

QUEENSLAND WATER AND LAND CARERS

# Annual Report

2021 2022



**QWaLC**  
QUEENSLAND WATER & LAND CARERS



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# Vision

Thriving and connected  
Queensland communities and ecosystems.

# Mission

To encourage our members to actively  
participate in improving Queensland's  
environmental, social and economic futures.

# About Us

Queensland Water and Land Carers (QWaLC) supports community-based approaches to managing and protecting our natural resources – creating more productive and sustainable farms, conserving and enhancing our environment and building more cohesive and resilient communities. We provide our members and communities with information and support for good governance, keeping people safe, the importance of volunteerism and by providing appropriate insurance coverage. We promote subsidiarity - enabling farmers, landowners and conservationists to work together at a local level on local issues. We are a representative body for our members – regions, networks, groups and individuals promoting and advocating for ecologically sustainable development across Queensland in partnership with governments, philanthropists, and the wider community.

As Queensland's peak body for natural resource management volunteers, QWaLC works on behalf of its membership of 460 groups and more than 38,000 members and volunteers.

The organisation is answerable to our membership, which is made up of a broad range of volunteer NRM groups including Landcare, Coastcare, Waterwatch, Bushcare, catchment associations, conservation groups and subregional organisations.

QWaLC's network extends across the 14 natural resource management regions of Queensland, each of which has a member elected representative on the QWaLC Board.

The organisation is incorporated and governed by its constitution which sets out the objectives, powers and administrative arrangements.

## Our Constitution

contact QWaLC's CEO: Darryl Ebenezer | [darryl@qwalc.org.au](mailto:darryl@qwalc.org.au)

# Our role is to:

## Promote

Ensure QWaLC is a recognised and valued entity by working locally and regionally to promote our networks, leaders and collective successes.

Acknowledge and celebrate outstanding volunteer contributions, leadership, groups and partnerships.

Recognise and build awareness by sharing practical solutions and outcomes including innovative practical skills and on-ground actions.

## Advocate

Advocate for key Queensland priorities and facilitate stronger member engagement to influence decision and policy making at regional, state and national levels.

Strengthen and advocate for partnerships with First Nations that respectfully build mutual understandings and capacities to care for Country.

Share the QWaLC story to build wider community awareness, member engagement and knowledge.

## Strengthen

Facilitate and support the strength of our network through building good governance, strengthening capacity, fostering financial sustainability and effective risk management.

Provide insurance solutions to appropriately manage risk for activities and our members.  
Develop skills to strengthen social connection and community well-being.

## Network

Connect, activate and showcase the QWaLC network of diverse member groups and communities.

Mentoring, training and sharing experience and information to strengthen:

- governance
- volunteer activities and management
- resilient, engaged communities.

Create opportunities across the network for learning from and with First Nations people about caring for Country practices and aspirations.

## Represent

Ensure effective representation through active engagement, collaborative and focussed leadership and partnerships.

Be a leading voice representing our diverse groups and agricultural communities in discussion about natural resource management, environment and land use.

Represent and give voice to local and regional perspectives through leadership and advocacy on natural resource management concerns in regional, state and national forums.



# Our People

QWaLC's Board plays an integral part of its role as the peak body for natural resource management (NRM) volunteers. The Board consists of a community representative from across each of Queensland's 14 Natural Resource Management regions.

Our Regional Board Members represent their regions and highlight the issues and achievements in each allowing QWaLC to be truly representative of the whole State and to keep in touch with on-ground volunteers.

Region	Board Role Subcommittee Chair	Name
Qld. Murray Darling	Board Member	Craig Magnusson
Condamine	Chair Member Engagement C'tee	MaryLou Gittins OAM
Cape York & Torres Strait	Deputy Chair	Temaleti Matasia
Fitzroy	Secretary	Shelly McArdle
Burdekin Dry Tropics/Mackay Whitsunday	Board Member	Judith Wake
Burnett Mary	Board Member	Maree Gillott
Southern/Northern Gulf	Board Member	John Brisbin
South West Queensland	Board Member	Adma Sargood
Wet Tropics	Board Member	Jeff Baines
South East Queensland	Treasurer Governance and Planning C'tee	Brian Venz
South East Queensland	Board Member	Wal Mayr
Desert Channels	Board Member	Robyn Adams
Statewide	Board Member	Simon Warner

**Staff**    Chief Executive Officer    Darryl Ebenezer

# Chair's Report



## MaryLou Gittins OAM

"Thriving and connected Queensland communities and ecosystems" is the QWaLC vision. Over the past few years there has certainly been some 'wallies' in the mix. The 2020 year saw our member groups stargazing on how to cope with COVID - not only the physical and mental health pressures but the resulting impacts on groups' activities. Added to this the impacts of the bushfires in Queensland summer of late 2020 followed by the floods continue to be felt.

QWaLC ensured that on-ground projects occurred within our member group area impacted by fire resulting in 23 successful projects in Queensland supported by QWaLC and funded through the \$14M Landcare Led Bushfire Recovery project funded by the Australian Government's Bushfire Recovery for Wildlife and their Habitat. Congratulations to those member groups who worked towards restoring their community and ecosystems. QWaLC CEO Darryl Ebenezer - we thank you for your commitment through this process ensuring funds were delivered on-ground, working with member groups and liaising at the State and Federal level.

Bi-annually QWaLC strives to strengthen and promote community based volunteer groups through the Qld State Landcare Awards supported by Landcare Australia Ltd and the Australian Government. The 2021 Landcare Awards were challenged by COVID but through forward thinking and imagination we were able to 'ZOOM' through the awards.

There were 35 nominees in 2021 from around the state. We held an online event encompassing sites from the Cape to the Darling Downs. The awards recognised the spectacular achievements of land and water carers from across Queensland. Thank you to all those who nominated and participated. Natalie Frost did a fantastic job in organising the event with the QWaLC team. As the awards are bi-annual be ready for the 2023 call for nominations. Sharpen those pencils now.

The QWaLC website and social media play an important role in ensuring that we Represent, Advocate, Network, Promote and Strengthen our member groups. The web site has been upgraded to be more user friendly. Glen Donoghue has been very busy. The 'Toolbox' still offers groups up to date governance information. In 2023 we plan to partner with regional events offering a "Keeping Safe" workshop which encompasses governance, risk and future planning. Make sure you keep up to date by Facebook, Instagram or our regular QWaLC enews. Andrea Mason, our new communication lead has accomplished a higher volume of newsworthy items celebrating the great work of member groups. Great job Andrea. "Naturally Together" sessions will be joining us together again very soon with a different format - something to look forward to too.

