



Creating Queensland's largest nature bank.



ANNUAL REVIEW



The highlights of 2014

AVOID ISLAND

Avoid Island, about 100km south of Mackay, is a continental island in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and a QTFN Nature Refuge.

The island is the only privately protected island nesting habitat for the vulnerable flatback turtle, and 25% - 30% of female flatback turtles on the east coast of Australia will nest on Avoid Island's beaches each year.

QTFN continued to invest heavily in Avoid Island throughout 2014, undertaking several community "clean ups" of nesting beaches, annual scientific surveys and teaching excursions and making improvements and additions to on-island infrastructure to support these activities.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

QTFN values its leadership role in commercial conservation and facilitates regular events that bring together decision makers, experts and business leaders on topics of environmental and business importance.

The Trust hosted the following guest speakers at its Boardroom lunch networking events in 2014:

- Mr Harvey Locke, global leader in large landscape conservation and co-founder of the Yellowstone to Yukon Initiative
- The Honourable Steven Dickson MP, Queensland Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing, and
- Mr Jon Black, Director-General of the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection.

Mr Locke also presented on the cornerstones of the conservation movement and their application to local protected areas management at a joint QTFN - National Parks Association of Queensland public forum in November.

SOUTHERN CASSOWARY CORRIDOR

QTFN facilitated the protection of a critical rainforest corridor south of Cairns for the safe movement of the endangered southern cassowary.

The 45.2 hectare corridor at Mission Beach is made up of two Nature Refuges over three land parcels and was achieved through the collaboration of local groups including the Djiru Warrangburra Aboriginal Corporation, Community for Coastal and Cassowary Conservation (C4) and Cassowary Coast Regional Council.

The centrepiece of the corridor is Lot 66 - 24.46 hectares of virgin rainforest bought by the Trust and C4 to complete the link between Djiru National Park and the Mission Beach coastline.

As few as 2,000 cassowaries are estimated to remain in the wild in the World Heritage Wet Tropics and Cape York, with habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation three of the primary threats to this iconic species' survival.

PEAK CROSSING

QTFN secured 379 hectares of high value koala habitat at Peak Crossing south of Ipswich in June. The property is held in four lots and boasts about 60 hectares of untouched remnant vegetation and 310 hectares of Category 'X' regrowth, most of which is made up of 10 to 12-year-old spotted gums (*Corymbia citriodora*) that support an established koala population.

South east Queensland has lost more than 44,000 hectares of woody vegetation since 2001, and this important landholding is both part of the Flinders Karawatha Corridor - the largest remaining continuous stretch of open eucalypt bushland south of the Brisbane River - and an extension to the Ipswich Reserve and Flinders Goolman Conservation Estate.

QTFN ownership protects the site from the risk of clearing, which a landowner can undertake on Category 'X' classified vegetation without referral to any agency. This regrowth also holds biodiversity offsets revenue for the Trust to finance further strategic land purchases.



CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

QTFN entered into a new commercial partnership in November with the Investa Property Group, a leading Australian office owner, manager and residential and industrial land developer.

Sustainability is central to Investa's commercial values and the arrangement will see the company underwrite the conservation and improvement of 160 hectares of remnant eucalypt vegetation on QTFN's Peak Crossing property south of Ipswich.

The Trust also renewed in 2014 its partnerships with Three Plus, a communications specialist in reputation, brand and relationships, and the Northern Oil Refinery, a state of the art re-refining plant at Yarwun, near Gladstone in central Queensland.

Three Plus has been providing strategic communications services to QTFN since 2011 and will continue a generous sponsorship deal in 2015 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. With the plant located near Gladstone Harbour - one of the habitats for the flatback turtle - Northern Oil Refinery operators Southern Oil Refining and J.J Richards & Sons were proud to continue their support of QTFN's Avoid Island and flatback turtle initiatives.



