

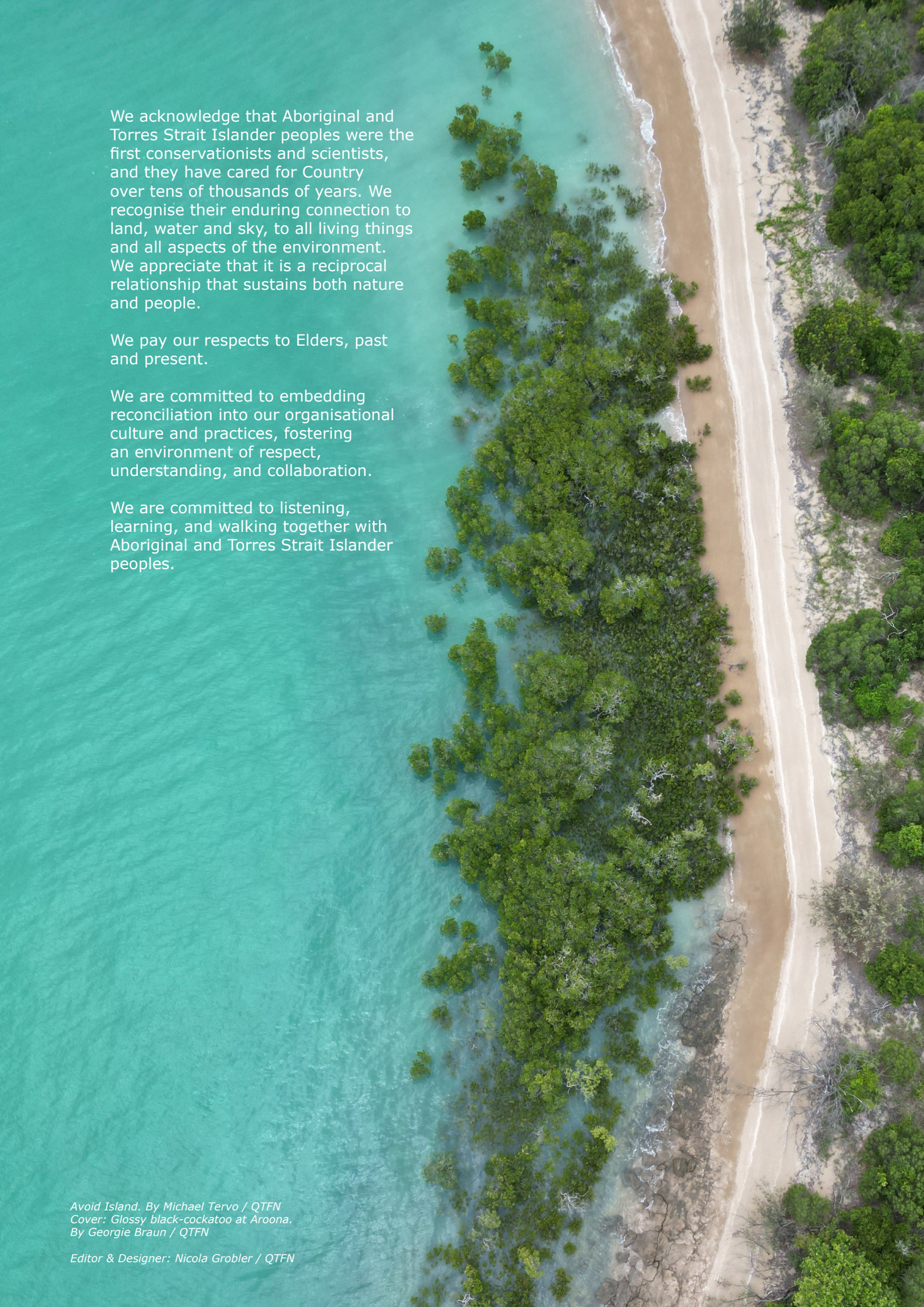


**QTFN**

Queensland Trust  
for Nature

# Annual Report

2023/24 Financial Year



We acknowledge that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were the first conservationists and scientists, and they have cared for Country over tens of thousands of years. We recognise their enduring connection to land, water and sky, to all living things and all aspects of the environment. We appreciate that it is a reciprocal relationship that sustains both nature and people.

We pay our respects to Elders, past and present.

We are committed to embedding reconciliation into our organisational culture and practices, fostering an environment of respect, understanding, and collaboration.

We are committed to listening, learning, and walking together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

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## Our Board of Directors

- Bruce Cowley (Chair)
- Antra Hood
- Jim McKnoulty
- Dan Clowes
- Sian Sinclair

## Our Committees

- Audit and Risk
- Science and Education
- Investment and Property

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# Message from our Chair and CEO

## *Thriving landscapes, people, communities, and economy*

We consider ourselves so fortunate to live in Queensland. As Australia's most biologically diverse state, Queensland's landscapes support a rich diversity of ecosystems and unique plants and animals. This incredible biodiversity faces significant threats not only from habitat loss and invasive species but also pollution, disease, and climate change. The challenge to reverse biodiversity decline can appear overwhelming, but we believe this challenge can be met through collective action.

By fostering strong, trusted partnerships with dedicated organisations, committed communities, and passionate individuals, we can achieve a nature-positive future together. As Chair of the Board and CEO, we are proud to be contributing of the work of the Queensland Trust for Nature to protect and enhance this extraordinary natural heritage, ensuring a future where both nature and people thrive.

Queensland's privately owned lands have a key role to play in conservation. More than 80% of the state's land is privately-owned or leased, offering a powerful opportunity for conservation. These lands can support biodiversity by creating refuges and connecting corridors, all while maintaining productive landscapes. Since our establishment 20 years ago, QTFN has protected over 118,000 hectares of precious Queensland ecosystems through our revolving property fund.

We recognise that thriving ecosystems underpin thriving communities and economies. Nature provides essential services that benefit us all, and we each have a role to play as stewards of our environment. At QTFN, we are proud to foster this stewardship, connecting people with nature and highlighting its value in every aspect of life. We are also actively restoring parts of the landscape. Through our work this financial year, we are managing 3,100 hectares and restoring more than 400 hectares with our landholder partners; there's 14,000 more trees in the ground that will become future wildlife habitat.

Governments and businesses are also recognising their inherent connection to and dependence on nature. With headlines like "Nature is the new net zero", we are seeing nature being brought into boardroom discussions and decision making: nature is getting a seat at the table.



**Bruce Cowley**  
Chair



**Liz O'Brien**  
CEO

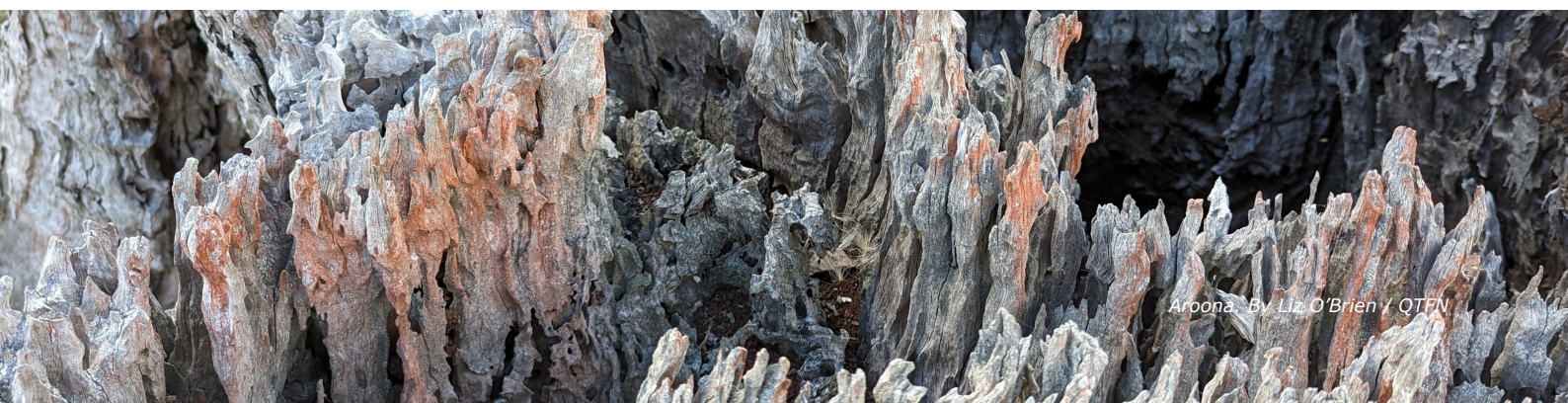
Through a number of initiatives, QTFN is actively connecting people and ideas, raising awareness, and demonstrating the tangible value nature brings to our lives and economy.

