



QUEENSLAND TRUST FOR NATURE

# ANNUAL REVIEW / 2015

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CREATING QUEENSLAND'S LARGEST NATURE BANK

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Cover image: A flatback turtle (*Natator depressus*). Credit: Charlotte Beloe.

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# 🔍 2015 AT A GLANCE

## CONSERVATION

The Trust grew its protected areas portfolio in 2015 with the acquisition of a 272 hectare property south west of Ipswich. The property adjoins the 379 hectare Koala Crossing reserve purchased through the revolving fund in 2014, and brings the Trust's total stake in the area to 651 hectares or 1.15 per cent of the Flinders-Karawatha Corridor.

At Mission Beach south of Cairns, the Trust received Council approval to create two residential blocks from part of its Lot 66 property. The outcome protects 99.6 per cent of the site's invaluable southern cassowary habitat under legislation and nature refuge agreements and improves the Trust's options to revolve the property.

On the Atherton Tablelands the 24.22 hectare Pellings Scrub Nature Refuge became the 12th property revolved by the Trust since 2005. Sold to a local couple from Cairns, the significant rainforest remnant and its multitude of conservation-significant flora and fauna will be well cared for as the couple transition to their tree-change retirement.

At the time of writing the Queensland Trust for Nature has used its revolving fund mechanism to safeguard more than 102,500 hectares of Queensland's important environments.

## COMMUNITY

Community engagement was a feature of the reporting period with new partnerships struck with the University of Queensland and the Ipswich Koala Protection Society to unlock the scientific value of QTFN-protected koala habitat south west of Ipswich. These endeavours were supported by a program of corporate and community field days that targeted hands-on and meaningful conservation through tree planting, weed removal and pest management.

The reach of the Trust's work with flatback turtles was augmented in 2015 through an arrangement with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Reef Guardian Schools program that will see Mackay and Sarina secondary students learn through the lens of Avoid Island.

The island maintained its status as a representative index beach for the long-term monitoring of the east Australian stock of the flatback turtle and real-world classroom for students from Griffith University and the University of New South Wales. These environmental credentials were recognised by the Banksia Foundation, which named the Avoid Island project a finalist in the Sustainable Communities category of their national awards.

An overview of activity on Koala Crossing and Avoid Island is presented on pages 14 and 15 respectively.

QTFN received approval at Mission Beach to create two residential blocks

**PROTECTING  
99.6%**

of the allotment's southern cassowary habitat

QTFN has safeguarded more than

**102,500  
HECTARES**

of Queensland's important environments

New partnerships with the

**UNIVERSITY OF  
QUEENSLAND**

and the

**IPSWICH KOALA  
PROTECTION  
SOCIETY**

## THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

The Trust values its role as a leader in commercial conservation and facilitated a number of events in 2015 that brought together decision makers, experts and business leaders on topics of environmental and business importance.

Of these, a first of its kind conference in August gave nature refuge owners a forum to meet and engage with their peers and private land conservation experts, and to discuss the challenges and opportunities of their unique commitment to protecting the environment. The outcomes of this highly successful event are detailed on page 19.

The popular Boardroom lunch series of networking and ideas exchanges continued in 2015 with Queensland Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection the Honourable Dr Steven Miles MP a guest speaker.

## CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

The Trust entered into a new commercial partnership this year with leading Australian law firm MinterEllison. Corporate social responsibility is central to MinterEllison's commercial values and the company provided significant pro bono legal work in the reporting period to review and restructure QTFN's legal structures.

Renewed in 2015 were partnerships with Three Plus, a communications specialist in reputation, brand and relationships; the Northern Oil Refinery, a joint venture between Southern Oil Refining and J.J. Richards & Sons, which restores waste lube oil to its original condition for reuse; and the Investa Property Group, one of Australia's largest office real estate companies and a residential and industrial land developer.

The Trust also recognises and thanks the Queensland Government for the more than \$27,000 received in 2015 through the Everyone's Environment Grant program. This funding was essential to much of the Koala Crossing reserve work undertaken this year, particularly the planting of koala food trees and improvements to fencing.

### Partners:



Pellings Scrub is habitat for the Lumholtz's tree-kangaroo (*Dendrolagus lumholtzi*).



