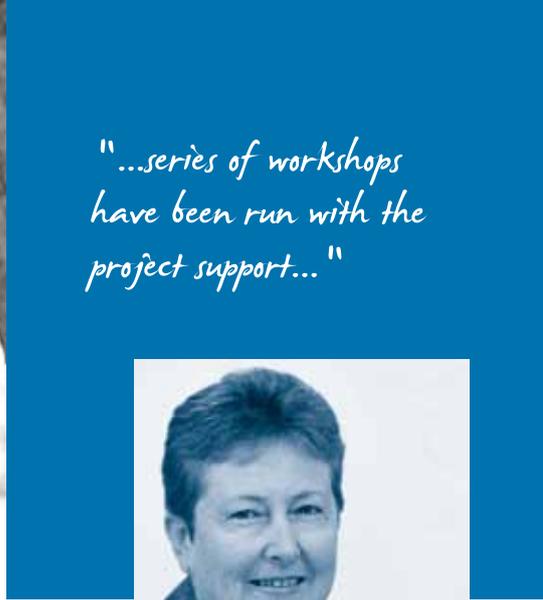
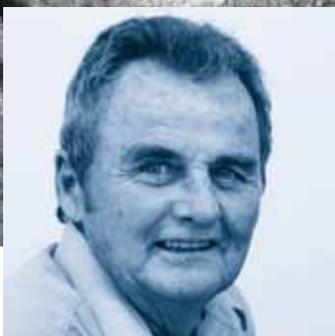
Desert Channels

Rhondda Alexander

As always, this has been a busy year for landcare in Queensland and the Desert Channels is no exception. Towards the middle of 2011, I visited many of our regional landcare groups including the Muttaborra, Praire and Aramc landcare groups as well as meeting with the Channel landcare treasurers.

I spent this trip with Chris Rosin, the Landcare Facilitator, and our first for the Desert Channels region. For this reason, my travels were invaluable to build relationships not only with the landcare groups but also with Chris, and I feel that these relationships will facilitate positive outcomes in the Desert Channels region. I have met with the Chris again recently to discuss issues pertinent to our region. The main three, as I see it are; Coal Seam Gas exploration in the northern and eastern areas, trying to maintain and build stock numbers after drought, frost and rain affecting feed, and finally, weed explosion. Together with the landcare volunteers, local government and Landcare facilitators, I think we can move forward in these areas. Sitting on the board for Queensland Water and Land Carers allows me the opportunity to liaise with these groups and individuals.

Rhondda Alexander is a member of the Channel Landcare Group. Rhondda is keen to speak to people in her region with an interest in Landcare.



"...series of workshops have been run with the project support..."



Far North Queensland

Joe Crawford

This year has been a memorable one for FNQ with the strongest cyclone ever recorded destroying the southern part of our region. Damage to homes, farms and forests has required a huge cleanup. Terrain with it's Cyclone Yasi Recovery Program was part of this, helping to clear waterways as well as caring for wildlife. New Terrain CEO, Carole Sweatman's introduction was certainly a stormy one but she was soon up and running.

QWaLC welcomes the appointment of its new CEO, Richard Murphy, due to commence in August 2011 and Anna Mirams who has just recently taken on the position of Community Relations Officer in our Brisbane office.

The development of a Water Resource Plan for the Wet Tropics has and will take up a considerable amount of my time in the coming months.

I would like to extend thanks to our many landcare and conservation groups who continue to protect and improve our environment. It is pleasing to see the Queensland Landcare Conference being held in the north in September.

2011 has been a challenging but successful year for our members and groups.

Joe Crawford is a grazier from the Malanda District. He has been a member of the Malanda Landcare Group for many years and is currently the president. Joe is an ex-teacher and former Shire Councillor. He is now a breeder of Brahman x Euro cattle. Joe is also a member of the Eacham Shire Pest Advisory Committee and a local ambulance committee member.

