



QTFN
Queensland Trust
for Nature



2022–2023 Annual Report



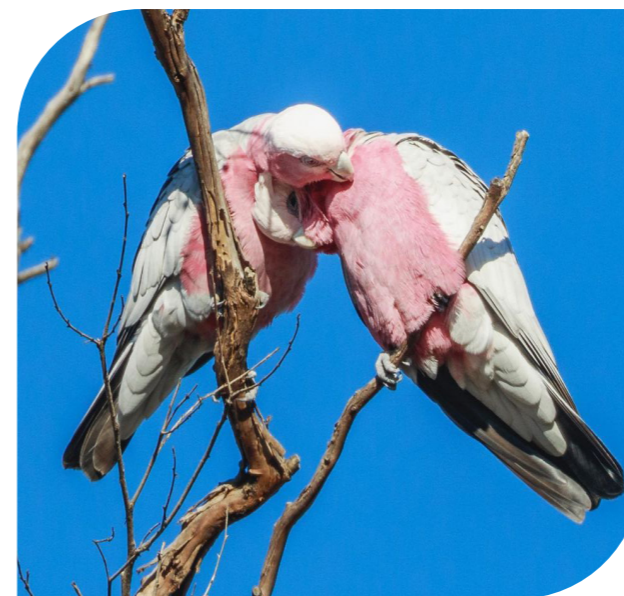


Queensland Trust for Nature (QTFN) is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that partners to protect, enhance, and restore property, increasing the privately-owned protected land across Queensland. We are proactively increasing our impact through sustainable land management, smart investment strategies, and meaningful partnerships.

QTFN acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their diverse and continuing connections to land, sea, and community. We acknowledge they were the first conservationists and scientists, and they have cared for this land for future generations. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Remnant rainforest canopy of Lot 83

©Fiona Ayers / QTFN



Contents

- About QTFN 4
- Message from our Chair 5
- Message from our CEO 6
- Where we work 7
- Revolving Fund 8
 - Koala Crossing 9
 - Gurrbum Reserve 9
 - Cassowary Connection 9
- Long Term Holdings 10
 - Daintree Lot 83 10
 - Aroona Station 11
 - Avoid Island 12
- Partnerships
 - Koala Habitat Restoration Partnership Program 14
 - Citizens For Refuge Ecology 16
 - Bringing biodiversity to the table 18
 - Lachlan Hughes Foundation 19
- Our Board 20
- Financial Overview 22

Koala © Fiona Ayers / QTFN

Galah © Fiona Ayers / QTFN

Flatback turtle. ©Georgie Braun / QTFN

Front cover: © Fiona Ayers / QTFN

Back Cover: ©Jasmine Louise



Queensland Trust for Nature

Biodiversity is our Business

We continued to protect and enhance the natural environment in Queensland throughout the 2022–2023 financial year. At Queensland Trust for Nature, we acquire, protect, and sell land, manage properties, and collaborate on projects that prove biodiversity makes good business sense.

Through environmental markets, education programs, and research opportunities, we also demonstrate the value of nature and how people can contribute.

We believe that conservation and productive landscapes are not mutually exclusive. Our Long-term holdings and Revolving Fund properties demonstrate that spaces can be safeguarded and also serve other valuable purposes. We collaborate to deliver environmental, economic, social, and cultural outcomes.

Our vision is to empower more people and businesses to value and invest in biodiversity, resulting in improved outcomes for Queensland’s natural environment.



Timeline

2004

Queensland Trust for Nature was established by a Trust Deed by the Queensland Government, and the Revolving Fund was established.

2006

Avoid Island acquired.

2007

First Revolving Fund Property sold.

2012

QTFN is established as a separate entity from government. QTFN is registered as a charity.

2013

First Nature Refuge certification processed.

2015

Aroona Station gifted to QTFN by Dr Robin and Kathleen Stock.

2018-2019

QTFN moves to a Corporate Trustee Model, and Landscapes Queensland Limited is appointed as Trustee.

2019

The Koala Habitat Restoration Partnership Program (KHRPP) is established, and supported by the Queensland Government with \$1.78 million.

2020

Lot 83 in the Daintree acquired. The Citizens for Refuge Ecology project established.

2021

Accounting for Nature Koala Method approved. Queensland Government increases investment in KHRPP to \$4.48 million. QTFN starts supporting the Lachlan Hughes Foundation.

2022

KHRPP round two projects begin. The Great Barrier Reef Foundation’s Reef Islands Initiative supports trips to Avoid Island.

Message from our Chair



Bruce Cowley |

As we reflect on the 2022-2023 financial year, it is with great pride and gratitude that I share Queensland Trust for Nature’s progress and achievements. This year has been a pivotal period of introspection. One of our primary objectives has been to undertake a rigorous assessment of the outcomes of our various projects and ensure the long term financial sustainability of QTFN, which is paramount to continuing to fulfil our Trust Deed objectives. We have gained valuable insights into our initiatives and are developing strategies to ensure that our efforts yield a positive impact for nature in Queensland.

The challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss are formidable, but, as we look ahead, we are filled with optimism and determination. Our organisation’s efforts to collaborate with Queensland landowners and communities, Indigenous groups, government agencies, and other stakeholders, is focused on proactive conservation measures, ecosystem restoration, and sustainable land management practices.

The adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by 196 nations marks a critical milestone in global efforts to protect and restore the natural world. It sets forth ambitious targets and pathways for achieving a nature-positive future by 2030, an imperative that resonates deeply with our mission at QTFN. We are examining how these global goals can be actioned within Queensland.

Looking forward, we recognise the importance of scaling up our efforts and mobilising resources to meet these ambitious global targets. By fostering a deeper appreciation for nature and engaging diverse voices in conservation, we can build a resilient future where nature thrives and supports human well-being.

Our business our future

At QTFN, we power environmental progress by doing things differently and lead new approaches to build the value of natural capital.

Our vision

To empower more people and businesses to value and invest in biodiversity resulting in improved outcomes for Queensland’s natural environment.

Our purpose

We combine natural and financial capital to enhance Queensland’s biodiversity and create genuine wins for the environment and investors.

