



*Protecting Queensland's
unique biodiversity*

ANNUAL REVIEW





Highlights/achievements in 2013

AVOID ISLAND

QTFN, the University of New South Wales, Griffith University and Wild Mob - Volunteers for Wilderness Conservation entered into a trial that provides students from the universities with access to Avoid Island to undertake a range of research activities during the turtle hatchling season from November to February.

Avoid Island, about 100km south of Mackay, is a continental island in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The island's eastern-facing beaches provide nesting habitat for 25% – 30% of the female flatback turtles on the east coast of Australia.

If the trial is a success, each year students will stay on the island for week-long research projects which will include a range of activities such as:

- Hatchling surveys
- Dune restoration projects, and
- Marine debris removal and transect analysis

GREAT EASTERN RANGES INITIATIVE

QTFN partnered with the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative (GER) which aims to link and protect healthy habitats over 3600km of eastern Australia, from western Victoria through NSW and the ACT to far north Queensland.

QTFN will identify gaps in the Queensland section of the GER, locate and purchase strategic properties to fill the gaps, and revegetate essential habitat.

The GER is a strategic response to mitigate the potential impacts of climate change, invasive species, land clearing and other environmental changes on Australia's richest biodiversity and the mountains that supply most of the population with clean water.



NATURE REFUGE ASSESSOR

QTFN was accredited as an assessment agency for Nature Refuges in Queensland by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection.

QTFN can now assist to identify, assess, credential and promote private conservation initiatives throughout Queensland.

RELAUNCH EVENTS

QTFN restructured, rebranded and was relaunched at two events, in Brisbane and Mackay, which included the unveiling of QTFN's new logo and website, and the launch of a philanthropic campaign and Foundation to raise funds for managing Avoid Island.

The Brisbane relaunch was officiated by Queensland Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection, the Hon. Andrew Powell MP, and attracted an enthusiastic audience of more than 65.

In Mackay, Mayor Cr Deirdre Comerford officiated the relaunch event at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre.

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

QTFN announced its first corporate partnerships in 2013 with Three Plus, a communications specialist in reputation, brand and relationships, and Northern Oil Refinery, a new oil re-refining plant at Yarwun, near Gladstone in central Queensland.

Three Plus has been providing strategic communications services to QTFN for the past couple of years and offered a generous sponsorship deal which, as well as its paid consulting work, will see it contribute an additional \$60,000 worth of services annually to QTFN at no cost.

The Northern Oil Refinery is Queensland's first facility to recycle waste lube oil into reusable, clean base oil. Located near Gladstone Harbour – one of the habitats for the flatback turtle – the Northern Oil Refinery was keen to support QTFN's Avoid Island and flatback turtle initiatives. The Northern Oil Refinery is a joint venture between Southern Oil from Wagga Wagga (NSW) and J.J. Richards & Sons.

Front cover: New growth at Pembers Scrub Nature Refuge (Atherton Tablelands)

Far left: A pebble beach on Avoid Island

Left: Eastern water dragon (credit: Great Eastern Ranges Initiative)



Message from the Trustees

The Queensland Trust for Nature plays a unique role in the protection of Queensland's natural biodiversity. We have operated since 2004 as a revolving fund, buying and then selling properties after applying the protection of Nature Refuge covenants to their titles. In all, the Trust has protected more than 100,000 hectares of Queensland's important ecosystems.

While continuing with this mechanism, we laid the foundation in 2013 to increasingly look for opportunities for renewing our funds through retaining land ownership and establishing commercial enterprises in partnership with communities and businesses. In doing so, we seek the broadest advice from the members of our Funds Management Committee, drawing on their skills in and understandings of ecosystems, conservation, ecotourism, land management and property development.

The outcome is decisions that are both environmentally and commercially sustainable.

We began, in 2013, the broader challenge of addressing the Trust's objectives in education and research with our planning to establish a scientific research station on Avoid Island, one of the most important breeding sites for the flatback turtle, the only marine turtle that breeds solely within Australian waters.

The Trustees look forward to continuing to work with the Funds Management Committee in 2014, and with a deeper engagement with Queensland's corporate sector and the community of groups and individuals seeking to protect Queensland's biodiversity.

The Trustees

Graham Marshall
Molly Robson
Robert Allan



Left: Tinkerbell Nature Refuge (Ballandean, south of Stanthorpe)

Above: A spotted catbird at Pembers Scrub Nature Refuge (Atherton Tablelands)



Message from the General Manager

I am delighted to provide my thoughts on 2013 and what lies ahead for QTFN.

The past year saw a consolidation of the review and planning that was completed when QTFN became independent from the State Government in 2012.

Established in 2004, QTFN was grown by various state government environmental departments which saw the protection of over 100,000 hectares of environmentally significant land in Queensland. This makes QTFN one of the State's leading conservation groups.

Our independence presented the opportunity to review operations and strategy which resulted in QTFN pursuing four distinct activities to protect Queensland's unique biodiversity.