# MESSAGE FROM THE TRUSTEES

Private land conservation is an evolving sector of protected areas management and an important piece of Australia's conservation jigsaw. Programs of conservation on private land can bolster the national estate by linking wildlife corridors in rural and urban fringe areas, revegetating endangered and vulnerable ecosystems and increasing buffers to National Parks.

The Queensland Trust for Nature remains uniquely positioned to make substantial contributions to this pillar of biodiversity protection. As evidenced in this report, our revolving fund mechanism provides a stable funding stream for the acquisition of privately owned properties of conservation significance, many of which are too small to be considered for government protection. In total, the Trust has accumulated a nature bank of more than 102,500 hectares in 10 years of operation – an extraordinary achievement.

This is not without its challenges, and Australia's changing business environment has placed heavy demands on program funding, service delivery and volunteer pools across the not for profit sector. It is for these reasons that the Trust must continue to work in partnership with government, business and communities to achieve strategic and operational outcomes that are both environmentally and commercially sustainable, provide rewarding conservation experiences for the community and deliver value for money. The expertise of our Funds Management Committee is invaluable to this end, and we thank the volunteer members for their time, input and guidance over the course of the year.

2016 – despite the headwinds – shapes as an exciting and productive year for the Trust and for those who are agile and proactive in the protection of Queensland's biodiversity. Conservation is the responsibility of all people and it will be through collective effort that we achieve our goal of creating Queensland's largest nature bank.

THE TRUSTEES:

Graham Marshall, Molly Robson and Robert Allan.



Laughing kookaburra (*Dacelo novaeguineae*) at Koala Crossing.



# MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

The past calendar year has been one of challenge, achievement, celebration and reflection.

2015 was our 10th year of operations and we marked the milestone at a function in June attended by friends and supporters. This was an important moment to reflect on the hard work of all who have flown the QTFN banner, and to take stock of how the Trust has grown from its very first acquisition – a 64 hectare property called Pembers Scrub in Far North Queensland – to the more than 102,500 hectares we have protected today. It is exciting to think what we can achieve over the next 10 years.

The inaugural QTFN Private Land Conservation Conference was a significant event for the Trust and for the local environmental sector. Previously, events of this nature were confined to small, localised groups meeting on a particular issue, or government-hosted forums. Queensland needs private landowners to step forward and make the next significant contribution if the state is to achieve its protected areas target of 17 percent. The Conference was a resounding success, enabling all stakeholders – landowners, regulators and researchers – to exchange opinions, ideas and concerns on how to grow Queensland's protected areas estate. We look forward to convening another in the future.

Perhaps the most important moment of the year came at the very end, with the donation of a 1,699 hectare property in early December. The generosity of Dr Robin and Kathleen Stock in gifting their property has established a new and multifaceted conservation foundation – the Dr Robin and Kathleen Stock Foundation – and a permanent reserve that QTFN will manage and on which we will undertake research and education into how grazing and conservation activities can co-exist and deliver positive environmental outcomes.

The property itself is of considerable conservation value. Located in the Little Liverpool Range, its expanses of open woodland eucalypt forests and strands of 'of concern' eucalyptus tereticornis are home to rare and threatened species that face increasing development pressure. This is our opportunity to work with other significant landowners in the area to build a lasting wildlife corridor and buffer to the urban growth areas of southeast Queensland, while improving existing habitat through appropriate recovery plans involving experts and members of the public.

Moving forward we want to continue to share our experiences with our supporters, and corporate and community involvement will be central to the realisation of our ambitions for the Stock Foundation and our other projects.



QTFN General Manager – Ben O'Hara.

The Queensland Trust for Nature is a team effort, from within and out, and our work would be for naught without the support of the people who turn up to our working bees and field days; the researchers who unlock the secrets of the plants and animals on our refuges; or the corporate and civic leaders who lend time, sponsorship or their expertise.

Special thanks to the Trustees, the members of the Funds Management Committee and my hard-working staff. 2015 was an incredible year for private land conservation in Queensland and the foundation (pun intended) is laid for an even better 2016.

GENERAL MANAGER  
Ben O'Hara

# ABOUT QTFN

The Queensland Trust for Nature 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 18 Queensland properties of varying size (from 22 hectares up to 74,300 hectares) and sold 13 to protect more than 102,500 hectares of important biodiversity.

The majority of purchases have been strategic sites of less than 85 hectares.

