



QUEENSLAND TRUST FOR NATURE
YEAR IN REVIEW / 2016



MESSAGE FROM THE TRUSTEES

2016 was a year of change and growth for QTFN. In June, the Trust welcomed Nerida Bradley as our new General Manager. Nerida brings an impressive background in environmental, planning and general land law along with extensive strategic advisory experience. We appreciate the energy and passion Nerida brings to QTFN and look forward to her continued leadership in 2017.

Earlier in 2016, Ben O'Hara moved on to expand his career with our friends at the Gainsdale Group. He remains a passionate supporter of QTFN and continues to play a key role as a member of the Funds Management Committee. The Trustees extend our sincere thanks to Ben for his dedication and commitment as General Manager over the last four years and wish him every success in his new role.

This 'Year in Review' is a snapshot of the Trust's work during 2016. A huge amount of important work happens behind the scenes and on the ground with landowners, neighbours, volunteers, researchers, students, local communities, business, and government which means it isn't possible to capture everything we do in a few short pages.

We hope this review gives you sense of QTFN's commitment to providing leadership in private land conservation in Queensland, our continuing desire to facilitate research and science-based education, and our dedication to continuous improvement and innovation.

The Trust would like to acknowledge the generosity of our philanthropic supporters, sponsors and volunteers and of course the time and expertise provided by the Funds Management Committee - on a volunteer basis. With this support we are able to continue our work including strategic acquisition of important habitat, best practice land management and vital research.

In 2016, QTFN's activities made real impacts on a diverse range of habitats and species including koalas and brush-tailed rock-wallabies in South-east Queensland; cassowaries and mahogany gliders in North Queensland; and flatback turtles on Avoid Island off the coast of Central Queensland.

Research is critical to the survival and recovery of Queensland's native species and their habitats and is the foundation for sound decision making. On any given day in 2016, there were multiple research activities on QTFN's properties, where we worked in partnership with schools, universities and post-graduate researchers and this will continue in 2017.

In 2017 we will continue our work with and expand our network of existing supporters: sponsors, volunteers, donors, neighbours, research partners and colleagues in government.

We look ahead to an exciting 2017.

Graham Marshall
Molly Robson
Robert Allan

TRUSTEES



Aroona

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

2016 was an exciting year to join the QTFN team.

Queensland remains a biodiversity hotspot. With vast areas of the State under private management, QTFN works to partner with landholders to deliver positive conservation outcomes. On any given day we are working with landowners, volunteers, all levels of government, universities and businesses all over the State. We also work hard on our own landholdings and on the ground, significant work has been done across all QTFN properties in 2016.

Avoid Island continues to present many challenges and exciting opportunities. We are committed to cementing existing and future funding to improve facilities and expand research on the island. With this funding we will continue to inspire the scientists, land managers and leaders of the future through first-hand experience of primary ecological research and land conservation activities. Intensification of research this year meant additional preparations and an increased logistical workload for our dedicated Ecology and Conservation Officer, Felicity Shapland.

At Koala Crossing we have permanently protected and actively managed large areas of important koala habitat under offset agreements with numerous property developers. These offsets are an important source of funding for the Trust and we are proud of the best practice model that has provided for restoration and permanent protection of high quality koala habitat on this property.

At Aroona, research work continued alongside a healthy and sustainable cattle operation. A high point of 2016 was the first sighting of healthy brush-tailed rock-wallabies in rocky outcrops on the property. Challenging times came later in the year with extensive fires across the whole area. The year saw many hours of hard work by Conservation Manager, Tanya Pritchard and the commitment of hardworking cattle contractor Chris Schreiweis must also be acknowledged.

Scientific research continues across all QTFN properties. At Aroona we are expanding research into sustainable farming practices and work at Koala Crossing continues with the University of Queensland's Koala Ecology Group. This research provides important data for the recovery and future management of koala populations in the Ipswich and Scenic Rim areas.

I acknowledge and congratulate Ben O'Hara for his outstanding contribution to QTFN during his years as General Manager. Ben's support since my arrival has been invaluable, as is his active and ongoing contribution as a member of the QTFN Funds Management Committee.