Through the promotion and development of private conservation, QTFN's core operations are:

- Revolving fund
- Supplementary activities
- Nature Refuge assessment
- Research and education

In 2013, our revolving fund acquired one property and sold three, ensuring future funding for more acquisitions and more Nature Refuges in Queensland.

Moving forward, the revolving fund can play an important strategic role in preserving endangered and at risk ecosystems by assessing what ecosystem is protected and where.

The criteria for QTFN to acquire a property has been expanded from protecting at risk and endangered ecosystems to now also placing a greater emphasis on revegetation opportunities for endangered ecosystems.

As a member of the Great Eastern Ranges Initiative, QTFN is targeting specific areas for property acquisition that focus on wildlife corridors and fragmentation. QTFN is identifying cleared areas that can benefit from revegetating the landscape to provide greater connectivity.

QTFN is also examining ways to participate in activities such as biodiversity offsets, carbon abatement and carbon farming. Each of these activities is yet to mature and will require specialist skills and knowledge to participate in these markets. QTFN recognises that strategic partnerships with other leading organisations will be required to capitalise on our unique role as land owner and manager.

QTFN was proud to be the first organisation to partner with the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection in an outsourcing trial of Nature Refuge assessment and application.

At the end of 2013, the trial was moving forward with support and encouragement from all stakeholders and it was pleasing that a number of applications had been received.

QTFN proposes to develop this offering and will seek corporate partners to subsidise the cost of the assessment process. With over 3.4 million hectares protected in 453 gazetted Nature Refuges in Queensland, this initiative is at the forefront of private conservation.

The progress that QTFN made during 2013 would not be possible without the encouragement and assistance of the three Trustees and seven Funds Management Committee members. The guidance and freedom to act has been invaluable and it is their ongoing oversight that will see QTFN grow further.

I strongly believe that QTFN can play a leading role in private conservation in Queensland.

No longer can the public purse sponsor and carry the conservation requirements necessary to combat fragmentation and biodiversity loss.

It is the responsibility of all to take up this challenge and it is with the public's assistance that I believe QTFN can make a lasting impact on the preservation of Queensland's unique biodiversity.

I encourage you to join us and also to help celebrate QTFN's 10th year of operations in 2014.

Ben O'Hara
General Manager



Left: Xanthorrhoea (grass tree) on Avoid Island

Above right: Ben O'Hara on a flight to Avoid Island



About QTFN

The Queensland Trust for Nature (QTFN) is an independent, not-for-profit organisation focused on the protection of Queensland's unique biodiversity.

QTFN identifies and acquires habitat critical to vulnerable and endangered species in order to preserve their habitat in perpetuity.

QTFN operates a revolving fund, unique in Queensland, to buy and sell land and provide a long-term, reusable source of funding to help protect Queensland's biodiversity.

QTFN also develops partnerships with other organisations to identify, acquire, manage and protect land.

QTFN targets properties in rural and urban fringe areas, with a high priority on linking wildlife corridors, revegetating endangered and vulnerable ecosystems and increasing buffers to National Parks.

QTFN has commenced assessing Nature Refuge applications in a trial program with the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection – the first time the Department has utilised an outsourcing model.

QTFN also promotes use of its permanent reserves for education and research.

MISSION, VISION AND OBJECTIVES

Mission

To acquire and increase the value of privately held land under conservation and to protect and enhance the unique biodiversity of Queensland for future generations.

Vision Statement

To be a highly valued, respected and independent organisation renowned for protecting environmentally important, privately-owned land.

Objectives of the Trust

The protection and enhancement of the natural environment or a significant part of the natural environment in the state of Queensland, including:

- wildlife and their habitats
- issues affecting the environment such as air and water quality, vegetation and fauna
- waste minimisation outcomes
- resource management issues and biodiversity
- promotion of ecologically sustainable development principles
- promotion of private conservation



Left: Pandanus on AVOID Island

Right: Five Acre Rock Nature Refuge (Wyberba, south of Stanthorpe)

MEDIA CLIPPINGS



Bribie Island residents Fiona McGill and Richard Proudfoot say a decision earlier this year to purchase their own piece of protected bush in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland was a form of "affirmative action".

Hinterland couple sets up a private nature reserve

FIONA AND RICHARD purchased a 60 hectare Nature Refuge at Curramore, near Maleny, called Rainforest Ridge. The property had been in the hands of the Queensland Trust For Nature (QTFN) since 2007.

The QTFN was looking for new owners, and Fiona and Richard were looking for a green investment. The planets aligned.

The QTFN is a not-for-profit organisation established to protect Queensland's natural environment by acquiring, and increasing the value of, private land under conservation.

The QTFN operates a revolving fund that is used to buy, protect and re-sell land with high conservation values, and targets properties in coastal, rural and urban fringe areas.

Rainforest Ridge contains two threatened ecosystems and provides connectivity and a buffer to the nearby Maleny National Park. The ecosystems are recorded as remnant, tall, open eucalypt forest and are dominated by palms in gullies and dived.