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 the Trust include the provision of education and the undertaking of research about the natural environment in Queensland and QTFN is active in offering 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.

## OUR 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





# PROPERTY LOCATIONS

This map shows the properties QTFN has “revolved” in the past 10 years and represents more than 102,500 hectares of Queensland’s important ecosystems protected.

JOIN US AS WE CONTINUE OUR JOURNEY TO CREATE: QUEENSLAND’S LARGEST NATURE BANK



QTFN provides vital habitat for koalas at Koala Crossing.



A yellow-footed rock-wallaby (*Petrogale Xanthopus celeris*).

**KEY**

- QTFN PERMANENT RESERVES
- PROPERTIES FOR SALE
- REVOLVED PROPERTIES

# 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 – and can deliver a return on capital in excess of 370% as compared to 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 (about 5 percent) of a comparable National Park acquisition.

Because of the ability to resell the land and “revolve” the funds, about 102,500 hectares have been preserved by QTFN since 2004 at a cost of just \$2.33 per hectare. Single acquisitions for National Parks in Queensland 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.



Eastern water dragon (*Physignathus lesueurii*)  
Credit: Great Eastern Ranges Initiative.

## NATURE REFUGES AND CERTIFICATION

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.

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.

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.

The Trust is authorised to conduct nature refuge assessments and recommendations on behalf of the Queensland Government on a fee for service basis. This new assessment capacity has proved to shorten landholder's time on the nature refuge assessment waiting list and has resulted in 17 new nature refuges being added to Queensland's protected estate since 2014.

### 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.

# CASE STUDY

## LEONIE ROBERTSON & THE HOLLOW LOG

### LEONIE ROBERTSON IS AT THE FOREFRONT OF PRIVATE CONSERVATION IN QUEENSLAND.

The Mt Byron business owner has spent more than 30 years planting, fencing and protecting koala habitat on her 63.58 hectare property north of Brisbane.

She has turned her hard work into a successful nature retreat and now, with the help of QTFN's nature refuge assessment program, has ensured its protection long after she is gone.

"It has been a long journey from a few large blue gums in 1983 to the ecosystem visitors enjoy today," Ms Robertson said.

"My reasons for wanting the nature refuge certification are simple – I want recognition for the work I've put in and to guarantee it is never lost from the environmental estate.

"QTFN made the whole assessment process smooth and easy and I can't thank them enough for helping me achieve peace of mind."



Leonie Robertson joined Queensland's Nature Refuge owner community in 2015.



The Hollow Log, circa 1983.



The Hollow Log, today.

## ENVIRONMENTAL MARKETS

Market mechanisms continue to emerge to help address carbon and other climate-related commodities and government requirements for project biodiversity offsets. QTFN provides an efficient, outsourced service to identify, secure and maintain critical habitat as biodiversity or carbon offset for the resources, infrastructure and property development sectors.

On behalf of clients, QTFN assists to identify and assess appropriate offset sites, secures the relevant tenure, establishes the necessary management programs and Conservation Agreements (nature refuge) and undertakes long-term site management. The Trust evaluates its offsets projects against strict criteria that ensure an overall better and enduring environmental outcome. This methodology has been used to secure appropriate offsets of more than 174 hectares for ASX-listed property and resources clients since 2014.

## SIGNATURE PROJECTS

# AVOID ISLAND

Avoid Island is an exemplar of how not-for-profit organisations, corporate partners and members of the public can come together to deliver lasting scientific and conservation outcomes and was recognised as one of Australia's most environmentally sustainable ecosystems at the 2015 Banksia Foundation Sustainability Awards.

The Trust bought the 83 hectare island in 2006 to preserve nesting beaches for the flatback turtle (*Natator depressus*) – a sea turtle species endemic to the continental shelf of Australia and named for the distinctive shape of its shell, which is almost flat with upturned edges.

The flatback turtle is listed as Vulnerable in Queensland (Nature Conservation Act 1992) and nationally (Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999). The species' recovery is ranked as a critical priority under the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection's Back on Track species prioritisation framework.

Avoid Island's eastern facing beaches provide nesting habitat for 25% – 30% of the female flatback turtles on the east coast of Australia, and the lack of mammalian predators such as pigs, dogs and foxes, and the absence of artificial light and human development make the location one of the most important nesting sites in Queensland. Today, Avoid Island is the only privately protected island nesting habitat for the flatback turtle in the world.