2016 has seen the QTFN team grow and the addition of new skills and experience in the areas of not-for-profit marketing; community engagement; fundraising; environmental and planning law and administration.

I am proud to be part of such an enthusiastic and skilled team. Led by the drive and experience of the Trustees with the support of the Funds Management Committee, QTFN has depth and passion for spearheading private land conservation activities in Queensland.

We worked hard in 2016 to lay solid foundations for QTFN's future growth.

Key priorities for 2017 include expanding our partnerships and supporter base; collaborating with educational institutions and other organisations; and driving innovation in and better understanding of the importance of best practice in private land conservation.

Nerida Bradley

GENERAL MANAGER



Flatback turtle hatchling (*Natator depressus*)



Brush-tailed rock wallaby (*Petrogale penicillata*)



Volunteers and QTFN team preparing for the season



Taking flatback turtle measurements



AVOID ISLAND

2016 marks 10 years since QTFN acquired Avoid Island as our first permanent reserve.

Work on the island continues to bring together university researchers, schools and volunteers in activities to better understand Queensland's marine environment and the vulnerable flatback turtle.

The Avoid Island nature refuge protects six regional ecosystems and provides sanctuary for at least six threatened and vulnerable species including the shy and mysterious flatback.

Avoid Island is Australia's only privately owned and protected nesting habitat for this species.

As part of our commitment to research and science-based education, work on Avoid Island in 2016 included collaborations with Griffith University, University of Queensland and the University of New South Wales, supported by a number of corporate partners.

In 2016, we enhanced our turtle research project on Avoid Island. While previous research surveys ran for two weeks, this hatchling season we are supporting research for the entire nesting season from October until mid-March 2017.

The extended survey period allows researchers to collect more accurate data about the lifecycle and movements of the flatback turtle and better monitor, assess and understand the impacts of predators, coastal development and climate change. Researchers have also fitted satellite trackers to flatback turtles for the first time and this will build information about the movements of our somewhat elusive visitors.

In December, 10 secondary school students visited the island for a hands-on sea turtle biology experience. This three-day educational visit was the result of a partnership with the University of Queensland's Wonder of Science program. QTFN was delighted to have this opportunity to share Avoid Island with these young people and inspire their interest in nature and conservation.

Following media and public interest in flatback nesting season and QTFN's Adopt-a-Hatchling program, we are looking to secure additional corporate and community support for our work on Avoid Island in 2017. The Trust is grateful to our friends at Northern Oil who have confirmed they will continue to support our work on Avoid Island in 2017.



Inspiring young minds with Wonders of Science

AVOID ISLAND KEY FACTS

- 83 hectare island.
- 100km off the coast of Mackay.
- Home to six threatened species including the flatback turtle.
- Flatback turtle is listed as vulnerable in Queensland and Australia.
- Avoid Island flatback turtles lay more than 7,000 eggs each year.
- Avoid Island flatback turtle hatchlings have a 78% success rate.



KOALA CROSSING

2016 saw significant land management and revegetation work at Koala Crossing, QTFN’s property that forms part of the largest remaining stretch of open eucalypt forest in South-east Queensland.

During the year we did extensive work to revegetate and restore habitat for the regionally vulnerable koala. Achievements for 2016 at Koala Crossing include:

- More than 80,000 trees planted by Greenfleet.
- An additional five hectares of land revegetation by Green Army teams.
- 20 hectares of invasive lantana removed, improving wildlife movement.
- Two kilometres of new fencing erected and old fences removed.
- Creek banks stabilised and trees planted along creek lines to prevent erosion.
- Restoring habitat for and monitoring ‘Thurston’ the koala, working alongside the University of Queensland’s Koala Ecology Group.
- Monitoring and control of feral dogs, foxes and pigs on the property.
- Research surveys to monitor fauna and feral animals.
- Two community participation days as part of the Earth Frequency Festival in February and Ivory’s Rock World Wildlife Day in March.

