



QwaLC

QUEENSLAND WATER & LAND CARERS



Keeping Volunteers Safe Supported Engaged

Global, State and Local perspectives

Presenters:

Darryl Ebenezer

Mary-Lou Gittins

Naturally Together May 2026



Acknowledgement

“We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and custodians of the lands and waters 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.”





General Advice



- The information provided to you today is general advice.
- We are not lawyers, so we encourage you to seek further advice

Thanks to our funding partner:

DELIVERING
FOR QUEENSLAND



Queensland Government Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development

Natural Resources Recovery Program

The Natural Resources Recovery Program (NRRP) has up to \$10 million in funding available per year to eligible Queensland-based natural resource management organisations for projects that promote sustainable outcomes and innovation for land resources

The **Supporting Qld Volunteer Land Carers for Landscape Recovery and Resilience Project (2024-2027)** will:

- continue essential insurance coverage for volunteers within landcare and similar groups across Queensland that manage natural resources
- increase membership to increase capacity in natural resource management (NRM) volunteer groups
- support advocacy and networking to contribute to NRM capacity and outcomes
- support member groups to manage and build capacity



Member Group Outcomes – Jan 2025 – Jan 2026

Plants Grown and Planted



1,287,123

Kilograms of Litter Removed



222,819

Public Donations



\$4.98M

Hectares of Vegetation Managed



1,240,677

Wildlife Rescues



63,935

Fencing Built



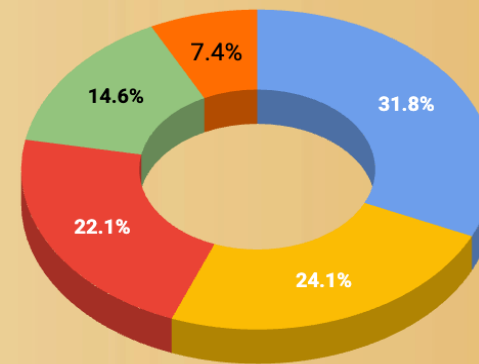
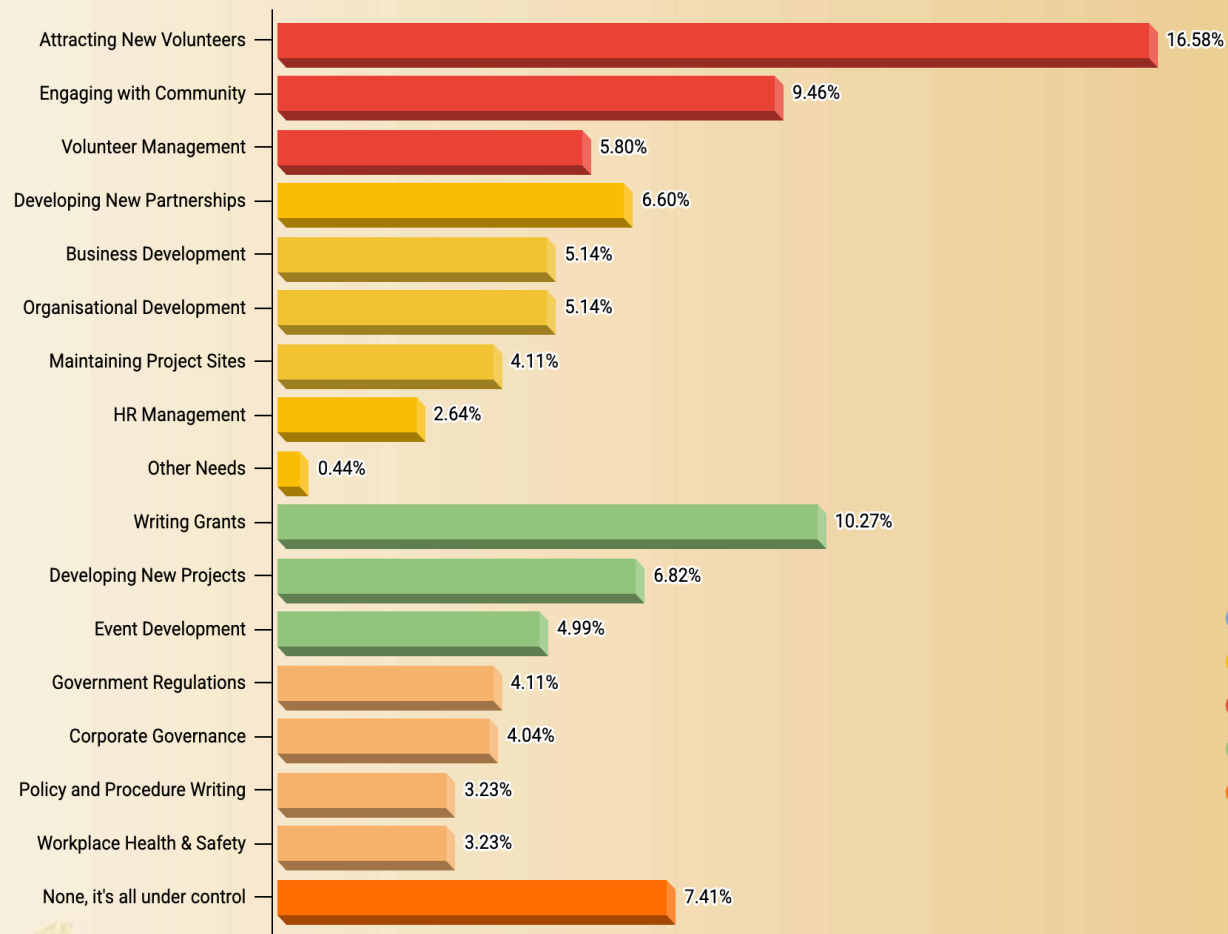
1,855 kms

Fencing Maintained



3,584 kms

QWaLC Member Support Needs for 2026-2027



- Volunteers & Community Engagement
- Business Development Support
- Funding & Projects
- Governance & Compliance
- None, it's all under control