QWaLC relies on the support of the Queensland Government's Department of Resources to ensure that QWaLC member groups' activity risk is reduced by good governance and appropriate insurance. We have been supported through various natural resource investment programs for the past eighteen years. In March Simon Warner, Brian Venz (SEQ Directors) and myself, had the pleasure of meeting with Minister Scott Stewart at Parliament House to showcase the diversity and strength of our membership.





The National Landcare Network (who we are a member of) is supported through the Federal Government resources and enables QWaLC to be part of the 'National Voice' for Landcare. As the QWaLC Director on the NLN Board I am able to meet with other State and Territory Chairs from around Australia.

This year I attended the National Landcare Conference held in Sydney. It was great to listen to the Qld presenters from Springfield Lakes Nature Care - Luise Manning, Brisbane Organic Growers - Bruce Ham, and Buckleboo Station Paroo Pastoral Company - James Kerr, Manager to name a few. It was great to see our very own Wal Mayr receive the National Individual Landcarer Award - Congratulations.



I encourage all member groups to complete the yearly membership and insurance survey as this enables QWaLC to gauge the Health of groups and supports funding grants that are applied for over the coming year. QWaLC member groups have been submitting a variety of information (which is confidential) for ten years now, compounding the value of volunteering in the Queensland environment. Keep an eye out for the 2023 survey in late January.

The QWaLC Team consists of the Committee, CEO and Contractors. We all ensure that QWaLC functions on many different levels. I offer my thanks to the 13 Regional Directors who have supported QWaLC and thus me as chair during the year. We welcomed nine new directors in 2021: Judith Wake Burdekin and Mackay Whitsunday, Maree Gillott Burnett Mary, Temaleti Matasia Cape York Peninsula & Torres Strait, Robyn Adams Desert Channels, Adma Sargood South West Qld, Craig Magnussen Qld. Murray Darling, Jeffrey Baines Wet Tropics, Board appointed: Simon Warne and Wal Mayr. You will be able to read about their regional activities over the past twelve months in the 2022 Annual Report.

Darryl Ebenezer, QWaLC CEO once again has done a sterling job all round. It is through Darryl's skills of management, communication and governance that QWaLC continues to grow in strength from the ground up – member groups to State and National groups. During the year Lane Pilon, Andrea Mason, Glen Donoghue, Dorian Pozzan and Pamela Greet have assisted QWaLC to forge forward. Thank you for your continued support.

In closing I would like to state that it has been an experience to chair QWaLC for the last 12 months and feel honoured to represent such an empowered member body of volunteers.

*M. L. Gutter*



# CEO's Report



## Darryl Ebenezer

In a year of constant change and challenges it was refreshing to be able to get back out and meet with our members and other stakeholders in person.

QWALC supports our diverse membership through five key roles: Represent, Advocate, Network, Promote and Strengthen. We continue to build on our relationships and partnerships with other groups and organisations, including the National Landcare Network, Australian Citizen Science Association, Volunteering Qld, Landcare Australia, Global Landcare, Queensland Conservation Council and each of Queensland's Regional NRM Bodies and NRM Regions Queensland.

The many projects, sponsorships, discussions and meetings we participate in with these groups continue to help us build a more resilient, inclusive and much needed volunteer community. We continue to advocate for increased resources for our members including pursuing the establishment of a local coordinators program.



Thanks to Chris Norman (NRM Regions Queensland) for our ongoing conversations and continued efforts to increase the profile and importance of natural resource management across Queensland and nationally. It was great to be able to participate together in the "measuring the economic impact of regional NRM in Queensland" and the "national statement of collaboration principles" projects.





Information collected via our annual Membership and Insurance survey allows QWaLC to advance the goals and aspirations of members and ensure that our insurance and support services are tailored to meet member needs. The information captured from across Qld provides an important snapshot of the environmental, agricultural, advocacy and conservation work our members and volunteers carry out around the State and is crucial in emphasizing to a broad range of stakeholders the importance of these practical activities.

In early 2021 the Landcare Led Bushfire Recovery grants program in partnership with the National Landcare Network and Landcare Australia contributed more than \$1.4M across 24 projects into bushfire affected areas of the rainforests of SEQ. Importantly this program demonstrated the capacity of our networks to react quickly and deliver onground by creating partnerships that generated long-term environmental benefits. Most activities were completed by the end of June 2022.

Read about some of the great work done here <https://qwalc.org.au/bushfire-recovery/>.



AON, through the great support of Vanessa, has continued to provide us with excellent insurance cover and service, enabling us to provide to our membership three insurance policies: General and Products Liability (Primary Liability), Personal Accident (Voluntary workers) and Association Liability (Protector). Thanks to all our more than 460 member groups for undertaking their activities safely throughout the year. Our thanks to the Queensland Government for their ongoing support, since 2004, of this unique support initiative.

We look forward to being able to continue to support the diverse and impactful activities of QWaLC members into the coming year under a new Queensland Government funding program - Natural Resource Recovery Program (NRRP).

I would like to thank all the QWaLC Board Members for their guidance and support in maintaining good governance around the activities and direction of the organisation. I want to acknowledge the important roles that our subcommittee Chairs play - Maree, MaryLou, John and Brian. Special thanks to our Chair, MaryLou Gittins for her ebullient contribution to the life of QWaLC and her role as a Director on the National Landcare Network Board.

My great appreciation also to Lane, Dorian, Glen, Pamela, Andrew and Andrea who have helped in many ways over the past 12 months and are always there to assist when needed.

With our strong team and strategies in place, I am looking forward to growing our networks and providing support for all the amazing onground results our hardworking members achieve. We have proven that we have the resilience and resourcefulness to create our own solutions for the future and for what we will achieve together.



**with thanks, Darryl**



# Treasurer's Report



## Brian Venz

Another year of disruption, challenges, and opportunities.

QWaLC's external financial audit for 2021/22 was conducted by John Gosper Audit & Assurance Pty Ltd. The independent auditors have stated that QWaLC's financial statements provide a "true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2022 and of its financial performance for the year ended year 2021/22". For additional detail please refer to the auditor's report and accompanying financial information on our website. [qwalc.org.au](http://qwalc.org.au)

Income for the year was once again dominated by grant payments for contracts including:

- \$425,000.00 from the Queensland Government Department of Resources,
- \$90,000.00 from the Landcare Led Bushfire Recovery Program (Landcare Australia and the National Landcare Network),
- \$77,115.00 from the National Landcare Network.
- \$69,700.00 from the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment.

More than \$119,000.00 of the funds received were used to support QWaLC member groups to deliver contracted programs including the Landcare Led Bushfire Recovery Program.