None of these achievements would be possible without the dedication and expertise of the QTFN team. Their tireless efforts deliver real on-ground results, share critical knowledge, and foster connections between people and the natural world. We extend our deepest gratitude to our staff and volunteers for their invaluable contributions.

We also wish to thank our Board and Committee members. By offering their time, skills, and wisdom, each member plays a crucial role in shaping our direction, overcoming challenges, and seizing new opportunities. Their commitment to governance and oversight ensures that QTFN operates with integrity, accountability, and efficiency.

We extend our thanks and gratitude to our partners and donors whose unwavering support makes our work possible. Your generosity and commitment empower us to protect and enhance Queensland's unique biodiversity, restore critical habitats, and support sustainable landscapes. Every contribution—large or small—plays a vital role in safeguarding Queensland's natural heritage for generations to come.

Together, we have achieved great outcomes for nature, and we can create a future where Queensland's landscapes, people, and communities thrive.



# About us

## What we do

It's been almost 20 years since signing the Trust Deed brought Queensland Trust for Nature to life.

With the guiding principles to protect and restore nature, QTFN is clear about our role in the larger land conservation and restoration story.

- We help protect the natural environment in Queensland, by increasing the private protected area estate through our Revolving Fund (page 6). We acquire land, restore areas if needed, protect it with a legally-binding conservation agreement, and sell it on the private market.
- We currently manage properties nestled in the Daintree rainforest, southern Great Barrier Reef, and in South East Queensland.
- We restore and enhance the natural environment, focusing on ecologically significant areas and wildlife corridors across Queensland. We work with landholders on their properties to support their land stewardship efforts.
- We connect people, support research, share new knowledge about the environment, and involve communities to help understand and value nature.

What does this look like in practice? Read on.

## Our impact

### Protecting



>111,800 hectares protected through our Revolving Fund\*



Habitat protected for >100 threatened species\*

### Restoring



>400 hectares being restored

Made up of



>153 hectares revegetation  
>250 hectares assisted natural regeneration



>14,000 trees planted

### Managing



>3,100 hectares being managed



425 hectares weed management



62 hectares fire management

\*Cumulative. Other metrics are over the financial year.

### Connecting with



2 Aboriginal Corporations

14 landholder partners



4 research & education partnerships



92 citizen scientists engaged



>1,000 volunteer hours



8 events

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# Towards a Nature Positive future

## *Nature is the infrastructure of our communities*

A nature-positive future is one where ecosystems thrive, biodiversity flourishes, and human activities contribute to environmental renewal rather than degradation.

In Australia, and especially in Queensland, this vision is crucial. With our remarkable landscapes, diverse wildlife, and communities deeply tied to the land, Queensland holds immense potential to lead the way in balancing economic progress with ecological sustainability.

Queensland's natural heritage is both a source of identity and a foundation for its economy. Iconic ecosystems like the Great Barrier Reef, the Daintree Rainforest, and sprawling grasslands support some of the world's most unique species. With more than half of the global economy depending on natural systems, we rely on nature for food, clean air, water, and underpinning industries like tourism, agriculture, and fisheries.

A key aspect of achieving a nature positive future lies in the protection and restoration of natural ecosystems. Expanding protected areas and investing in projects that revive degraded habitats, such as coral restoration in the Great Barrier Reef and wetland recovery initiatives, are essential steps. These efforts not only preserve biodiversity but also enhance the resilience of ecosystems against climate change. At the same time, adopting sustainable practices in land use can have a transformative impact. Regenerative agriculture, which includes techniques like rotational grazing, agroforestry, and soil restoration, offers a way to maintain productivity while preserving natural ecosystems. This approach supports farmers and graziers in creating landscapes that are both productive and environmentally sound.

Indigenous leadership is also vital to this vision. For tens of thousands of years, Queensland's Indigenous communities have practiced sustainable land management, guided by traditional ecological knowledge.

*“It's about securing a legacy of ecological and economic resilience for generations to come.”*

Incorporating this wisdom into conservation strategies enhances outcomes while fostering respect for cultural heritage. Programs that empower Indigenous rangers to manage and protect natural areas are already demonstrating significant ecological and social benefits.

Government policy and innovation play pivotal roles in driving a nature-positive transition. Advances in science and technology are revolutionising conservation efforts. Tools such as satellite tracking and artificial intelligence for wildlife monitoring are enhancing Queensland's capacity to protect and restore its natural environments.

Community engagement is equally important. A shared commitment to conservation across all levels of society—from schools and local organisations to businesses and policymakers—can foster collective action. Educating the public about the value of biodiversity and involving them in hands-on projects strengthens the social foundation needed for long-term success.

Queensland has the opportunity to set a global example by creating a future where nature and humanity thrive together. Achieving a Nature Positive state is not just about preserving the environment; it's about securing a legacy of ecological and economic resilience for generations to come. Now is the time to act and embrace a vision where progress and nature positive go hand in hand.



*Dragonfly at Aroona. By Liz O'Brien / QTFN*

## Shaping the Nature Positive conversations

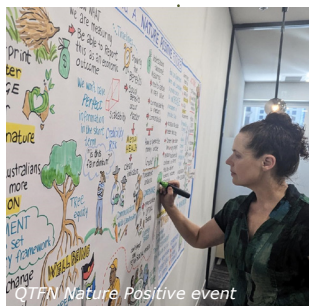
Shaping a Nature Positive conversation involves inspiring collective action to protect and restore ecosystems, integrating innovation with traditional knowledge, and fostering a shared commitment to sustainability.

In alignment with the 97% of Australians who want more action to protect nature, Australia took a significant step in 2022 by signing the Global Biodiversity Framework, recognising the urgent need to address the biodiversity crisis.

Our sold-out December event brought together experts from environmental, social, governmental, and financial sectors to explore critical themes such as:

- Ensuring nature's voice and interests are represented politically, legally, and economically.
- Recognising nature as the foundational infrastructure of our communities, with co-creation alongside those communities as essential.
- Establishing consistent, transparent, and reportable frameworks to better assess and value nature.

As Australia's most biodiverse state, Queensland bears an extraordinary responsibility to lead in conservation. Protecting the state's unique and diverse wildlife and landscapes, which face increasing threats, is not just a duty but an imperative for a sustainable future.



## Connecting with our BiodiverCity

Unlocking the potential of biodiversity in our backyards and urban landscapes brings a world of benefits. Partnering with South Bank Corporation, we hosted an interactive iNaturalist tour around the precinct, engaging South Bank staff in hands-on exploration. We furthered this collaboration through a series of four educational videos, which spark a deeper connection to local ecosystems. These videos spotlight ways to foster healthy soil, maintain healthy waterways, protect native species like the rakali, and guide viewers on using iNaturalist effectively. Since biodiversity is our business, we are helping the corporate world make it part of their business too.



## Supporting recycling for community and cause

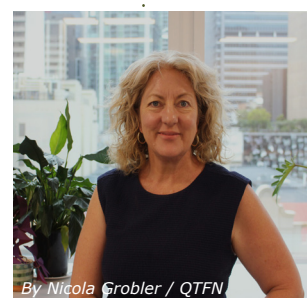
The Containers for Change initiative is transforming recycling in Queensland by helping to reclaim a portion of the roughly 3 billion drink containers used each year. With a 10-cent refund on every eligible container, Queenslanders are further encouraged to recycle. At QTFN we recycle our own containers, and this coupled with generous donations from others' refunds have enabled us to buy new nest boxes to support the local wildlife at Aroona. In this way, each container returned not only reduces waste but also goes towards creating a home for the wildlife that we're committed to protecting.



## Connecting for impact and investment

Sarah Delahunty, General Manager of Impact and Investment, has been connecting with government, industry, corporates, and the community to see how we can give nature a seat at the table. One of the emerging reporting frameworks that is helping corporates to understand and account for nature is the Taskforce for Nature-Related Financial Disclosures (TNFD).

*"The growing use of the TNFD framework guides businesses to ensure financial decisions consider nature dependencies and impacts and can inform their Nature Positive goals, driving accountability and resilience for sustainable futures,"* explains Sarah.



# Protecting nature through our Revolving Fund

## Protecting what matters

With more than 80% of land in Queensland privately owned or managed, landholders' voluntary commitments to conservation play a vital role in protecting the state's native wildlife and sustaining thriving landscapes.