KOALA CROSSING KEY FACTS

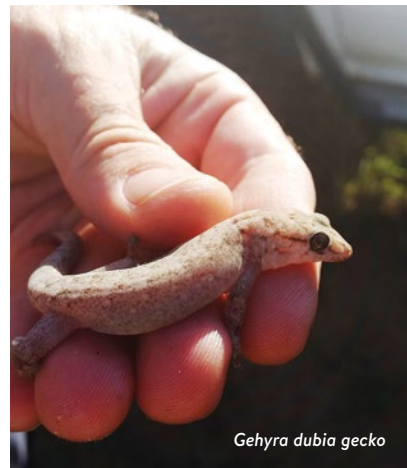
- 652 hectares of koala habitat.
- 5km from Peak Crossing, at the base of Mt Flinders.
- Home to rare and threatened species including the koala, brush-tailed rock-wallaby and the powerful owl.
- Part of the largest remaining stretch of open eucalypt forest in South-east Queensland.
- Continuous wildlife corridor allows for natural movement of species, improving ecosystem resilience.



Thurston under the watchful eye of his foster Dad, Peter Luker



Tree Planting team



Gehyra dubia gecko

‘THURSTON’ THE KOALA

‘Thurston’ joined the QTFN family in May 2016. Found abandoned on NRL grand final day in 2015, the young male was hand-raised for eight months before becoming the third koala to be released in to the wild at Koala Crossing. He joins ‘Blondie’, ‘Miss Brownie’ and a community of approximately 20 koalas QTFN is working to protect.



Felicity Shapland (QTFN) with Olivia and Alex (OWAD) with conservation detector dog, Taz

AROONA



2016 was a productive, challenging and exciting year for our newest permanent reserve.

Over the four decades before they donated Aroona to QTFN, Dr Robin and Kathleen Stock developed a keen interest in the resident wildlife and concern about loss of habitat in the area. As a result of Robin and Kathleen's generous donation, we have established the Stock Foundation. The Foundation provides advice to the Trustees about property management and fundraising to support enduring conservation outcomes and research initiatives on Aroona.

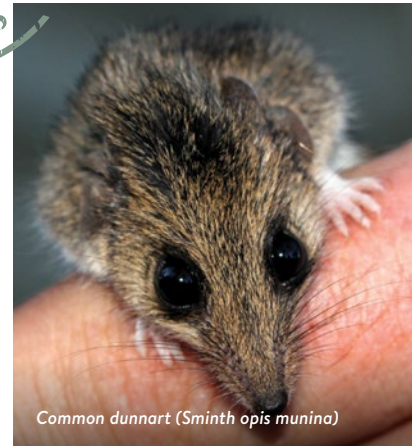
Aroona presents an opportunity to research and test whether fauna and flora conservation and cattle grazing can co-exist. It is an excellent example of achieving conservation outcomes while also enabling sustainable land use.

In order to do this and as part of our remit to deliver education and facilitate research, QTFN is working with universities and researchers to assess new grazing regimes that deliver commercial value while also contributing to the health of native wildlife and ecosystems. The results of this research could be extremely significant for Queensland's 145 million hectares of grazing land.

Aroona has operated as a cattle farm for more than five decades. Its cattle resources include a population of up to 350 adult cows and four bulls. In 2016 we added two new bulls to Aroona's herd.

In October and November we were faced with the challenge of managing a fire on Aroona. Although the fire was slow and patchy, around half of the property was affected. Thanks to the hard work and support of the Mt Mort Rural Fire Brigade and other local landholders, the fire was kept under control.

In 2016, a number of previously unknown brush-tailed rock-wallaby populations were sighted on Aroona. In 2017, we will focus on better understanding how these populations fit in to the landscape of the Little Liverpool Range. We have secured grants from SEQ Catchments and the Norman Wettenhall Foundation to help us continue this valuable work.



Common dunnart (*Sminthopsis murina*)

AROONA KEY FACTS

- 2000 hectares.
- Little Liverpool Range, 55 kilometres south-west of Ipswich.
- Donated to QTFN in 2015.
- Working cattle property.
- Nine different regional ecosystems, six with a biodiversity status 'of concern'.
- Home to several threatened species including the koala, brush-tailed rock-wallaby and the glossy black cockatoo.