This year sees the end of the Department of Resources Natural Resource Investment and our three-year contract. This support enabled us to assist and deliver governance support, volunteer resources including insurance premiums and support to member groups across the state. These funds also enabled QWaLC to emphasise and advocate for the importance of community based environmental activities.

We look forward to participating in the new Queensland Government Natural Resource Recovery Program that will commence in the financial year. On behalf of the QWaLC Board and QWaLC's community-based member groups I extend our thanks for their essential financial support.

Major outgoings were similar to those of the previous year with costs being incurred to achieve contract and grant milestones and in ensuring the organisation functioned in line with increasing regulatory requirements.

The annual membership and insurance survey is an important contracted milestone where QWaLC undertakes the collection and collation of important information from our 458 member groups and uses this in the negotiation and provision of appropriate insurance cover for those groups. This information is not just used to obtain appropriate insurance coverage but also to show the significant contribution, both financial and social, that groups deliver to the life of Queensland.

During the year I was supported by directors serving on the Finance and Audit Sub-committee and I extend my thanks for their support and robust participation during our sub-committee meetings. I would also like to acknowledge the work of our CEO, Darryl Ebenezer and our bookkeeper Dorian Pozzan for their diligence and promptness in dealing with the organisation's financial processes and procedures throughout the year.

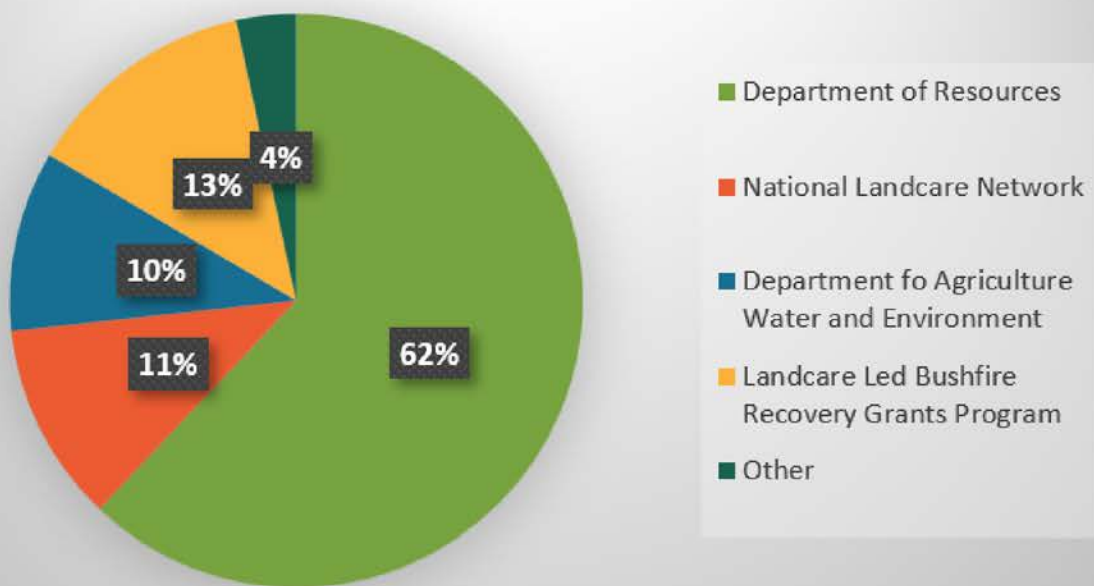
This will be my last financial year as treasurer. I have enjoyed the opportunity to participate in the life of QWaLC and its enormously diverse membership. I am happy to be leaving the organisation in good financial health as we move into the coming years.



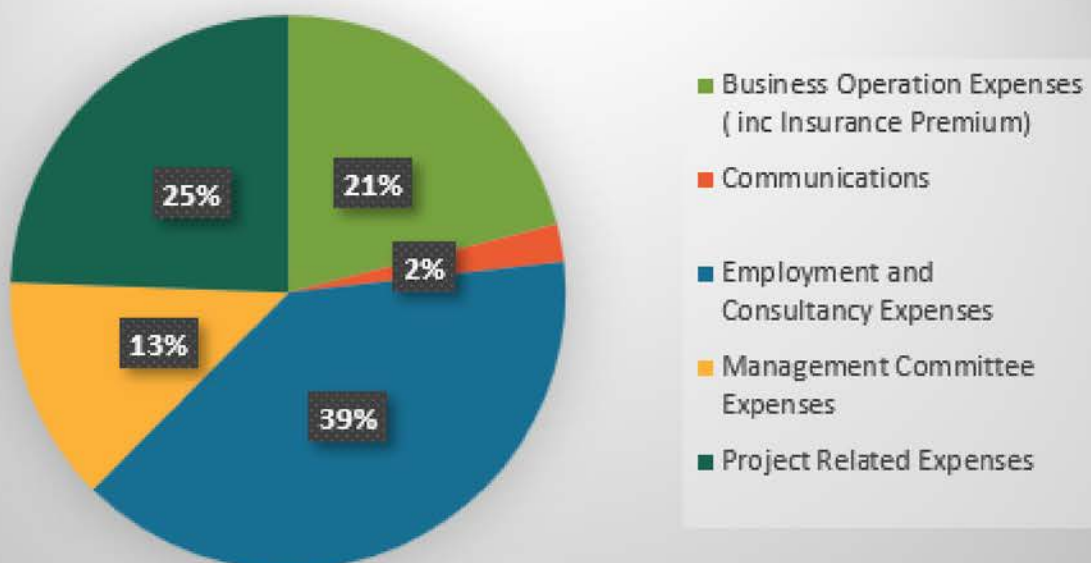
# Financial Performance

For the full Auditor's Report 2021 2022 go to: <https://qwalc.org.au/about-2/qwalc-annual-reports/>

## QWaLC Income 2021 2022



## QWaLC Expenses 2021 2022





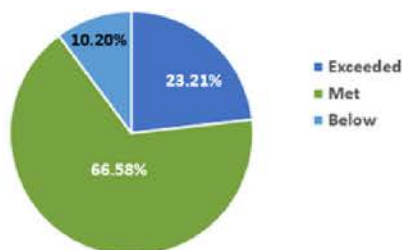
# Member Snapshot

Through extensive research and engagement with its Member Groups, the annual membership and insurance survey provides QWaLC with a comprehensive picture of the overall activities and challenges in QLD, and an overview of existing resource levels state-wide and in each NRM region. See the membership and insurance survey report at: <https://qwalc.org.au/about-2/qwalc-annual-reports/>