Since the Trust's purchase of the property, Avoid Island has been managed to provide a high level of protection to nesting turtles and other conservation-significant flora and fauna, and has facilitated and informed crucial research into the little-understood and threatened flatback.

The significance of Avoid Island to the survival of the flatback turtle will only grow as coastal development continues between Gladstone and Mackay, and the Trust intends to grow the scope of its work to include the ecosystem's other at-risk species – migratory shorebirds, for example.



A flatback turtle (*Natator depressus*) hatchling.

## SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

World-renowned sea turtle experts Dr Col Limpus and Dr Nancy FitzSimmons lead annual nesting and hatchling surveys on Avoid Island which has been established as a representative index beach for the long-term monitoring of the east Australian stock of the flatback turtle.

The researchers entered their fifth season of collecting census data in November 2015 and this work will continue until the flatback hatchlings emerge in February 2016.

### The collated findings of previous surveys conclude:

- Female flatback turtles lay more than 7,000 eggs on Avoid Island each year with hatchling success rate at 78.1%.
- Turtles at Avoid Island display high site fidelity, with nearly all remigrant turtles having been tagged previously at Avoid Island.
- Existing management at Avoid Island is providing important protected habitat for the Eastern Australian nesting population of flatback turtles in an area free of large terrestrial predators such as pigs, dogs, foxes and goannas.
- Continued monitoring is necessary to estimate the recruitment rate of first time breeding females into the adult nesting population.

The quality of the research program is such that Avoid Island doubles as a real-world classroom for the next generation of marine researchers from Griffith University and the University of New South Wales.

A partnership with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Reef Guardian Schools program in 2015 has also allowed Mackay primary and secondary students to learn about life on the Reef and important animals and their habitats through the lens of Avoid Island.



**BANKSIA**  
**SUSTAINABILITY**  
**AWARDS 2015**  
CATEGORY FINALIST



AVOID ISLAND

QTFN BOUGHT THE 83 HECTARE ISLAND IN 2006 TO PRESERVE NESTING BEACHES FOR **THE FLATBACK TURTLE** PROVIDING A HIGH LEVEL OF PROTECTION TO NESTING TURTLES.



Researchers watch a flatback turtle on her way back to the ocean after laying her eggs.



Flatback turtle hatchlings emerge from the sand.

Avoid Island from the air.

## SIGNATURE PROJECTS

# KOALA CROSSING

QTFN is the protector of more than one percent of the Flinders Karawatha Corridor – the largest remaining contiguous stretch of open eucalypt forest in South East Queensland.

The corridor extends from Karawatha Forest in Brisbane's southern suburbs to Flinders Peak, on to the south side of Ipswich and down to the Wyaralong Dam near Boonah.

Included in this significant landscape feature are the Trust's properties at Koala Crossing, a combined 651.72 hectares of distinctive habitats including rocky hills and eucalypt forest that support a number of rare and threatened flora and fauna species – including the koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*) and brush-tailed rock-wallaby (*Petrogale penicillata*).



Views across the property.



QTFN's Felicity Shapland (L) with University of Queensland researchers conducting a koala survey.



Students from Koala Crossing State School lend a hand to plant koala food

## HANDS-ON CONSERVATION & RESEARCH

The Koala Crossing properties are recent additions to the Trust's nature bank, but their impact has already been felt at a community, corporate and scientific level.

The properties have been included in a University of Queensland Koala Ecology Group study into koala physiology and behaviour and are a field site for biology students training in threats to koalas, their habitat preferences and distribution.

They have also been established as an accredited release site for koalas rescued and cared for by the Ipswich Koala Protection Society, with "Bro" and "Blondie" in March the first of the animals returned to the wild on the private sanctuary.

Beyond unlocking scientific value, Koala Crossing provided practical and meaningful conservation opportunities for more than 150 everyday Queenslanders through a series of field days focused on tree plantings, weed removal and pest management.

This program grew organically during the reporting period to include corporate volunteering and team building activity for companies including Origin Energy and New Hope Group.



'Blondie' being released in March 2015.