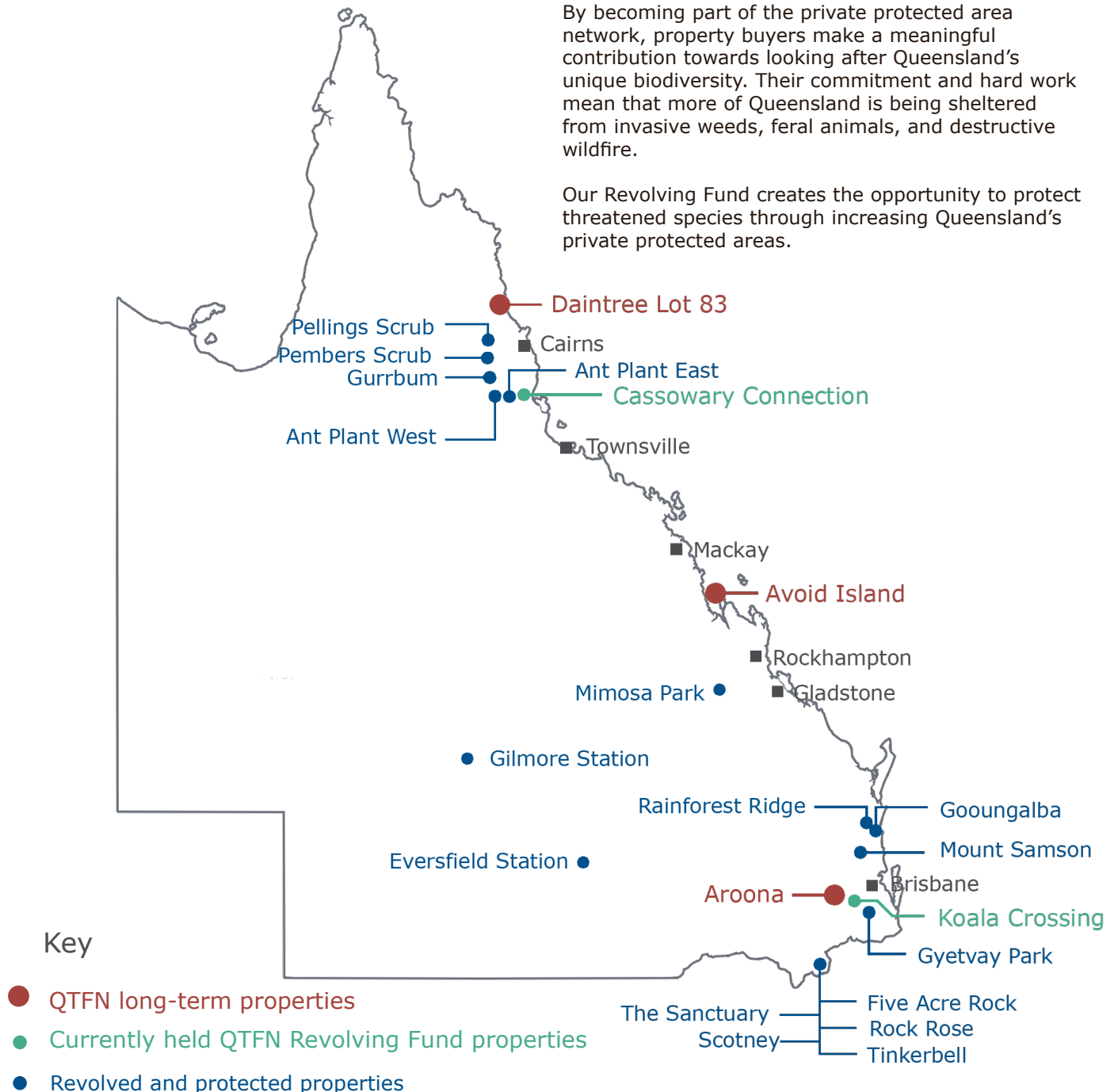
At QTFN, we acquire land, restore areas if needed, protect it with a legally-binding conservation agreement, and sell it on the private market. This actively increases the private protected area estate in Queensland. The funds are reinvested into properties or projects that protect, restore, and enhance nature.

In the 20 years since signing the deed created Queensland Trust for Nature, we've successfully protected more than 111,800 hectares.

Many important species and vegetation communities largely occur on private land, which highlights the importance of protecting these places so that plants and wildlife have a refuge in the landscape. The conservation protections are registered on the land title in perpetuity, giving an assurance that important natural values are protected for future generations.

By becoming part of the private protected area network, property buyers make a meaningful contribution towards looking after Queensland's unique biodiversity. Their commitment and hard work mean that more of Queensland is being sheltered from invasive weeds, feral animals, and destructive wildfire.

Our Revolving Fund creates the opportunity to protect threatened species through increasing Queensland's private protected areas.



*Your support can protect nature for future generations*



# Protecting corridors for cassowaries

## Connecting cassowary habitat in the Wet Tropics

*Above clear cascading waters and in the deep green canopy, there are the sounds of ancient species, some of which are found nowhere else. The Wet Tropics in northern Queensland offers a glimpse into prehistoric times. From plants that were around when dinosaurs roamed the earth to ancient birds like the cassowary, the Daintree Rainforest is the oldest continuously surviving rainforest on earth at around 180-million years old.*

With an estimated Australian population of 4,000 individuals, southern cassowaries are listed as endangered in Queensland and face a high risk of extinction in the wild. QTFN's Revolving Fund has protected more than 1,000 hectares of cassowary habitat in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Through revolved properties like Ant Plant West Nature Refuge and Gurrbum Nature Refuge, as well as currently held properties like Cassowary Connection and Lot 83 in the Daintree, QTFN and our partners have helped ensure the area remains a stronghold for cassowaries.

### Gurrbum Nature Refuge

#### *A partnership planted in rainforest restoration*



Excitingly, this year we sold Gurrbum Nature Refuge to our partner the Community for Coastal and Cassowary Conservation (C4). C4 co-invested with QTFN to purchase this precious property in 2019. Over the last five years, QTFN and C4 have been hard at work to protect and restore Gurrbum, which is helping to secure and improve a critical link in Cassowary habitat within the Smith's Gap Corridor, in Queensland's Wet Tropics region.

This historically cleared banana plantation is being restored back to its rainforest roots thanks to the partnerships between QTFN, C4, the Gulngay and Djiru people, other conservation partners, and the wider community. C4 volunteers and contractors came together time and time again at community plantings to plant over 20,000 native trees across over six hectares and manage weeds across a further 10.5 hectares.

Once, while the community planted seedlings in the bright red ochre soil, they looked up to see a young cassowary. As the plantings grow taller than the visiting cassowaries, Gurrbum Nature Refuge is becoming a critical corridor as it connects National Parks and Conservation Park in the Mission Beach Hinterland. Since being declared a nature refuge in 2021, the property's 15.52 hectares of lowland vine forest are now protected.

The hard work to protect and restore Gurrbum ensures it will be a sanctuary for the endangered southern cassowary into the future as C4 becomes the sole caretaker.



### Cassowary Connection









#### *A connecting property protecting from canopy to coastline*

Cassowary Connection Nature Refuge is a 24.26-hectare pocket of pristine rainforest that connects to the waters of Mission Beach. The endangered southern cassowary relies on the property to help connect its seasonal feeding grounds between the coastline at Mission Beach and Djiru National Park. Cassowaries are rainforest gardeners; they disperse seeds for over 100 rainforest plant species across vast areas to regenerate and maintain their spread. Cassowary Connection was purchased by QTFN in partnership with C4 to protect this connecting habitat from development; the property is available for purchase and ready for its next caretaker.



# Protecting and restoring koala habitat corridors

## Protecting habitat in South East Queensland

<p>Cumulative species records</p>  <p>&gt;50 bird species</p>	 <p>&gt;230 plant &amp; 9 fungal species</p>	 <p>3 reptile species</p>	<p>Financial year impact</p>  <p>150 hectares of weed management</p>
 <p>15 mammal species</p>	 <p>45 invertebrate species</p>	 <p>368 hectares protected to date</p>	 <p>61 hectares of fire management</p>

*Deep in the night, the low bellows of koalas echo through the eucalyptus trees. In the soft glow of moonlight, a mother bandicoot pauses to check on her three babies, a moment captured by the nearby camera trap. By the creek, rakali footprints mark the mud, a quiet record of their evening explorations in the water. Just beyond, bright yellow fan-shaped jelly fungus emerges from a fallen log, its vibrant colour popping against the forest floor. Nearby, a tessellated stick insect blends seamlessly into the branch it's on, beside swaying blades of kangaroo grass that dance gently in the night breeze.*

Koalas are one of Australia's most beloved and recognisable native species, but despite the attention and conservation efforts, they remain at a high risk of extinction in the wild. In South East Queensland, protecting koala habitat is critical to help halt their population decline. Ensuring that there are vegetation corridors through the landscape, connecting habitat for koalas, is key to their future survival in the wild.

