



QTFN

Queensland Trust
for Nature



Annual Review

2024/25 Financial Year

We acknowledge that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were the first conservationists and scientists, and they have cared for Country over tens of thousands of years. We recognise their enduring connection to land, water and sky, to all living things and all aspects of the environment. We appreciate that it is a reciprocal relationship that sustains both nature and people.

We pay our respects to Elders, past and present.

We are committed to embedding reconciliation into our organisational culture and practices, fostering an environment of respect, understanding, and collaboration.

We are committed to listening, learning, and walking together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Eucalyptus planting
Cover photo: Native bee (*Lipotriches flavoviridis*) by Erica Siegel

Editor & Designer: Nicola Grobler / QTFN

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About us

Queensland Trust for Nature continues to protect, restore and connect ecologically-important land and wildlife corridors. We are an independent private land conservation organisation delivering on-ground outcomes, enabling strategic projects, and supporting Queenslanders to understand, value and act for nature.

Our Board of Directors

- Bruce Cowley (Chair)
- Antra Hood (Deputy Chair)
- Dan Clowes
- Sian Sinclair
- Steven Greenwood

Our Committees

- Audit and Risk
- Science and Education
- Investment and Property

External Committee Members

- James Brown
- Professor Hugh Possingham
- Associate Professor Angela Dean
- Dr Elaine Mitchell

Message from our Chair and CEO

Celebrating 20 years of impact

Over twenty years ago, Queensland Trust for Nature was founded on a simple but bold idea: that nature could—and should—be protected on private land, and that Queenslanders have a vital role to play in shaping the future of our state's biodiversity.

From the purchase of our first 64-hectare property in 2005, we have acquired and protected 101,587 hectares of Queensland's special places which includes habitat for over 100 threatened species and ecosystems.

We've restored habitats from degraded rainforest corridors to native grasslands, and we continue to actively manage over 3,200 hectares through our current properties—planting trees, managing weeds, using ecological fire, and trialling innovative treatment and monitoring technologies.

We recognise that thriving ecosystems underpin thriving communities, cultures and economies.

Importantly, we keep relationships at the centre of our model. Conservation only works when it builds trust—between people, between sectors, and between generations.

None of these achievements would be possible without the dedication and expertise of the past and present QTFN staff.

We also celebrate the volunteers, partners, and landholders who have carried QTFN's vision forward.

We are especially proud of our strong partnership with the Traditional Owners of the Daintree through the Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation and our ongoing work with Koinmerburra Aboriginal Corporation on Avoid Island, an island ark in the Southern Great Barrier Reef.

We are grateful for the generous donation from Dr Robin and Kathleen Stock of close to 2,000 hectares of land in the Little Liverpool range. We are stewarding the stunning Aroona Station, not just as conservation area, but as an active education site and a working agribusiness enterprise.

We have brokered partnerships to show how economic activity—like grazing and biodiversity offsets—can co-exist with nature conservation.

We are using environmental markets to fund long term restoration plans including eight federally regulated biodiversity offsets for proponents across over 2,100 hectares on our properties, a Green Star nature stewardship project at Aroona Station, and voluntary carbon projects.

We are also working directly with private landholders and corporate and community partners to create and restore koala habitat over 440 hectares of landscape including planting over 245,000 trees in the last five years.

We extend our thanks and gratitude to our donors whose valuable support helps make our work possible.

As we reflect on 20 years of work, we also look forward with determination to support the next generation of stewards, protectors, and change makers.

And we recommit—with hope, courage, and humility—to the work still to come.

Bruce Cowley
Chair

Dr Liz O'Brien
CEO

Our impact



101,587 hectares (ha) protected through our Revolving Fund*



Habitat protected for >100 threatened species & ecosystems*



Supported protection of 233,082 ha through assisting Nature Refuge process*

*Cumulative. Other metrics are over the financial year.



244 ha revolved this year through 6 properties



>3,200 ha owned and managed by QTFN



2,100 ha managed under offsets or Green Star projects



>500 ha private land being actively restored^



~1,600 ha weed management & assisted natural regeneration^



>301,000 trees planted across >255 ha revegetation area^

^Over last five years.



>1,000 volunteer hours this year



We connect and work with landholders, Aboriginal Corporations, researchers, citizen scientists, government, industry, and corporates.