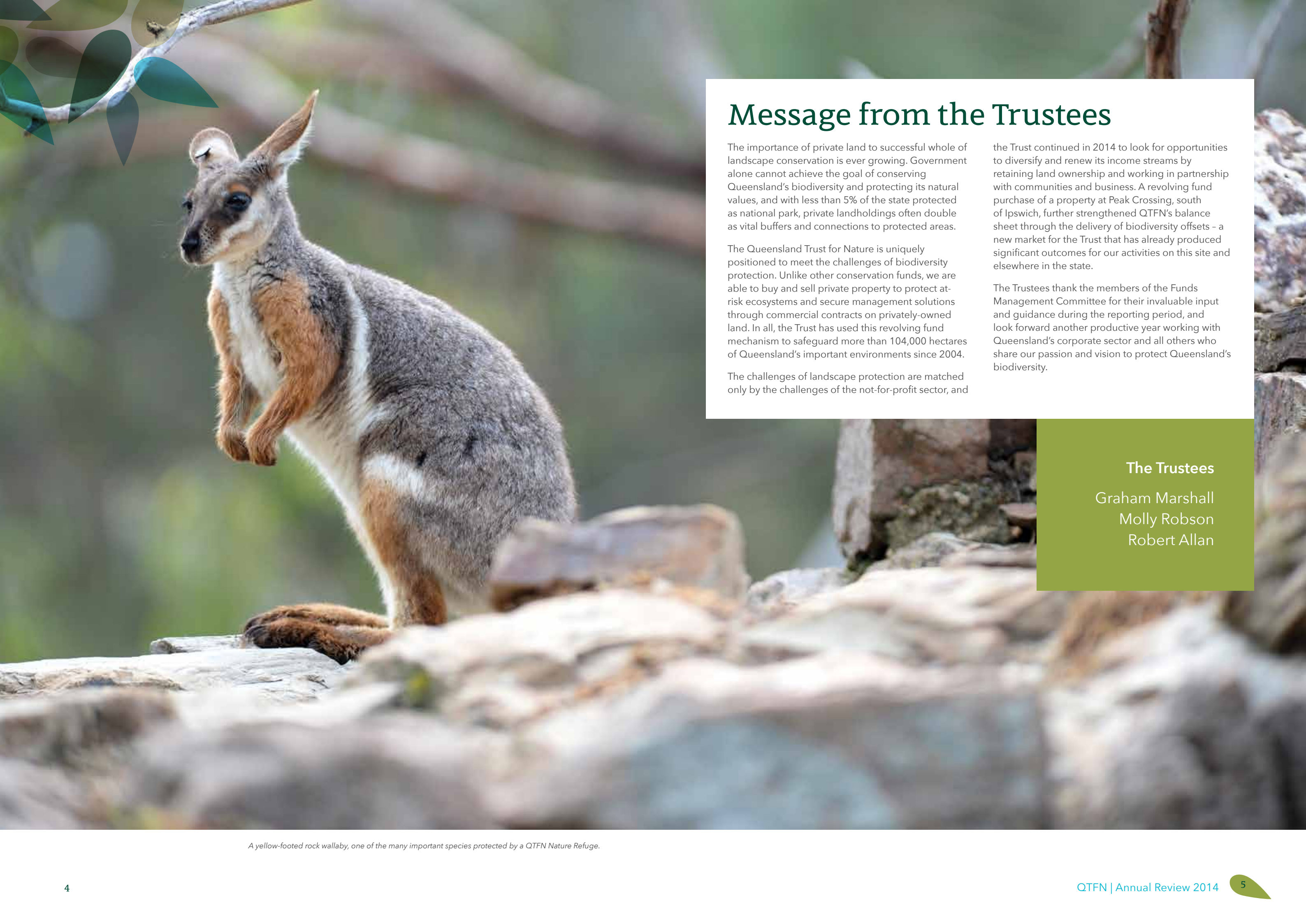
CAPTURE QUEENSLAND PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

The promotion of private conservation and the protection of the natural environment lie at the core of QTFN, and a new partnership with landscape photography guru Peter Lik in 2014 had Queenslanders reaching for their cameras to bring focus to the state's unique biodiversity.

Entitled "Capture Queensland", the photography competition called on locals and visitors alike to submit an image they had taken of their favourite bit of Queensland's natural wonder for all to enjoy.

The take up and quality of submissions was excellent, and shots of sweeping landscapes, fields of flora and playful fauna flooded the QTFN office. The winning entry - 'Sunrise at Beachmere' by Iveta Takacova - is the cover image of this report while the other finalists are displayed on page 16.

Special thanks to Mr Lik for his time, support and expertise in his role as competition judge.



Message from the Trustees

The importance of private land to successful whole of landscape conservation is ever growing. Government alone cannot achieve the goal of conserving Queensland’s biodiversity and protecting its natural values, and with less than 5% of the state protected as national park, private landholdings often double as vital buffers and connections to protected areas.