Five year goal

To implement a business model that proves environmental preservation and conservation is profitable, sustainable and vital to our shared future.

Our one-phase business strategy

Redefine how natural capital is preserved, managed and valued through evidence-based projects, innovative investment programs, powerful partnerships and measurable results.

Lot 83. ©Liz O'Brien / QTFN

Message from our CEO

Dr Liz O'Brien |



As the world faces the dual crisis of climate change and biodiversity loss, we recognise these challenges are not just environmental, they are societal imperatives that demand urgent and concerted action. The ecosystems that sustain us are under unprecedented threat, and the consequences of inaction are profound.

The United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP15) marked a pivotal moment, culminating in the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework—a landmark agreement that sets ambitious targets to halt biodiversity loss by 2030 and promote a nature-positive future. At QTFN, we embraced this framework as both a roadmap and a call to action. It reaffirms our commitment to safeguarding Queensland's rich biodiversity and enhancing the resilience of our ecosystems.

Our work aligns closely with the framework's objectives, focusing on sustainable land management practices, species protection, and fostering community engagement in conservation efforts. Key achievements for 2022-2023 included the successful rehabilitation of degraded landscapes. Through our Koala Habitat Restoration Partnership Program there has been a cumulative planting of more than 230,000 trees since 2021, which are being maintained across more than 150 hectares of privately owned land in South East Queensland. This program, funded by the Queensland Government, also supported over 250 hectares of assisted natural regeneration in 2022-2023 to support Koala habitat recovery. Across our long-term holdings and Revolving Fund properties, over 329 hectares were actively managed for weeds to improve habitat quality and connectivity.

Our commitment to community engagement and education has remained steadfast. We believe that fostering a deeper connection between people and nature is fundamental. By continuing to educate and involve the community, we inspire collective responsibility and action towards protecting and enhancing nature. This financial year, five citizen science weekend camps were delivered with 189 citizen scientists and 22 experts across three nature refuges. The camps recorded 767 species of plants, mammals, invertebrates, and birds, including several undescribed invertebrate species and 31 threatened species.

Looking ahead, we recognise the enormity of the task before us. The challenges posed by climate change and biodiversity loss are complex and multifaceted. To support the required increase in the scale of our impact, significant effort was invested by the QTFN Board and staff to ensure our organisation has the appropriate governance structure, policies, systems, and processes in place. There has been an investment of time in strengthening existing partnerships and building new ones to position QTFN as a trusted organisation to deliver nature protection and repair services.

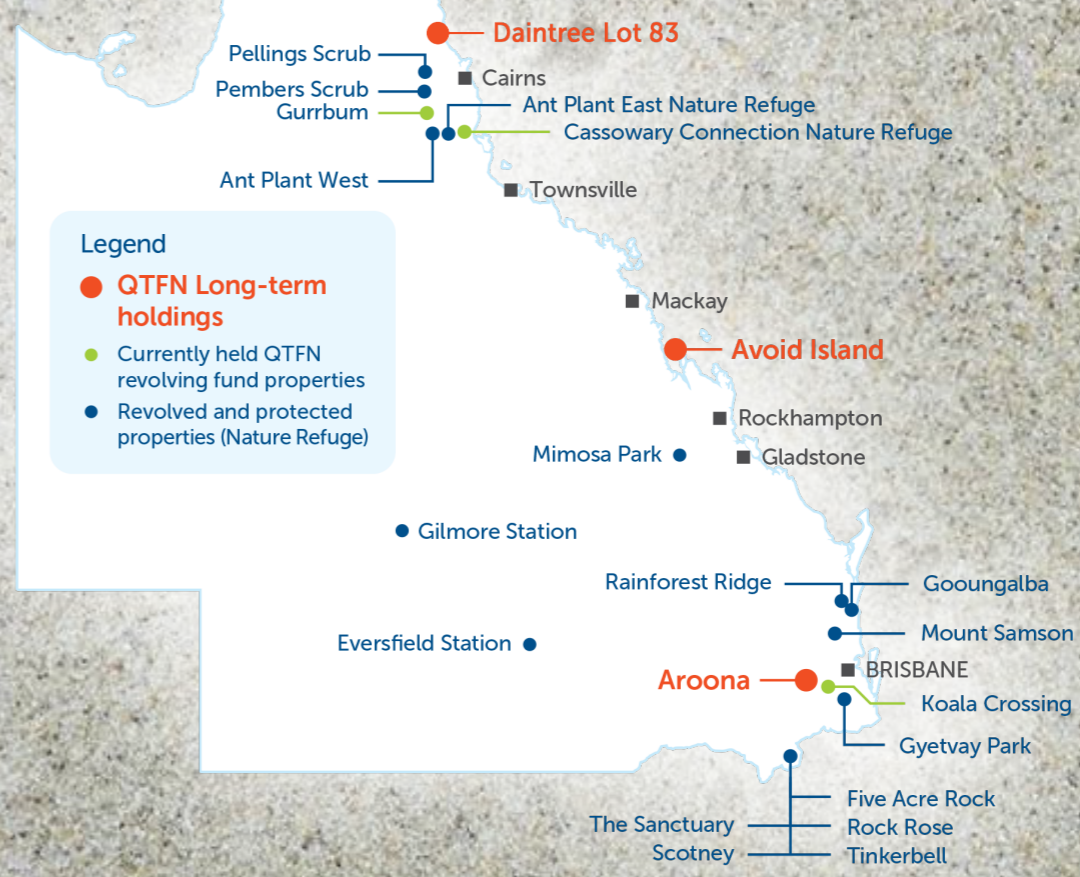
We are encouraged by the spirit of collaboration and innovation that defines our organisation and our partners. Together, we can achieve transformative change and create a future where humans and nature thrive in harmony.

Thank you to our dedicated staff, volunteers, donors, and supporters who continue to drive our mission forward. Your passion and commitment are invaluable as we work towards a sustainable and resilient Queensland for generations to come.

Lot 83. ©Liz O'Brien / QTFN

Where we work

QTFN works predominantly on private land across Queensland. We focus on ecologically-significant spaces and wildlife corridors for maximum impact.