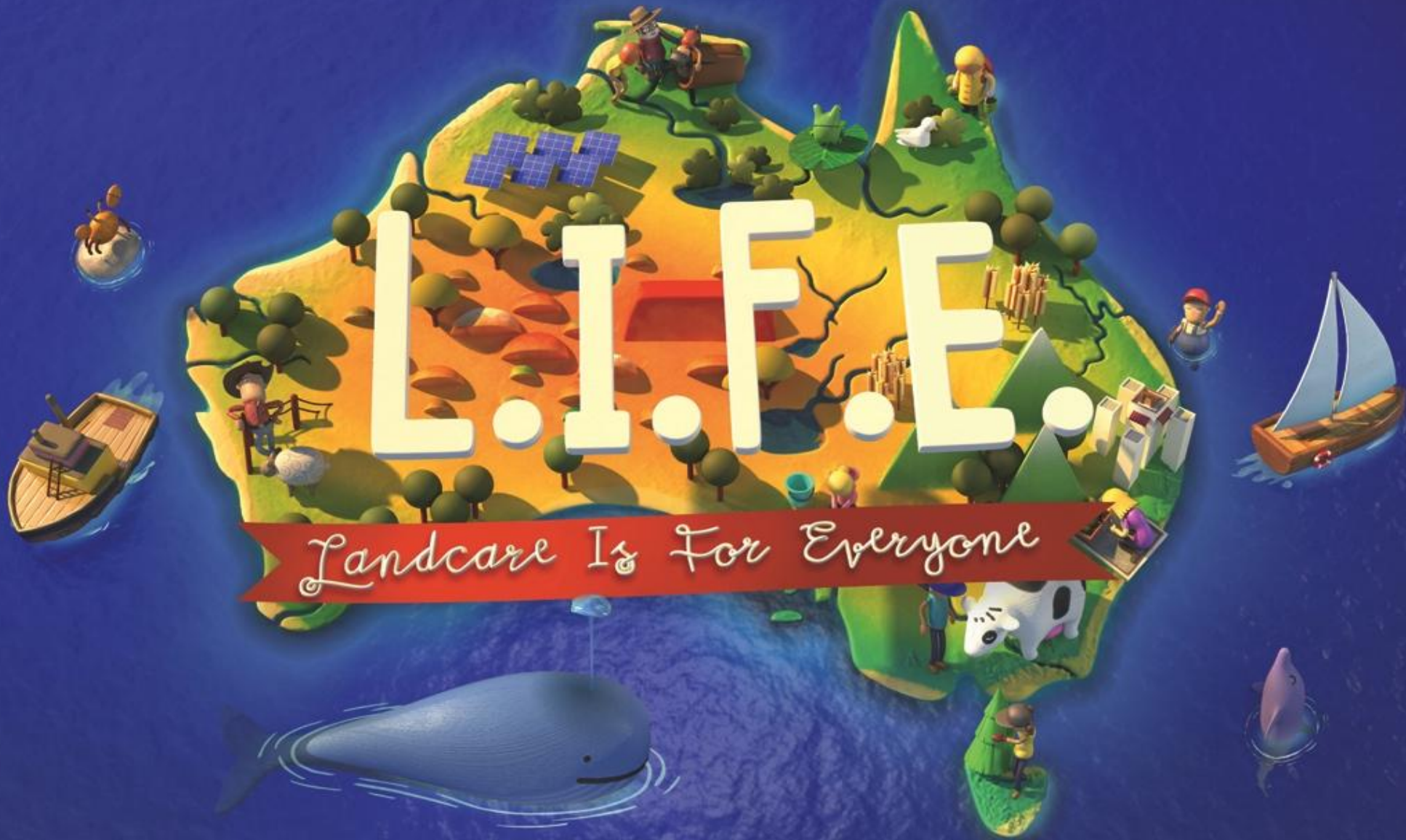
Queensland Water and Land Carers Inc (QWaLC)

- **Membership Renewal and Survey** – Annually in February
- **Needs of Members** - After reviewing the survey responses, we identified that a large percentage is looking for support around volunteering, as well as policies and procedures.
- **In response**, QWaLC is presenting this “Naturally Together” Webinar — an opportunity to connect, share ideas, and explore practical ways to strengthen and support your Organisation's volunteer program
- **June 19th “Naturally Together”** session will provide an opportunity to hear from CHRIS NORMAN Chief Executive Officer NRM Regions Queensland and team to discuss the NRM Expansion Program – how this funding was achieved.



L.I.F.E.

Landcare Is For Everyone



Overview of Session

- Volunteer recruitment
- Volunteer retention
- Safety & compliance
- Policies & procedures
- Technology & tools

1954



Action Plan 2024-2027

Update 2026



**National Strategy
for Volunteering**



National Strategy for Volunteering
2023–2033

Action Plan
2024–2027

Action Plan 2024-2027

- Action Plan 2024-2027 launched 28 August 2024.
- It is the first three-year Action Plan of the National Strategy for Volunteering in its ten-year roadmap.
- The Action Plan contains 22 actions that were co-designed to progress key priorities for National Strategy implementation.
- The Action Plan includes guidance on how other stakeholders can flexibly contribute to the actions of lead stakeholders, including community groups and individual volunteers.

Encourage Membership and Volunteerism

Principle 9 of 11

Volunteering is a legitimate way in which citizens can participate in the activities of their community

Why is membership important?

Robust democracy, where local people practice democratic engagement through local organisations and where wider political engagement is fostered and nurtured.

Join

Engage

Share



Volunteering is a core part of our community

- Time **willingly** given, **without expectation** of financial gain, for the **common good**
- Largest **workforce** with **benefits**
 - **social** cohesion, connection, inclusion, identity, diversity
 - community **capability** building
 - **economic** powerhouse
 - **environmental** custodians
- Global **movement**
 - formal, informal, self-activating

Current Impacts on Vols

Anxiety and frustration are higher now than March 2020

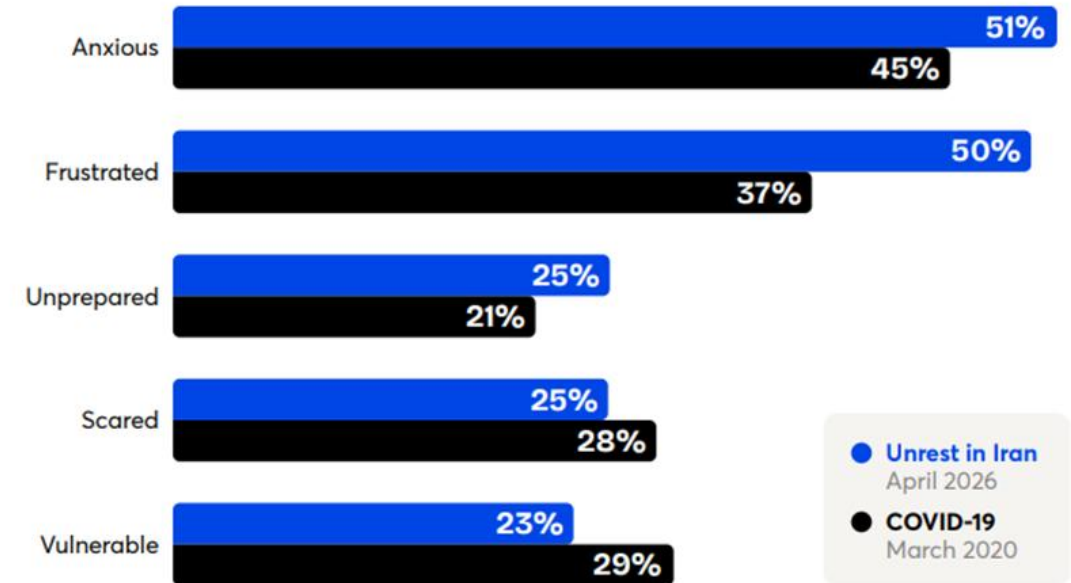
Australians feel more anxious and frustrated now than in March 2020, when the pandemic first began to impact the global economy and daily work routines. While Australians are slightly less likely to feel personally vulnerable (23% cf. 29% 2020), they are more likely to feel frustrated about the unrest in Iran (50% cf. 37% 2020).²