KOALA CROSSING

**KOALA CROSSING HAS A COMBINED 651.72 HECTARES OF DISTINCTIVE HABITATS INCLUDING ROCKY HILLS & EUCALYPT FOREST THAT SUPPORT RARE & THREATENED FLORA & FAUNA SPECIES INCLUDING THE KOALA & BRUSH-TAILED ROCK-WALLABY**



*'Maya' the koala detection dog was instrumental in mapping koalas at Koala Crossing.*



*QTFN's Tanya Pritchard (L) and Felicity Shapland farewell Blondie after her tracking collar was removed.*



*Koalas at Koala Crossing.*

## SIGNATURE PROJECTS

# STOCK FOUNDATION

The Dr Robin and Kathleen Stock Foundation is a multi-faceted conservation initiative run by QTFN on the Aroona grazing property at Mount Beau Brummell, south west of Ipswich.

The purpose of the Foundation is to:

- ensure the rejuvenation, protection and enhancement of Aroona's natural values and;
- test, with scientific rigour, the development of conservation grazing techniques and land management methods against industry best practice, when balanced against the need for essential habitat for native species. This will include investigating the agricultural earning capacity per hectare of land under a conservation grazing model.

The goal of these investigations is to develop and present positive commercial and environmental opportunities for Queensland's 145 million hectares of grazing land through the development of a model or models for "conservation grazing".

The Foundation's scope of work also extends to primary industries and ecology/biology education, biodiversity and carbon offsets strategies and eco-tourism opportunities.

The Foundation was created through the generosity of Dr Robin and Kathleen Stock, whose gift of the property to QTFN will be an enduring conservation legacy for Queensland.

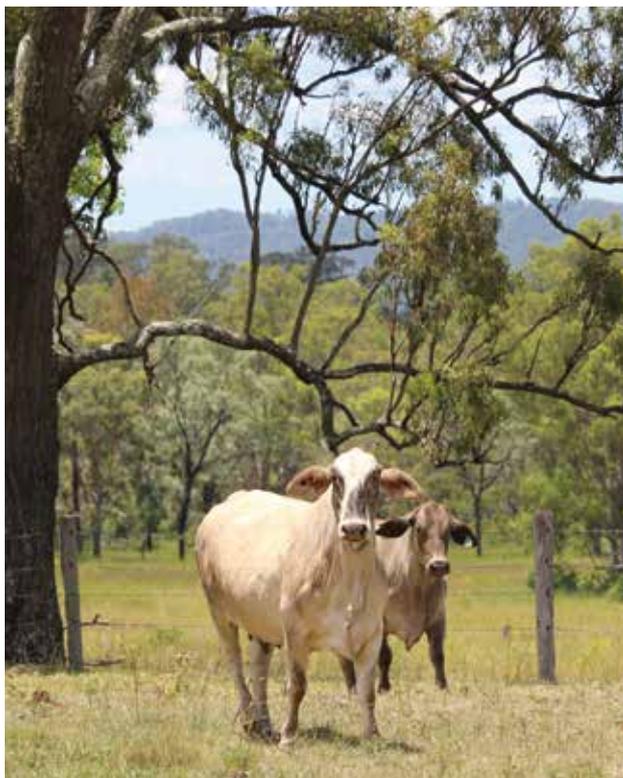
## THE PROPERTY AND ITS CONSERVATION VALUES

Aroona comprises 2,000 hectares to the north and south of Mount Beau Brummell in the Little Liverpool Range (about 55km south west from Ipswich).

Several of the property's northern paddocks adjoin Mount Beau Brummell Conservation Park and the landholding is essential habitat for threatened flora and fauna, including the koala, southern spotted-tailed quoll, brush-tailed rock-wallaby and the glossy black cockatoo.

The property is represented by nine different ecosystems, with approximately 45% mapped as remnant bushland. Six of these ecosystems are listed as having "of concern" biodiversity status and eight have a low representation in other protected areas across Queensland.

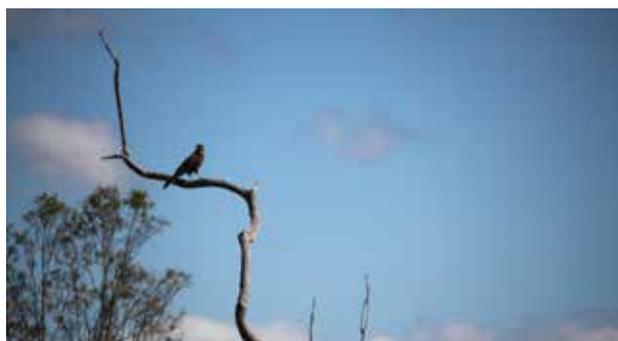
Aroona's large areas of intact and diverse native vegetation mean natural ecological processes can occur at the scale necessary to support viable populations of varied and conservation-significant wildlife.