The land is essential to provide suitable habitat for treefrog, tusked frog, platypus, flying fox, and the nearctic species are listed as required.

"We haven't had time to see much of the wildlife yet, but koalas are very noisy and that is look forward to." Richard and Fiona say.

property was a mix of savvy financial investment and a commitment to sustainability.

"We don't think the GFC was a one-off, so our motivation was to look for a strategic investment for our funds. We could leave money in the bank, or put it into super - which is at the mercy of the stockmarket - or invest in property," Richard said.

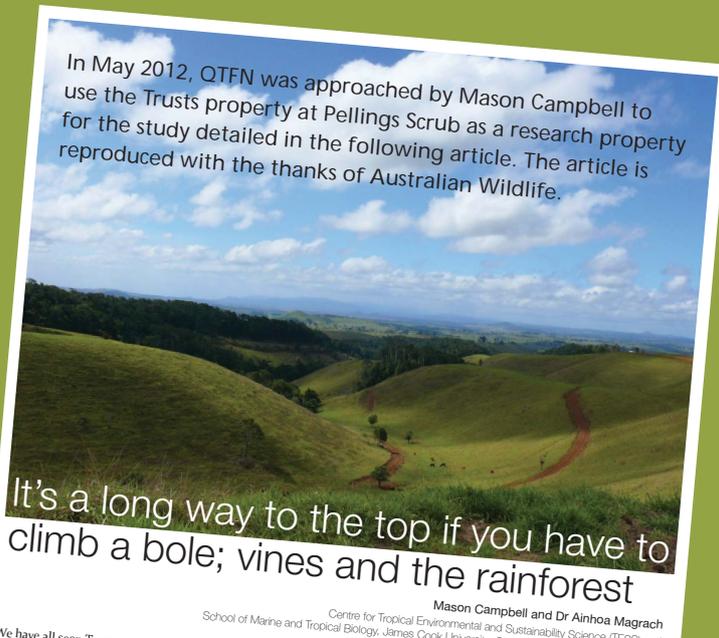
"The private conservancy model seeks to address where individuals can purchase and protect conservation value. It's like 'affirmative action'."

"Where governments aren't doing their bit for the environment, Queenslanders should think about QTFN's revolving fund model."

Since its establishment in 2004, the QTFN more than 101,900 hectares and on sold more than 101,420 hectares of important biodiversity.

For Fiona and Richard, their aspirations for Rainforest Ridge are modest.

"The land is as it has always been, but we want to get access to it."



It's a long way to the top if you have to climb a bole; vines and the rainforest

We have all seen Tarzan swinging through the trees gracefully shifting from vine to vine whilst travelling to his next adventure, but have you ever stopped to wonder what he was actually hanging from? If not, you're not alone. In fact, as late as the mid 1970s, worldwide knowledge of the ecology of woody vines (lianas) was described by one researcher as a "virtual blank". This is despite a strong interest in vines by many early luminaries, including the great Charles Darwin himself who in 1867 wrote an article for the erudite Linnaean Society entitled "On the Movements and Habits of Climbing Plants". Unfortunately, after Darwin's time

the present day as we attempt to glean a clearer understanding of how these "ropes of the jungle" operate.

Where are the vines?

As anyone who has attempted to walk through all but the southernmost of the Australian rainforests will attest, vines can be quite abundant. Indeed, many of you may be surprised to learn that up to 40 percent of all the woody species in some tropical forests are climbing plants. In Australia, more than 85 percent of the climbing angiosperm (flowering plants) can be found in rainforests.

with the rainforest ecosystem; the largest continental expanse of which may be found in the wet tropics area.

But why is there such a close association between vines and the rainforest? One way to answer this is by describing what differentiates vines from trees. The most obvious answer to this is that morphologically, vines are long, skinny and flexible whilst most trees have large, inflexible trunks. The reason for this difference is that vines are able to invest in their roots and stems to climb

Island must be avoided for survival of turtles

Pamela Frost
pamela.frost@mymercury.com.au

AN ISLAND off Mackay has only one purpose: To be a safe haven for the vulnerable flatback turtle.



ABOVE: Queensland Trust For Nature general manager Ben O'Hara and trustee Molly Robson.

LEFT: Visitors from around the world marvel at a flatback turtle as she prepares to return to the sea after laying her eggs. PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED

"A turtle lays about 120 eggs in one lay and of that, by the time they hatch out of the eggs and go down the beach, it's lucky if 5% survive, after seabirds and getting into the water"

at the time they hatch out of the eggs and go down the beach, it's lucky if 5% survive, after seabirds and getting into the water," she said. "The beach is also a bit of a trap for them to breed."

Owner sought for refuge

THE Queensland Trust for Nature is looking for new land owners for a nature refuge that provides habitat for the iconic Lumholtz's tree kangaroo.

The Pellings Scrub Nature Refuge is a significant rainforest remnant, which is home to numerous native animal and plant species just south of Malanda.

The 18ha nature refuge and 4ha cleared, grassy paddock - available for residential, agricultural or horticultural purposes - sits along Williams Creek.