QTFN Board members



Our vision is clear: A resilient, biodiverse, and productive Queensland where nature and people thrive.

Celebrating 20 years of QTFN

Reconnecting, reflecting, and renewing our commitment

This year, Queensland Trust for Nature marked a significant milestone—20 years of operations—protecting and enhancing Queensland’s natural environment. Since signing the Trust Deed in 2004, we have directly protected 101,587 hectares of land through Nature Refuges and Conservation Covenants on properties acquired via our Revolving Property Fund. We have contributed to the development of Nature Refuges across an additional 233,082 hectares by supporting the Queensland Government’s Nature Refuging process.

QTFN’s work continues to safeguard Queensland’s valuable natural assets by acquiring special places like Lot 83 in the Daintree, a rainforest refuge for cassowaries and tree kangaroos; managing the precious plants and animals on Avoid Island, an island ark in the Southern Great Barrier Reef; and supporting private landholders to create and restore koala habitat in South-East Queensland.

These achievements have protected habitat for over 100 threatened species, representing two decades of collaboration with partners, landholders, communities, and supporters who share our vision for thriving landscapes and resilient communities.

In June, more than 130 people joined us in Brisbane to celebrate this legacy and look towards the future. The evening provided an opportunity to reflect on achievements, share our current projects, and inspire future partnerships. Guests heard stories of impact, contributed to fundraising efforts, and strengthened the relationships that make our work possible.

Anna Bligh, who officially launched QTFN at an event in 2005, offered her thanks at the 20-year celebration.

"You've shown us, importantly, that conservation doesn't have to be at odds with economic reality. It can and it must go hand in hand with sustainable land use, regional development and importantly, the aspirations of local communities... This kind of leadership matters, especially now as we face into the growing impacts of climate change, of biodiversity loss and changing land use patterns."

For QTFN, the evening was more than a celebration—it was a reminder of what we can accomplish through collaboration and shared purpose. As we step into the next 20 years, we invite everyone to walk alongside us as we remain committed to protecting the landscape, restoring ecosystems, and creating opportunities for people and nature to thrive together.

“Conservation doesn’t have to be at odds with economic reality.”



Board Chair Bruce Cowley presenting



Songwoman Maroochy Barambah



Invited industry, government, and community guests joined us

Global Nature Positive Summit

QTFN was pleased to attend the world-first Global Nature Positive Summit in Sydney, bringing the voice of private land conservation into national and international discussions. The Summit highlighted the vital role of landholders and conservation organisations in delivering nature-positive outcomes and showcased how on-ground action connects with global ambitions. QTFN’s participation helped ground high-level policy and finance conversations in practical, real-world solutions—demonstrating how collaboration, investment, and innovation on private land can deliver measurable results. This approach is essential to realising Australia’s national ambition for a healthy, prosperous, and resilient future that benefits both people and nature.



With Hon Tanya Plibersek MP

Queensland Environment Day

This year, the first formal Queensland Environment Day was launched on 5 June, strategically aligned with World Environment Day and Queensland Philanthropy Week.

Queensland Environment Day is about celebration and the enjoyment of Queensland’s local natural wonders, understanding the incredible and unique environments of Queensland (and the challenges they face), and about inspiring individuals to take action to protect and improve the Queensland environment.

The day also seeks to enhance and amplify the efforts of the many passionate individuals, organisations, and businesses already doing amazing work supporting our environment.

Queensland Trust for Nature is proud to be a founding partner of Queensland Environment Day (QED), and our CEO, Dr Liz O’Brien, is one of the inaugural Directors on this new organisation’s board.

The celebratory launch event at Queensland Museum was an evening of inspiration and connection with change makers across the state.

By improving the connection between people and place, we are making it easier to contribute to enhancing and protecting the natural environment that support and shape our lives.