Uncertainty about the future is also slightly higher, with two in five Australians (43%) feeling extremely or very uncertain about the future, compared to 39% in 2020).² Prolonged uncertainty can have disproportionate impacts, that even when things go 'back to normal' behaviours take time to catch up and often change altogether as 'the new normal' settles in. Prioritising clear communication and supportive environments during these periods allows leaders to move from a reactive stance to a strategic and empathetic response, building the resilience required for a stable future.

TOP 5 EMOTIONS AUSTRALIANS ARE FEELING ABOUT THE UNREST IN IRAN VS. COVID-19

Which of the following words would you use to describe how you feel about the conflict in Iran and its impacts on Australia?

Please select all that apply.



Since the conflict in Iran and its impacts on Australia, how uncertain do you feel about the future?

Extremely/very uncertain

Unrest in Iran — April 2026



COVID 19 — March 2020

Volunteering categories

MUTUAL AID



Mutual aid is the wealth of informal, person-to-person helping activities embedded in community and cultural practices. People gather and volunteer together as a response to a shared need or issue.

SERVICE



Service volunteering is where volunteers respond to the perceived needs of another person or community.

CAMPAIGNING



Campaigning usually involves the collective action of a group or an individual to amplify 'marginalized' voices and to change the *status quo*.

PARTICIPATION



Participation is where volunteers give time and effort to engage with governance and decision-making mechanisms at different levels.

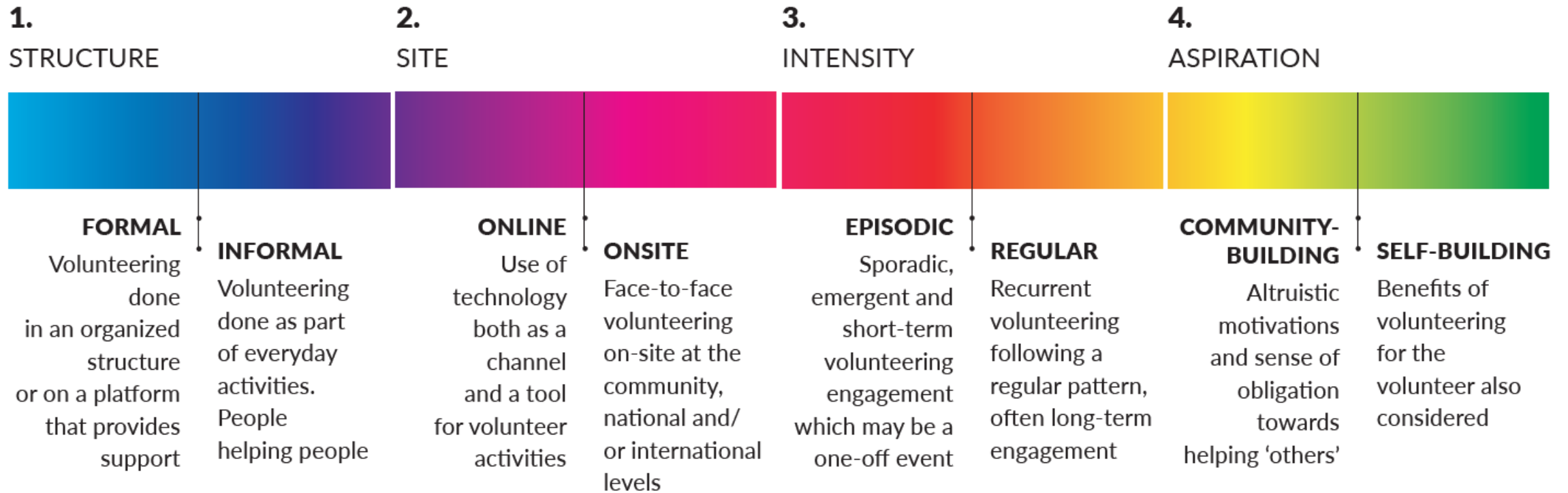
LEISURE



Volunteering as leisure: volunteer activities that express personal interests or passions such as in the arts, culture and sports. They still contribute to wider well-being and cohesion.

The categories are not mutually exclusive – one volunteering activity could have aspects of each type

Volunteering practices in the 21st century



The components are not mutually exclusive but cover a spectrum

Volunteering practices in the 21st century

5
components



These components manifest in different configurations and intensity depending on how and why the volunteer work is done

Defining the Landcare approach

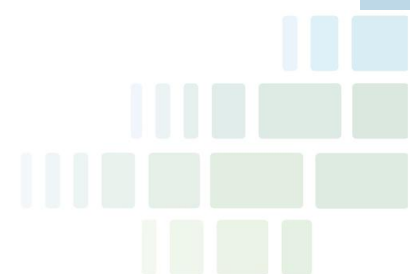
- **Ethic** – a philosophy, influencing the way people live and work in the landscape while caring for the land (soil, water and biota).
- **Movement** – local community action founded on stewardship and volunteerism, putting the philosophy into practice.
- **Model** – a range of knowledge generation, sharing and support mechanisms influencing broad-scale community participation in sustainable resource management

Love, C. (2010) Evolution of Landcare in Australia: In the context of Australian Government natural resource management policy and programs

Recruiting and Retaining Reinvigorating and Re-engaging



<https://volunteeringqld.org.au/volunteer-management-toolkit/>



“Good volunteer management is built on:

- * **consistency,**
- * **communication**
- * **care.”**



BOIL THE BILLY



GOOD EXPERIENCE

FOOD



GOOD ★ FEEDBACK

BE HAPPY

Onboarding volunteers Guide

https://volunteeringqld.org.au/wpcontent/uploads/2023/05/Onboarding_FINAL.pdf

How to use this guide

This guide provides practical information about inducting, training and supporting a volunteer as they join a host organisation. It provides suggestions and prompts to serve as a starting point when creating or updating your organisation's onboarding process. They will need to be evaluated against the needs and scope of the volunteer role and customised as required.