Through the Revolving Fund, QTFN purchased eight property lots, making up 652 hectares within the Flinders-Karawatha Corridor, the largest remaining contiguous stretch of open eucalypt forest in the region.

In 2021, four of the eight lots were legally protected as individual nature refuges, with the intent to Nature Refuge the remaining four. Collectively known as Koala Crossing, all of the lots are being carefully restored and prepared to be sold to their next dedicated land stewards.



Revegetated area at Koala Crossing. By Georgie Braun / QTFN

*Your support can protect habitat for our iconic native wildlife*

## Looking after the land

At Koala Crossing, active land management is working to improve the environmental health of the property, creating suitable habitat for koalas and ensuring they can move freely through the landscape. Controlling invasive species is a continuous effort. This year, we completed over 150 hectares of weed control and 61 hectares of fire management. Under QTFN management, Koala Crossing is gradually improving to reflect a more natural habitat.



By Georgie Braun / QTFN

## Getting to know the resident koalas

Breeding season in the warmer months often brings increased activity and sightings, as koalas move around in search of new territory or potential mates. This summer, multiple koalas were spotted at home in Koala Crossing by QTFN staff and visitors. Our camera traps have also captured koalas wandering across the property.

Through scat searches, camera traps, drone surveys, and chance encounters, 11 independent observations of koalas were made throughout the year. We are learning to identify individuals by their distinct markings on their rumps.



Spotted on the QTFN camera traps

# Safeguarding a sanctuary for wildlife

## Connecting to Aroona's biodiversity

### Cumulative species records



105 bird species



321 plant & 12 fungal species



17 reptile & 4 amphibian species



18 mammal species



172 invertebrate species



~ 2,000 hectares

*Brush-tailed rock-wallabies peer out past the rugged cliff face into the valley below. Meanwhile, eastern bearded dragons bask on sun-warmed logs adorned with shelf fungi, savouring the warmth before the clouds roll in. Red-backed fairywrens flit about among the swaying green grasses beside a natural spring. Further south, a kookaburra perches on a silky oak branch; its keen eyes watch the waterbugs as they create circular ripples across the creek's surface. High above, gliders peek out from nest boxes. As the hum of insects fills the air in the dappled light, an eastern dwarf tree frog hides camouflaged among the green sedges, for now a silent observer in this vibrant tapestry.*

Aroona is a property in the Little Liverpool Range, under the peaks of Mount Beau Brummell, in South East Queensland. The property is near Gondwana Rainforest and part of a wildlife corridor that links Main Range National Park and the Great Eastern Ranges.

Covering nearly 2,000 hectares, the property supports a variety of species, from the blue-banded bee to towering grass trees. Since 2015, we've gradually been identifying more species that call Aroona home, as we continue to track biodiversity through camera traps, surveys, and research partnerships. Vulnerable and endangered species, including powerful owls, grey-headed flying foxes, and koalas, have found sanctuary at Aroona. It provides habitat for birds of every functional group expected in this landscape. Excitingly, this year we spotted a threatened glossy black-cockatoo feeding in the casuarinas.

We continue to deepen our understanding of Aroona's nature and provide property access for students and researchers. Academics from The University of Queensland and Queensland University of Technology led field trips and short-term studies on Aroona, addressing topics like nest box inhabitants and native plant recovery after wildfire. Over 20 Fassifern Field Naturalists ventured out one chilly morning to explore Aroona's rich biodiversity, recording a range of invertebrates, reptiles, and birds.

We're actively working to protect, support, restore, and connect nature on Aroona.



### A living legacy: The Stock Story

QTFN is honouring the legacy created by Dr Robin and Kathleen Stock when they donated Aroona Station to QTFN in 2015. They gifted the property under the condition that QTFN will continue to manage the land for its biodiversity values and beef production. Our vision for Aroona is to demonstrate the potential for coexistence of nature conservation, best practice land management, and a sustainable agricultural enterprise.

## Watching brush-tailed rock-wallabies recover after bushfire

Over the last three years, QTFN has been involved in tracking brush-tailed rock-wallaby populations following the 2019-2020 wildfires. This resilient species is showing signs of recovery across 40 sites in inland southeast Queensland. Most of the locations have detected brush-tailed rock-wallabies, with activity significantly greater in burnt areas.

This year marked the project's conclusion of funding through a Community Sustainability Action Grant. In partnership with The University of Queensland, research led by Associate Professor Diana Fisher, PhD Candidate Natalya Maitz, and other dedicated students has gathered invaluable data on the wallabies' habitat use and potential threats like predators and competing herbivores.

At Aroona, these efforts revealed healthy breeding populations and led to the rediscovery of brush-tailed rock-wallabies on Mount Grey. We are an active member of the brush-tailed rock-wallaby stakeholder group and will continue to engage in meaningful research to support this species. Seeing the recovery of family groups and spotting new joeys on the cameras traps after the bushfires has been encouraging.



By Liz O'Brien

## Meet our neighbours in the Little Liverpool Range Initiative

As a founding partner and landholder, QTFN is proud to be part of the Little Liverpool Range Initiative (LLRI) community—a network that connects landholders with the knowledge and resources to promote sustainable land practices and support biodiversity. This year, landholders from the LLRI gathered at Aroona for a workshop supported by Healthy Land & Water, where they explored innovative koala monitoring techniques, including drone technology and detection dogs. Through the LLRI partnership, we installed and monitored four new glider nest boxes at Aroona. Over the past year, we've discovered that it's not only gliders using these nest boxes as a home, but also brush-tailed phascogales and various bird species. The LLRI community exemplifies the impact that collective landholder efforts can have in supporting nature through sustainable land management. Together, we're creating a powerful force for conservation in the Little Liverpool Range.



LLRI BioBlitz. By Brett Malcom

## Meet Georgie

Initially studying the brush-tailed rock-wallaby populations at Aroona as a Master's student, Georgie Braun joined the QTFN team in 2020. She has continued her connection to Aroona as QTFN's Senior Ecologist. She is driving Aroona's conservation planning process, incorporating ecological considerations alongside integrated land management practices. Georgie is also fundamental to the significant ecological projects and restoration works across QTFN properties. An Accounting for Nature Accredited Experts (Provisional) with a talent for photography, Georgie also captures inspiring images of Aroona's natural beauty.



By Liz O'Brien / QTFN

# Looking after the land

## Promoting healthy landscapes through land management at Aroona

We are improving the habitat quality at Aroona through



Invasive species management



Revegetation projects



Stabilising erosion concerns



Water flow support

*In the soft morning light, saplings are being planted along the creek's edge while a koala watches quietly from a nearby mature tree. Teams gather to coordinate their approach to weed and fire management, planning controlled ecological burns that will revitalise native species like kangaroo grass and help keep invasive species at bay. Whiptail wallabies dart beneath the fauna-friendly fencing, making their way up the ridge. Downstream, water flow slows because of a newly installed leaky weir, the water gently rehydrating the creek flats. A wedge-tailed eagle circles above, taking in all the activities helping nature to thrive.*

QTFN is committed to learning more about the characteristics of Aroona's landscapes to better inform our stewardship of the property.

Our approach to land management takes many forms and is a continuous effort. Situated near the top of the catchment, Aroona's management has flow on effects throughout the valley, so we aim to minimise downstream impacts.

We are addressing erosion concerns through initiatives like fauna-friendly fencing and creek bank rehabilitation. We are working to revitalise Aroona's waterways and landscapes by enhancing the riparian vegetation along creeks, reconnecting habitats through revegetation projects, and promoting landscape hydration. Coordinating our weed and fire management efforts will help us better keep invasive species under control on Aroona's rugged terrain.

### Integrating weed management methods

To tackle the challenge of managing invasive plant species on Aroona, QTFN has entered into a partnership with Ecosure and Fireland to help integrate our weed and fire land management methods.

This three-year agreement will enable us to find the right approaches for managing this diverse landscape. From the upland eucalypt woodlands to the rugged gullies, each area requires a different approach to reduce invasive species and revitalise native vegetation.



Silky Oak at Aroona. By Liz O'Brien / QTFN

## Revegetation and maintenance

Across Aroona, over 2,500 new plants are taking root this year, helping to increase habitat connectivity and restore once-degraded areas through multiple on-ground projects.

Over the last few years, 156 hectares of trees have been planted in partnership with Greenfleet. QTFN ensures they are being maintained and steadily growing.