For more information contact QTFN general manager Ben O'Hara on 0428 017 611.

Perth Now

Flatback turtle trackers want Qld station

From: AAP
December 20, 2013 3:47 PM



Researchers want a permanent station in Queensland to monitor populations of Flatback turtles. Source: AAP

FLATBACK turtle trackers want to set up Australia's first permanent research station to assess how they are affected by large coastal developments.

The pale olive green-grey turtles are one of only seven sea turtle species in the world, and only nest in northern Australia.

While they are listed as vulnerable in Queensland, Western Australia and nationally, there is not enough data for an international listing.

Environmental organisation Wild Mob and The Queensland Trust for Nature are three years into a study of populations off the Queensland coast.

The research will help determine if developments, such as a large-scale dredging project for the gas export industry at Curtis Island off Gladstone, is affecting turtle numbers.

The turtles that nest on Avoid Island, which sits offshore between Gladstone and Mackay, are considered a control population because the refuge is far enough away from port developments to the north and south not to be affected.

Researchers will then be able to compare the health of populations closer to major development sites, with what's happening on Avoid Island.

About 30 per cent of the flatback turtles that lay their eggs on Australia's east coast do so on Avoid Island, which was bought by the trust in 2006.

The trust hopes to start a university program on the island during nesting seasons and raise enough funds to establish a permanent research station.

WHEN: Saturday
WHERE: 9 Palm

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- 1) At the QTFN Brisbane relaunch, April 2013 (l-r): Ben O'Hara, General Manager; Robert Allan, Trustee; Hon Andrew Powell MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection; Molly Robson, Trustee; Graham Marshall, Trustee
- 2) AgForce field day, Spicers Old Hidden Vale, June 2013
- 3) Guests at the QTFN Brisbane relaunch, April 2013
- 4) Guests at the QTFN Brisbane relaunch, April 2013
- 5) Guests at the QTFN Brisbane relaunch, April 2013
- 6) Guests at the QTFN Brisbane relaunch, April 2013
- 7) AgForce field day, Spicers Old Hidden Vale, June 2013



Nature Refuges

ABOUT

Since its establishment in 2004, QTFN has acquired 13 Queensland properties of varying size (from 22ha up to 74,300ha) – for a total of more than 101,900 hectares – and sold seven to protect more than 101,420 hectares of important biodiversity.

The majority of purchases have been important sites of less than 85ha.

Landscape fragmentation is recognised as a threatening process resulting in the loss of biodiversity. Therefore, protecting vegetation remnants and restoring wildlife corridors is critical to the long-term survival of many species.

For this reason, QTFN works to protect habitat, and complement public and privately protected areas for the conservation of biodiversity, by purchasing properties for protection as Nature Refuges.

A Nature Refuge is a voluntary agreement between a landholder and the Queensland Government that acknowledges a commitment to manage and preserve land with significant conservation and or cultural values, while allowing compatible and sustainable land uses to continue.

Nature Refuges comprise the second largest expanse of Queensland's protected areas estate (outnumbering National Parks). Only areas of high biodiversity value containing threatened flora and/or fauna are considered for inclusion as a Nature Refuge.

CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS

On properties that QTFN acquires for preservation, QTFN negotiates a Conservation Agreement to establish a Nature Refuge with the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection.

A Conservation Agreement is tailored to each property and is designed to help landholders protect the significant natural and cultural resources while allowing for sustainable land use practices. For example, grazing and ecotourism are permitted on a Nature Refuge, provided conservation values are protected.

An agreement can apply to the whole property or only to certain areas, depending on the values and the future intended uses for the land. Agreements are designed to be flexible and conditions may be altered by negotiation with the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, provided the Nature Refuge values are retained.

The Nature Refuge is noted on the property's Title and is enduring. It is transferred to each successive owner and can only be removed with the agreement of the Queensland Government. A Nature Refuge agreement is finalised before the QTFN offers the land for resale to the private sector. The new land owner then provides ongoing management and stewardship of the property.

LANDHOLDER BENEFITS

Landholders with a Nature Refuge continue to own and manage their land and are able to generate an income, in keeping with their lifestyle, while protecting natural and cultural resources. The Nature Refuge does not change public access to the land, which remains private property for the sole use and enjoyment of the owners.

The legacy that can be created through the perpetuity of a Nature Refuge is attractive to landholders who invest significant effort in good land management.

BIODIVERSITY OFFSETS

QTFN is expanding its operations to include more activities that will benefit the environment in Queensland, including establishing partnerships with complementary organisations (such as Greening Australia and Earthtrade) to provide a biodiversity offsets service in Queensland.

Governments at all levels in Australia require project proponents to provide appropriate parcels of land as biodiversity offsets for sites disturbed by activities such as mining, roads, infrastructure and large scale property development.

QTFN recognises that, for many project proponents, the identification, purchase/leasing and management of offset sites is not core business and the preference is to outsource responsibility to credible organisations.

QTFN provides an efficient, outsourced service to identify, secure and maintain critical habitat as biodiversity offsets for the resources, infrastructure and property development sectors.