Fawn footed melomys, *melomys cervinipes*



QTFN's Tanya Pritchard undertaking fire assessment





Nerida Bradley



Vicki Riley



Hannah Watson

STAFF CHANGES

During 2016, we welcomed three new team members.

Nerida Bradley General Manager

After working as a commercial lawyer in Sydney and Darwin, Nerida spent nearly a decade as in-house counsel and strategic advisor to various Northern Territory government agencies. She has worked with a range of public and private sector stakeholders including Indigenous organisations, pastoralists, miners and land care groups. Nerida combines substantial professional expertise with a life-long commitment to improving community and corporate appreciation of the value of best conservation and land management.

Vicki Riley

Vicki joined the team in September as Engagements and Partnerships Coordinator.

She brings a wealth of experience in marketing, fundraising, events and community engagement, along with a keen interest in our natural environment.

Most recently, Vicki managed donor relations for a Queensland-based health charity. Prior to this, she worked for a professional services firm focused on urban growth and natural resources.

Vicki's passion for the environment stems from growing up in beautiful Mission Beach.

Hannah Watson

In September we also welcomed Hannah to QTFN as our Administration Coordinator.

Hannah is currently studying a dual law and science degree at the University of Queensland, majoring in ecology.

Dedicated to wildlife conservation, Hannah hopes her role with QTFN will provide valuable hands-on experience in conservation to complement her studies.

Hannah joins us from a planning law firm, bringing high-level organisational and administration skills.

PROPERTIES FOR SALE

QTFN's revolving fund buys, restores, protects and resells land that has high conservation value, needs remediation or is located in ecologically strategic areas. QTFN currently has the following properties for sale.

LOT 66

Size: 24.46 hectares

Location: Lot 66 Mission Circle, Wongaling Beach

Tenure: Freehold

Price: \$550,000

Pristine rainforest habitat in the coastal community of Mission Beach, two hours south of Cairns.

Lot 66 is part of a significant movement corridor for the southern cassowary, making it perfect for those seeking an eco-tourism business opportunity or the ultimate tree change.

The property provides vital vegetation for several flora and fauna species and is part of the largest contiguous block of lowland rainforest south of the Daintree River.

Rising to join Djiru National Park and the World Heritage Wet Tropics in the west, Lot 66 also offers a spectacular house site with views to Dunk Island in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

MT SAMSON

Size: 211 hectares on two titles

Location: Basin Road, Samsonvale

Location: Freehold

Price: By negotiation

Located 30 kilometres west of Brisbane and only 14 kilometres from Samford Village, this property presents an ideal opportunity for a retreat in the mountains.

500 metres above sea level at its highest point, the property offers spectacular views to Brisbane and Moreton Bay.

The completely undeveloped, undulating to steep terrain is part of the D'Aguilar Range and includes gullies, rocky outcrops and small waterfalls.

Adjacent to the D'Aguilar National Park, this high value koala habitat is located within a wildlife corridor, has a high biodiversity value and is home to vegetation identified as significant in Queensland.



Southern Cassowary
(Casuaris casuaris johnsonii)



Mt Samson - views across the property

QTFN would like to thank and acknowledge the following sponsors and partners who have supported our work during 2016.

- Three Plus
- Minter Ellison
- Northern Oil
- Frasers
- Sunland
- Investa

If you are interested in one of the properties for sale, please contact QTFN email info@qtfn.org.au or phone 1800 237 724



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

*QTFN acknowledges
the Traditional
Owners of the lands
on which we work.
We pay our respects
to ancestors and
Elders, past, present
and future.*

By using ecoStar Offset rather than a non-recycled paper, the environmental impact was reduced by:

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- 5KG** CO² & GREENHOUSE GASES
- 51KM** OF CAR TRAVEL
- 717 LITRES** OF WATER
- 66 KWH** OF ENERGY
- 56KG** OF WOOD

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