Long-term land holdings

We own, protect and manage land for long-term restoration, scalable environmental projects and scientific field research. They are also used for real-world classrooms, eco-volunteering and to demonstrate sustainable land practices.

Revolving Fund

We buy, protect, and restore properties (with an enduring conservation agreement), then sell them on the public market to reinvest in land acquisition and biodiversity projects.

Nature refuges

Properties sold through our Revolving Fund are now privately owned and permanently protected under a nature refuge covenant facilitated by QTFN.

©Liz O'Brien / QTFN



Revolving Fund

A fundamental aspect of our business is our Revolving Fund. We buy land and protect it as a nature refuge (with a legally binding conservation agreement), then resell it to increase the privately owned protected area estate in Queensland. We reinvest the funds from the sale in strategic land acquisition and biodiversity projects.

Since its implementation in 2004, QTFN's Revolving Fund has successfully secured more than 111,800 hectares across 18 properties. QTFN focuses on ecologically significant spaces, species, and wildlife corridors across Queensland for maximum impact. The permanent and secure land protection is part of our strategic plan to ensure surviving and thriving functional ecosystems.

Koala Crossing. ©Fiona Ayers / QTFN

Cassowary Connection

Cassowary Connection Nature Refuge is a 24.26-hectare pocket of pristine rainforest purchased by QTFN in partnership with C4. The property is part of a major biodiversity corridor which allows the movement of the endangered southern cassowary between the coastline at Mission Beach and Djiru National Park. The property provides access between essential seasonal feeding grounds for cassowaries.

Cassowary Connection was declared a nature refuge in 2018, and the property is now ready for its new owner. The new owner will help ensure the long-term survival of this spectacular native Australian bird by safeguarding critical habitat.

Gurrbum Reserve

In 2019, QTFN purchased Gurrbum Reserve in partnership with Community for Coastal and Cassowary Conservation (C4) with the joint vision to help reconnect a major cassowary corridor in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

QTFN joined forces with the Gulngay and Djiru peoples, C4, our other conservation partners, and the local community to convert this historically cleared banana plantation back to its rainforest roots.

Gurrbum has been a hive of activity since 2019 to plant 14,000 native trees across nearly four hectares. Gurrbum has had regular maintenance of these plantings through weed slashing, herbicide application, and infill planting.

After being declared a nature refuge in 2021, the 15.52 hectares of lowland vine forest are now protected in perpetuity to secure habitat for the endangered southern cassowary.

Koala Crossing

Koala Crossing is a 652-hectare property that forms part of the Flinders-Karawatha Corridor, the largest remaining contiguous stretch of open eucalypt forest in the region. In 2021, 368 hectares of the Koala Crossing property was secured and gazetted as four individual nature refuges.

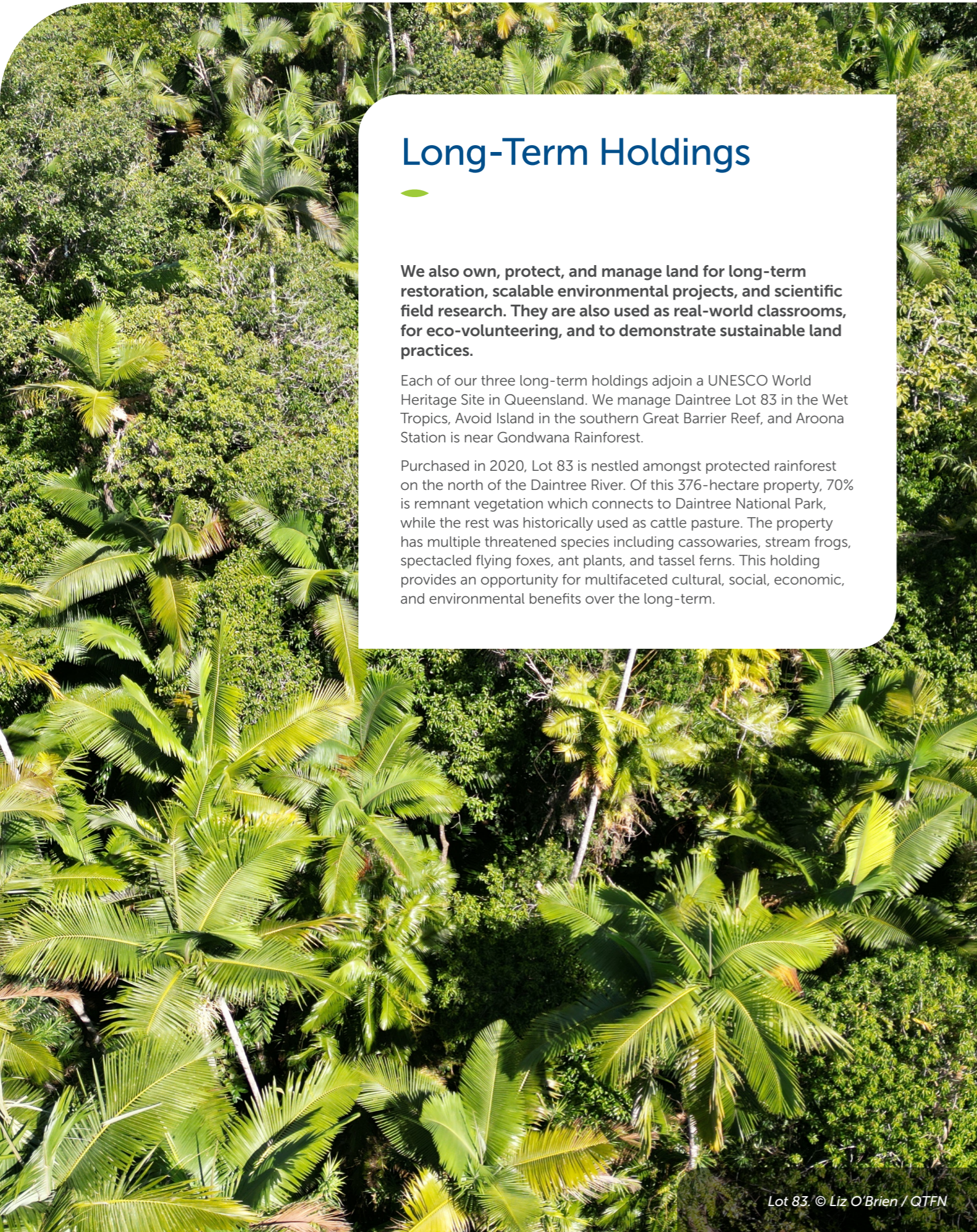
Thanks to ecological monitoring in the field, we know many species call Koala Crossing home. In addition to the resident koala population, we've spotted over 50 bird, 15 mammal, and 230 plant species. Three years on after installation, many species use the nest boxes including the squirrel glider, Australian owllet nightjar, brush-tailed phascogale, and even the occasional microbat.