For your team to succeed, they need to know their goal and how to achieve it. An effective onboarding process is the best way to make sure volunteers have everything they need to begin their new role informed, supported and excited to contribute.

Onboarding is how your organisation integrates a new member of the team. This process can begin when a volunteer accepts their new role and last all the way until they are working with the same independence and confidence as their colleagues. An effective onboarding process covers how new arrivals are welcomed, introduced to other staff and trained for their role, as well as the resources and support they receive during this time.

A new volunteer's experience during the onboarding process has a large influence on their motivation to continue in the role. Investing the time to successfully integrate new starters helps demonstrate the value your organisation places on volunteering.



Onboarding volunteers



NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT

The National Standards for Volunteer Involvement provide a framework for organisations to consider the role of volunteers and the impact effective volunteer involvement can have on achieving the strategic goals of the organisation. Created by volunteering peak bodies across Australia, they allow organisations to make use of simple, practical criteria across a broad range of volunteering situations.

Volunteer involving organisations are encouraged to consider the National Standards when developing their onboarding process.

STANDARD 5: SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

Volunteers understand their roles and gain the knowledge, skills and feedback needed to safely and effectively carry out their duties.

- 5.1** Volunteers are provided with orientation relevant to their role and responsibility.
- 5.2** Volunteers' knowledge and skills are reviewed to identify support and development needs.
- 5.3** Volunteers' knowledge and skill needs relevant to their roles are identified, and training and development opportunities are provided to meet these needs.
- 5.4** Volunteers are provided with supervision and support that enables them to undertake their roles and responsibilities.
- 5.5** Changes to the involvement of a volunteer are undertaken fairly and consistently.



For more information on the National Standards, visit: www.volunteeringaustralia.org/resources/national-standards-and-supporting-material



INTRODUCTION

For your team to succeed, they need to know their goal and how to achieve it. An effective onboarding process is the best way to make sure volunteers have everything they need to begin their new role informed, supported and excited to contribute.

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HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

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STAGES OF ONBOARDING



DEVELOPING YOUR ONBOARDING PROCESS

Designing and maintaining your onboarding process requires investment and input from across the organisation. By its very nature, build and update your process over time, reflecting major organisational changes, new technology, feedback from the team and your developing skills as a manager of volunteers.



CREATING AN ONBOARDING PROCESS FROM SCRATCH

- ✓ Don't feel overwhelmed if you need to create a new process - start simple
- ✓ Use existing resources wherever you can
- ✓ Make a general plan for the volunteer's first day (see Stage 1 above)
- ✓ Keep it welcoming, clear and consistent



FOCUS ON THE ESSENTIALS

- ✓ Prioritise roles or focus parts of your process
- ✓ Have necessary equipment, policies and equipment ready
- ✓ Plan a strong induction and clear role introduction
- ✓ Gather feedback early to improve the experience



UPDATING AN EXISTING ONBOARDING PROCESS

- ✓ Review and revise regularly
- ✓ Seek feedback from recent volunteers and staff
- ✓ Ensure content is current, relevant and easy to access
- ✓ Remove what is no longer needed and add new value-adding elements



OTHER TIPS

- **Make it personal** - get to know the volunteer and tailor their experience where possible
- **Communicate early and often** - before, during and after their first day
- **Create a culture of inclusion** - help volunteers feel part of the team
- **Recognise and appreciate** - small gestures go a long way
- **Keep learning** - review your process and keep improving



WHY IS ONBOARDING IMPORTANT?

An effective onboarding process sets volunteers up for success, builds confidence, improves retention and creates a positive experience that reflects well on your organisation.



BENEFITS FOR THE VOLUNTEER

- Feels welcomed, valued and supported
- Understands their role and impact
- Builds confidence and skills
- Feels happy to stay and stay engaged



BENEFITS FOR THE ORGANISATION

- Better prepared and productive volunteers
- Stronger engagement and retention
- Improved reputation
- More confident, capable volunteer team

Recruiting volunteers https://volunteeringqld.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Recruiting_FINAL.pdf

Every volunteer's journey starts somewhere. For most people who volunteer with an organisation, their journey starts with recruitment. Having an effective recruitment process not only ensures that new volunteers can discover your group – it also exposes your team to new skills, experiences and ways of thinking.

Volunteer recruitment is the process of attracting people to join your organisation in an unpaid position, enabling them to give their time for the common good. This process may also include designing the volunteer role and screening volunteers to make sure they're a good fit.

Recruitment is consistently one of the top issues raised by volunteer managers. In the State of Volunteering in Queensland Report 2021, two-thirds (64.5%) of volunteer managers described the issue of recruitment as 'very important'. For your volunteer involving organisation to achieve its mission, it is essential that your recruitment process is effective, adaptable, and centred around mutual benefit.



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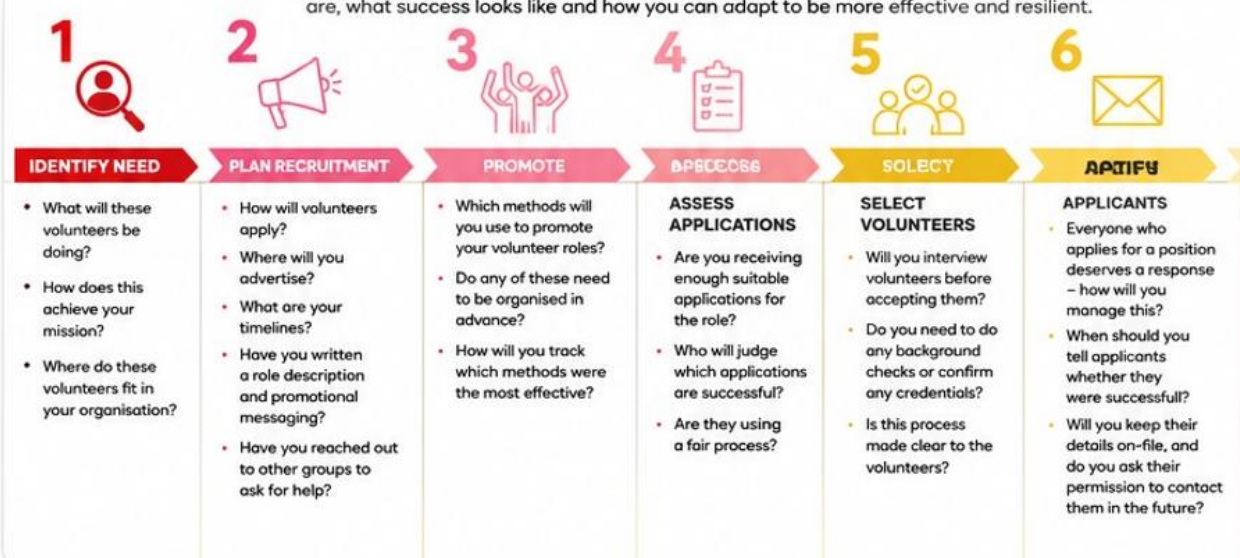
How to use this guide