On behalf of clients, QTFN assists to identify and assess appropriate biodiversity offset sites, secures the relevant tenure, establishes a vegetation management program and Conservation Agreement (Nature Refuge) and undertakes long-term site management.



CASE STUDY – RAINFOREST RIDGE

Bribie Island (south east Queensland) residents Fiona McGill and Richard Proudfoot say the decision in 2013 to purchase their own piece of protected bush in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland was a form of "affirmative action". The island couple is part of a growing private conservation movement in Queensland

Fiona and Richard purchased a 60 hectare Nature Refuge at Curramore, near Maleny, called Rainforest Ridge. The property had been in the hands of the Queensland Trust For Nature (QTFN) since 2007. The QTFN was looking for new owners, and Fiona and Richard were looking for a green investment. The planets aligned.

Rainforest Ridge contains two threatened ecosystems and provides connectivity and a buffer to the nearby Maleny National Park. The ecosystems are recorded as containing high ecological significance and are dominated by remnant, tall, open eucalypt forest with rainforest and palms in gullies and diverse shrubby understorey.

The land is essential habitat for the koala and also provides suitable habitat for the vulnerable cascade treefrog, tusked frog, plumed frogmouth and grey-headed flying-fox, and the near threatened grey goshawk. All species are listed as requiring protection.

Richard and Fiona said their decision to purchase the property was a mix of savvy financial investment and a commitment to sustainability.

"We don't think the GFC was a one-off, so our motivation was to look for a strategic investment for our funds. We could leave money in the bank, or put it into super – which is at the mercy of the stockmarket – or invest in property," Richard said.

Fiona and Richard said there was a lot of research showing that National Parks haven't always worked well for conservation, including the lack of fencing to manage feral animals and no proper funding for ongoing management.

"The private conservancy model seeks to address that, where individuals can purchase and protect land of high conservation value. It's like 'affirmative action'," Richard said.

"Where governments aren't doing their bit for the environment, Queenslanders should think about the QTFN's revolving fund model."

QTFN General Manager Ben O'Hara said Fiona and Richard were at the vanguard of a new approach to biodiversity protection in Queensland.

"The QTFN is uniquely positioned to apply a commercial conservation model to identify, enhance and protect some of Queensland's most at-risk ecosystems, many of which are too

small to be considered for National Parks," Ben said.

"The new land owners, like Fiona and Richard, provide ongoing management and stewardship of the properties, including pursuits such as ecotourism, so long as ecological values are protected."

For Fiona and Richard, their aspirations for Rainforest Ridge are modest.

"The land is as it has always been, but we would like to create a few walking paths to get access to the beautiful, palm-filled valleys and for managing weeds," they said.

"There is an opportunity for Barung Landcare (at Maleny) to help out and the Land For Wildlife officers from the Sunshine Coast Regional Council have offered help to eradicate a fox colony on the property.

"Later on we are thinking about sharing this piece of unique Australian bush with like-minded people. Something small-scale; something that will draw bushwalkers, birdwatchers, perhaps even schoolchildren to the site to enjoy its ecological treasures."



Bribie Island residents Fiona McGill and Richard Proudfoot say a decision earlier this year to purchase their own piece of protected bush in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland was a form of "affirmative action".

Hinterland couple sets up a private nature reserve

FIONA AND RICHARD purchased a 60 hectare Nature Refuge at Curramore, near Maleny, called Rainforest Ridge. The property had been in the hands of the Queensland Trust For Nature (QTFN) since 2007. The QTFN was looking for new owners, and Fiona and Richard were looking for a green investment. The planets aligned. The QTFN is a not-for-profit organisation established to protect Queensland's natural environment by acquiring and increasing the value of private land under conservation. The QTFN operates a revolving fund that is used to buy, protect and re-sell land with high conservation values, and targets properties in coastal, rural and urban fringe areas. Rainforest Ridge contains two threatened ecosystems and provides connectivity and a buffer to the nearby Maleny National Park. The ecosystems are recorded as containing high ecological significance and are dominated by remnant, tall, open eucalypt forest with rainforest and palms in gullies and diverse shrubby understorey. The land is essential habitat for the koala and also provides suitable habitat for the vulnerable cascade treefrog, tusked frog, plumed frogmouth, the grey headed flying fox, and the near threatened grey goshawk. All species are listed as requiring protection. "We haven't had time to properly explore the site and see much of the wildlife yet, but our neighbours say the koalas are very noisy during mating season, so we've got that to look forward to," Fiona said. Richard and Fiona said their decision to purchase the