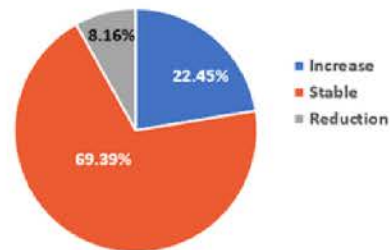


## Key Survey Results

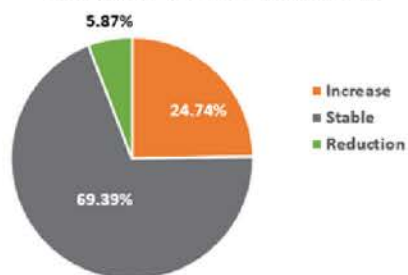
QWaLC Member Group Expectations



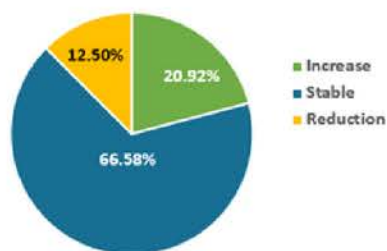
QWaLC Member Group Capacity Levels



QWaLC Member Group Partnership Levels



QWaLC Member Group Volunteer Levels



## Member Group Challenges

**On Ground Activities:**  
Developing and Maintaining Projects  
Impacts of Climate Change  
Controlling Invasive Species

**Business Development:**  
Income/Funding/Securing Grants  
Capacity building  
Developing Partnerships

**Human Resources:**  
Attracting, Retaining and Managing Volunteers  
Community Engagement.



# Cape York & Torres Strait



## Temaleti Matasia

As the QWaLC Vice Chair and Cape & Torres Region representative I have had the opportunity to share my knowledge of Cultural Awareness values with QWaLC what is involved in the process, and How QWaLC can apply for a Reconciliation Action Plan as an organisation to help close the gap in future QWaLC business.

QWaLC has supported our members by providing individual groups with Community Land Care group insurance to encourage groups to implement good governance and understand the requirements of operating a business.

As a QWaLC director I would like to promote the benefits of QWaLC to get awareness out in Communities about Land Care to encourage other groups to get involved.

I would also like to establish QWaLC Community Projects where possible.

*"I believe one small step can make a BIG difference."*





# Southern & Northern Gulf



## John Brisbin

This has been another exciting and fulfilling year for QWaLC across the Northern and Southern Gulf regions.

The groups in our region get on with their work despite a chronic lack of public funding for community organisations and their projects. Landcare volunteers embody an ethos of custodianship for the land and a regard for the mounting challenges of climate instability, ecosystem decline, and social transformation. They range from the highly specialised (e.g. Wildlife and Raptor Care) to the landscape-scale (e.g. Mitchell River Watershed Management Group). To get a sense of the diversity and scale of the groups in our regions go to: [qwalc.org.au](http://qwalc.org.au).

This year QWaLC again helped to support the FNQ Environment Roundtable which was convened by CAFNEC (Cairns and Far North Environment Centre). The event brought together over 25 regional environment and Indigenous Ranger groups and delivered excellent networking opportunities.



Our insurance scheme continues to prove an essential enabler for volunteer groups caring for all aspects of our lands and waters. As a QWaLC Director, I help represent the interests of groups in my regions at various forums and planning processes. This year I was a co-convenor of the Tablelands Water Security Forum as well as participating in the Barron River Water Plan review. I also maintain a watching brief on the Lakeland Agricultural Irrigation Scheme as it continues to press forward with the Palmer River Dam proposal.

It has been an interesting experience this year to serve on the National Landcare Network Members' Council. The NLN is a strong advocate for the future of landcare at both state and national levels. Together with Director Wal Mayr, I have been a strong advocate for the formation of a single national organisation for the landcare movement. I am happy to say that with a change of leadership at NLN there appears to be more opportunity for the NLN and Landcare Australia to (finally) form a single coherent entity.

I'd like to thank our member groups for their continued efforts to nurture the living landscapes we all depend on, and for their participation in QWaLC. I'm looking forward to another productive year in your service.



# Desert Channels



**Robyn Adams**

As a newbie on the board, this'll be a broad cast and conversation for my representative lands and waters, that of the Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre Basin within Queensland. The Rivers Georgina, Diamantina and Cooper are its strong storylines and deliverances that drain inland into the southwest corner, from west of the Great Divide and the Murray Darling Basin, and south of the Gulf runs. Whilst there's red desert sand dunes as typified by those images from Birdsville's Big Red and beyond to its west, the region is semi-arid and arid landscapes of mostly uncleared open woodlands and the more open plains of Mitchell Grass Downs with grey soils of the old inland sea.

These are known more globally as the rangelands, and it was inspiring to learn that the 2021 United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP).



*The colours of the Channel Country at Windorah in Outback Qld. A result of unseasonal rain earlier in the year filling up the water catchments that flow past Windorah and eventually combine with the Diamantina and Georgina Rivers to flow through to Lake Eyre. This is flood-out country on the Cooper Ck that comes alive when the rivers run. The colours are various stages of dried out channel grasses intercepted with white paper daisies. Taken at sunrise in August 2022.*

*Photographer: Lisa Alexander Photography [lisaalexanderphotography.com.au](http://lisaalexanderphotography.com.au)*



We out here know a healthy Kati Thanda (Lake Eyre) requires excellence in strong, ethical pastoralism and land stewardship, with a robust and adaptive co-existence with Indigenous practices and cultures, just over a century and a half of colonial history, primeval ecologies and a challenging, changing climate. Balancing this complex, layered confluence whilst managing extensive grazing areas and cattle & sheep production is what land and water carers in this part of Queensland seek to accomplish.

An ongoing initiative supported by state and local governments is cluster fencing, to help manage total grazing pressure on pastures, which is proving useful especially for sheep and goat producers.

The Desert Channels Queensland NRM group continues to target invasive woody weeds (mainly prickly acacia) and pests, mostly pigs. Recent rains are a godsend though not enough to be drought-breaking.

Covid has certainly curtailed activities, get togethers and field days, with many of the older members of our grazing community choosing the safety of self-isolation on-property.

With La Nina predicted to stay, the better seasons will give respite from apparent eternity of drought and a return to better times is promising.



As a new director, I hope to grow and strengthen the dozen, mostly Landcare groups of QKTLEB. With rebuilt pastures, livestock numbers and grazing entities, we land and water carers of this southwest third of Queensland will then happily mark IYRP in twenty-six.





# South East Queensland

**Brian Venz, Simon Warner and Wal Mayr**

It is pleasing to be part of the growing social and environmental capital of a Region where our 180 strong members and their contributions continued to grow some 16% more than last year. When we take into account sponsored organisations this represents a lot of community based natural resources management. To this end the Board has allotted its two special appointee positions to fellow Directors Walter Mayr and Simon Warner to better support this region.