A voluntary Nature Positive initiative, the Mirvac Greenstar project has contributed to enhancing the riparian buffer, transforming three hectares through dedicated replanting. This year, the last trees were planted, bringing the project's total plantings to over 4,500 trees across 5.5 hectares. The project has also invested in critical measures like fencing and the management of invasive species such as woody weeds and the tenacious cat's claw creeper. Expanding riparian buffers around Aroona helps not only to control erosion and promote hydration of the landscape but also supports the quality of surrounding habitat.

Although this year marked the five-year completion of the Franklin Vale Creek Initiative—a project led by Ipswich City Council—we are committed to building on the work upstream. The project has planted nearly 8,700 native plants, a balanced mix of trees, shrubs, and ground cover species, all supported with weed control and careful upkeep.

QTFN staff also joined in with hands-on efforts, planting 300 trees along a watercourse as part of the Land for Wildlife program with Ipswich City Council. These plantings collectively breathe new life into Aroona's landscapes, fostering its resilience and ecological health.



By Liz O'Brien / QTFN

## Erosion control and landscape hydration

Aroona plays a key role in keeping good water quality for the benefit of the catchment. This year, we installed stock crossings that function as leaky weirs. We also successfully armoured a head cut to help slow water flow, rehydrate the landscape, and minimise erosion.

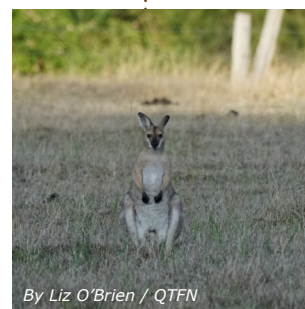
Reflecting on the work's impact, Ben Heathwood, QTFN Land and Assets Manager, shared, *"The creek system's stability has very visibly improved, and in the future, the pastures on the flats beside it should show greater resilience during dry spells."*



By Nicola Grobler / QTFN

## Fauna-friendly fencing

Fauna-friendly fencing can play a vital role in habitat rehabilitation, protecting watercourses, and improving land condition. An additional two kilometres of permanent fauna-friendly fencing now protects the riparian corridor of the Church Paddock creek fed by Mount Beau Brumell and subdivides this grazing area into three paddocks to allow rotational grazing. This work was funded by the Queensland Government's Natural Resource Recovery Program through Healthy Land & Water. These measures will help ease grazing pressure and improve land condition for this section of Aroona. QTFN is continuing weed management and refined grazing rotation to encourage desirable perennial pastures and riparian recovery.



By Liz O'Brien / QTFN

# Trialling new land management practices

## *Engaging new ways to help support land management at Aroona*

*Beetles work tirelessly, nibbling away on invasive vines and gradually weakening their grip on the landscape. Elsewhere, waste hay is transformed into rich compost, which is then spread over paddocks to nourish and revive the soil. Cattle graze steadily, helping to reduce fuel loads for fire in conservation areas. Each effort is part of a larger vision for land stewardship that's both adaptive and sensitive to the needs of the landscape.*

At QTFN, we are exploring different approaches to support Aroona's natural landscapes. Sometimes it takes a new solution, while other times it is about seeing existing methods through a different lens.

We are collaborating to find the best ways to manage Aroona, especially when it comes to controlling invasive weeds. We are trialling a variety of techniques to support Aroona's long-term health and resilience.



Cat's claw creeper jewel beetles. By Georgie Braun / QTFN

### Beetles battle invasive vines

Cat's claw creeper is an invasive plant whose rapid growth smothers native vegetation. Over the years, countless methods have been used to combat these aggressive climbing vines, but the race against their relentless spread requires a fresh approach. Enter the cat's claw creeper jewel beetles.

These beetles act as biological control agents, specifically targeting and suppressing the growth of these invasive vines. The beetles reduce the health of the vine, slowing their spread, and give land managers more time to address the vine infestations. Through funding from Queensland Government's Natural Resource Recovery Program, Healthy Land & Water has been deploying these beetles across the Little Liverpool Range, including Aroona, with promising results. Some sites are already seeing the benefits of the beetles defoliating the vines, which is creating space for native plants to reclaim ground.



Cows at Aroona. By Liz O'Brien / QTFN

### Grazing the way to lower fuel loads

At Aroona, managing fuel loads is a critical part of maintaining the health of the landscape, which is made up of fire-sensitive areas and others that benefit from controlled fire. Given the vast and diverse nature of Aroona's terrain, we've explored a range of methods to manage these fuel loads, including the use of ecological burns. Carefully managed grazing has proven to be another invaluable tool to manage fuel load in our conservation areas and reduce the impact of invasive weeds.



“For QTFN, embracing regenerative agriculture practices is all about balancing beef and biodiversity for productive landscapes.”



# Working towards managing for beef and biodiversity

## *Considering how cattle and conservation coexist at Aroona Station*

*Sweeping pastures blend into the winding bands of vegetation that follow the creeks and stretch up the forested slopes, weaving the landscape together. On the screen, dense clusters on the digital map signal that it's time to guide the cattle to their next pasture—a steady rhythm that sustains the land. The low bellow of cows adds depth to the evening chorus as birds flit between branches of nearby trees, settling into the canopy for the night. The earthy scent of the outdoors fills the air, grounding visitors as they gaze over a scene where livestock and wildlife share a home.*

Roughly 80% of Queensland is rural settlement, much of it used for extensive purposes like pastoral properties; it covers a staggering 143 million hectares of vast, productive landscapes.

This represents a tremendous opportunity to support and work alongside landholders managing these landscapes, balancing the needs of agriculture with the long-term health of the land.

Thanks to the Stock legacy, QTFN is on a journey to better understand how to manage land for both biodiversity and beef production at Aroona Station. Like many landholders, we are working to find the delicate balance between cattle enterprise and ecological stewardship. We are actively restoring the land, supporting native species, and exploring new economic opportunities.

Our ultimate vision for Aroona is to be a demonstration site where conservation and cattle farming coexist harmoniously.

This long-term respect and relationship with the land are key to shaping how we care for Queensland's environment. The movements toward sustainable and regenerative agriculture acknowledge the need for environmental restoration while maintaining agricultural profitability. To support this agenda, our CEO, Liz O'Brien, is a member of the Queensland Low Emissions Agriculture Roadmap Implementation Plan Stakeholder Advisory Committee.

We are working to strike the balance between biodiversity and beef production. As the importance of sustainable land management grows, regenerative agriculture is emerging as a key solution—a practice that not only sustains but actively restores the land.

At Aroona, we are working on implementing these regenerative practices, including using time-controlled rotational grazing. We are learning, adapting, and actively working towards a future where both nature and agriculture thrive together.



By Nicola Grobler / QTFN

## Aroona AgTech

We are stepping into a new level of land insights by embracing agricultural technologies that provide us with valuable data to refine our management practices. In 2023, we had the privilege of hosting Ceres Tag at Aroona Station for the launch of their new product, "Ceres Ranch". The introduction of satellite monitoring cattle tags has proven to be a game-changer for us, not only allowing us to make more informed decisions about grazing rotations, but also serving as a powerful tool in preventing stock theft. This integration of technology is helping us take the next step toward smarter, more efficient land management.



## Rotational grazing

At Aroona, rotational grazing has been instrumental in easing grazing pressures on the land. With the recent subdivision of paddocks and the valuable data we're now collecting through MaiaGrazing and Ceres Tag, we have even greater flexibility and insights into when to move cattle between different pastures. This will help ensure the land gets the rest it needs, allowing us to manage grazing more effectively and sustainably. It is a step forward in creating a more balanced, resilient landscape.



## Meet Ben

Ben Heathwood, QTFN's Land and Asset Manager, is passionate about demonstrating that sustainable and profitable agriculture can coexist with large-scale land restoration and conservation outcomes. In his roles as Meat & Livestock Australia Red Meat Ambassador and mentor with the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation, Ben is deeply committed to both ecological agriculture and the wellbeing of rural communities. This year, he experienced significant growth, both personally and professionally, as he took part in the Lachlan Hughes Foundation program, not only as a scholar but also as an assessor. Ben is a tireless advocate for regenerative agriculture practices, believing that it's not enough to simply sustain the land—what's needed is active restoration for long-term success.



# Partnering for productive landscapes

## *Connecting with the Lachlan Hughes Foundation community*

*In Queensland, vast grazing landscapes stretch as far as the eye can see, where rolling plains meet riparian trees and the calls of cattle echo under the open skies. On one property, contour swales and leaky weirs work to slow water movement, curbing erosion and letting water seep into the soil and rehydrate the land. These regenerative methods are bringing life back into the soil; over time, they aim to turn parched claypans into fertile rangelands once again.*

This is a description of a Lachlan Hughes Foundation scholar's property. The Foundation's mission is to empower landholders by equipping them with the tools, knowledge, industry connections, and leadership skills needed to regenerate their land. QTFN has proudly supported the Foundation since 2021, providing a chosen scholar with advice and support to enhance the ecological values of their land, while recognising their need for agricultural production.