Queensland Environment Day launch

Protecting nature through our Revolving Fund

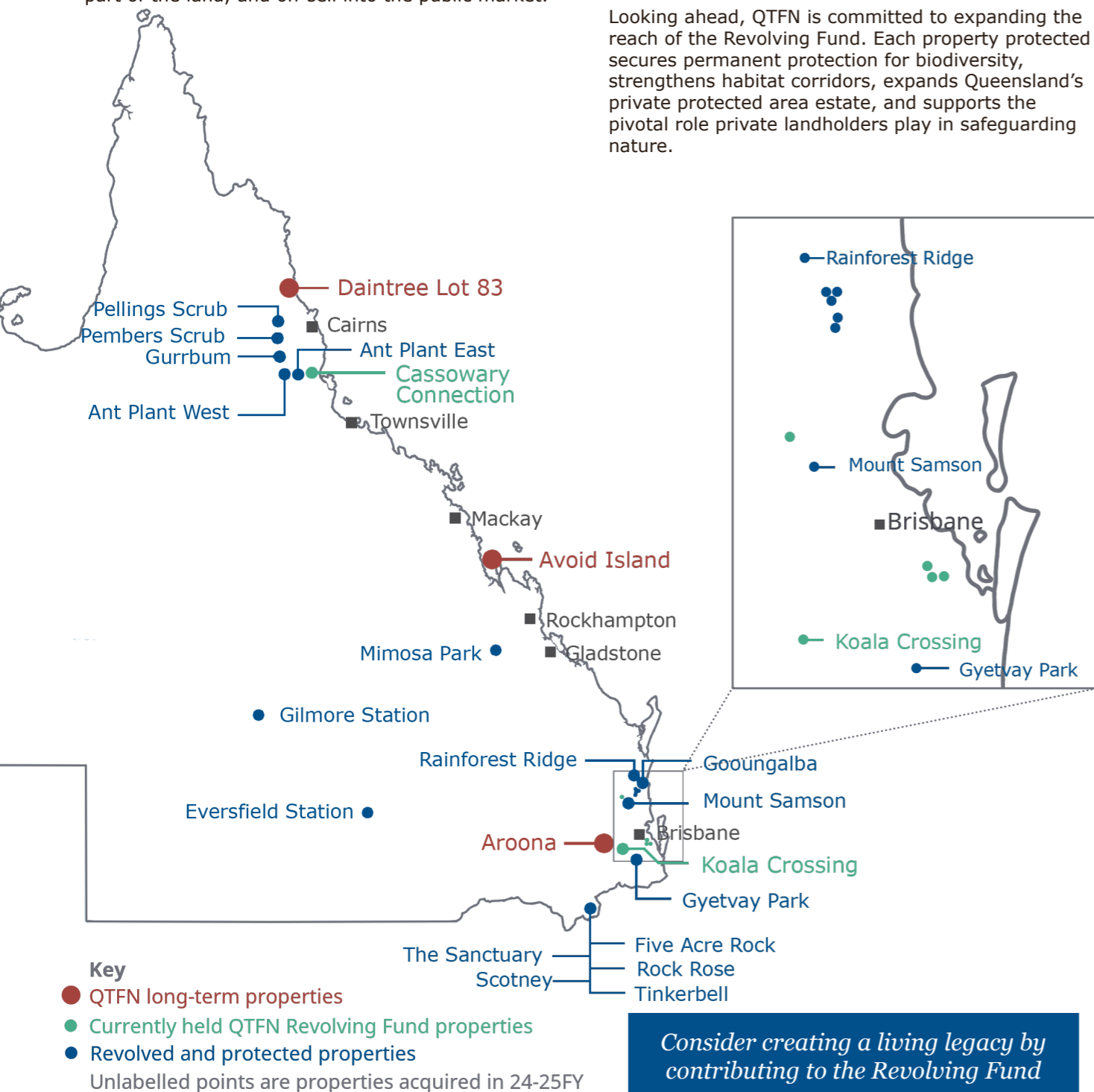
Landscape fragmentation is recognised as a key threatening process resulting in the loss of biodiversity. Protecting vegetation remnants and restoring wildlife corridors is critical to the long-term survival of many species. In Queensland, where over 80% of the land is privately owned or leased, it is clear that nature can only thrive if we bring landholders, farmers, Traditional Custodians, and conservation into alignment.

For the last 20 years, a key conservation tool used by the Queensland Trust for Nature has been our Revolving Property Fund. This Fund has been used to acquire properties with high ecological values, protect with a legally binding conservation agreement over part of the land, and on-sell into the public market.

The result: more than 101,587 hectares of habitat protected for over 100 threatened species, ensuring positive long-term outcomes for threatened species and connecting habitat corridors across Queensland.