The Queensland Trust for Nature is uniquely positioned to meet the challenges of biodiversity protection. Unlike other conservation funds, we are able to buy and sell private property to protect at-risk ecosystems and secure management solutions through commercial contracts on privately-owned land. In all, the Trust has used this revolving fund mechanism to safeguard more than 104,000 hectares of Queensland’s important environments since 2004.

The challenges of landscape protection are matched only by the challenges of the not-for-profit sector, and

the Trust continued in 2014 to look for opportunities to diversify and renew its income streams by retaining land ownership and working in partnership with communities and business. A revolving fund purchase of a property at Peak Crossing, south of Ipswich, further strengthened QTFN’s balance sheet through the delivery of biodiversity offsets – a new market for the Trust that has already produced significant outcomes for our activities on this site and elsewhere in the state.

The Trustees thank the members of the Funds Management Committee for their invaluable input and guidance during the reporting period, and look forward another productive year working with Queensland’s corporate sector and all others who share our passion and vision to protect Queensland’s biodiversity.

The Trustees

Graham Marshall
Molly Robson
Robert Allan

A yellow-footed rock wallaby, one of the many important species protected by a QTFN Nature Refuge.



Everfield Station Nature Refuge in south central Queensland.

Message from the General Manager

Wow, what a year. 2014 has been QTFN's busiest, biggest and best year yet as the lateral solutions the Trust applies to its conservation work delivered some enormous dividends.

Our two on ground achievements at Lot 66 and Peak Crossing were something special. Lot 66 delivered an enduring outcome for one of Australia's most iconic animals - the endangered southern cassowary - as well as the eco-tourism community of Mission Beach.

Securing this landholding in partnership with local conservation group C4 enabled the creation of a safe 45 hectare rainforest pathway for cassowaries moving between the local national park and the coastline, and illustrated how creative solutions can be achieved when passionate groups work together. I would like to thank the C4 team for their ongoing support at Lot 66.

What Lot 66 further demonstrated was that smaller properties can be the focal point of a broader outcomes dependence. At 24.46 hectares, Lot 66 is not large. But it is the connecting piece of one of the four remaining coastal corridors used by the southern cassowary in Queensland. And lost forever if Lot 66 slipped through our fingers.

Peak Crossing meanwhile represents a different, but no less significant outcome. QTFN's acquisition prevented the potential clearing of more than 300 hectares of spotted gum regrowth, which is invaluable habitat for south east Queensland's koalas.

This property is positioned near the Flinders Goolman Conservation Estate and within the Flinders Karawatha corridor and already supports an established population of koalas. I am delighted to confirm here that the property will also be used as a release site for injured koalas found in the area.

Beyond helping to reverse the trend of woody vegetation loss in south east Queensland, the property has enabled QTFN to commercialise the regrowth through biodiversity offsets. This is a significant injection of capital that will be reinvested back into the property and into the Trust's conservation work more broadly.

While some people may argue that offsets facilitate environmental destruction elsewhere, I can assure our supporters that QTFN will participate in biodiversity offsets only when a positive environmental outcome is achieved. In this instance, we have provided enduring habitat for koalas that is free from urban pressures like dogs, cars and pollution.

QTFN's partnership with the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection to certify Nature Refuges continued to flourish in 2014 with 10 applications undertaken during the reporting period. This work is significant for QTFN as it not only fortifies the Trust's position as a leader in conservation on private land in Queensland, but is one of the first public-private partnerships the Department has entered into. Of equal significance is that each application is by a private landholder who is passionate about preserving our state's natural wonder in perpetuity. Environmental protection is no longer the sole responsibility of government - it's up to all of us.

Other milestones for the year include the Trust's ongoing scientific, education and conservation work on Avoid Island, much of which was underwritten by the Queensland Government's Everyone's Environment Grants program. The significant investments in island infrastructure and science you will read about in this report add to Avoid Island's status as one of the most important nesting sites in Queensland for the vulnerable flatback turtle.

In closing, I'd like to extend a big thank you to our corporate partners the Northern Oil Refinery, Investa and Three Plus for their continued time, investment and support. A new year is a new opportunity, and we look forward to working with all in our QTFN family as we build on what has come before and move ever closer to our goal of creating Queensland's largest nature bank.