This guide provides practical information about recruiting volunteers, including considerations for role design, messaging and screening. It provides suggestions and prompts to serve as a starting point when creating or updating your organisation's volunteer recruitment process. These will need to be evaluated against the needs and scope of the volunteer role and customised as required.

Stages of volunteer recruitment

Recruiting volunteers usually isn't a one-off job. Most organisations will need to recruit volunteers on an ongoing basis, either in waves or as part of their daily operation.

Volunteer recruitment involves several steps. Each gives your organisation a chance to consider what your priorities are, what success looks like and how you can adapt to be more effective and resilient.



National Standards for Volunteer Involvement

The National Standards for Volunteer Involvement provide a framework for organisations to consider the role of volunteers and the impact effective volunteer involvement can have on achieving the strategic goals of the organisation.

Volunteer-serving organisations are encouraged to consider the National Standards when developing their volunteer management processes. Standard 4 is primarily concerned with recruiting volunteers.

Standard 4: Recruitment and Selection

Volunteer recruitment and selection strategies are planned, consistent and meet the needs of the organisation and volunteers.

4.1 If the organisation recruits volunteers, it uses planned approaches to attract volunteers with relevant interests, knowledge, skills or attributes.

4.2 Potential volunteers are provided with relevant information about the organisation, the volunteer role and the recruitment and selection process.

4.3 Volunteers are selected based on interest, knowledge, and skills or attributes relevant to the role, and consistent with anti-discrimination legislation.

4.4 Screening processes are applied to volunteer roles that help maintain the safety and security of service users, employees, volunteers and the organisation.

For more information on the National Standards, visit: www.volunteeringaustralia.org/resources/national-standards-and-supporting-material



What you will need

What an onboarding process looks like will differ between organisations and roles, but there are some key elements that should be included every time a volunteer joins an organisation. At a minimum, onboarding a new volunteer should involve:

1



Your organisation's leadership committing to a recruitment process, including decisions on communication, record keeping, how to select volunteers and your overall recruitment approach.

2



Your team knowing where to find volunteers and how you will communicate your volunteer opportunities to potential applicants.

3



A clear volunteer role description and promotional messaging that tells people what you need, what they will be doing and why it matters.

4



A fair and consistent process for assessing and selecting volunteers, including any necessary screening.

5



A plan for welcoming new volunteers and helping them get started in their role.

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Volunteer Retention

https://volunteeringqld.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Retention_FINAL.pdf

Volunteers are generous with their time, and most will join several different teams throughout their journey. How long they remain with your team depends on your volunteer retention. Supporting volunteers with the leadership, resources and motivation they need doesn't just help your organisation maintain a roster – it also builds knowledge, creates a community and is a clear sign of your organisation's value of its volunteers.

Volunteer retention is an organisation's ability to keep volunteers in its team and avoid the negative outcome of volunteers withdrawing earlier than required. It is one of the core challenges for volunteer involving organisations, along with recruitment and funding. Strong retention consistently reminds your organisation's volunteers why they signed up and why their contribution is so important, while poor retention will leave your team wondering why they bother.

Hundreds of volunteer managers were asked about the issues they face as part of the State of Volunteering in Queensland 2021 Report. Of all the volunteer-related issues in the sector, retention was top among them. Volunteer retention isn't a discrete process – it is the result of your overall volunteer management retention in mind as you design the other processes needed for best practice volunteer



Volunteer Retention



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Volunteer involving organisations are encouraged to consider the National Standards when working to improve volunteer retention. Because retention is impacted by the entire volunteer experience, the entire suite of National Standards are relevant. In particular, Standards 7 and 8 relate to volunteer retention.

STANDARD 7: VOLUNTEER RETENTION

Volunteer contribution, value and impact is understood, appreciated and acknowledged.

- 7.1 The governing body and employees understand how volunteers benefit the organisation, service users and the community.
- 7.2 Volunteers are informed about how their contributions benefit others.
- 7.3 Volunteers are acknowledged and recognised in ways that are meaningful.
- 7.4 Volunteers are thanked genuinely and regularly.

STANDARD 8: QUALITY MANAGEMENT AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Organisations regularly reflect on what they do and how they do it, improve their efforts and celebrate their achievements.

- 8.1 The organisation monitors, evaluates and improves its volunteer involvement.
- 8.2 The organisation seeks and responds to feedback.
- 8.3 The organisation builds on its strengths and learns from its mistakes.
- 8.4 The organisation celebrates its achievements.
- 8.5 Volunteer involvement is valued and resourced.

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11 METHODS TO IMPROVE VOLUNTEER RETENTION

- 1** **RECOGNISE, ACKNOWLEDGE AND THANK VOLUNTEERS**
Show genuine appreciation regularly and in meaningful ways.
- 2** **DESIGN YOUR OTHER PROCESSES AROUND VOLUNTEER RETENTION**
Build retention into recruitment, onboarding, communication, supervision and evaluation.
- 3** **EXAMINE THE DATA**
Track key data (e.g. attendance, feedback, length of service) to spot issues early and measure what works.
- 4** **OFFER REIMBURSEMENTS**
Reimburse reasonable out-of-pocket expenses and be clear about your policy.
- 5** **PERSONALISE THEIR INVOLVEMENT**
Get to know volunteers, understand their goals and match opportunities to their interests and strengths.
- 6** **RE-ESTABLISH ROUTINE**
Keep communication consistent and provide clear schedules, expectations and updates.
- 7** **CONNECT VOLUNTEER PEERS**
Create opportunities for volunteers to build relationships, share experiences and support each other.
- 8** **ONGOING DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESSION**
Provide training, learning and chances to grow and take on new challenges.
- 9** **CHECK IN WITH VOLUNTEERS**
Regularly ask how they are going, listen and act on their feedback.
- 10** **DEMONSTRATE THE IMPACT AND VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING**
Share stories, results and feedback that show how their work makes a difference.
- 11** **OFFER FLEXIBLE WAYS TO VOLUNTEER**
Provide options for timing, location and role to suit changing needs and life circumstances.