Our first land purchase in 2005 was in the Atherton Tablelands. This property endures as a thriving Nature Refuge and is one of six adjoining nature refuges forming a corridor that links large remnants of high-altitude rainforest. From these first 64 hectares to a 74,332-hectare property in the Mulga Lands, QTFN has acquired properties of various sizes and created a living legacy of biodiversity protection for the landholders.

Looking ahead, QTFN is committed to expanding the reach of the Revolving Fund. Each property protected secures permanent protection for biodiversity, strengthens habitat corridors, expands Queensland's private protected area estate, and supports the pivotal role private landholders play in safeguarding nature.



Consider creating a living legacy by contributing to the Revolving Fund

Impact of the Revolving Fund

Each property demonstrates the proven impact and enduring value of QTFN's Revolving Fund in action. Over the past year, we have acquired 9 properties spanning more than 370 hectares and protected them all with Conservation Covenants with the Queensland Government. With over two decades of experience in land acquisition, restoration, and protection, QTFN applies a rigorous, evidence-based approach to secure lasting environmental gains.

The Revolving Fund provides a proven, transparent, and scalable pathway to invest in measurable, enduring outcomes for nature. By contributing to the Fund, donors and partners help create a living legacy—where every investment drives both ecological and financial sustainability for Queensland's landscapes.

- How the QTFN Revolving Fund works**
- 1. Acquire** land with high ecological value.
 - 2. Restore** and enhance habitat where needed.
 - 3. Protect** properties with legally binding conservation agreements.
 - 4. Revolve** the property, selling it on the private market, with funds reinvested into protecting and enhancing nature.

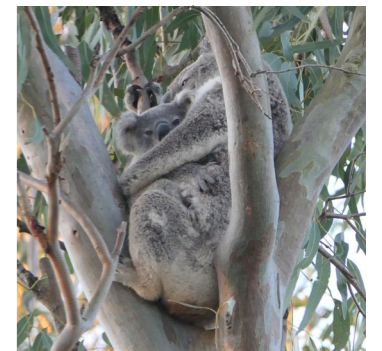
Protecting habitat for koalas near Peachester

Late last year, QTFN sold a 23.58-hectare property near Peachester to a couple committed to long-term land stewardship for koalas. Years of revegetation work have enhanced habitat quality, and the property is now permanently protected through a Conservation Covenant, securing refuge for native wildlife in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland.

The new owners shared their excitement about continuing this legacy:

"We saw this property as a chance to be part of something bigger — a living, breathing landscape that supports koalas and countless other species. It's a privilege to help protect it."

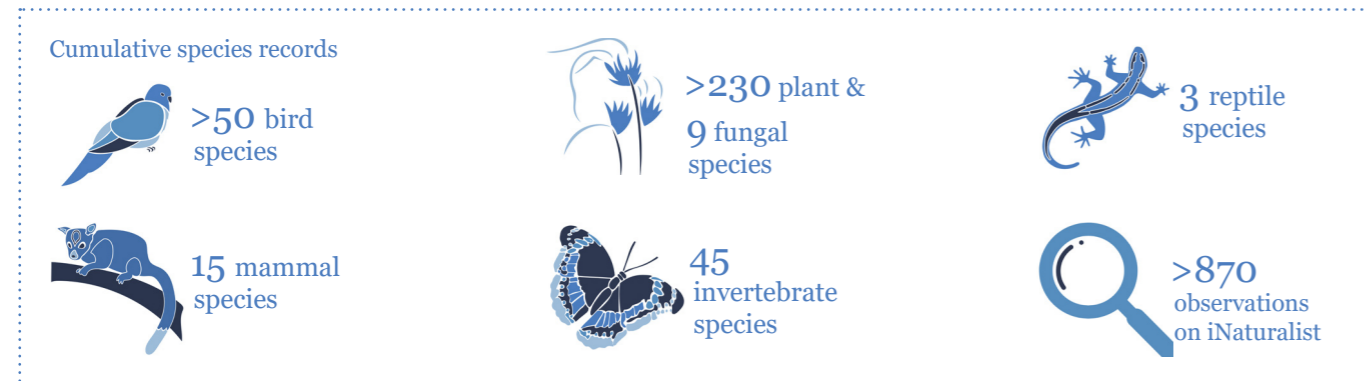
"With our background in animal ecology and wildlife rehabilitation, we are thrilled to have the opportunity to preserve, protect, and share this beautiful and unique property for years to come. Australia's bushlands have remarkable flora and fauna, and is a true natural treasure, as such we are proud to contribute to its conservation. Purchasing this property ensures we will always have a place where we can be directly involved in protecting habitat—our shared passion."