This financial year, Koala Crossing hosted the Citizens For Refuge Ecology Plant Camp, as well as participating in surveys with Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland's Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby Conservation Network. Over 180 hectares of weed management was conducted, and pests were actively managed across the property. We are continuing to work across the property to improve habitat quality for all the wildlife that call Koala Crossing home.



Koala observed during camera trap surveys. ©QTFN

Koala Crossing. ©Fiona Ayers / QTFN



Long-Term Holdings

We also own, protect, and manage land for long-term restoration, scalable environmental projects, and scientific field research. They are also used as real-world classrooms, for eco-volunteering, and to demonstrate sustainable land practices.

Each of our three long-term holdings adjoin a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Queensland. We manage Daintree Lot 83 in the Wet Tropics, Avoid Island in the southern Great Barrier Reef, and Aroona Station is near Gondwana Rainforest.

Purchased in 2020, Lot 83 is nestled amongst protected rainforest on the north of the Daintree River. Of this 376-hectare property, 70% is remnant vegetation which connects to Daintree National Park, while the rest was historically used as cattle pasture. The property has multiple threatened species including cassowaries, stream frogs, spectacled flying foxes, ant plants, and tassel ferns. This holding provides an opportunity for multifaceted cultural, social, economic, and environmental benefits over the long-term.

Lot 83. © Liz O'Brien / QTFN

Aroona Station

Working towards balancing beef and biodiversity

1,500 hectares placed under voluntary declaration

4 research trips 6 visitor groups

Overall recorded species: 90 bird 13 mammal 160 plant 172 invertebrate 15 reptile

2,500 trees planted through across 2.5 hectares

140 hectares of weed management

64 hectares of fire management

Aroona is a 2,000-hectare property in the heart of the Little Liverpool Range. QTFN is honouring the legacy created by Dr Robin and Kathleen Stock when they donated Aroona Station to QTFN in 2015; our vision for Aroona is to demonstrate the coexistence of nature conservation, best practice land management, and sustainable beef production.

This financial year at Aroona Station, QTFN focussed on building partnerships for better land and cattle management, and biodiversity conservation.

Aroona has been a hive of activity, welcoming Hon Meaghan Scanlon MP, Sam O'Connor MP, and the Department of Environment and Science Koala Team for visits.

Our revegetation project with Greenfleet has moved into its maintenance phase, and there's promising growth from the plantings already. Sitting in a mature tree amongst the revegetation, the team spotted a koala sitting patiently watching its new habitat grow.

Cattle Conversations

Cattle management is not just a historic land use practice for Aroona, it is an integral land management tool pivotal to reducing fuel loads and non-native weeds.

This financial year, Aroona hosted Ceres Tag to help launch their new tag, Ceres Ranch. CiboLabs, a software-integration partner of Ceres Tag, joined us on the day.



Land and Assets Manager Ben Heathwood. ©Georgie Braun / QTFN

Aroona has large areas of diverse native vegetation that supports varied populations of conservation-significant wildlife, including the koala, powerful owl, brush-tailed rock-wallaby, and glossy black-cockatoo. Excitingly, Aroona provides habitat for birds of every functional group expected in this landscape. QTFN is actively working to manage and restore the natural environment on Aroona.

Riparian Restoration: waterways for wildlife

QTFN is working to protect and restore the waterways at Aroona. The project is addressing erosion concerns through fauna-friendly fencing and area rehabilitation, as well as building a riparian buffer which will increase connectivity of wildlife habitat and promote hydration of the landscape.

New nest boxes

In 2023, Shania Watson, Little Liverpool Range Initiative (LLRI) Project Officer, coordinated the installation of Hollow Log Homes nest boxes across LLRI landholder properties. Four glider nest boxes were installed on Aroona Station, supporting habitat for squirrel and sugar gliders.

Educational opportunities

QTFN provides in-kind property access and support for students to conduct their research on Aroona. This year Aroona supported three field trips with The University of Queensland discussing topics like animal behaviour, insect identification, and wildlife population management.

This financial year, QTFN continued developing partnerships and made progress towards balancing beef and biodiversity. We look forward to continuing this work next year.

Our Supporters, Partners, and Collaborators

Queensland Government	Little Liverpool Range Initiative	Cibolabs
The Stock Foundation	AXIS Contracting	City of Ipswich
The University of Queensland	Celestino	Greenfleet
	Ceres Tags	Mirvac

Avoid Island beach. ©Georgie Braun / QTFN

Avoid Island Nature Refuge

An ecologically significant sanctuary

83 hectares protected as nature refuge

16 hectares of Critically Endangered Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Vine Thickets of Eastern Australia

6 active industry and community partnerships

14 volunteers with 1,284 volunteer hours

8.8 hectares of fire management through 1 ecological burn

51 Flatback Turtles monitored and 74 nests

11 BioBlitz experts recorded:

65 bird species 12 reptile species >4 microbat species

>80 invertebrate species 20 vegetation communities

Avoid Island lies in the saltwaters of Koinmerburra Country, and is one of the only privately-owned and permanent nature refuges in the southern Great Barrier Reef. The island is managed by QTFN, in collaboration with our partners.