Phillip Hughes says, *"The Lachlan Hughes Foundation is creating a legacy and returning life to the land by focusing on the engine room of life - our soils. It's about building diversity, relationships, and living in harmony with our land".*

Sharing regenerative agriculture knowledge is what the Lachlan Hughes Foundation community is all about. Each year, selected scholars learn about regenerative agriculture and monitoring techniques, and grow their capacity to lead within their communities, through a series of workshops and personal development opportunities.

Each scholar is also mentored through an on-property project. Whether focusing on landscape rehydration or erosion mitigation, each participant embarks on a unique journey shaped by the distinct characteristics of their land and by the stage of their regenerative journey.

At QTFN, we are actively working towards managing land for both biodiversity and beef production at our Aroona Station property. Through our two-way partnership with the Lachlan Hughes Foundation, we are sharing our knowledge of the environment and learning from their community of scholars. Their projects are demonstrating the transformative impact of regenerative practices on the health of the land. The program is achieving more than the goal of regenerative agricultural practices: it is connecting people, land, and community.



*Cows at Aroona Station. By Liz O'Brien / QTFN*

## Ben's journey through the Lachlan Hughes Foundation program

This year, QTFN's Land and Assets Manager, Ben Heathwood, participated in the Lachlan Hughes Foundation program as a scholar and assessor. It was the first year that the program has expanded its intake capacity from one to ten scholars per year. Ben's focus was on rehydration and erosion mitigation projects at QTFN's Aroona Station, as well as making industry connections with regenerative agriculture professionals.

Ben's project began with the installation of concrete matting for two stock crossings through one of Aroona's creeks, designed to slow water flow and prevent erosion. But, as with all things in land management, the path wasn't straightforward. Just two days after completion, heavy rain swept through the area, close to 300mm in 36 hours, washing out the newly built structures. Undeterred, Ben got to work, and the damage has been repaired; setbacks are often part of the process.

Although the crossings did not initially work out, the armouring work around the head cut proved to be resilient in the flood event. In recent years, the erosion scar had shifted over 100 metres, but with the new armouring it held firm in the face of a massive flow rate.

A leaky weir was installed at another site and has raised the water level by nearly a metre, collecting sediment to raise the creek bed and helping to slow water runoff.

These interventions are gradually rehydrating the landscape, boosting the growth of newly planted vegetation and improving the quality of water leaving Aroona into the catchment.

Ben's efforts also worked towards reestablishing two degraded creek banks by planting 300 trees with the QTFN team and installing fencing to restrict cattle access. These plantings will continue over time; the beauty of these projects lies in their ongoing nature.

Ben's story is one of upskilling, adapting, and learning the best ways to help the land regenerate. The ongoing support and community network from the Lachlan Hughes Foundation provided invaluable guidance and knowledge sharing throughout the year. Now part of a growing network of like-minded individuals, he's continuing his learning journey and repairing Aroona's landscapes—one project at a time.

Ben summed up his passion for his work:

*"I'm thrilled to be part of a community working towards thriving natural landscapes and agricultural enterprises. The confidence, camaraderie, and knowledge that I've gained through this journey with my fellow scholars has been invaluable. I'm looking forward to seeing the vision and dedication of the Lachlan Hughes Foundation continue to grow a powerful and passionate community of regenerative agriculturalists."*

### QTFN visits the Tree of Life winners

The final step of a Lachlan Hughes Foundation scholar's journey is to present on their year-long learning to a judging panel and audience, with one scholar granted the 'Tree of Life' award. QTFN offers the 'Tree of Life' award recipient an ecological site visit on their property. This is an opportunity for landholders, ecologists, and property managers to discuss and explore the ecological and productive values of the property.

This year, Neil and Jan-Adele Reinke won the award for their successful work in repairing systemic erosion problems and introducing regenerative and sustainable activities on their property between Bundaberg and Miriam Vale. It was a highlight for QTFN staff Ben Heathwood, Georgie Braun, and Susie Adamczyk to visit Neil and Jan-Adele. They shared their knowledge with the passionate landholders and heard about how the Reinke's are managing land and the benefits they are seeing over time.

Jan-Adele said the scholarship was about "regenerating the people, not just the landscape. We wanted to fix the issues on the property and also contribute to the wider industry".



# Partnering to restore koala habitat

## Cultivating critical corridors with committed landholders

Over the last four years, the KHRPP has enabled:



> 400 hectares of restoration area



>245,000 trees planted & maintained



Koala scat found under 174 trees, most commonly *Eucalyptus tereticornis* (30%).\*



Koala scratches on 74 trees.\*



14 landholder partnerships, & collaborations with governments, council, NRM & Landcare groups, industry, & researchers.



Made up of 150 hectares revegetation, & assisted natural regeneration

\*Koala Spot Assessment results

*Four years ago, tiny native trees were planted in the soil. Today, those seedlings have taken root and stretch towards the sky. Koalas call from within the adjoining forests as their new habitat grows.*

The Koala Habitat Restoration Partnership Program (KHRPP) is focused on restoring koala habitat across South East Queensland. It is bringing together landholders, government, industry, and the community, all working with a shared vision. The KHRPP is funded by the Queensland Government and implemented by QTFN.

Properties selected in the first round have now had four years of effort, supported by KHRPP management and funding. Landholders will continue to care for their regenerating land, ensuring the new habitats will continue to thrive. Wildlife is already returning to these restored areas and koalas are starting to move through these reconnected habitat corridors.

The program has supported 14 landowners to actively work towards making their properties into thriving habitats for koalas and other native species. Restoration teams and landholders have worked to carefully plant trees that belong to the regional ecosystem. The efforts don't stop there; integrated weed management and maintenance, along with other land management techniques, are helping to create healthy habitats.

This year has been a significant one for KHRPP. In addition to maintaining plantings from the first and second rounds of projects, the team has managed expressions of interest for the third round. A new series of KHRPP projects will soon begin, continuing the momentum of restoration in the landscape.

### Restoring land for biodiversity and beef

*At a Coal Creek property, sunlight filters through the leaves of young saplings, and nearby towering eucalyptus trees cast long shadows. In the canopy, koalas rest peacefully, while cattle graze calmly nearby, creating a serene landscape where wildlife and agriculture coexist.*

Ken, one of the property owners shared, "We've always had koalas on this property. Knowing that and seeing them fairly regularly has been rather special, along with the other wildlife." They once spotted seven different koalas in a single day. In the past year, the KHRPP has planted 10,000 trees across more than 15 hectares of their property, with an additional three hectares of assisted natural regeneration. These efforts support the owners' commitment to restoring habitat for native wildlife and ensuring the land can be grazed sustainably.

Will, who has lived his whole life on the property, has witnessed the benefits firsthand. "It's helping koalas, helping native animals, helping revegetate more areas, and ensuring that our cattle have shade," he says, recognising the balance between conservation and cattle farming. Although the plantings are still in progress, with ongoing maintenance through the KHRPP, the future of the land is clear. Ken reflects, "We're looking forward to seeing the forest. That's what we've talked about: driving to the property and seeing that forest, which it will become in due course."



Will and Ken. By QTFN

## Dangerbridge Nature Refuge: A restoration legacy

*By day, vulnerable glossy black-cockatoos fly overhead, by night grey-headed flying-foxes fill the sky, and endangered koalas and greater gliders move through the trees below. Critically endangered native guava and scrub turpentine trees are scattered around the property, their bright berries and fragrant white flowers attracting birds and insects.*

Dangerbridge Nature Refuge in Noosa Shire holds a special place in the landscape, neighbored by National Park and connected to creek riparian vegetation. Since 2003, landholder Jenifer Nicholas has been on a mission to restore and reconnect the fragmented pockets of forest at Dangerbridge Nature Refuge. Since 2020, the KHRPP has been actively working alongside Jenifer, Noosa & District Landcare, and Greenfleet. The partnership has planted over 145,000 trees across 74 hectares of revegetation, with an additional 14 hectares dedicated to assisted natural regeneration.

Jenifer is inspired by the growth and connectivity she’s witnessing. *“Over the last 20 years of stewardship, my connection to this land and everything it supports continues to grow. Watching the wildlife find refuge here and nature repairing reminds me why I’m committed. Seeing the significant scale of the restoration we’ve been able to achieve is invigorating. In ten years, it will be a forest,”* she reflects. Her dedication to the land is creating a lasting, living legacy that will protect and nurture wildlife into the future.