property was a mix of savvy financial investment and a commitment to sustainability. "We don't think the GFC was a one-off, so our motivation was to look for a strategic investment for our funds. We could leave money in the bank, or put it into super – which is at the mercy of the stockmarket – or invest in property," Richard said. "The private conservancy model seeks to address that, where individuals can purchase and protect land of high conservation value. It's like 'affirmative action'," Richard said. "Where governments aren't doing their bit for the environment, Queenslanders should think about the QTFN's revolving fund model." Since its establishment in 2004 the QTFN has acquired more than 101,900 hectares and oversold more than 101,420 hectares of important biodiversity. For Fiona and Richard, their aspirations for Rainforest Ridge are modest. "The land is as it has always been, but we would like to create a few walking paths to get access to the beautiful, palm-filled valleys and for managing weeds," they said. "There is an opportunity for Barung Landcare (at Maleny) to help out and the Land For Wildlife officers from the Sunshine Coast Regional Council have offered help to eradicate a fox colony on the property. "Later on we are thinking about sharing the piece of unique Australian bush with like-minded people. "Something small-scale; something that will draw bushwalkers, birdwatchers, perhaps even schoolchildren to the site to enjoy its ecological treasures."

Left: Rainforest Ridge Nature Refuge (Maleny)

Right: Rainforest Ridge article in the Hinterland Times



Revolving Fund

QTFN uses a revolving fund model, unique in Queensland, to acquire private properties with high ecological values.

The revolving fund provides a long-term, reusable source of funding to help protect Queensland's biodiversity – delivering a return on capital in excess of 370% on a single acquisition.

The revolving fund acquires land of environmental significance, negotiates a Conservation Agreement (Nature Refuge) over some or all of the land, resells the land on the public market and then reinvests the proceeds in further strategic purchases.

The new land owners provide ongoing management and stewardship of the properties.

The QTFN revolving fund can deliver positive conservation outcomes at a fraction (5%) of a comparable National Park acquisition.

Since 2004, because of the ability to resell the land and “revolve” the funds, 101,900 hectares have been preserved by QTFN at a cost of just \$1.32 per hectare, compared to single acquisitions for National Parks in Queensland that generally exceed \$28 per hectare.

Research and Education

The objects of QTFN include the provision of education and the undertaking of research about the natural environment in Queensland. As part of this brief, QTFN looks for opportunities to provide positive educational experiences and scientific research on its properties.

AVOID ISLAND

Avoid Island - which is part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, about 100km south east of Mackay - was acquired by QTFN in 2006 to preserve nesting beaches for the vulnerable flatback turtle (*Natator depressus*).

The island's eastern facing beaches provide nesting habitat for 25% - 30% of the female flatback turtles on the east coast of Australia. The flatback is Australia's only indigenous turtle (it only nests in Australia).

With ongoing coastal development between Mackay and Gladstone, the importance of this island's beaches grows each year. QTFN will maintain a protected, safe and clean environment to enable the flatback turtles to lay their eggs for generations.

In 2013, QTFN successfully applied for a Queensland Government grant of \$83,500 for beach clean-up, turtle survey and to conduct education activities at Avoid Island.

Also during 2013, QTFN, the University of New South Wales, Griffith University and Wild Mob - Volunteers for Wilderness Conservation entered into a trial that provides students from the universities with access to Avoid Island to undertake a range of research activities during the turtle hatchling season from November to February.

If the trial is a success, each year students will stay on the island for week-long research projects which will include a range of activities such as:

- Hatchling surveys
- Dune restoration projects, and
- Marine debris removal and transect analysis

QTFN is establishing a permanent research station on the island and will also set up a Foundation to raise funds to assist with the station's development and long term retention to facilitate much needed research into the turtle species.

QTFN has already sponsored three surveys on the island, through a partnership with turtle experts Dr Col Limpus and Dr Nancy Fitzsimmons and Griffith University, to assess turtle breeding habits and provide ongoing management and assessment data. This work has resulted in the island being added to the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection's Queensland Turtle Conservation Project as an index site.

GLADSTONE PORTS CORPORATION

QTFN was part of a university and government collaboration which won an important conservation tender in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park at the end of 2013.

Gladstone Ports Corporation (GPC) awarded funding for an initial two-year turtle monitoring program which will be a joint exercise by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection; Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing; QTFN and James Cook University's School of Earth and Environmental Sciences.

The collaboration will monitor the annual marine turtle breeding populations on Curtis Island and Peak Island (near Gladstone) and reference/index beaches in the Shoalwater Bay – Broadsound area, including QTFN's Avoid Island.

The research project will complement and extend existing long term monitoring projects, including a GPC-supported sea turtle nesting survey project at Curtis Island.



Left: Avoid Island Nature Refuge
Right: The vulnerable flatback turtle



GIVE A TURTLE HATCHLING A CHANCE



Flatback turtle hatchlings have one of the most challenging starts to life of all infants in the animal world. Once they emerge from their shells buried deep in the sand, they work with

their siblings to dig to the surface. Then they must evade predators such as birds and crabs, to safely make the trek to their new home in the ocean.

They really do need all the help they can get!

For just \$20, you can 'adopt' your very own hatchling from the 2013-14 nesting season, and help protect flatback turtles for years to come.

Be part of Queensland Trust for Nature's efforts to protect a vulnerable species by adopting a hatchling today.