Fitzroy Basin

Robyn Mapp

This has been the first year for the Regional Facilitator project and already there has been a change of facilitator. Pam Adams has now been out to visit several of the groups and a steering committee formed mainly of group chairs from each sub-region of the Fitzroy has been formed to support her. A series of workshops have been run with the project support.

In spite of a general lack of funding for Landcare projects in the region, most groups are still continuing to provide important services for their members, relying almost completely on volunteers, such as the Baralaba and Capricorn Landcare Centres and the Capricorn Nursery. Many of the groups also have a cooperative arrangement either with the Fitzroy Basin Association or their sub-regional Catchment Management Group, particularly with regard to website links and workshops.

This is my last term as a Member for the Fitzroy Region on the board of Queensland Water and Land Carers and I hope that the new member will find the interaction with other members from Queensland, and other Landcare groups as rewarding as I have.

Robyn has been associated with the Callide Valley and Wowan Dululu Landcare Groups. As a member of Callide Valley Landcare Group since 1994, Robyn was involved with the establishment and maintenance of the Callide Valley Landcare Nursery. Robyn's regional involvement included the Callide Valley Community Reference Panel for Groundwater, the Mine Liaison on groundwater issues, the Neighbourhood Catchments program for the Fitzroy Basin Association, the Biloela Basin Water Recharge Study and the Natural Sequence Farming Study Group.

Regional Reports



Northern and Southern Gulfs

Ian Adcock

Land Care groups throughout the region have been busy spending what funds that are available from Caring for Our Country. The big news from NGRMG is the renewed partnership between Mitchell River Watershed Management Group and the Regional body.

Assistance to the Group to house their office with NGRMG in Mareeba will give all staff a closer working arrangement. Also in the same office the Commonwealth Facilitator is housed. This is a shared position with the other half in Georgetown.

The flooded country in the Gulf (2010 wet) has still not fully recovered. Property owners are still battling the Government for some relief. If you thought there was light at the end of the tunnel, along comes a ridiculous decision by the Commonwealth Environmental Minister and bans live export. Well that put the Gulf back behind the eight ball again.

Recovery for the Grazing industry in the Gulf seems an aeon away.

Feed back from Groups and the Regional Bodies on the National Landcare Network was well received by NLN Input into a revised Caring for Our Country Business Plan seems to have jolted Canberra into action.

With the advent of Cape York NRM now up and running, all Northern & Southern Gulf Landcare Groups are looking forward to forming on ground relationships for the future.

QWaLC is well received through out the Regions, stakeholders are starting to recognise our objectives and how they can be applied to the volunteer sector.

Ian is a founding member of the Laura-Normanby Catchment group. He undertakes NHT projects and strategic planning in the region and is very passionate about landcare on the Cape.



"... whole of weekend events and people came in caravans and tents..."



Queensland Murray Darling Catchment

Sue Ferguson

This year has seen many highs and lows in the QMDC region with floods being the most prominent and the aftermath proving to hold great hardships for so many, this was especially so along the Maranoa and Condamine/Balonne River systems which had been inundated early in 2010 and then again in 2011 for lengthy periods.

Flood recovery days were held in a number of towns and surrounding areas and flood damaged pasture monitoring sites were established. Volunteers from Aussie Helpers, Californian Conservation Corps (who included people from various walks of life including fire fighters) and Conservation Volunteers were on hand to assist land holders clean houses, clear away debris and repair fences and infrastructure in many areas. The staff of the QMDC were very much to the fore with the contacting of landholders and coordinating on-ground activities around the area.

There have been five Carp Buster events, held at different locations along the river systems during the year and involved almost a thousand people all anxious to help rid the river of European Carp which are in plague proportions. There were whole of weekend events and people came in caravans and tents and the locals of all ages joined in. It brought to the fore the plight that the rivers are in with regard to these imported fish and just what they are doing to our rivers.

Predator workshops were also held during the year in various parts of the region and attracted a good following. Wild dog attacks in particular have been on the increase with graziers losing sheep, while calves and even grown cattle have been maimed.