Ben O'Hara
General Manager



10 years of biodiversity protection:

A timeline of QTFN's major milestones

3 March 2004
Deed of Trust executed by the Queensland Government

June 2005
first property acquired in the Revolving Fund (Pembers Scrub)

July 2006
Avoid Island acquired

April 2007
first property sold (Pembers Scrub)

July 2007
100,000 hectares protected with acquisition of Gilmore Station

March 2012
QTFN externalised from the Queensland Government

July 2013
first Nature Refuge certification application processed for DEHP

April 2014
Lot 66 acquired

June 2014
Peak Crossing acquired (important koala habitat)

About QTFN

QTFN is an independent, not-for-profit organisation focused on the protection of Queensland's biodiversity and natural landscapes.

The Trust's primary conservation vehicle is its revolving fund, unique in Queensland, which is used to buy, covenant and re-sell land with either high conservation values or land in an ecologically strategic area that is in need of remediation.

Since its establishment in 2004, QTFN has acquired 17 Queensland properties of varying size (from 22ha up to 74,300ha) - for a total of close to 104,000 hectares - and sold 12 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.

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.

QTFN also participates in the delivery of land based environmental offsets and can act as land owner and engage with proponents who seek to divest themselves of the offset obligation.

MISSION, VISION AND OBJECTS

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.

Objects 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
- resource management issues and biodiversity
- promotion of ecologically sustainable development principles
- promotion of private conservation

QTFN's Peak Crossing property provides vital habitat for south east Queensland koalas.

A flatback turtle hatchling makes its way to the ocean for the first time.



How we do it

REVOLVING FUND

QTFN uses a revolving fund model 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, about 104,000 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.

The Trust also partners with small, local conservation groups to help them secure or top-up fundraising to purchase and protect areas of biodiversity importance.

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 Queensland 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 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.



Left: (L-R) QTFN General Manager Ben O'Hara and Nate Shaw seal the deal with a handshake at the Goongalba Nature Refuge.
Above: One of the beautiful vistas found on Goongalba.

NATURE REFUGE CASE STUDY – GOONGALBA, SUNSHINE COAST

First home buyer Nate Shaw used his starting steps in the housing market to secure a significant biodiversity corridor on the Sunshine Coast (South East Queensland).

Local to the area, Mr Shaw looked past the offers of large residential estates and first home owner grants in favour of hectares of eucalypt forest in the suburb of North Arm.

The block had been in the hands of QTFN since 2012.

The property is nestled between the southern and northern sections of the Eumundi Conservation Park and is home to a variety of native animal and plant species including the vulnerable koala, wallum froglet and wallum rocketfrog.

Set on 16.78 hectares, 12 of which are under a perpetual conservation agreement, the property features an ‘off the grid’ two-bedroom solar-powered home, spring-fed dam and water tanks, making it perfect for an eco-friendly lifestyle just 90 minutes from Brisbane.

“I’ve heard the koalas grunting and you get a delightful orchestra of croaking from the frogs on the first drop of rain,” Mr Shaw said.

“We’ve also spotted goannas and some big kangaroos lazing about in the sun.

“It’s peaceful, private and tranquil and I’m fulfilling my dream to preserve and protect Queensland’s natural areas with the help of QTFN.”

BIODIVERSITY OFFSETS

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.



Avoid Island

The Objects of the Trust 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.

A signature project, Avoid Island, was acquired by QTFN in 2006 to preserve nesting beaches for the vulnerable flatback turtle (*Natator depressus*).

Located in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park about 100km south east of Mackay, Avoid 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 endemic sea turtle species (it only nests in Australia).

With ongoing coastal development between Mackay and Gladstone, the importance of this island sanctuary grows each year, and QTFN undertakes a range of research and education activities to maintain a protected, safe and clean environment at Avoid Island to enable the flatback turtles to lay their eggs for generations.

Below and over page are case studies of the Trust's work on Avoid Island in 2014.

QTFN FLYING SQUADS

QTFN assembled two volunteer 'flying squads' to conduct beach clean ups on Avoid Island in June and September ahead of the flatback turtle nesting season.

Drawn from central and south east Queensland, the volunteers collected, catalogued and removed a combined 150kg of hazardous rubbish - items such as plastics, discarded fishing line and nets, even half a car bumper - from the island's foreshore.