Avoid Island hosts a unique array of inshore species, a diverse range of threatened shorebirds, and an abundance of marine life. It is a key nesting site for the vulnerable east Australian population of Flatback Turtles (*Natator depressus*), that nest exclusively in Australia. Interestingly, Avoid Island has no ground-dwelling mammals; there are no feral animals and weeds are scarce. Vegetation on the island ranges from mangroves and grasslands to rainforests and estuarine wetland, with 16 hectares of the Critically Endangered Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Vine Thickets of Eastern Australia. Avoid Island has an impressive biodiversity given its 83-hectare size.

Supporters

In the 2022 to 2023 financial year, projects on Avoid Island were funded by the Great Barrier Reef Foundation's Reef Islands Initiative, Nature Refuge Landholder Grant funding, and external funding for Flatback Turtle census monitoring.

The Reef Islands Initiative is establishing a network of climate change refuges by protecting critical habitats on Great Barrier Reef islands, including Avoid Island. The 10-year program is an initiative of the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, supported by funding from Lendlease, the Australian Government's Reef Trust, the Queensland Government and the Fitzgerald Family Foundation.

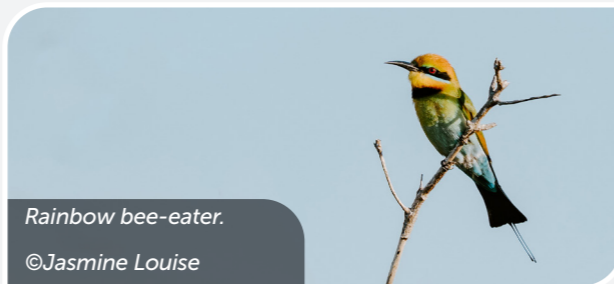
Vulnerable Flatback Turtles monitoring

In late November and early December 2022, QTFN staff and volunteers from Mackay and District Turtle Watch returned to Avoid Island for the annual Flatback Turtle census. During their time on the island, the team recorded 51 individual Flatback Turtles, 149 tracks, and 74 nests. Avoid Island continues to be a safe haven for Flatback Turtles, with over 80% of the nests hatching when the team returned in February 2023.



Flatback Turtle.

©Georgie Braun / QTFN



Rainbow bee-eater.

©Jasmine Louise

Waterlilies in the wetland. ©Michael Tervo / QTFN

Exploring Avoid Island's biodiversity through a BioBlitz

Over five days in April 2023, QTFN ecologists and eight experts surveyed the biodiversity of Avoid Island in the form of a BioBlitz. The BioBlitz formed a key knowledge gathering component about the biodiversity of Avoid Island, helping to inform ongoing management.

During the BioBlitz, 65 bird species were recorded, with 18 species recorded for the first time on the island. This brings Avoid Island's total bird species to 111 species. Over 80 invertebrate species were recorded through a variety of survey methods. Experts recorded 12 reptile species. Interestingly, Avoid Island lacks ground-dwelling mammals, and is home to flying-foxes and at least four microbat species. During surveys, it was exciting to record no cane toads or other feral animals, and very few weeds. The Avoid Island Biodiversity iNaturalist Project was launched and now collates ongoing biodiversity records for our island ark, as well as engaging with the amazing citizen science community.



BioBlitz expert team.

©Michael Tervo / QTFN

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

Reintroducing fire management

Fire plays a significant role in Australian vegetation, and Avoid Island is no different. Two QTFN and six Koinmerburra Aboriginal Corporation staff undertook fire management and traditional land management practices in early June 2023. The trip reintroduced fire as a land management tool, incorporating ecological and cultural considerations. It also protected the island's structural and ecological assets and provided valuable training opportunities for QTFN and KAC staff.



QTFN staff.

©Jasmine Louise

Our Supporters, Partners, and Collaborators





©Fiona Ayers / QTFN

Koala Habitat Restoration Partnership Program

Revegetating and regenerating habitat corridors in South East Queensland

230,000 trees planted

>150 hectares of revegetation

13 partnerships

>400 hectares total project size

>250 hectares of assisted natural regeneration

16 project sites

The Koala Habitat Restoration Partnership Program is a 5-year, \$4.48 million project funded by the Queensland Government to restore koala habitat in Koala Priority Areas, Koala Habitat Restoration Areas, or high koala value areas in South East Queensland.

Since 2019, the Koala Habitat Restoration Partnership Program (KHRPP) has helped address koala habitat loss and fragmentation across South East Queensland through strategic projects that partner with landholders, government, and other stakeholders. The KHRPP is funded by the Queensland Government and implemented by QTFN.

This financial year QTFN completed the selection process for the second round of KHRPP projects, and there are now 16 projects working across seven eligible local government areas in South East Queensland. A Restoration Plan for each site has been developed by QTFN in close collaboration with the owners of each property.

With the second round of projects, the KHRPP is now restoring more than 400 hectares of koala habitat across privately-owned and council land in South East Queensland. Across the 16 project sites, the KHRPP is busy establishing over 150 hectares of new koala habitat through revegetation projects, alongside supporting the recovery of a further 250 hectares of naturally regenerating habitat in strategic areas. More than 230,000 koala trees have been planted through KHRPP.

Celebrating partnerships at Woodstock

Partners came together to prepare and support infill planting at the riparian border at the first round KHRPP property Woodstock, after the heavy rainfall and flooding that impacted Woodstock earlier in 2022.

QTFN Project Officer Maree Clancy had previously done scat searches around the site, and found koala scat underneath almost every mature tree. "I identified this was quite an important corridor for koalas to be moving through. So, we really want to increase the width of that corridor, so that they've got more habitat and more opportunities to move through the landscape," said Maree.

Logan City Council supported the project through an Enviro Grant and flood support, providing the approximately 2,000 trees and funding the site preparation and contractors for the planting. Queensland Government Department of Environment and Science Koala Habitat Restoration team and the landholders, Youth Enterprise Trust, prepared the property and planting site by clearing the site and stabilising previous plantings. The World as I Am and Communitify helped put the koala trees in the ground and followed up with weed maintenance and debris removal.



Woodstock Infill planting
©Fiona Ayers / QTFN

Planting progress update

All of our first-round revegetation projects have had their primary plantings completed. We're continuing to follow up with assisted regeneration projects, site maintenance, infill planting, and monitoring.