CHALLENGES TO VOLUNTEER RETENTION

EXTERNAL PRESSURES

- Competing time commitments (work, study, family)
- Cost of living and financial pressures
- Health, caring responsibilities or life changes
- Travel, transport and accessibility issues
- Community events, disasters or crises

INTERNAL PRESSURES

- Unclear role expectations or poor communication
- Lack of recognition or feeling undervalued
- Inadequate support, supervision or resources
- Limited opportunities for growth or development
- Poor culture, conflict or lack of inclusion
- Processes that are inconsistent or hard to navigate



Tip: Identify the barriers your volunteers face and address what you can control.



“ A strong retention culture keeps volunteers engaged, valued and coming back – ready to make an even greater impact. **”**

WRAPPING UP

Retention is not a discrete, one-and-done process. It is an ongoing challenge for most volunteer involving organisations, where each day offers a new opportunity to learn and adjust.

Volunteer retention requires ongoing attention and investment, but provides a return in a skilled, positive, motivated volunteer team. Find what works best for your team and demonstrate the ongoing value and impact of their volunteer efforts.



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Effective volunteer management

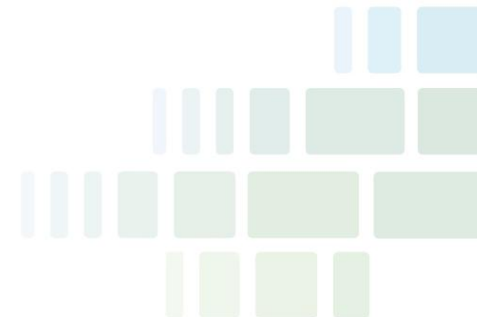
- **Leadership** and management
- **Planning**
- Understanding **motivation**
- Volunteer **roles**
- **Flexibility**
- Recruitment and selection **processes**
- Workplace **health, safety** and **wellbeing**
- Support and **development**
- Volunteer **recognition**
- **Involvement**
- **Diversity** and **inclusion**

Safety, Compliance & Policies

<https://qwalc.org.au/toolbox-resources/>

Groups should ideally have:

- Code of Conduct
- Child Safe Standards
- Working with Children/Blue Card procedures (QWaLC Portal)
- Volunteer induction
- Risk assessment process
- Incident reporting
- Privacy/consent forms
- Event sign-in forms



Why Volunteer Safety Matters



Duty of care obligations



Protecting people = protecting your group



Building community trust and credibility



Legal and reputational risks of poor safety practices



Safety & Risk Management

"If an activity isn't planned, documented and risk assessed — it may not be covered."

- risk assessments,
- sign-on sheets,
- first aid access,
- documenting activities,
- safe work practices.

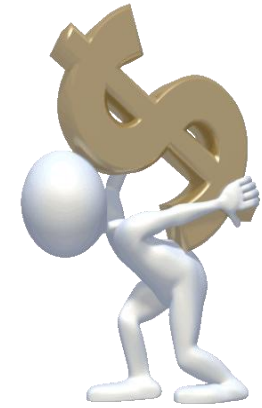


<https://qwalc.org.au/policies-and-templates/>



"It's the simple way to solve and apply for your insurance"
 Sam Small

Excess or deductible for each claim range
 From:
 \$25.00 to \$50,000.00



UAV or Drone claim excess is \$5,000.00



Excluded Activities

Scuba Diving and Snorkeling

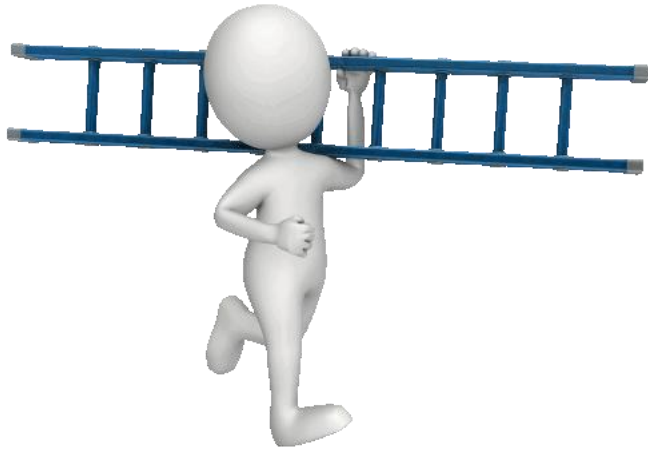


Bike riding including ebikes/scooters

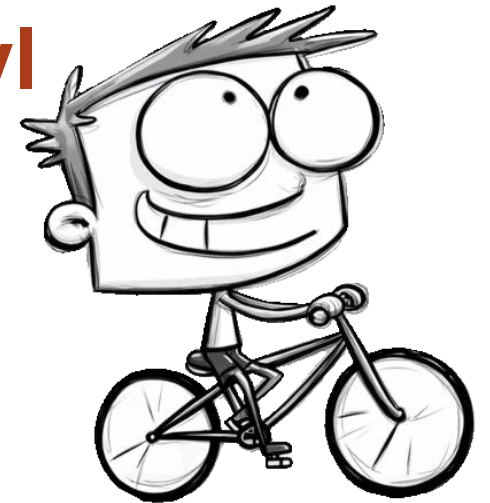


If your group engages in or intends to engage in activities involving

- Drones/UAV
- Bike riding
- Snorkeling, reef diving
- Wildlife rescue above ground
- Cool burning



you must contact Darryl



An Indicative Policy / Procedure list for Community Groups

All community groups need policies and procedures to guide the activities of the group, conform to Government rules and keep people safe.

All guidance should be relevant and appropriate to the group. No point in imposing policies and procedures that are not needed, too complicated and won't be used or followed.

Here is an online resource for new or returning committee members.

<https://volunteeringqld.org.au/about-my-governance-journey/>

QWaLC Website

A number of templates for policies and procedures are available from QWaLC here <https://qwalc.org.au/>

Click on **Member Resources** drop down click on **Toolbox** there are a variety of templates. REMEMBER once completed these should be reviewed every 2 years to maintain relevance.

Small group governance health check document offers some guidance when completed. Always useful to have a few items clearly articulated.