The Ranger Program which is based in Inglewood, Dirranbandi and St. George is still going and lately the Dirranbandi group have been engaged with the spraying of Parthenium Weed near the Waroo Bridge.

Carbon workshops have been held in many areas and with the soil workshops resulted in many graziers finding just what their paddocks are lacking. All participants took samples from adjoining paddocks (perhaps one cultivation and another just a natural pasture) and when analysed it could be seen just what was needed to bring the soil back to "normal". It is hope more of these workshops will be held around the region.

The Maranoa Balonne CMA and the Border Rivers CMA have both found it very difficult to enlist members and participation in events that have been held. Graziers/Farmers are busy working without help, as so many young people are seeking work in the mines and have left the rural industry. At the last meeting of the

MBCMA it was decided that we seek advice from a consultancy firm regarding our future and how we might achieve our objectives. As a result, we are now looking forward to once again providing valuable service to the community through a more dynamic and flexible operational framework. It is hoped the Borders Rivers will also be able to proceed along these lines in the future.

SWIFT NRM has been running Naturally Resourceful Workshops for women, across the QMDC region and they have been well received by all who attended. "The aim of the Naturally Resourceful workshops is to enhance the involvement of women in natural resource management both on-farm and in their rural communities."

It is hoped that there will be many more held in the coming months/year.

Sue Ferguson is a member of Dirranbandi Landcare Group, the Maranoa Balonne Catchment Management Association and the Waroo-Balonne Landcare Group. She is involved in Great Artesian Basin planning at state and federal levels. Her family also run a cattle and cropping property.

Regional Reports



South East Queensland

Esma Armstrong OAM

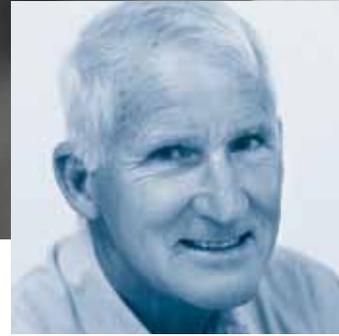
South East Queensland volunteers have continued their many activities throughout the year. Working closely with SEQ Catchments Regional Group, Local, State and Commonwealth Governments, Industries and corporate bodies, on inland and coastal projects, in urban and rural areas, making a difference to specific areas in the heavily populated SEQ.

Mother Nature has been active in the SEQ, first drought conditions then severe flooding across the region in some cases completely destroying the economical, environmental and social fabric of the region. With the resilience of Queenslanders South East Queensland volunteers assisted with clean-ups, tree plantings, landslips and fencing and working with Green Army programs an enormous amount of work was completed. With assistance from SEQ Catchments who provided strong leadership support for NRM groups and volunteers.

Community groups in South East Queensland assist in many ways to enhance and protect the land, waterways and biodiversity. Volunteers continue to work together and form new NRM groups.

Registration of groups in SEQ is increasing each year with over 300 groups registered to date.

Esma has been involved with Landcare across the SEQ region since 1990. Her efforts have been acknowledged with a Medal for the Order of Australia (OAM) for services to the community and the environment. Esma also has a passionate interest in local history and heritage.



South West Queensland

Alan Travers

The Regional NRM team continues to be the main driver and support for both individuals and volunteer groups in the South West. Lack of meaningful funding, the onerous requirements for funding applications, the need for volunteer groups to be incorporated, and the threat of litigation are all hurdles that are holding back people who would otherwise love to give some of their time to helping the environment. Each year we seem to have more obstacles placed in front of us, people get so frustrated and many of them just give up. On a more positive note, the Green Nomad scheme has received warm enthusiasm from the many tourists and travellers through our area this year.

Alan is a grazier in the Cunnamulla District. He was the Founding Chair for the Beechal Creek Landcare Group. Alan is keen to use QWaLC as a vehicle for NRM volunteers to get their message to government.



"... actively teach our youth about our obligations to mother earth..."