We're proud to also be working on our second round projects at Conondale, Maroon, Coal Creek, Guanaba, Sundown Reserve, two properties at Purga Creek, and phase two of Hiddenvale and Dangerbridge. Seven of our second round projects have also had their primary revegetation works. They are now being supported with ongoing monitoring, weed management, and maintenance.

Maroon



Landholder Kate.
©Harry Mead / QTFN

Kilmore Reserve



Years of great growth.
©Harry Mead / QTFN

Mount Mellum



November 2021.
©Fiona Ayers / QTFN

Mount Mellum



2 years after planting.
©QTFN

KHRPP in the community

The KHRPP co-funded the Citizens For Refuge Ecology Plant Camp at the Dangerbridge property and donated free trees for camp attendees to take home to plant (see more on page 17). Attendees learnt all about plant identification, Eucalypts, and regional ecosystems. They put this knowledge into action with citizen science surveys, finding over 300 plant species across the weekend.



Free trees.
©Jasmine Louise

Dangerbridge



Established planting.
© QTFN

QTFN is excited to see koala habitat area, wildlife corridors, and landholder partnerships continue to grow across South East Queensland.

Supported by



Partners, Collaborators, and Landholders

City of Ipswich	Noosa Council	The University of Queensland
Communitify	Noosa & District Landcare	The World As I Am
Greenfleet	Scenic Rim Regional Council	Youth Enterprise Trust
Ivory's Rock Foundation	Sundara	
Logan City Council	Turner Family Foundation	



©Georgie Braun / QTFN

Citizens For Refuge Ecology

Partnering to expand our knowledge of biodiversity on private land

5 camps over 9 days

767 species

750 hours of volunteer time from 29 volunteers

14 partner organisations

189 citizen scientists

22 experts

The Citizens For Refuge Ecology (C4RE) camps foster connections between experts, community groups, nature refuge landholders, and their surrounding communities to improve biodiversity monitoring on private land. The C4RE camps are funded by the Queensland Citizen Science Grant from the Office of the Queensland Chief Scientist. Run in partnership with The University of Queensland School of the Environment, attendees record biodiversity data using iNaturalist and other methods, which makes data publicly available and helps respective landholders know more about the species on their property. Collaboration and empowerment are at the heart of C4RE.

Mammal Muster at Mount Mellum

20-21 August 2022



Attendees identified 18 mammal species at Mount Mellum Nature Refuge. De-Anne Attard presented on the importance of different nest boxes, and Maree Clancy ran activities on koala survey methods and Eucalypt identification. Georgie Braun helped attendees explore the many uses of camera traps, and Michael Tervo helped attendees delve into the world of bioacoustics. Dr Tamielle Brunt ran a mini platypus watch and eDNA sample of the creek to detect for platypus, and Hannah Thomas presented about brush-tailed rock-wallabies. As the sun set, our experts and attendees banded together and explored the property to find nocturnal creatures, which proved to be incredibly elusive. The team checked the property nest boxes and they were all empty, which indicates that there's ample natural hollows available.



The Mammal Muster team. ©Jasmine Louise

Plant Camp at Koala Crossing

3 September 2022



Attendees developed their botanical skills, learning all about plant identification and applying it in the field with the help of the experts. Prof Mike Crisp led a guided walk focussing on Eucalypt diversity and identification. Martin Bennett, Greg Tasney, Dr Lyn Cook, and QTFN Ecologist Michael Tervo supported citizen scientists' identifications out in the field.

Bird Bivouac at Mount Mellum

15-16 October 2022



Bird Bivouac was all about using binoculars, books, and bioacoustic recorders to find birds, with attendees recording 59 species throughout the weekend. Prof Richard Fuller gave a fantastic presentation on bird identification, with workshops run by Michael Maggs on using bioacoustics. In the lead up to Bird Bivouac our bioacoustic recorders captured the territorial calls of the vulnerable Plumed Frogmouth (*Podargus ocellatus ssp. plumiferus*). Dr Ayesha Tulloch and Sheena Gillman gave an inspiring presentation on how citizen science contributes to bird conservation and how attendees can get involved. All our experts, including Michael Tervo, ran bird walks and spotlighting at night to see what ornithological wonders Mount Mellum holds.

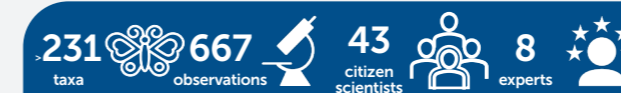


King parrot male and female inspecting a hollow. ©Jasmine Louise

Invert Adventure. ©Michael Tervo / QTFN

Invert Adventure at Dangerbridge

11-12 March 2023



Invert Adventure saw the C4RE camps move to Dangerbridge Nature Refuge, giving attendees access to a whole new suite of species in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland. Dr Kathy Ebert ran an introduction to insect identification and classification workshop. Dr Lyn Cook, Dr Penny Mills, and Dr Vivian Sandoval took attendees around the property in search of the invertebrates hiding in leaf litter and foliage. Dr Tamielle Brunt helped our attendees with waterbug surveys on the property dam. Lois Eden assisted our citizen scientists surveying for nematodes. Martin Rady used a light trap to survey the night invertebrates. Prof Mike Crisp assisted across activities. Throughout the weekend a number of undescribed species were recorded, with research still underway to name them.



©Leonardo Fernandes



©Leonardo Fernandes

Plant Camp at Dangerbridge

27-28 May 2023



Citizen scientists developed their botanical skills through expert-led workshops and being in the field. Attendees identified seven threatened plant species including the Critically Endangered Native Guava (*Rhodomyrtus psidioides*) and Scrub Turpentine (*Rhodamnia rubescens*). Dr Lyn Cook spoke about plant biogeography. Michael Tervo introduced attendees to plant ID and regional ecosystems. Prof Mike Crisp talked about botanical taxonomy and Eucalypts. Wayne Boatwright spoke about mycology, and led a walk that found the fungi, *Cordyceps*. Tamara Kubica discussed restoration on Dangerbridge as part of Noosa and District Landcare. Spencer Shaw talked about plant identification and conservation. Greg Tasney led citizen science surveys. The Koala Habitat Restoration Partnership Program co-funded Plant Camp and donated free trees for attendees to take home to plant.