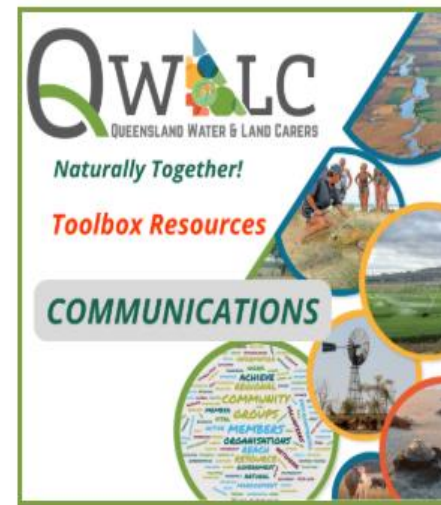
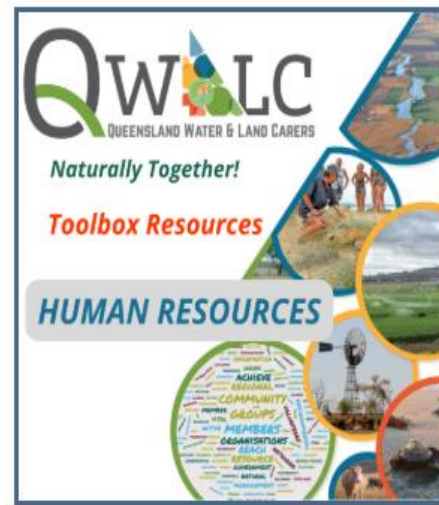
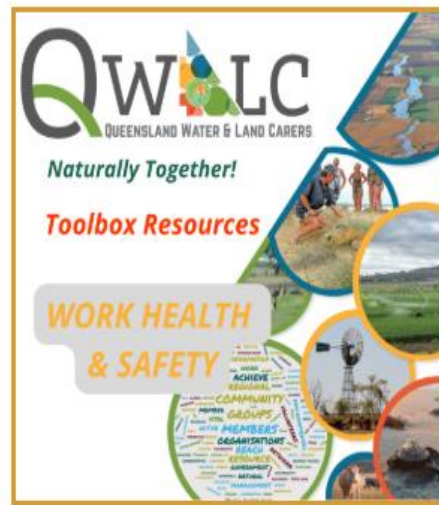
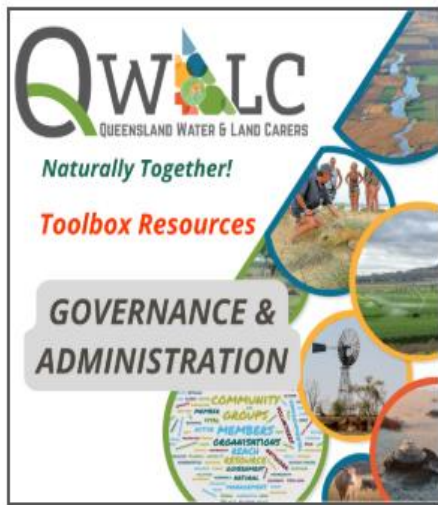
- Group/Organisational Values
- Group/organisational Culture
- What does the group/organisation do?
- How members, staff and volunteers contribute to the culture
- What members, staff and volunteers can all do

Create and publish an **organisational chart** so people can visually see who does what and who the people are. Australia Charity and Not-for Profit Commission (ACNC) has policies you can review if you are registered.

<https://qwalc.org.au/>

LANDCARE
IN A BOX
SERIES

LANDCARE/QWaLC TOOL BOX

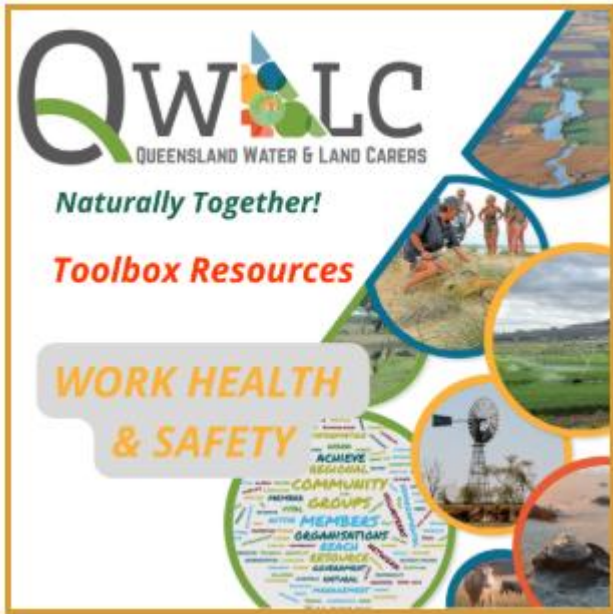


National
Landcare
Programme

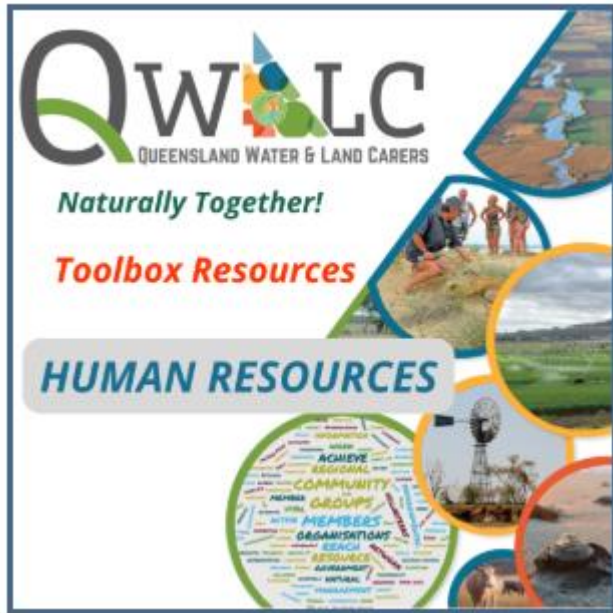




- Financial Delegations
- Intellectual Property
- Conflict of Interest
- Record Keeping
- Insurance
- Risk Policy
- Governance Calendar
- Environmental Management Plan



- Occupational/Workplace Health and Safety
- Incident Reporting
- First Aid
- Risk Assessment Indoor/Outdoor
- Tools and Equipment Use
- Working in Hot Environments
- Remote / Isolated Work
- Vehicle Use



- Recruitment and Training
- Working with Children
- Inappropriate Behaviour / Code of Conduct
- Workplace Bullying including Cyber
- Employment Practices (e.g. working from home, award compliance)
- Contracting/Consulting Practices
- Psychosocial Hazards / Health and Wellbeing (e.g. harassment, discrimination)



- Social Media
- Privacy
- Confidentiality Policy and Agreement
- Use of Mobile Phones
- Conflict Resolution

Technology & Tools

Simple systems reduce workload and improve volunteer experience

- ✓ Event registration forms (qwalc.org.au)
- ✓ Volunteer databases/spreadsheets -
- ✓ Enewsletters - e.g. Mailchimp, Mailerlite
- ✓ Group Communications platforms - e.g. WhatsApp/FB Messenger
- ✓ Event registrations - e.g. Humanitix, Eventbrite
- ✓ Online Volunteer sites - [GoVolunteer](#), [Seek Volunteer](#)



Technology helps:

- ❖ Automate communication,
- ❖ Track volunteer hours,
- ❖ Manage records,
- ❖ Simplify onboarding.