Visit our website www.qtn.org.au
or text the word 'TURTLE' to
0488 TEXT US (0488 8398 87)



Philanthropy Activities

GIVE A TURTLE HATCHLING A CHANCE

At the start of Summer 2013, QTFN launched its first “Give a Turtle Hatchling a Chance” fundraising campaign.

Each year, between November and December, more than 7,000 flatback turtle eggs are laid on Avoid Island.

Soon after, in January and February, the hatchlings emerge to make a scramble across the sand to their new ocean home – along the way having to avoid predators such as birds and crabs.



The Avoid Island turtle hatchlings get a better chance of survival than many others along the Queensland coast. As a sanctuary, the island is free from land-based predators such as foxes, cats and dogs, and has no crocodiles. Avoid Island also has no artificial lighting near the turtle nesting beaches – a common cause of disorientation for hatchlings along the populated parts of the Queensland coastline.

For just \$20, anyone can ‘adopt’ a hatchling to support Avoid Island as a safe haven for the flatback turtles and help give hatchlings their best chance to grow to adulthood.



Left: A flatback turtle hatchling at sea

Top: Flipperprints from a nesting flatback turtle on Avoid Island

Bottom: Flatback turtle hatchlings



OUR PEOPLE

TRUSTEES

Graham Marshall

Graham Marshall has been a Trustee of the Queensland Trust for Nature since June 2009 and was previously a member of the Funds Management Committee from its inception in May 2006.

Graham is a property and management consultant who advises on a diverse range of projects including affordable housing, urban renewal and environmental management of infrastructure in sensitive marine environments.

Previously Executive General Manager for AV Jennings Queensland, Graham's career path has progressed from architect, to project manager, then as an operations manager and later as general manager.

He is a Member of the National Board of EnviroDevelopment® and is a member of the Construction Skills Workforce Planning Committee.

Graham has degrees in Architecture and Economics and was awarded a scholarship to the London School of Economics.

Molly Robson

Molly Robson has been a Trustee of the Queensland Trust for Nature since 2012 and a member of the Funds Management Committee since 2007.

With a lifelong interest in and concern for the future of the natural environment, Molly believes the work of the QTFN is crucial to ensure significant, ecologically valuable properties are preserved and protected by some form of Nature Refuge agreement, thus affording a level of certainty for the survival of flora and fauna into the future.

Molly has a background in corporate management working with large civil and environmental engineering, public relations and marketing consultancies as well as community organizations; her roles including company accountant, principal, manager, business development and marketing manager. Molly was the Member for Springwood in the Queensland Parliament from 1989 to 1995 including three years as Queensland Environment and Heritage Minister.

Molly was awarded the Centenary of Federation Medal in 2002 for services to the environment.





Robert Allan

Robert Allan has been a Trustee of the Queensland Trust for Nature since 2012. He became a Trustee to contribute his knowledge of communications and stakeholder communities to the development and implementation of new strategies to achieve the Trust's objectives in conservation, education and research.

Robert has more than 15 years of experience in the conservation and environment sector and executive experience in public administration. He is a founding Executive Director of Three Plus, a communications consultancy that specialises in reputation, brand and relationships.

Robert is highly experienced in strategic communications planning, government liaison and community engagement on major private and public sector infrastructure projects. He has almost 40 years' experience in journalism, government and corporate communications.

After training in journalism in London, Robert reported on politics and wrote Column 8 for the Sydney Morning Herald; was Press Secretary to the New South Wales Minister for Consumer Affairs in the Wran Government, the Hon Syd Einfeld; and was Executive Assistant to the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Sallyanne Atkinson, managing significant projects and policies.

Robert is a Graduate of the Australia Institute of Company Directors.



Top: Eastern beach, Avoid Island Nature Refuge

GENERAL MANAGER

Ben O'Hara

Ben O'Hara joined QTFN in March 2012 to advance the QTFN's commercial acumen and help deliver a resilient, sustainable business model.

Ben has more than 20 years experience in the finance and property industry. He has worked in management, client management and origination roles with local and international institutions that saw him develop skills in:

- project analysis and assessment
- investment analysis and execution
- relationship management
- strategic planning, instigation and ongoing review
- employee engagement and development
- business development

FUNDS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Ben Lyons

Ben Lyons is a Team Manager and Principal, Planning at Cardno in Brisbane and is passionate about delivering creative and workable planning solutions for his clients. Ben has enjoyed working on wide-ranging projects in the public and private sectors locally and abroad.

Ben joined QTFN as a Funds Management Committee member in February 2012 and was motivated to join to utilise his skills and experience to assist the QTFN to find innovative solutions to facilitate nature conservation whilst also allowing, in appropriate circumstances, other compatible and complementary uses such as tourism and low density residential development.

Ben has a Bachelor Degree (Distinction) and Graduate Diploma (Distinction) in Urban and Regional Planning from the Queensland University of Technology and has been the recipient of a number of State and National Awards for Planning Excellence.

David Foote

David Foote joined QTFN as a Funds Management Committee member in February 2012 to further promote the opportunities for conservation management to be taken into a commercial perspective to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes at no additional cost burden to the state.