The clean up data was also provided to the Tangaroa Blue Foundation's Australian Marine Debris Initiative, which is seeking solutions to stop the flow of rubbish into our oceans.



TURTLE SURVEYS

QTFN sponsors annual 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, hatchling rates and provide ongoing management and assessment data.

During 2014's nesting survey, researchers observed 69 individual female flatback turtles come ashore over a two week period to lay their eggs on Avoid Island. Almost half of these nesting females already had a monitoring tag - up from 33 per cent of females in 2013 - with the remainder fitted with the titanium tags to track the animals' size and date and location when recorded.

The 72 nests the female turtles dug this season were GPS mapped for comparison to seasons past and to determine nest success after the hatchlings emerge in February 2015.

The nesting survey also gave 18 University of New South Wales students field experience towards their Conservation Biology course, while a further 20 students from Mackay North and Sarina high schools were trained over three days in marine turtle biology and conservation.

The Trust plans to establish a permanent research station on Avoid Island, and with the support of the Northern Oil Refinery, The Spicers Group and Masters Home Improvement Mackay, erected four eco tents in 2014 to house the researchers, university and secondary students and volunteers that visit the island.

PHILANTHROPY

QTFN runs an annual flatback turtle "adoption" campaign to raise awareness of the threats to the species and timed to coincide with flatback nesting along Australia's east coast.

The campaign included traditional and social media, and enabled every day people and corporate partners from across the globe to symbolically "adopt" a flatback turtle hatchling of their own and contribute to the upkeep of Avoid Island's nesting beaches.

Of the hundreds of adoptions made in 2014, the story of West Moreton Anglican College student Isabel Pedley is one that perfectly captures the public sentiment behind the campaign.

The eight-year-old learned about Avoid Island in a class discussion on endangered species and became determined to save a flatback turtle. So she did what any young woman would do - marshalled her fellow Rosewood Girl Guides and held a raffle!

Armed with three turtle-themed raffle items provided by her parents, Isabel raised enough money to symbolically adopt seven Avoid Island flatback turtle hatchlings for her classroom.

Isabel's teacher Helen Turner praised the adopt-a-hatchling program as an excellent vehicle to educate youngsters about conservation and sustainability on the Great Barrier Reef.



QTFN General Manager Ben O'Hara presents Isabel Pedley with a QTFN supporter's pack.



A new model in conservation

QTFN is able to partner with small, local conservation groups and use the revolving fund to help them secure or top-up fundraising to purchase and protect areas of biodiversity importance.

Under this arrangement, the Trust will contribute up to 50% - 80% of a property's market value, depending on the individual circumstances and level of community fundraising.

Lot 66 at Mission Beach is a leading example of this model in action, with QTFN financing the difference between the \$270,000 local group Community for Coastal and Cassowary Conservation (C4) had raised and the negotiated purchase price for the block.

The property is 24.46 hectares of pristine rainforest and part of a recognised pathway for southern cassowaries moving between Djiru National Park and the coastline.

Habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation are primary threats to the cassowary's survival, and augment other risks such as vehicle collision as the birds cross busy roads in search of food and territory.

Importantly, QTFN and C4's purchase of Lot 66 opened discussions with adjacent landowners to establish nature refuges over their properties and secure the eastern section of the corridor.

This outcome protects in perpetuity a total 45.2 hectares of the largest contiguous block of lowland rainforest south of the Daintree River.



Left: A southern cassowary.

Top: The lush rainforest QTFN has protected at Lot 66.

Right: (L-R) QTFN Trustee Graham Marshall, C4 President Maurice Franklin, Senator the Hon. Ian Macdonald and QTFN General Manager Ben O'Hara with the 'Lot 66 saved' signage.