Brief before the field. ©Jasmine Louise

Supported by



Office of the Queensland Chief Scientist

Collaborators

Birdlife Southern Queensland	Queensland Herbarium	Sunshine Coast Council
Brush Turkey Enterprises	Queensland Museum	University of the Sunshine Coast
Entomological Society of Queensland	Queensland Mycological Society	Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland
Frontier Labs	Queensland University of Technology	
Noosa and District Landcare		
Protect the Bush Alliance	The University of Queensland	



Lachlan Hughes Foundation Partnering to foster regenerative agricultural practices

Queensland Trust for Nature is proud to support the Lachlan Hughes Foundation for another year.

The Lachlan Hughes Foundation was inspired by the life of Dulacca grazier, Lachlan Hughes, and connects land managers with regenerative agriculture professionals through skill development and mentoring.

“The scholarship opportunity for us has meant we were able to apply on ground action and tie our learnings in biodynamics, natural sequence farming and soil practices together into our current regenerative passion on our land.”
Joel and Emma Muirhead | 2022 Scholar

Hydrating the landscape

Joel and Emma Muirhead were selected as the 2022 Lachlan Hughes Foundation Scholar. Alongside their own beef cattle enterprise, they are passionate about regenerative agriculture and land advancement, with a strong community focus.

Based in Mundubbera, the family owns and manages two properties: Twin Rivers and Telemark. A portion of their Telemark property has been protected through a Nature Refuge agreement since 2007. Telemark has high aquatic conservation significance areas, a mosaic of vegetation communities, and threatened species observed all amongst a productive landscape.

Their scholarship project is focussed on reinvigorating the catchment around an old and eroded wetland that requires reinstating at their Twin Rivers property. QTFN produced the first ecological survey of Twin Rivers, and provided further ecological observations for Telemark.

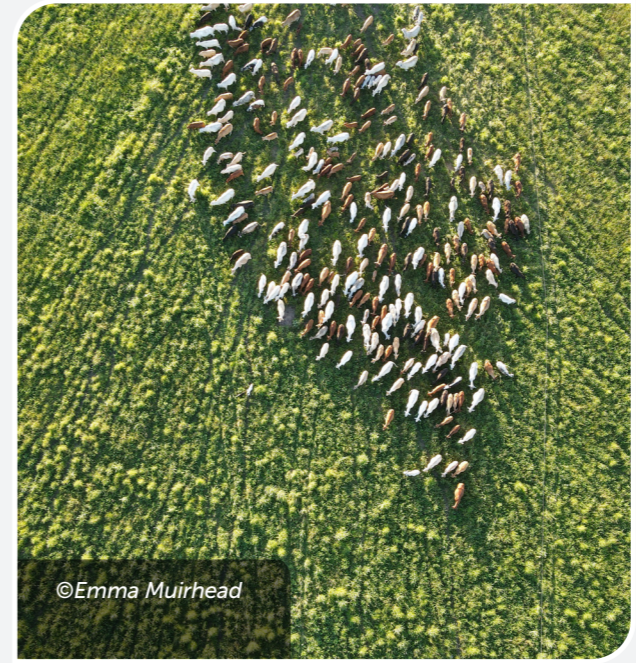
Progress

Joel and Emma implement grazing and farming practices that place the health of their land front and centre; they are passionate about land advancement and reinvigorating tired soils. Dr Elaine Inghams' Soil Foundation course, completed with the support of the Foundation, has inspired Emma to undertake the full set of Elaine's courses. Joel will continue work on the regeneration of a large wetland on Twin Rivers; their action plan is already laid out and fully achievable.

At The Young Beef Producers Forum, Joel and Emma Muirhead presented to over 250 participants. LHF Program Coordinator Barb Bishop also presented and gave a detailed outline of the new Lachlan Hughes Foundation program.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Lachlan Hughes Foundation as we strive to help the growing network of landholders use management practices that will ensure productive and sustainable systems into the future.

Our Partner



©Emma Muirhead

Natural Sequence Farming contour full at Twin Rivers. ©Emma Muirhead

Bringing biodiversity to the table Facilitating conservation conversations

Biodiversity Breakfast

22 April 2022

A conversation with the Queensland Chief Scientist

At QTFN biodiversity is our business, and we want to help others make it part of theirs. At the sold-out breakfast event, we brought together corporate guests to explore the value of biodiversity in economic and business growth. Queensland Chief Scientist Professor Hugh Possingham facilitated conversations around what biodiversity is and the services it provides. The breakfast outlined the potential benefits of considering natural capital and ecosystem services within business and corporate contexts. We'd like to thank all our guests, and Hugh, for their valuable participation. Our goal is to continue these conversations so that businesses may articulate their challenges and promote meaningful change. If you'd like to join the conversation on how biodiversity can be part of your business, please get in touch.

COP15 Round Table

2 December 2022

What might COP15 mean for Queensland?

QTFN gathered stakeholders together ahead of the COP15 Convention on Biological Diversity to discuss what the outcomes of the convention might mean for Queensland. The Round Table explored the implications for stakeholders in a number of different contexts. The event brought together environmental, social, government, financial, and industry perspectives to discuss challenges in Queensland. With the complexity of environmental markets, and the additional benefits that biodiversity improvement can achieve, global and local business and markets will need simple and unambiguous biodiversity accounts that are transparent and verifiable.

The primary discussion points were captured by Graphical Recorder Rachel Apelt (seen below).



Our Board of Directors

Chair | Bruce Cowley



BCom, LLB (Hons)

QTFN welcomed Bruce Cowley to the Board in 2022.

Bruce brings an incredible depth of experience as a governance professional, board member, author and speaker. He has served in a range of board positions and written books on corporate governance in Australia (Duties of Board and Committee Members (2017), and Directorship in Context (2022)). His service to directorship and governance is recognised by the Australian Institute of Company Directors and he was awarded their Gold medal in 2021.