Wal Mayr supports the sub-region covering three of the largest councils in Australia, City of Gold Coast, Logan City and the southern half of Redlands City Council including the southern Bay Islands working closely with Gold Coast City who run numerous programs for Environmental Volunteers including the Naturally GC Landcare Program that provides expertise, plants and maintenance services to 11 Bushcare/Landcare Groups.

Simon Warner supports our Groups in the Ipswich, Lockyer, Scenic Rim and Somerset local government areas, plus the Sunshine Coast hinterlands. It was very pleasing to see the high level of response (like 100%) of this western sub region to the QWaLC annual activity and insurance survey earlier in the year. It provided an opportunity to check in on a number of members in the subregion. The data gained will provide valuable information to reinforce the scale and fantastic job volunteer organisations are doing throughout the region. It has already been used in advocacy for NRM action and seeking ongoing funding.



With Simon also holding the position of Director on the Board of Healthy Land and Water (HLW) we have strong links with our Regional NRM body. QWaLC member joint activity with HLW is increasing, and this joint engagement with local community groups is greatly valued.

When community volunteers join with private philanthropy, industry and governments projects like the Little Liverpool Range Initiative (LLRI) start to deliver results such as a 20 plus hectare tree planting corridor across erstwhile farming land to establish a koala corridor in the upper tributary of the Bremer River. (see photo – pale areas are the planting sites).

Although charismatic megafauna may be the catchcry, such initiatives also benefit avian, herpetological, marsupial, mammalian faunas, as well as invertebrates. Involvement by Biological Sciences School from University of Queensland by imposing “treatments” in the rehabilitation will also yield (apart from several PhD theses) much improved techniques in landscape scale rehabilitation which we know is needed now and into the future.





Many QWALC members were successful in receiving some of the \$1.2M allocated to South East Queensland from the Landcare Led Bushfire Recovery Program. For example Austinville Landcare successfully completed a \$230,000 Landscape Fire trail renewal project where trails were renewed and upgraded across 1,500ha of National Park, City of Gold Coast Reserves and Private Nature Refuges . Excellent relationships were formed, and it is an example how QWALC, and a local Landcare Group can deliver valuable landscape level projects across a range of tenures.



The pandemic, droughts and floods impacted activities this year and many community involvement and engagement events had to be abandoned, however, many worthwhile activities were held by groups in the region. At the local level we explored the roles bush care and land care activities can contribute to community resilience, in one case resulting in support from Brisbane City Council to conduct a series of BushFit working bees. Drought Resilience and Bushfire Recovery workshops and field days by Kilcoy Landcare and Boonah Landcare were well attended.

Wal also made contact with the Southern Moreton Bay Islands Coastcare Group. They are an active and successful Group especially trying to address issues due to the population boom on the Islands.

The Minister for Environment Meaghan Scanlon met with Wal Mayr at her Gold Coast office, discussing the work of local Landcare Groups. While she knows and supports many members of QWALC, she was pleased to learn about our Board which has Directors from all regions of Queensland and the services, including insurance we provide to over 600 environmental organisations across Queensland. Minister Scanlon actively engaged with local landcare groups including personally informing Watergum and Austinville Landcare of successful grants they had been awarded. On all occasions people were impressed with her knowledge of and enthusiasm for environmental volunteering.



The Gold Coast hinterland community attended a follow up Fire Education Seminar, opened by Gold Coast Councillor Glenn Tozer, and Chaired by Climate Change Council Member Russell Reichelt. Attendees found its content valuable.

Luise Manning from Springfield Lakes Nature Care and Wal Mayr (winners of Queensland Landcare Award categories) attended the National Landcare Conference and the Awards dinner. Wal was quite overwhelmed to win the National Individual Landcarer Award. He felt the Conference was one of the best conferences he has attended. There were a broad range of presentations and panels ranging from tradable credits, farm management to urban Landcare. It was a great networking event with lots of ideas shared between groups, states and countries.





# Wet Tropics



## Jeffery Baines

Thank you for the opportunity to represent the Wet Tropics region of Queensland as a QWaLC Director. Together with my role as Councillor in the Cassowary Coast Regional Council I have been provided with a broad platform to engage in forums that are important for the region in natural resource management, agriculture, the tablelands, coastal management, the reef and the community.

An important role for QWaLC Directors is to represent the organisation itself and the member groups which we support. Continued and consistent direct government and corporate funding provides the resources necessary to support groups and community to undertake the important onground activities.

We have been successful in lobbying all levels government. I was recently in Canberra and was pleased to be able to lobby Senator Nita Green who is the Special Envoy for the Great Barrier Reef. She and the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, Minister for the Environment and Water, both acknowledge the strength of partnerships between Traditional Owners (TO), grassroots NRM groups and local government.

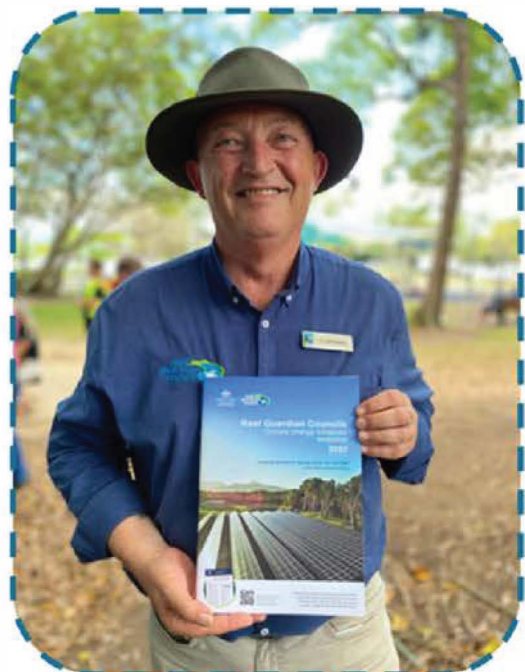


Building partnerships and collaborative projects with and for our members is important for the region. The Reef Guardian Councils program showcases environmentally sustainable practices undertaken by local governments in the Great Barrier Reef catchment. There is an opportunity for QWaLC members and TO's to partner with and layer funding arrangements with local government in this program. We also have ongoing partnerships with Terrain NRM and the Wet Tropics Waterway Partnership project. I was also able to lobby at local government level for the cleaner roads runoff trials, a potential opportunity for QWaLC to partner in revegetation programs.



Lastly but by no means least it is always good to see firsthand the local onground projects being undertaken by our member groups.

I look forward to the coming year and being able to work with you all towards a stronger Wet Tropics region and across Queensland.