### A helping hand to expand a haven

*Mount Mellum Nature Refuge, tucked away in the Sunshine Coast hinterland, is a haven for some of Australia’s vulnerable species. Among the towering trees, koalas feed on supple young leaves, Richmond birdwing butterflies flutter through the vines, and the elusive tusked frog shelters in a small pool of water. This special place is cared for by Ian and Christine McMaster, whose deep commitment to conservation has shaped the property into a sanctuary for wildlife.*



By Ian McMaster

For years, the McMasters have worked tirelessly to protect and nurture the land. Their passion for conservation led them to partner with the KHRPP, matching its funding with their own investment. Through this partnership, they’ve expanded restoration efforts across nearly ten hectares, planting trees that will soon provide shelter and food for even more species.

This restoration effort is more than just planting trees for koalas; it is supporting a future for the wildlife that calls Mount Mellum home. The McMasters’ dedication ensures that this land will continue to support vulnerable species for generations to come.

### Research for a more sustainable future

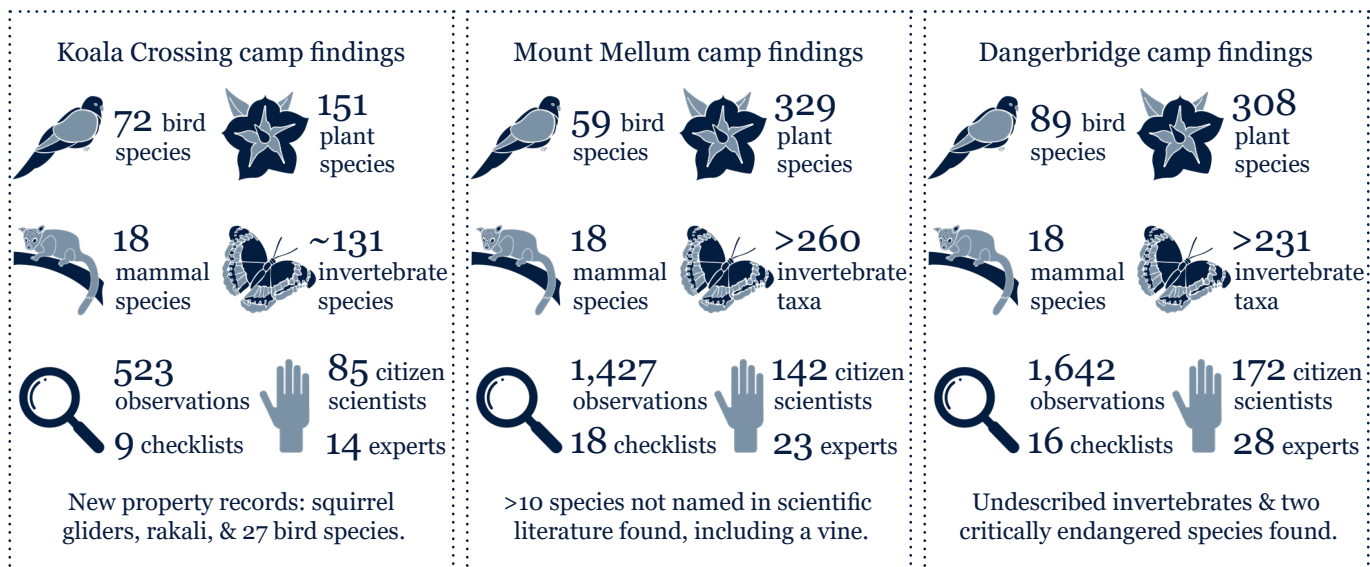
Tree guards can make a real difference to the survival of plants, but they can have damaging long-term environmental impacts if they are misplaced. This is why the KHRPP team has partnered with Dr. Clement Chan, a researcher from The University of Queensland (UQ), to provide feedback into the bio-derived and biodegradable tree guard prototypes that are being developed for a sustainable bioplastics future. The project was successful in securing an Industry Kickstarter Grant between UQ and QTFN this year, and we’re looking forward to seeing its outcomes.

### Dave and Maree in the community

QTFN’s Restoration Officers, Dave Madden and Maree Clancy, manage the KHRPP and are also active on the ground and in the community. Maree shared her field assessment expertise at a citizen science camp, supported community plantings with her rehabilitation works experience, and presented at the Logan Koala Forum. Dave has shared his 25 years of environmental and horticultural experiences with industry, supported stakeholders to align koala restoration efforts, and presented to attendees at a Watergum workshop. Together, they bring a wealth of knowledge and hands-on support to drive restoration efforts.

# Connecting for conservation

## *Empowering citizen scientists and sharing biodiversity knowledge*



*Attendees greet each other with excitement, ready for a weekend in nature. Guided by species experts, they will learn to spot the subtle cues of Queensland's wildlife. Standing beneath a towering eucalyptus tree, the group examines the koala scat that Ada the detection dog just found. Later, they gather around a screen, smiling as a short-beaked echidna waddles across the camera trap footage. After night falls, eyes scan the canopy and someone points out a squirrel glider overhead. The next morning, an expert identifies the sound of an Australasian bent-winged bat captured by the bioacoustics recorder. With every discovery, the connection between people and nature further deepens, painting a clearer picture of the life in the landscape around them.*

Recognising and valuing biodiversity begins with understanding the unique species in the places we live and visit. The Citizens for Refuge Ecology (C4RE) camps focused on empowering citizens and nature refuge landholders with the tools and knowledge to detect, identify, and record biodiversity. Gathering citizen scientists, species experts, landholders, and their surrounding communities together, the camps offered a weekend of hands-on biodiversity monitoring on private land and immersed attendees in nature.

This approach aligns with the Global Biodiversity Framework's Target 21, which emphasises that accessible biodiversity knowledge fosters the awareness and appreciation needed to inspire individual behaviour change and action. Research shows that nature-based citizen science is one way to gather this knowledge that will also benefit participants' wellbeing and connection to nature.

The more we recognise and value the interdependencies between human and nature's wellbeing, the more we are motivated to protect it. This was the goal of the C4RE camps. By equipping communities to notice, monitor, and appreciate everyday biodiversity, we encouraged a shared stewardship that will hopefully plant a seed in attendees about nature's value and our role in protecting it.

As part of a series of camps, attendees would record either birds, invertebrates, mammals, or plants using accessible tools like iNaturalist and eBird, making data publicly available and empowering attendees to identify species at other places they visit. Citizen science is a growing force in collecting biodiversity data, contributing more than half of all species records, more than 62 million, in Australia's national biodiversity database—the Atlas of Living Australia.

Private landholders' involvement is essential to understanding the biodiversity they live alongside. Since launching in 2021, C4RE camps have revealed much about the biodiversity of the three different Nature Refuges across the 12 camps. Species undetected for many years were observed and recorded, and several species not yet named in scientific literature were found. The biodiversity findings are available at the Citizens for Refuge Ecology project on iNaturalist.

We're grateful to everyone that helped make C4RE a success over the last three years: the citizen scientists that joined us, knowledgeable volunteer experts that lent their skills, landholders that let us learn on their land, volunteers that helped with logistics, and valued partners that supported the project. The C4RE camps were funded by the Queensland Citizen Science Grant from the Office of the Queensland Chief Scientist.



# Citizens for Refuge Ecology camps this year

This year there were two final camps at Dangerbridge Nature Refuge: Mammal Muster and Bird Bivouac.



2 camps over  
4 days



107  
species  
recorded



77 citizen  
scientists  
15 experts



9  
organisational  
collaborators



451 hours of  
volunteer time

## Mammal Muster

18 mammal species    79 observations    42 citizen scientists    7 experts



By Jasmine Louise

Nationally endangered greater gliders were recorded in the area for the first time in over a decade at this C4RE camp. With experts' help, attendees recorded 18 mammal species including endangered koalas, grey-headed flying-foxes, and greater gliders.

QTFN experts Maree Clancy, Susie Adamczyk, and Michael Tervo guided attendees through koala survey methods, camera traps, bioacoustics, and spotlighting. Rachel Lyons from Noosa and District Landcare spoke about habitat restoration and koala and greater glider conservation. Dr Liz Williams and Robin Rowland ran workshops on microbat bioacoustic analysis and trapping methods, before a day of mammal monitoring with Ada the detection dog and her trainer Nicky Wright. The Koala Habitat Restoration Partnership Program co-funded Mammal Muster.

## Bird Bivouac

89 bird species    16 checklists    35 citizen scientists    9 experts

Bird Bivouac was all about using binoculars, books, and bioacoustic recorders to find birds. Throughout the weekend 89 bird species were recorded, including 14 species not previously recorded on the property, like the vulnerable powerful owl and white-throated needletail.