Indigenous Landcare

David A Thompson

This year has been my first with Queensland Water and Land Carers representing Indigenous interests in this sector. I must thank the Board and Vicki Webb, the previous CEO, for the invitation to join and become involved in this vital peak body for people that care for land and water in Queensland.

Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders have a unique affinity for both the land and water. This is what we call 'Mother Earth' and caring for mother earth is a primary aspect of our cultural practice and beliefs. We have been caring for this wonderful country for many years and have learnt a great deal about our mother. It is this knowledge that is slowly being recognised by 'white' science and it is a vision of mine to have both 'black' and 'white' science share the same status and equal recognition in our community.

I have spent this year sharing this vision through my work commitments and also sharing the vision of QWaLC with my Indigenous country men and women. Gaining Indigenous interest in Landcare and Coastcare is somewhat a challenge, but a challenge that is slowly gaining momentum. It is also a challenge for QWaLC to be attractive to the Indigenous community. What is in it for both sides? What can we both share? These are some of the challenges that face our Board and the wider community. The answers are there and we just need to listen and learn from each other.

Another ethos I would like to offer our movement is the way in which Aboriginal people actively involve our youth in learning about our culture. Aboriginal people actively teach our youth about our obligations to mother earth and the ways in which we have to care for mother earth. This is done through succession planning and it is this practice that I would encourage all water and land carers

to adopt. It is also a challenge for our QWaLC Board as well. Succession planning is encouraged at all levels of business, we encourage it in our families, but for some reason we fail within the volunteer sector.

This is something I would like to continue working on and I will continue promoting this wonderful peak organisation to Indigenous people and organisations. I wish you all the best for the upcoming year and look forward to meeting you in the paddock or on a beach in the near future.

David is a Traditional Owner from central western Queensland and has connections to Iningai, Bidjara and Kari traditional lands. His family have lived in Barcardine since 'white' settlement and he now lives close by in Longreach. His position with the federal government places him in the unique position of meeting traditional owners from all over Queensland and presents the opportunity to promote QWaLC and encourage Indigenous organisations to become more involved in this peak organisation.

Financials

Committee's Report

for the year ended 30 June 2011

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 2011.

Committee Members

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

Esma Armstrong	David Thompson
Ian Adcock	Sue Ferguson
Alan Travers	Robyn Mapp
Joe Crawford	Natalie Mogg
Rhondda Alexander	Owena Reimers
Trent Cini	Maree Priors
	Warren Wilson (resigned)

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 loss for the year amount to \$17,909 (2010 year \$95,387 surplus).

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

.....*E. Armstrong*.....
Esma Armstrong, Chairperson

.....*Sue Ferguson*.....
Sue Ferguson, Treasurer

Dated this *14th* day of *October* 2011

Income and Expenditure Statement

for the year ended 30 June 2011

	Note	2011 \$	2010 \$
INCOME			
Grants		300,000	322,500
Interest		5,064	3,241
Project Income		6,753	85,589
Funding Received - 2011 Bi-Annual Landcare Awards		23,818	-
Green Nomads Membership		50	187
Green Nomads Sponsorship		-	9,091
Conference Float Received	5	-	43,560
		335,685	464,168
EXPENSES			
ATO Late Penalties		-	660
Awards & Photography		716	3,440
Audit Fees		1,600	950
Bank Charges		167	306
Bookkeeping		135	2,731
Computer Repairs & Maintenance (incl. Web Hosting)		1,193	575
Conference Expenses		9,098	9,209
Consultancy Fees		9,600	4,924
Cleaning		150	-
Depreciation Expense		1,862	3,158
Freight		-	132
Insurance		44,758	64,925
Internet		1,053	774
Licence Fees		500	-
Meeting Expenses		2,422	585
Parking & Tolls		1,377	1,430
Postage		227	967
Promotion & Marketing		7,488	15,805
Rent		34,600	16,465
Staff Training & Amenities		962	3,733
Stale Cheques Written Off		-	922
Stationery & Printing		2,684	3,215
Subcontractors		2,000	13,436
Subscriptions		-	500
Superannuation		11,957	13,752
Telephone		2,732	2,570
Travel		51,271	46,058
Wages & Salaries		164,315	160,822
Workers' Compensation		727	509
Write Off Trade Creditor		-	28
		353,594	368,781
Net Surplus / (Deficit)		- 17,909	95,387