# South West Queensland



## Adma Sargood

As the QWaLC representative for South West Queensland I am pleased to be able to present my report for this year.

I attended the Fire in the Mulga Forum in July which was hosted by Southern Queensland Landscapes and Queensland Fire and emergency Services. This was a wonderful and really well attended event which discussed topics relating to:

- Planning fire in the mulga lands
- Understanding laws relating to fire in the Mulga lands
- Traditional Custodians mulga fire knowledge.

Another inspiring project in this region is a project that designs and installs low profile contour banks to help restore flood plains and improve soil heal and productivity.

QWaLC has supported our members by providing our groups with Community Land Care group insurance .

As the majority of our member groups are Farmers/graziers, who have an inbuilt love of nature, we are on a daily mission to improve our natural resources. Dung Beetles are becoming a very sought after commodity now. Country fully locked up for Carbon Credits is an going problem for everyone.



I would hope that now we have received all this wonderful rain I will be able to take time to travel to more events within my region and interact with the groups.





# Fitzroy



## Shelly McArdle

It has been a busy year that started with the hosting the State Landcare awards at the Fitzroy Basin Association's Flow Centre in Rockhampton.

Central Queensland was well represented with Capricorn Coast Landcare taking out the Coast Care Award along with Owen Harris winning the Young Leader Award.

New members Woppaburra TUMRA Aboriginal Corporation took out the Highly Commended KPMG Indigenous Land Management Award for their work around Woppaburra Country in Keppel Bay.

Capricorn Coast Landcare continue to make their mark in reducing weeds, planting trees and collecting marine debris across the Capricorn Coast with Volunteer numbers continuing to grow.

Early this year the newly formed CapCoast Eco Warriors made their debut with an event that attracted a huge crowd. Traditional Custodian and Elder Uncle Billy Man conducted a smoking ceremony that seemed to fascinate the young ones before they got stuck into a Tangaroa Blue beach clean and eco themed treasure hunt.





# Burnett Mary



## Maree Gillott

The theme of the last 12 months in the region – rain, historical floods, recovery, more rain, more recovery, and at the time of writing another La Nina summer predicted.

In many areas, flood damage, and soil waterlogged for months on end has wreaked havoc with croppers and graziers alike, while those engaged in natural resource management have been hampered by weather and ground conditions in their efforts to get back on country to continue with their important work. It was disappointing for the Environmental Services team at Gympie & District Landcare to see some recent hard work on revegetation for Gympie Regional Council washed away.

On the upside the region now has, courtesy of Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee, some great post flood drone vision of the riparian zones of the river, showing some great resilience in areas that have been thoughtfully regenerated, and clearly showing the areas that still need further attention.



## Marine Debris Cleanup

Although a perpetual problem, the floods naturally pulled much larger volumes of material into our waterways, from where they continued towards the coast. In July Gympie & District Landcare together with Cooloola Coastcare undertook clean-ups of the Mary River and at Rainbow Beach, collecting over 1.3 Tonnes of debris in a 5 day period. Again in September, they joined the team at Tangaroa Blue for another pass at Rainbow Beach and on to Fraser Island. It is clear that the impact of such activities is merely 'a drop in the ocean' in terms of clean-up, and the only way to address it is through a tectonic community paradigm shift leading to more thoughtful use, and re-use of resources.



### Supporting New Land Managers

Noosa & District Landcare continued with its' long-standing programme providing training and employment to many people seeking a career path in land management. In July, a group of 10 trainees graduated after successfully completing a Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. In Gympie, another group of 11 graduated last week under the same program, after undertaking their traineeship through Busy at Work, guided by Koala Action Gympie Region doing regeneration work on the Imbil Rail Trail and Gympie & District Landcare, where they received formal training and worked in the nursery.



### Community Engagement and Action

While I've not been able to get face to face with too many different groups during the year, I do follow all their socials and newsletters, and see many good things going on, all over the region. Particular mention goes to Koala Action Gympie Region for consistent and sustained activity in advocacy, community plantings, and education. Noosa & District Landcare continue to set a high bar for other Landcare organisations to meet - training new land managers, regenerating land, engaging volunteers, educating community, and providing high quality endemic native plants.

All in all, a year of more downs than ups but regardless, the hard work of the volunteers and staff of our regional land management organisations continues.





# Burdekin Dry Tropics Mackay Whitsunday



## Judith Wake

My first year as a member of the QWaLC Board has been an exciting one with much to learn about the broad array of member groups in the Burdekin Dry Tropics and Mackay Whitsunday regions. It has been amazing to meet some of the inspirational people that work to improve our environment and I would like to acknowledge all the great work undertaken by the 28 groups in the region.

The QWaLC Members Survey was a great opportunity to contact groups, and help those whose surveys may have gone astray, into junk folders or to emails of people no longer in the organisation.

My introduction to my role was full-on thanks to Shelly McArdle (QWaLC Board member for Fitzroy). While volunteering to remove marine debris from one of Mackay's beaches with Shelly for Tangaroa Blue, Mackay and District Turtle Watch members raised their concern about the impact of vehicles driving over the upper tidal zone and sand dunes where turtles nest, resulting in loss of adults, eggs and hatchlings. The issue is of great concern to all turtle focused groups in my region. Morgan Thomas, from Reef Catchments detailed a project that Reef Catchments had completed for Whitsunday Shire Council that has been successful in greatly reducing vehicle access to remnant beach scrub and important turtle nesting sites north of the Whitsundays. This is a major achievement and could form a blueprint for similar areas in the region.

QWaLC is a partner in the Healthy Rivers to Reef Partnership, Mackay Whitsunday Isaac (HR2RP MWI) and Dry Tropics Partnership for Healthy Waters (DTPHW). As a Director I represented QWaLC in this and the Reef Report Cards Technical Working Group providing input to the Report Cards and assisting local Landcare Groups maintain good stewardship practices. I was particularly pleased to help Pioneer Catchment Landcare (PCL) reduce the use of insecticides by suggesting ways to reduce insect pest numbers without harming the predators present.



I attended the Reef Catchments Inc. Members' Day Stakeholder Luncheon showcasing the projects undertaken in the past 12 months. Of particular interest was the Reef Assist Program, which provided significant funding for the three members of Central Queensland Coast Landcare Network (CQCLN), Whitsunday Catchment Landcare (WCL), Pioneer Catchment Landcare (PCL) and Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association SLCMA), to employ new staff and provide valuable practical experience.





Other activities I participated in include:

- Slade Point Walk and Talk for World Environment Day
- Stakeholder Engagement Day organised by Catchments Solutions (Reef Catchment's commercial enterprise) looking at fishways, potential Blue Carbon projects and some of the on-ground works being undertaken by local landholders.
- NQ Dry Tropics Online Conference organised by PCL to discuss ways that they can assist NQ Dry Tropics in projects in areas that adjoin PCL's footprint and are beyond the resources of Dry Tropics Landcare groups.