Locklan and Jacob at the property

Restoring habitat at Koala Crossing

10 years of monitoring and management



While working among a stand of young eucalyptus trees at QTFN's Koala Crossing property, Senior Ecologist Chagi Weerasena reflects on more than a decade of work on the site.

A combined 651.72 hectares within the Flinders-Karawatha Corridor, this property forms part of the largest remaining contiguous stretch of open eucalypt forest in South East Queensland. The site's distinctive habitat includes rocky hills and eucalypt forest, and supports a number of rare and threatened flora and fauna species.

When QTFN purchased the eight adjoining property lots, the decision was made to capitalise on the opportunity provided by environmental markets to provide long term funding for restoration plans. A combination of voluntary carbon and regulated biodiversity offset projects are contributing resources and funding to measurably improve the condition of this landscape.

A site once cleared for grazing now has over 100,000 trees planted in the last ten years across 95.5 hectares, providing food and habitat for birds, reptiles, koalas, grey-headed flying foxes, and brush-tailed rock-wallabies. Weeds are being actively treated across the property.

In the last five years, 4,800 camera trap nights have detected feral animals so they can be removed to reduce the threat to the precious native fauna that use the site. They have also captured the elusive koalas that use the food and habitat trees which are permanently protected from clearing.

The transformation of Koala Crossing from open paddocks to thriving habitat has been shaped by dedication, hard work, and a long-term view of restoration. Through adaptive management and monitoring we continue to improve and refine our approach to achieving positive ecological outcomes. Koala Crossing demonstrates that offset projects can deliver genuine biodiversity gains.



Koala Crossing restoration area connects open eucalypt forest as part of a corridor

Ten years of on-ground outcomes



^Over last ten years. *Over the last five years.

Species commonly seen on the camera traps

1. Red-necked wallaby
2. Brushtail possums
3. Long-nosed bandicoot
4. Whiptail wallaby

Top 5 interesting pop ups on the camera traps

1. Koala
2. Short-beaked echidna
3. Brush-tailed phascogale
4. Tawny frogmouth
5. Yellow-spotted monitor



Koala visitor on a camera trap

Your support can enhance habitat for our iconic native wildlife

Nurturing nature in productive landscapes

Aroona Field Day



With almost 2,000 hectares of native vegetation, wildlife, and cattle grazing areas, Aroona Station is an incredible living legacy. It is more than a property to be conserved and managed—it is a place to share knowledge and trial innovative technology and management approaches.

QTFN is committed to learning more about Aroona's landscapes and the species it supports to better inform our stewardship of the property. Our approach to land management at Aroona takes many forms and is a continuous effort.

Earlier this year, we welcomed more than 60 corporate leaders, land managers, government representatives, and sustainability experts for a field day showcasing how Aroona is managed for biodiversity and beef.

We shared our habitat restoration, regenerative agriculture, and environmental market projects with participants. We included insights into our conservation planning, agribusiness, regulated and voluntary restoration projects and our draft Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) report prepared with BDO.

Lunchtime conversations illuminated the collective commitment from attendees to drive meaningful change. By opening our work to stakeholders, we aimed to demonstrate accountability and expertise, while building the partnerships needed for Aroona to be a living example of how nature conservation, responsible agribusiness, and economic sustainability can work together.



Assessing how our agribusiness intertwines with nature through TNFD

To report on our commitment to understanding and managing the environment and agricultural values of Aroona, we have adopted the globally-recognised Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) framework.

As an early adopter of this framework in Australia, QTFN has worked with BDO to prepare the draft Nature Report focused on Aroona's agribusiness. Through this we have identified nature-related risks and opportunities, increasing our understanding of the potential impacts of Aroona Station's agribusiness operations as well as its dependencies. This is informing our approach to improving the property's environmental resilience.



Delivering restoration outcomes on-ground

At Aroona, the results of long-term restoration are visible—stands of young eucalypts rise three to five metres high in thriving plantings across 29 hectares, now entering the maintenance phase, alongside an additional 23.5 hectares of direct seeding.

In the last year, 507 hectares of weed treatment has improved habitat quality across the landscape, supported by fauna-friendly fencing, erosion control, and riparian revegetation. Wildlife camera footage has captured koalas moving through these sites, a clear sign of success.