Cattle on the property.



The cattle yards on the property.



A black falcon (*Falco subniger*) on Aroona.



STOCK FOUNDATION

**THE DR ROBIN AND KATHLEEN STOCK FOUNDATION WILL RESEARCH AND DEVELOP A CONSERVATION GRAZING MODEL – NEW LAND MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES THAT ACHIEVE IMPROVED AGRICULTURAL EARNINGS PER HECTARE, WITH COMPLEMENTARY ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS.**



Whiptail wallabies (*Macropus parryi*) in a northern paddock on the property.



Cattle on the property.



QTFN's Ben O'Hara and cattle contractor Chris discussing the property.



# CELEBRATIONS & EVENTS

## 10 YEARS OF NATURE CONSERVATION

June 2015 marked 10 years since the Trust acquired its first revolving fund property – Pembers Scrub on the Atherton Tablelands.

Trustees past and present, volunteers, advocates and politicians gathered in Brisbane to celebrate a conservation legacy.



*The Hon. Dr Steven Miles MP and guests.*



*(L-R) Barton Green and QTFN Trustee Molly Robson.*



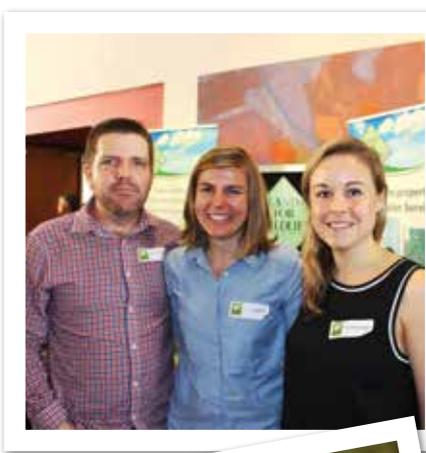
## PRIVATE LAND CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

The Trust seeks to advance conservation policy debate wherever possible and, in 2015, held a first of its kind conference to discuss and challenge the unique commitment of nature refuge owners in Queensland.

The two-day conference included field trips, workshops and panel sessions and drew more than 150 landowners and regulators to share in the knowledge of 14 keynote and panel speakers.

A discussion paper to chart a future for private land conservation in Queensland was a key event outcome, and this work will be refined over the course 2016 to create a detailed strategy for presentation to the Queensland and Australian governments.

Thank you to the speakers for their time and expertise, to the attendees for their contribution and enthusiasm and to the Hon. Dr Steven Miles MP for opening the conference.



(L-R) Brendan Mackey, the Hon. Dr Steven Miles MP, Ben O'Hara and Martin Taylor.



Attendees koala spotting at the field day.

# OUR PEOPLE

## TRUSTEES

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### 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 have included 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 2001 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 more than 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

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### 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 of 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

## ECOLOGIST

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### 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 of 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

## PROJECT OFFICE

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### Felicity Shapland

Felicity Shapland joined QTFN in February 2015 to assist with the ecological management of the Trust's land bank and to advance the community engagement program.

Felicity graduated from the University of Queensland in 2012 and has worked on research and community development projects in Queensland and Guatemala.

## FUNDS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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### 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 and is passionate about delivering creative and workable planning solutions.

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 Trust 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.

### 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, strategic philanthropy, strategy and impact assessment.

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.

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## 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.

## 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.

## Ian Callow

Ian Callow joined the QTFN Funds Management Committee in January 2015 to help market the environmental preservation and enhancement credentials of the Trust.

Ian has 25 years of experience across academia, consulting and industry and brings significant expertise in effective engagement with regulators and community in matters related to impact management, approvals and environmental plans.

Ian is a senior manager at the University of Queensland's Sustainable Minerals Institute, serves on the University of Southern Queensland's Civil, Environment and Agriculture Industry Advisory Committee and is Secretary of the Yeronga District Residents Association.





1800 23 77 24  
info@qtfn.org.au  
www.qtfn.org.au

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