The 2022 QWaLC survey of the region's member groups revealed the need for greatest support was in attracting volunteers. I attended the Mackay Regional Council's Volunteers Day to promote volunteering for regional landcare groups. For the coming year, I will look at how I might be able to assist groups to recruit more volunteers through relevant local events.

One of the real strengths in the Burdekin Dry Tropics/Mackay Whitsunday Region is the way government and non-government agencies work together to achieve goals not possible for any agency working alone. These partnerships are able to overcome some of the difficulties associated with the large areas and distances from major services.

As the QWaLC Board member, I hope to be able to strengthen these partnerships and facilitate more connections among QWaLC members and with the broader community.





# Condamine



## MaryLou Gittins OAM

The Condamine Region is one of the smaller land areas of the 14 Qld regions which doesn't reflect on the productive happenings across the region. Congratulations to all the QWaLC member groups within the Condamine for the work and volunteering hours that are amassed through participation in on-ground activities, workshops, and connections with Southern Qld Landscapes, local, state and federal governments. The emails nominating the activities only slow down when COVID or drought (now rain) impacts, although we are more accepting and incorporate mitigation actions as part of our planning. The wide range of happenings include the Triple Bottom Line: People, Planet and Profit. The QWaLC Condamine region's membership broadens each year although Landcare is the basis of the membership.

As the Condamine QWaLC Director I strive to have contact with regional member groups by emails, phone-calls or face-to-face. The Condamine Catchment Management Association provides four formal opportunities per year for interaction between representatives of member groups and myself providing groups the opportunity to report and interact with others. I really enjoy this session as passionate people speak about the success and concerns in the local community and area. This interaction also provides an opportunity for Q&A regarding QWaLC's support as in the website Toolbox, governance and insurance.

During the lead up to Christmas 2021 I attended the Allora Landcare Group's AGM which is always an enjoyable event. In 2020 November the Allora Landcare group published their first edition of 'A Pictorial Guide to the Birds of Allora Mountain Flora and Fauna' which is a great handbook constituting excellent photos and information. Great news is QWaLC (with others) is supporting the group in producing Edition 2. Hopefully it will be published in 2023.

In June 22 I joined Frank Ondrus 'HOPE' (Householders' Options to Protect the Environment) and Allora Landcare for a drone fly-over of Allora Mountain Reserve. Our farm at Goomburra was also included in this project and Frank has offered this service to other groups or individuals in the Condamine Catchment – a great example of sharing resources.

Our region had five nominations for the 2021 Qld State Landcare Awards. I would like to formally thank Allora Landcare, Clifton Landcare, Oakey Urban Landcare, Pittsworth Landcare and Millmerran Landcare for the time and effort they put into the writing of the nominations. All groups showcased the great work Landcare is doing within our catchment. The 2023 round for State Landcare Awards will be the next chance to showcase what great work volunteers are committed to in the Condamine Region.

It was great to visit the Condamine Headwaters Landcare Group's new facilities at the Warwick Taft College. The nursery was of great interest, and I was quick to purchase some plants as they only sell endemic species for the local area.

Keeping QWaLC at the forefront of local Member of Parliament is one of the roles of QWaLC regional director therefore when the opportunity arose to have a conversation with James Lister NLP MP strengthening relationships, I took it. We all have a role to play here as it is only with personal contact those in government learn about the great happenings of QWaLC member groups.

Thank you once again to the QWaLC Condamine member groups for your support. 2021/22 sees the completion of my first three year team as the Condamine Director on the QWaLC Board. In the latter half of 2022 there will be call of Expression of Interest from the region for the position and I hope to continue this role for a further three years!





# Queensland Murray Darling



## Craig Magnusson

2022 marked my first year as a QWaLC Director, representing the Murray Darling region. QWaLC supported 31 member groups in this region throughout the year, mostly through the provision of insurance, but also through provision of information and contacts, event sponsorship and through recognition of achievements via the Queensland Landcare Awards.

I must admit, as a QWaLC newbie, I spent much of my first year getting to know the ins and outs of the organisation, the Directors and staff. I regrettably did not get to as many member events as I would have liked but aim to rectify that in 2023.

Highlights of 2022 included:

a. Supporting the Granite Belt Sustainable Action Network to host the 30 July Restoring Threatened Species Habitat workshop in Stanthorpe. The event doubled as the launch for the Wildlife Friendly Granite Belt: Welcome to Quoll Country initiative.

b. Providing input into the QWaLC submission to the Queensland Government's feral deer strategy, drawing on the significant stakeholder experience of the Murray Darling region.

c. Hosting one of five 'satellite' events, at the historic Glengallan Homestead near Warwick, as part of the 2021 Queensland Landcare Awards.

d. Using my professional and local networks to promote the work of QWaLC at every opportunity.

QWaLC has supported its Murray Darling members in numerous and diverse ways. Wild dog cluster fencing groups have turned to QWaLC membership for insurance and the value of these projects in promoting sustainable sheep/wool and goat production, as well as supporting the economic viability of regional communities cannot be understated.

Project Officer for five cluster projects in the Southern Downs, Janet Barker said,

***"QWaLC membership has provided these cluster groups with the certainty of insurance cover, which went a long way to ensuring their viability.***

***Membership has also given our cluster group members exposure to information and other groups in the sustainability and volunteering spaces they otherwise may not have had".***

QWaLC also supports grass roots community organisations including Landcare groups, wildlife carers, field naturalists and many more. Granite Belt Sustainable Action Network (GBSAN) is a member group with bold ambitions and a growing membership. President Rick Humphries said,

***"Joining QWaLC has been fantastic for GBSAN. The provision of insurance is a game changer for volunteer-driven community organisations like ours; it helps us focus our attention and resources at on-ground activities. We also greatly appreciated the support this year from QWaLC in helping make our Threatened Species Habitat Workshop a success".***

2023 for me represents the opportunity to get to know more of QWaLC's Murray Darling based member groups through attendance at meetings and events where possible. I'm keen to continue contributing and (hopefully!) adding value to the organisation's strategic goals at the Board level as well.