Benefits

- ✓ Better communication
- ✓ Easier record keeping
- ✓ Less admin
- ✓ Improved coordination

Helpful Resources



Qld Regional Support Networks

- ❖ [Volunteering North Queensland](#)
- ❖ [Volunteering Gold Coast](#)
- ❖ [FNQ Volunteers](#)

State & National Support Networks

- ❖ [Queensland Water and Land Carers](#)
- ❖ [Volunteering Queensland](#)
- ❖ <https://volunteeringqld.org.au/volunteer-management-toolkit>
- ❖ [Justice Connect](#)
- ❖ [GoVolunteer](#)
- ❖ [Volunteering Resource Hub](#)
- ❖ [Queensland Government Volunteering Portal](#)



Volunteer frameworks

National Standards for Volunteer Involvement
Code of Practice

Volunteer **rights and responsibilities**

Back of house matters

Governance

Legislative obligations

- Civil Liability Act 2003
- The Privacy Act 1988
- The Workplace Health and Safety Act 2011
- Anti-Discrimination and Bullying Act
- Human Rights Act 2019
- Blue Card / Criminal History Check

Generative AI: More Impact for Landcare

Empowering volunteers. Strengthening nature.

Generative AI helps the Australian Landcare volunteer network save time, work smarter and make a bigger difference for our environment.



AUSTRALIAN
LANDCARE
VOLUNTEERS

Together for
people and nature



SAVE TIME

Generate meeting notes, reports and summaries in seconds.



CREATE CONTENT WITH EASE

Draft grant applications, newsletters, social posts and more.



IMPROVE COMMUNICATION

Translate, adapt and simplify to reach more people and communities.

Less admin,
more impact!



By using generative AI responsibly, we protect our time, empower our communities and create a healthier, more resilient Australia.



Benefits for the Landcare Network

Smart tools. Real impact.
Stronger together.



ANALYSE & UNDERSTAND DATA

Turn complex data into insights to guide better decisions.



ENHANCE VISUAL STORYTELLING

Create engaging visuals, infographics and maps to share your story.



SPARK IDEAS & INNOVATION

Brainstorm solutions, design projects and explore new possibilities.



Better ideas,
better outcomes!



AI is a tool.
People and passion
drive change.
*That's the
Landcare way.*

“Strong volunteer management isn’t about having complicated systems —

it’s about creating safe, meaningful and enjoyable experiences that help people stay connected to your organisation and your community.”

National **18-24 MAY 2026**
Volunteer
Week



#NVW2026



<https://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/get-involved/nationalvolunteerweek/>

2026 QLD Landcare Awards

Nominations are now open for the 2026 Queensland Landcare Awards!

These awards honour individuals, groups and organisations that are making outstanding contributions to caring for the environment in their local communities for the benefit of all Australians today, and for generations to come.

The categories celebrate climate action, environmental leadership, sustainable ag, First Nations Peoples, women in landcare, youth, Junior Landcare and Coastcare.

Nominating is free. You can nominate yourself, or you can nominate someone you know who should be recognised for their work to restore, enhance and protect the natural environment in their community.

The winners of the 2026 State and Territory Landcare Award categories will advance as finalists to the 2027 National Landcare Awards.

Learn more here www.landcareaustralia.org.au

Nominations close **11.59pm AEST on Friday 31 July, 2026.**



Who can be nominated?

We encourage nominations from individuals, groups or organisations involved in protecting and improving their local environment.

These may include:

- Volunteers for landcare and all community-led environmental groups
- Landcare groups, networks, facilitators
- Urban landcare groups including 'Friends of', bushcare, Coastcare, Rivercare, Dunecare groups
- Sustainable farmers, farming systems groups and primary producers
- Agricultural co-operatives and industry associations
- Traditional Owners, First Nations organisations and Indigenous land and sea Rangers
- Landholders and/or land managers

- Natural resource management agencies
- Local government
- NGOs
- Research agencies and academics
- Young adult groups and individuals
- Nominations are open to schools, day care centres, youth groups with children aged from 5 years to 18 years. Eligible groups include primary schools, secondary schools, Scouts, Girl Guides, youth organisations or young community landcare teams. Nominations are open to individual children aged from 10 years to 18 years.
- Persons who are deceased can be nominated posthumously.



Require more information?

Contact:

Darryl CEO:

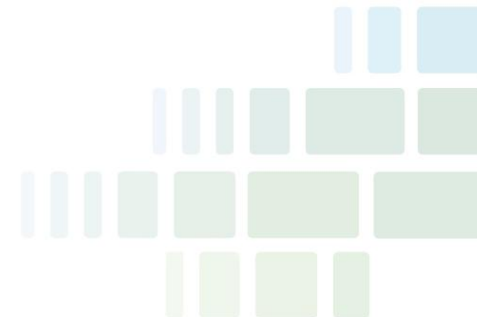
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e darryl@qwalc.org.au

Mary-Lou EO

m 0429 642 092

e marylou.gittins@qwalc.org.au



Resources

www.qwalc.org.au

<https://www.communitydirectors.com.au/>

www.acnc.org.au

www.nfplaw.org.au

[The Australian Indigenous Governance Institute](#)

<https://conservationvolunteers.com.au/safety-management-toolkit/>

www.connectingup.org.au

<https://volunteeringqld.org.au/governance/>







QwaLC

QUEENSLAND WATER & LAND CARERS



DELIVERING
FOR QUEENSLAND



Queensland
Government

WEBINAR

\$117.84M NRM Expansion Program

NRM Regions Queensland
CEO Chris Norman
with
Pioneer Catchment and Landcare
Coordinator, Nancy Pratt.

How did the sector secure this
commitment, what projects are
being funded, how are outcomes
reported, and how groups are
being engaged.

Friday 19 June
12.00pm



qwalc.org.au/naturally-together-2/

Naturally Together