With these projects maturing, QTFN is focused on continuing to deliver and apply this expertise to restoration projects at scale.

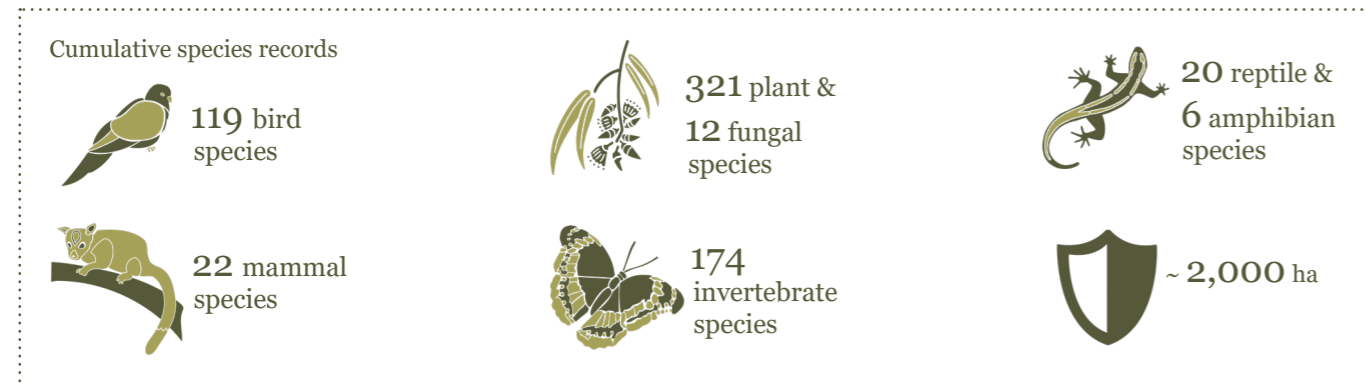


Supporting Nature Positive projects

The Mirvac Greenstar Nature Stewardship project at Aroona is a voluntary nature positive initiative. The project is transforming eight hectares through dedicated revegetation. It is contributing to enhancing a section of riparian zone – an important wildlife corridor and food source for threatened species. The project's total plantings are now more than 4,700 trees across the site, including food and habitat trees for koalas, glossy black cockatoos, and grey-headed flying foxes. The project has also invested in valuable management measures including installing fauna friendly fencing and controlling invasive woody weeds and the tenacious cat's claw creeper. Expanding riparian buffers around Aroona helps not only create and new habitat it also prevents erosion and promotes water retention in the landscape.



Honouring the living legacy of Aroona



Dr Robin and Kathleen Stock have a deep connection to Aroona Station. They acquired their first lot of this now 1,958-hectare property in the 1970s—creating a living legacy in this important part of the landscape. Ten years ago, they entrusted Aroona to QTFN to ensure its nearly 2,000 hectares would remain a connectivity corridor for wildlife as well as serve as a productive landscape for grazing and a place for education and research.

Since 2015, we have been able to manage and monitor the remarkable array of species that make Aroona special—from the towering grass trees and eucalypt woodlands to glossy black cockatoos and koalas. Initially there were two known colonies of the threatened brush-tailed rock-wallabies. Now, we have identified seven colonies among the rugged cliffs and rocky outcrops. Being able to share the knowledge of the incredible biodiversity on the land with Robin and Kathy has been a privilege.

We will continue the responsibility to honour Kathy's vision and legacy now that she has passed.

Active land restoration and management activities are delivering visible results for habitat quality: thriving revegetation projects reconnect habitat, integrated weed and fire management controls invasive species and reduces the threat from wildfire.

Rotational grazing with fauna-friendly fencing eases land pressures and supports creek bank rehabilitation. These actions not only support biodiversity but also support the long-term health of the land as we work to demonstrate how our agribusiness can coexist with our conservation goals.

The journey has not been without challenges. Managing invasive species across steep and rugged country and incorporating low impact grazing has required persistence, adaptation, and gaining wisdom from adversity. Each step has deepened our knowledge of this complex and valuable landscape.

We would like to recognise Dr Robin and Kathleen Stock's incredible vision and generosity and reaffirm QTFN's commitment to care for the land and support information sharing for current and future generations.