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Financials

Assets and Liability Statement

as at 30 June 2011



	Note	2011 \$	2010 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash		122,555	146,132
Deposits Paid		7,800	7,800
GST Receivable		1,496	1,623
Overpayment Refundable - Australian Taxation Office	3	1,523	0
Conference Float	2	22,000	22,000
Total Current Assets		<u>155,374</u>	<u>177,555</u>
NON CURRENT ASSETS			
Computers at Cost		9,881	9,881
Less Accumulated Depreciation		<u>-8,989</u>	<u>-8,096</u>
		892	1,785
Website at Cost		2,640	2,640
Less Accumulated Depreciation		<u>-1,759</u>	<u>-1,465</u>
		881	1,175
Furniture & Fixtures at Cost		4,222	4,222
Less Accumulated Depreciation		<u>-1,263</u>	<u>-588</u>
		<u>2,959</u>	<u>3,634</u>
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>4,732</u>	<u>6,594</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>160,106</u>	<u>184,149</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Heritage Visa Card		1,076	3,261
PAYG Withholding Payable		3,070	6,088
Superannuation Payable		<u>2,644</u>	<u>3,575</u>
		<u>6,790</u>	<u>12,924</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>6,790</u>	<u>12,924</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>153,316</u>	<u>171,225</u>
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Accumulated Funds at the beginning of the year		171,225	75,838
Net Surplus/(Loss) for the period		<u>-17,909</u>	<u>95,387</u>
ACCUMULATED FUNDS AT YEAR END		<u>153,316</u>	<u>171,225</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2011

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 a cash 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 computers and the website have been calculated on the straight line basis over the asset's expected useful life. The furniture and fittings are depreciated between 10 -15% 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.

Note 2: Conference Float

Queensland Water and Land Carers received \$43,560 from Desert Channels Queensland during the year to provide a Conference Float to Landcare Groups who are hosting the Conference. During the 2011 year, the Committee set aside \$22,000 to be used as the float for the annual Landcare conference.

Note 3: Overpayment refundable - Australian Taxation Office

Queensland Water and Land Carers paid \$1,523.10 via BPAY to the Australian Taxation Office on 7 September 2010. These monies have not yet been credited to the Client's Integrated Client Account on the Tax Agent's Portal. The Australian Taxation Office is to be notified and the missing funds refunded.

Note 4: Annual Leave Entitlement - Natalie Mogg

The annual leave entitlement for Natalie Mogg at 30 June 2011 is \$3,106.43. These funds have not been brought in as a provision as the accounts are prepared on a cash basis. Natalie has since resigned and her annual leave entitlement has been paid out.

Financials

Independent Auditor's Report

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 2011, 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.

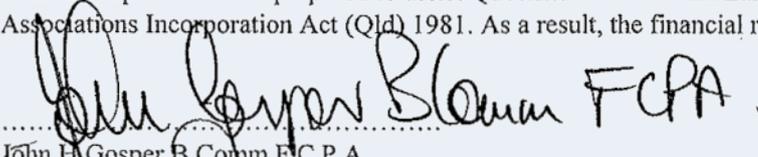
We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

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 2011 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... 15th ... day of... October ... 2011



Image courtesy of SEQ Catchments



Image courtesy of Desert Uplands



Image courtesy of I. Milinovich



Image courtesy of Tugun Girl Guides North Kirra



Image courtesy of Peregrine Beach Community Association



Image courtesy of Norman Creek



Image courtesy of Templeton Ginger Farm



Image courtesy of Desert Uplands

State and National Linkages



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