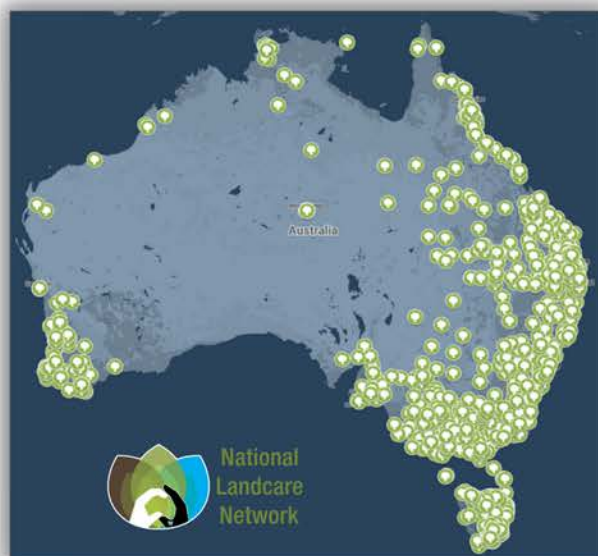
I'd like to thank the members from the Murray Darling for giving me the opportunity to represent them on the QWaLC Board and also thank the other QWaLC Directors and staff for their support and friendship over the past year.



# We are Stronger Together

This year Queensland Water and Land Carers has enjoyed collaborating with other Landcare States and Territory Organisations (STO's) and the National Landcare Network.

There are over 2,000 active State and Territory Landcare Organisation members representing 6,000-plus individual Landcare groups and over 160,000 Landcarers giving a voice for Community Landcare across the country.



## Landcare Led Bushfire Recovery Program

The NLN facilitated a number of knowledge exchange and co-design workshops with the aim of representing the needs of community Landcarers across the country and elevating a united representative voice and vision for policy makers. Importantly the Landcare Led Bushfire Recovery Program, in partnership with Landcare Australia, demonstrated the capacity of Landcare to deliver disaster recovery programs. Through this program QWaLC delivered \$1.2M to projects across South East Queensland.



## A roadmap for the future

This year, QWaLC was pleased to be able to co-design The Australian Community Landcare Futures Framework proposal, to be delivered by the National Landcare Network if successful.

The Framework is underpinned by three priority initiatives:

- Landcare Futures Community Investment Initiative
- Landcare Futures Environmental Markets Leadership Initiative
- Landcare Futures Innovation Initiative



# Images List

Page	Image Title	Photo Credit
Front Cover	Condamine	MaryLou Gittins
Chairs Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shelly, Temaleti and MaryLou preparing the Reconciliation Action Plan</li> <li>Rosalinde Brinkman, MaryLou Gittins, Wal and Heather Mayr at the landcare Awards Sydney</li> <li>National Landcare Network Board</li> </ul> <p>Front row: Dr Maxine Cooper, Annie Andrews (NT), MaryLou Gittins OAM (QLD), Dr Louise Duxbury (WA) Back row: Bill Harvey (TAS), Dr Patrick O'Connor (Chair) (SA), Jane Carney (VIC) Not in photograph: Gareth Johnston (NSW)</p>	QWaLC NLN
CEO's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Darryl Ebenezer and Young Leader Awards nominee Owen Harris at National Landcare Awards Sydney</li> </ul>	
Cape York & Torres Strait	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Temaleti networking in the region</li> </ul>	Temaleti Matasia
Southern/Northern Gulf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Director John Brisbin giving a regional overview at the Water Security Forum in Dimbulah, May 2022</li> </ul>	Gulf Savannah NRM
Desert Channels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Desert Channels at Windorah</li> <li>Stratford vegetation</li> <li>Brolgas</li> </ul>	Lisa Alexander Photography Andrea Mason
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Wet Tropics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jeff Bains with Senator Nita Green</li> <li>Jeff Bains with Hon Tanya Plibersek MP</li> <li>Partners on Tablelands</li> <li>Lobbying at LGAQ level on cleaner roads runoff trials</li> <li>Jeff Bains with the The Reef Guardian Councils Snapshot</li> </ul>	Jeff Baines
South West Queensland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cattle Dung showing dung beetle activity</li> <li>Cattle in landscape</li> </ul>	Adma Sargood
Fitzroy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Central Queensland well represented at the National Landcare Awards. From Left Bluey Harris, Costa Georgiadis, Young Leader Awards nominee Owen Harris, QWaLC's Shelly McArdle and Paul Harris.</li> <li>The Woppaburra TUMRA Aboriginal Corporation delighted with their Highly Commended Award from KPMG. From left: Sonny Van Issum, Joseph Geas, Aunty Della Gibson, Meaghan Cummins and the Great Barrier Reef Authority's Hugh Wallace- Smith.</li> <li>QWaLC Director Shelly McArdle shares information about living Plastic Free at the Tangaroa Blue Stall-Eco Warriors Launch</li> <li>State Landcare Award Winners Malcolm wells (Representing CapCoast Landcare and Owen Harris Young leader Winner.</li> </ul>	Shelly McArdle
Burnett Mary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gympie floods March 2022</li> <li>Gympie &amp; District Landcare and Cooloola Coastcare Marine Debris Cleanup</li> <li>Noosa &amp; District Landcare trainees</li> <li>Fraser Island Marine Debris cleanup</li> </ul>	Maree Gillott
Burdekin Dry Tropics/Mackay Whitsunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ladybird larva</li> <li>Aimee Barclay (Pioneer Catchment Landcare) and Judith Wake (QWaLC) inspecting ladybird beetle larvae on fig tree.</li> <li>Sharon Dwyer Chair Pioneer Catchment Landcare, Judith Wake (QWaLC) and Carla Lambropoulos Waterway Coordinator, Reef Catchments Inc at Reef Catchments Inc. Members' Day Stakeholder Luncheon</li> <li>Mandy Shaw from Native Plants Queensland (NPQ) Mackay Branch and Judith Wake (QWaLC, Pioneer Catchment Landcare &amp; NPQ) promoting volunteer week for NPQ and PCL</li> </ul>	Judith Wake
Condamine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tanya Jobling (Condamine Headwaters Coordinator, Kimberley Roberts (Nursery Coordinator) and Mary-Lou</li> <li>Meg Kummerow, Hughie Huston AL President and Mary-Lou Gittins</li> <li>James Lister and Mary-Lou Gittins</li> <li>Meg Kummerow and Frank Ondrus</li> <li>Mary-Lou Gittins in Clifton at CCMA meeting</li> </ul>	Sue Huston MaryLou Gittins
Acknowledgement Page	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Glossy Black Cockatoo</li> </ul>	Spencer Hitchen @savesunriseglossies



# We thank you for your ongoing support of Queensland Water and Land Carers

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# Acknowledgement

**"We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands where we meet, pay respect to their Elders – past, present and emerging – and we acknowledge the important and practical role Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to play within communities both in Queensland and across the nation."**

**Queensland Water and Land Carers supports the Uluru Statement from the Heart**