David is the Chief Executive Officer of Australian Country Choice - Queensland's largest private integrated agribusiness company, employing over 1000 staff in rural and processing infrastructure. The company has been a dedicated supplier to Coles Group Ltd since 1994.

David has also co-authored the scientific publication "Conservation Outside Nature Reserves" Lavery HJ, Kirkpatrick TH, Foote DM, Gatenby AWM & Ritchie MW, University of Qld Press 1997.

Jim Binney

Jim Binney joined the QTFN as a Funds Management Committee member in February 2012 to see the emerging opportunities for market and commercial approaches to conservation management be better realised in Queensland.

Jim is the founder and principal of Mainstream Economics, an environmental economic consultancy firm. He is a resource and environmental economic practitioner and has undertaken more than 60 consulting assignments for domestic and international clients in recent years. Much of his work has focused on delivering economic and market approaches to achieve environmental objectives at the lowest economic cost to the community.

Jim McKnoulty

Jim McKnoulty joined the QTFN as a Funds Management Committee member in February 2012.

Jim specialises in creative partnerships between the development industry and local authorities to produce more sustainable developments which are economically viable and socially cohesive.

Jim is on the board of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority and a member of the Premier's Climate Change Council. He is also Chairman of City Smart Pty Ltd, a company set up by Brisbane City Council to facilitate partnerships in promoting a sustainable future for the city, the Immediate Past National President of Greening Australia and was founding President of The Australian Green Development Forum.

In 2007, Jim's contribution and commitment to sustainability was recognised through the Premier's Award for Leadership in Business Sustainability and Ernst and Young's Queensland Entrepreneur of the Year in the Business Services Category.



Professor John Cole

Professor John Cole joined the QTFN as a Funds Management Committee member in February 2012. As a long standing proponent of market innovation for environmental protection and conservation and a former Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency, John advocated the establishment of initiatives like QTFN involving public-private partnership.

John is a leading strategic thinker and adviser in sustainable development. An early proponent of triple bottom line thinking and sustainability strategy for competitive advantage, since 1983 he has been involved in industry, environment and community and development – variously as a company manager, industry lobbyist, government official and occasional university teacher. In 2012 he was presented with the Queensland Premier's Award for Leadership in Sustainability.

John was the founding Director of the Australian Centre for Sustainable Business and Development at the University of Southern Queensland.

David Stent

David Stent joined the QTFN Funds Management Committee in 2010 to apply his local personal experience in the conversion and management of high conservation value freehold land to Nature Refuge status in balance with sustainable economic activity.

After an early career as a Patrol Officer in pre-independent Papua New Guinea, David established farmer education and advisory programs with the NSW Department of Agriculture and the innovative On-farm Training Scheme in South Australia. After moving back to Brisbane, from 1988 to 2000 as a senior staff member of the Queensland University of Technology, he was responsible for the early development of International Education and Marketing operations.

Over the past 12 years, along with his brother-in-law and sister, Graham and Jude Turner of the Spicers Group, he established the Old Hidden Vale, Thornton View and Spicers Peak Nature Refuges in south east Queensland. During this time he was instrumental in complementing nature conservation goals with low impact livestock production and tourism activity systems on this land.

David has a Masters Degree in Agricultural Studies, a Bachelor of Arts and a Diploma in Agriculture from the University of Queensland.

Matthew Reddy

Matthew Reddy joined the QTFN Funds Management Committee in June 2013. As an environmental markets professional, Matthew has a keen interest in using innovative approaches to achieving conservation outcomes and to make conservation and biodiversity stewardship a mainstream choice for Australians seeking to invest in property.

Matthew has a career history spanning natural resources management, renewable energy and carbon. As former CEO of the International River Foundation, he oversaw the organisation's portfolio of projects, partnerships and investments in over 30 countries.

Matthew is a graduate of Southern Cross University in New South Wales and Ballarat University in Victoria.

Donn Berghofer

Donn Berghofer has been a member of the QTFN Funds Management Committee since February 2012. He joined the Trust to contribute in a meaningful way towards conserving privately owned natural habitat lands of significance in Queensland. He believes this work is essential to protect and enhance unique biodiversity and ecosystems for future generations.

Donn is Principal of IC berg Impact Consultants, a management consultancy providing independent and professional advice to organisations on Corporate Social Responsibility.

He holds Master Degrees in Business Administration (MBA), Science (MSc - Business) and Professional Accounting (MPA) from the Universities of Melbourne, London and Southern Queensland and degrees in Agricultural Economics (BScAgr), Business (DipBusStud) and Letters (BLitt) from the Universities of Sydney, New England and Deakin. He is also a Fellow of the Institute of Public Accountants (FIPA) and has completed executive management courses at the Heyman Centre for Philanthropy and Fundraising and the Stern Business School at New York University.

Donn has extensive experience in strategy, business research and evaluation, having worked on major economic policy, market development, infrastructure planning and investment projects in Australia. He recently consulted to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation in Bhutan and Kyrgyzstan.



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