Their living legacy is now a shared responsibility, and we welcome partners who want to shape the next chapter of this iconic property.



Dr Robin and Kathleen Stock at Aroona

Conservation Planning

Aroona Station's Conservation Plan was developed using the Conservation Standards framework and incorporates key insights from ESG frameworks including the TNFD, Science Based Targets Network (SBTN), Accounting for Nature (AfN), the global Nature Metrics, and the Australian Agricultural Sustainability Framework. This integrated approach recognises the property's environmental, social, and economic values and positions us to deliver measurable outcomes across all three.

Through this process, we identified three key conservation assets and one human wellbeing asset: Eucalypt Woodland, Riparian Systems, Grazing Pastures and Economic Development.

Eucalypt Woodland: These woodlands form the ecological backbone of Aroona Station, providing vital habitat for native fauna and acting as a natural corridor connecting to Main Range National Park. Maintaining healthy woodland structure, species diversity, and ground cover is essential for biodiversity resilience. A healthy fire regime, combined with strategic weed and pest management, supports the regeneration of native grasses and shrubs that underpin ecosystem health.

Riparian Systems: Aroona's riparian systems including the springs, creeks and drainage lines are integral to the property's hydrological and ecological function. They support habitat connectivity and protect downstream water quality. Management actions focus on erosion control, restoration of native riparian vegetation, and maintaining healthy waterway buffers to improve resilience to flood and drought cycles.

Grazing Pastures: The productive grasslands and improved pastures sustain Aroona's Charbray cattle enterprise, forming the foundation for the station's "balancing beef and biodiversity" vision. These pastures are being managed through regenerative agricultural practices to promote soil health, groundcover retention, and carbon sequestration while maintaining profitability and reducing environmental impact.

Economic Development: This asset recognises Aroona Station's dual purpose as both a working cattle station and a living demonstration of sustainable agribusiness. It encompasses QTFN's commitment to responsible stewardship, transparent reporting, and alignment with nature-positive financial disclosure frameworks, ensuring the enterprise contributes to local livelihoods while protecting natural capital.

Our plan informs our priorities for decision making to balance the biodiversity and agribusiness goals of Aroona Station. It ensures our management decisions are accountable, transparent, and future-focused. By integrating the Conservation Plan with the property's business plan, we manage Aroona Station as a whole – delivering outcomes for nature as well as the agribusiness.

This demonstrates to partners and markets that protecting biodiversity can go hand in hand with productive landscapes.



Eucalypt Woodland



A creek part of the Riparian Systems



Cattle on Grazing Pastures

We want to honour the vision for Aroona Station to demonstrate the potential for the coexistence of nature conservation, best practice land management, and a sustainable agricultural enterprise.

Partnering to restore koala habitat

Cultivating critical wildlife corridors with committed landholders

Over the last five years



440 ha of restoration area



250 ha assisted natural regeneration



245,000 trees planted & maintained



185 ha revegetation



14 landholder partnerships, & collaborations with governments, council, NRM & Landcare groups, industry, & researchers.



QTFN is working hand-in-hand with 14 private landholders across South East Queensland to restore more than 440 hectares of koala habitat by replanting historically cleared areas and supporting natural regeneration of the land.

The QTFN Koala Habitat Program includes the Koala Habitat Restoration Partnership Program (KHRPP) that is funded by the Queensland Government and implemented by QTFN. Additional funding leveraged through strengthened community partnerships also contributes to the QTFN program and this work is uniting landholders, government, and industry, under a shared vision: to restore koala habitat in South East Queensland and secure the long-term survival of one of Australia's most iconic species.

Over the past five years, QTFN has delivered two rounds of KHRPP projects, supporting landholders to transform parts of their properties into thriving ecosystems for koalas and other native species. As program manager, QTFN has overseen all aspects: from project selection and detailed restoration planning to on-ground delivery and operations.

To date, we have delivered:

- 185 hectares of direct native plantings suited to local regional ecosystems
- 250 hectares of assisted natural regeneration to improve habitat quality
- 245,000 trees planted and maintained for up to four years to ensure high survival rates

These restored areas are already showing success — with koalas being observed using these new habitat corridors and moving through restored landscapes.

For the third round of KHRPP funding, QTFN led an extensive expression of interest process to identify projects that will deliver the greatest landscape benefits for koalas. The response from private landholders has been overwhelming, reflecting a strong commitment to be part of protecting and restoring koala habitat in South East Queensland.