Celebrations and events

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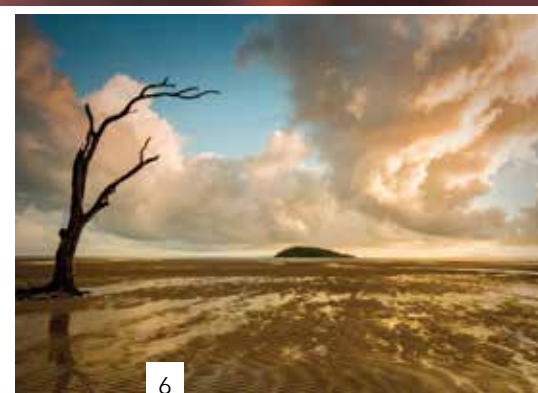
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- 1) Capture Queensland finalist "Crashing Waves" taken by Jonathon Moey at Sunshine Beach (Sunshine Coast).
- 2) Capture Queensland finalist "Daintree", taken by Megan Brown at Mount Alexandra Lookout in the Daintree National Park.
- 3) Capture Queensland finalist "Serenity" taken by Zdenko Takac at Springbrook National Park.
- 4) Capture Queensland finalist "Snuggle Up" taken by Judy Hendren at Lake Murphy, Broadmere.
- 5) Capture Queensland finalist "Mangrove Moves" taken by Iveta Takacova at Beachmere.
- 6) Capture Queensland highly commended finalist "Still Standing After All These Years" taken by Jeff Jones, at Shoal Point north of Mackay.
- 7) Capture Queensland People's Choice winner "Channel Country" taken by Helen Commens at Windorah (central west Queensland).
- 8) Researchers fit a flatback turtle with a titanium tag as part of QTFN's annual nesting survey.
- 9) The koala detection team after a successful scouting of the Trust's Peak Crossing property.
- 10) Our wonderful student researchers during the annual flatback turtle nesting survey.
- 11) Members of QTFN's second Flying Squad scour the Avoid Island shoreline for rubbish.
- 12) Guests at QTFN's 'cornerstones of conservation' public forum.
- 13) (L-R) QTFN General Manager Ben O'Hara, Dr Nancy Fitzsimmons and Wild Mob's Andrew Elphinstone model one of the four new eco tents on Avoid Island.
- 14) (L-R) Senator the Hon. Ian Macdonald, C4 President Maurice Franklin, QTFN Trustee Graham Marshall and QTFN General Manager Ben O'Hara discuss the next steps for Lot 66.



Mossman Gorge, Daintree National Park.

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 organisations; 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.





GENERAL MANAGER

Ben O'Hara

Ben O'Hara joined QTFN in March 2012 to advance the Trust'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

PROJECT OFFICER

Tanya Pritchard

Tanya Pritchard joined QTFN in March 2014 to coordinate QTFN's Nature Refuge Certification program and the assessment and management of land owned by the Trust.

Tanya has more than 25 years experience in the conservation and land management industry. She has worked at state, regional and local levels managing contemporary and complex projects that saw her develop skills in:

- ecological assessment
- natural resource planning and management
- threatened species and ecosystems
- developing and implementing conservation projects
- conservation covenants
- facilitation and negotiation
- conservation advocacy

The Sanctuary Nature Refuge at Ballandean, south of Stanthorpe.

FUNDS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Ben Lyons

Ben Lyons is a Principal of the Cardno Group and the Manager of the Brisbane office of Cardno HRP. 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 while 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.

Jim Binney

Jim Binney joined 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.

Adrian Volders

Adrian Volders joined the QTFN Funds Management Committee in November 2014 to lend his considerable water quality and biodiversity offsets and nutrient trading experience to the Trust.

Adrian's career history includes several senior and chief executive officer positions in the natural resource management and water industries from where he has led numerous large-scale environmental restoration and improvement projects.

Adrian is an adjunct professor at Griffith University and holds a PhD from the University of Tasmania and a Masters from Deakin University.

Professor John Cole

Professor John Cole joined 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.

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.

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 McKnoulty

Jim McKnoulty joined 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.

Matthew Reddy

Matthew Reddy joined QTFN Funds Management Committee in June 2013 and resigned the position in October 2014. 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.

David Stent

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

David had a career in agricultural education and was responsible for the early development of International Education and Marketing operations at the Queensland University of Technology.

In recent years he established Old Hidden Vale, Thornton View and Spicers Peak Nature Refuges for the Spicers Group. This land comprises 5400 ha of largely natural pastoral land in the south east Queensland region. During this time he was instrumental in complementing nature conservation goals with low impact livestock production and tourism activity systems on this land.

Now in semi-retirement, David continues to acquire land for the Spicers Group to develop long distance and remote walking trails and eco lodges in and near National Parks. He serves on the Spicers Retreats Board, is a member of Agforce Queensland and Eco-Tourism Australia and runs his own livestock property near Warwick.



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