Liz Gould, Clancy Hall, and César Puechmarin presented to attendees about different aspects of bird identification and their conservation. Dr Ayesha Tulloch, Adriana Bramley, Ruth Huckstepp, Jasmine Connors, QTFN Ecologists Georgie Braun and Michael Tervo supported attendees through their respective expertise.



By Jasmine Louise



Bird Bivouac attendees. By Jasmine Louise

# Caring for Country together

## Partnerships to protect and share knowledge



Mornings on Avoid Island are alive with the spirited calls of shorebirds. As the tide gently rises, it conceals the vibrant honeycomb corals beneath the water's surface. Flatback turtles, from nesting mothers to tiny hatchlings, call the island home. Rose-crowned fruit doves perch in coastal vine thickets adjacent to grassy dunes. In the heart of the island, mangroves thrive in a wetland nourished by the high tides. A blue-tongued lizard basks on the rocky beach, and orchard swallowtail butterflies dance through the open forest, all while small, metallic coloured bees busily dig their branching nests into the soil.



Avoid Island. By Jasmine Louise

There is an abundance of life within Avoid Island's 83 hectares of land. Avoid Island lies in the saltwaters of Koinmerburra Country, and is one of the only privately-owned and permanent nature refuges in the southern Great Barrier Reef. The island is managed by QTFN, in collaboration with our partners.

QTFN has been working with the Koinmerburra Aboriginal Corporation (KAC) to develop a two-way land management plan for the island and jointly deliver education and threatened species outcomes as part of the Great Barrier Reef Foundation's Reef Islands Initiative.

The Reef Islands Initiative is establishing a network of climate change refuges by protecting critical habitats on Great Barrier Reef islands, including Avoid Island. The ten-year program is an initiative of the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, supported by funding from Lendlease, the Australian Government's Reef Trust, the Queensland Government and the Fitzgerald Family Foundation.

The QTFN team has been working with collaborators and partners to safeguard Avoid Island's unique environment. The island is a vibrant hub of conservation work, hosting BioBlitz events and conducting ecological monitoring, including flatback turtle surveys. The reintroduction of fire management, combined with ongoing weed control, has revitalised the island's ecosystems.

QTFN, Great Barrier Reef Foundation, Koinmerburra Aboriginal Corporation, and Wonder of Science are all working together to keep Avoid Island a protected place of collaboration and biodiversity health.

Your support can bring people together  
to care for Country

## Coming together on Avoid Island

Elders and rangers from Koinmerburra Aboriginal Corporation (KAC), QTFN, and affiliates came together on Avoid Island over five days in September 2023.

QTFN, KAC, and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services undertook a burn of the tussock grassland for ecosystem health and protection of the coastal vine thicket. Avoid Island has 16 hectares of the critically endangered Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Vine Thickets of Eastern Australia ecological community.

Aunty Jenuarrie, Aunty Pam, Marissa Deshong (KAC), and Michael Tervo (QTFN) worked through a four-day workshop progressing the island's two-way management plan, and the incorporation of culture across all activities on Avoid Island. Wonder of Science also joined the workshop to discuss cultural inclusion in their material.

While they were progressing important conversations in the workshops, a citizen scientist and photographer were cataloguing and capturing images of the beautiful biodiversity of Avoid Island.

Citizen science expert Greg Tasney added incredibly valuable biodiversity records, contributing 481 observations of 214 species to the Avoid Island iNaturalist project. From toadstool leather corals and broad-leaved bottle trees, to rainbow bee-eaters and sand-swimmers, Greg collected a tremendous amount of biodiversity data in only two days.

The essence of Avoid Island has been captured through beautiful images by Jasmine Louise, including grey-tailed tattlers on the volcanic rocks, the golden orchid's wavy petals, and the creeping flames of the controlled, ecological burn.

The trip provided a multifaceted opportunity for collaboration and knowledge sharing that all contribute towards Avoid Island's management.



*Grey-tailed Tattler. By Jasmine Louise*



*Golden Orchid. By Jasmine Louise*



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# Walking together

*Tucked away among protected rainforest north of the Daintree River lies Lot 83, a remarkable place rich in both natural and cultural significance. As the sun peeks through the lush green leaves and tassel ferns, the sounds of the rainforest come alive. Songbirds chatter, and southern cassowaries wander through the remnant vegetation that covers most of the site. Adjoining the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, this 376-hectare property includes everything from estuarine crocodile habitats to steep rainforests, making it an important place for people, culture, and nature.*

The future of Lot 83 is being shaped through meaningful conversations with Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation and Eastern Kuku Yalanji Traditional Owners—walking together to look to the future of this special place. We know that doing things the right way takes time, and in this journey, the connection between people and place is central. Building trust, sharing knowledge, and learning from one another are essential steps toward protecting cultural heritage and healing the land.

Through collaborative planning and sustainable economic models, we hope to ensure that Lot 83 remains a special part of the world.

This is not just a project; it's a shared journey grounded in respect, trust, and a long-term vision for both people and nature.



By Liz O'Brien / QTEN

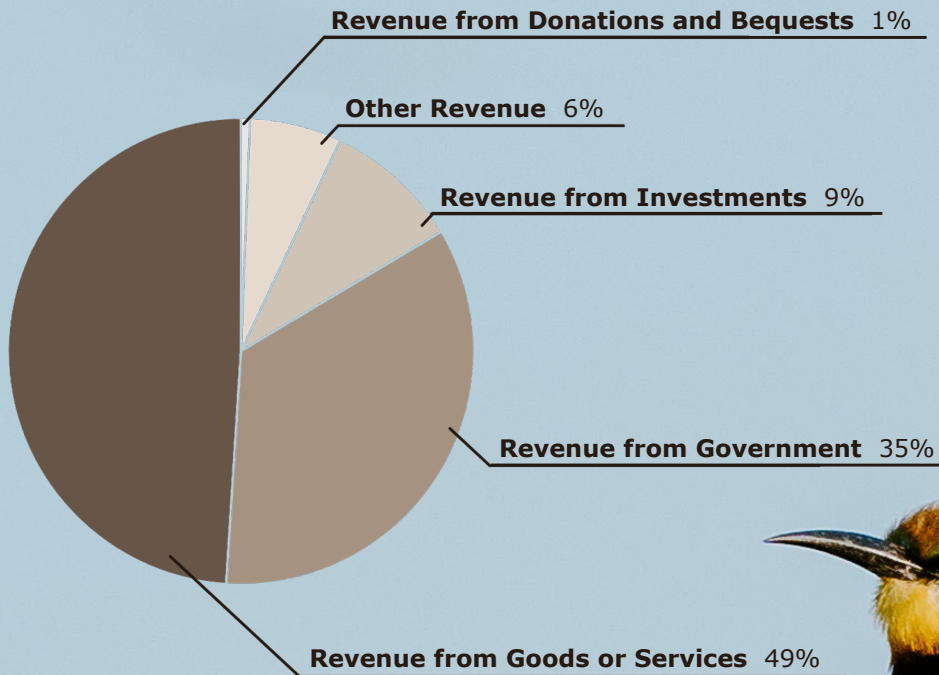
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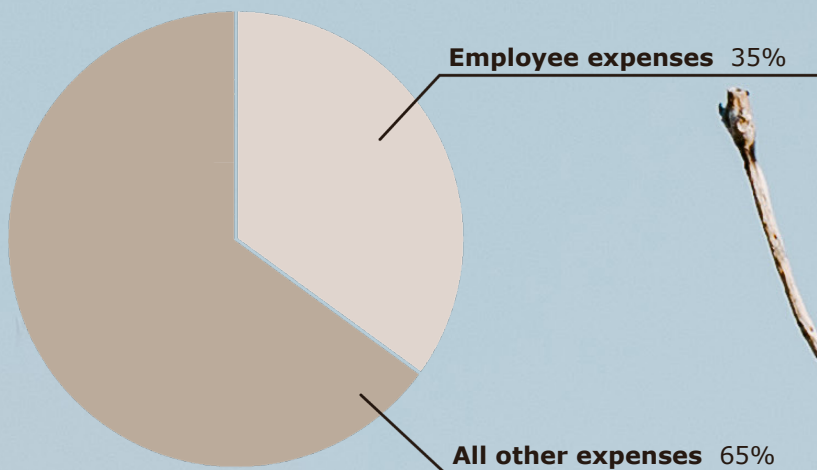
# Financial overview

Queensland Trust for Nature is a Registered Charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). To see the full charity reporting, visit the ACNC website.

## Total Revenue



## Total Expenses



“Together, we can create a future where Queensland’s landscapes, people, and communities thrive.”



We are grateful for your generosity and support. Thanks to you, we can continue working across Queensland to protect and restore the landscape, and connect people to nature, now and into the future.



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