Bruce has had an outstanding career of nearly 40 years in corporate law specialising in mergers and acquisitions, capital markets work and corporate governance. Bruce has many major corporate achievements including serving as the Global Chair of Minter Ellison from 2013 to 2019. In 2022, he was awarded the Queensland Law Society President's Medal for services to the legal profession.

Bruce is currently a director of the Australian Retirement Trust, the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service and Klarna Australia Pty Ltd, as well as a member of the Takeovers Panel, Chair of Griffith University Business School's Strategic Advisory Board, and a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors Not for Profit Chairs Forum.

Chief Executive Officer | Dr Liz O'Brien



BSc, PhD (Molecular Evolutionary Biology)

Appointed as a Non-Executive Director of QTFN in 2019, Dr Liz O'Brien stepped down from her board position to join the QTFN team, and was appointed as Chief Executive Officer in 2022.

Liz's multi-sectoral career has spanned Queensland public sector policy and investment roles, university research management, partnership brokering and strategy development, and industry-applied research. Liz is also a Non-Executive Director of Reef and Rainforest Research Centre, and former Associate Director of Research with Griffith University's Australian Rivers Institute.

Director | Dan Clowes



BAppSc (Env.Sc.) (Hons)

QTFN welcomed Dan Clowes to the Board in 2020.

Dan is an experienced consultant, lecturer, and researcher in Environmental Science, specialising in environmental assessment, approvals strategy, stakeholder engagement, botanical and fauna studies, and economic modeling and assessment.

He established Litoria Consulting in 2003, focusing on evidence-based policy and decision-making. His clients include major development companies, non-profits, agriculture, mining, and government sectors.

Dan has advised government on various environmental issues, such as catchment management, water quality, koala conservation, bushfire planning, environmental offsets, and designing environmental policy.

He is a member of the Environmental Institute of Australia and New Zealand, Ecological Society of Australia, and the International Society for Arboriculture.

Director | Antra Hood



LLM, LLB, BA (Hons)

QTFN welcomed Antra Hood to the Board in 2020.

Recognised as one of Australia's top lawyers, Antra specialises in front-end environmental and planning law, and infrastructure transactions. She has contributed to many landmark property and infrastructure developments in Queensland.

Particularly interested in biodiversity offsets, Antra advises industry on how to structure environmental offsets to achieve commercially sustainable agreements with positive environmental outcomes.

A Partner with Minter Ellison, Brisbane, Antra previously served as General Counsel for Springfield Land Corporation and South Bank Corporation. She is an active member of the Property Council of Australia's Infrastructure Committee and the Queensland Resources Council Environment Committee. Long-term pro bono partner of QTFN, Antra was also a planning expert to the Queensland Government's Koala Expert Panel, and a pro bono director of Dreamworld Wildlife Foundation.

Director | Jim McKnoulty



B APP Sc (Surv), CS, MIS Aust

Jim McKnoulty has been a member of the QTFN Board since 2018.

Jim is a consultant, developer, and entrepreneur who bridges industry and the environment movement to create economic wealth from conservation. Jim describes himself as a natural capitalist, focusing on creating economic models that value natural environmental assets.

Known for his passion for sustainability, Jim is leading the way in recycling waste glass as Chairman of Enviro Sand. Jim was Chairman of RPS Australia-East until 2016 and is past Queensland and National President of Greening Australia. He represented Premiers Anna Bligh and Campbell Newman on the Queensland Reconstruction Authority board. Jim's leadership in sustainable development has been recognised through the title of Honorary Fellow of the Planning Institute of Australia, Life Membership of Greening Australia, the Premier's Award for Leadership in Business Sustainability, and EY's Queensland Entrepreneur of the Year.

Director | Sian Sinclair



BBUS, Accounting

QTFN welcomed Sian Sinclair to the Board in 2023.

Sian is a Tax Partner, Brisbane Office Chair, and National leader of Real Estate & Construction at Grant Thornton Australia. Her expertise draws on over 25 years of experience in taxation, accounting and general business consulting.

Sian has extensive experience with businesses in the property development and construction industries and advises a number of key industry participants on tax matters.

She currently sits on the Queensland Divisional Council with the Property Council of Australia and also contributes to the Australian Taxation Office's Property and Construction Stakeholder Forum.

Avoid Island. © QTFN

Financial Overview

2022–2023 Financial Year

Income and Expenses - Comprehensive Income Statement Summary

GROSS INCOME	
Revenue from government including grants	\$1,478,970
Donations and bequests	\$60,198
Revenue from providing goods or services	\$1,014,867
Revenue from investments	\$251,149
All other revenue	\$137,918
Total revenue	\$2,943,102
Other income (for example, gains)	\$0
Total gross income	\$2,943,102
EXPENSES	
Employee expenses	\$1,455,473
Grants and donations made for use in Australia	\$0
Grants and donations made for use outside Australia	\$0
All other expenses	\$2,543,795
Total expenses	\$3,999,268
NET INCOME	
Net surplus/deficit	-\$1,056,166
Other comprehensive income	\$5,725,059
Total comprehensive income	\$4,668,893

Balance Sheet Extract

ASSETS	
Total current assets	\$10,275,603
Total non-current assets	\$14,545,051
Total assets	\$24,820,654
LIABILITIES	
Total current liabilities	\$1,582,011
Total non-current liabilities	\$3,931,660
Total liabilities	\$5,513,671
NET ASSETS/LIABILITIES	
Net assets/liabilities	\$19,306,983

Thank You

Queensland Trust for Nature works with organisations, government, Traditional Custodians, investors, and individuals to deliver on our shared objectives. Thank you to all of our partners, collaborators, and supporters this year.

We look forward to seeing our impact grow. If you share our vision for a Queensland where increased biodiversity, natural systems, rural livelihoods, and food productivity are maintained into the future, we invite you to connect with us.



Aroona Station.

©Liz O'Brien / QTFN



Make biodiversity your business

If you share our vision for a Queensland where increased biodiversity secures a healthy, prosperous, and hopeful tomorrow for everyone, there are a number of ways we can work together.

Visit qtnf.org.au to find out how you can:

- Volunteer
- Research
- Partner
- Learn
- Invest
- Educate



Contact us

Call 1300 601 669
Email info@qtnf.org.au

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