With proven restoration methods, measurable results, and scalable processes now established, QTFN is ready to expand the impact of this vital work.

Together, we can build connected, resilient landscapes for generations to come to help halt the decline of koalas.

Restoring 51 hectares at Hidden Vale

At Hidden Vale in Grandchester, QTFN has coordinated the delivery of three restoration projects across 51 hectares, planting more than 45,000 trees. Supported by 19 hectares of targeted weed control and assisted natural regeneration, these works are restoring creek lines, increasing biodiversity, and creating new habitat for koalas.



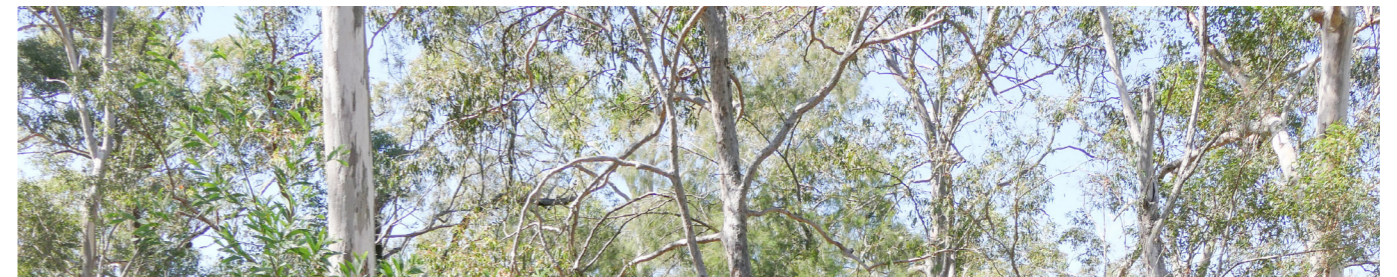
Hidden Vale just after planting

Your support can restore wildlife habitat for long-term benefits



Purga Creek: restoring land and inspiring habitat connectivity

At a property in Purga, landholder Sam looks over the 6,400 saplings rising above the long grass. This area along Purga Creek in Ipswich has historically been overgrazed and remnant vegetation removed, with only a few patches of forest remaining before Sam started restoration works. The revegetation, and weed control, across the five-hectare project with QTFN will facilitate koala and wildlife movement across the landscape. Sam is motivated to "increase healthy habitat connectivity with other properties and improve soil and water quality in the area". Seeing a koala high in a tree soon after they bought the property has motivated them to increase the number of food and habitat trees for koalas and ensure their investments in restoring the habitat are secure. They have just been granted the first Voluntary Conservation Covenant between the Ipswich City Council and a private landholder.



Free trees initiative

Alongside our active restoration projects with landholders, QTFN has also provided free koala food trees and planting materials to landholders and community groups. This year we provided 160 plants at a Watergum Scenic Rim Koala Community event. This effort supports habitat connectivity, strengthens biodiversity, and enhances broader landscape resilience. Beyond benefiting koalas, the restoration of native vegetation supports other wildlife as well as improving soil health, supporting pollination, and providing shade for livestock, contributing to more sustainable rural landscapes.



QTFN Restoration Project Manager and Officer, Dave Madden and Joe Meadham

Protecting Avoid Island's biodiversity

An island ark supporting an incredible array of wildlife



Rose-crowned Fruit-Doves use coastal vine thicket. By Jasmine Louise

There is an abundance of life using Avoid Island's 83 hectares of land. This island ark lies in the saltwaters of Koinmerburra Country, and is one of the only privately-managed Nature Refuge islands in the southern Great Barrier Reef.

QTFN has worked with the Koinmerburra Aboriginal Corporation (KAC) to develop a two-way land management plan for the island and jointly deliver education products as part of the Great Barrier Reef Foundation's Reef Islands Initiative.

The 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.

Avoid Island has historically been used as a reference nesting site for the vulnerable flatback turtle (*Natator depressus*). This year's 15-day turtle survey recorded 65 nesting turtles, with around 87% of hatchlings successfully emerging—a strong sign of rookery health. Monitoring of this vulnerable species provides valuable ecological data and underscores the island's conservation importance.

The QTFN team has been working with collaborators and partners to safeguard Avoid Island's unique environment. The island has seen a range of activities in recent years including ecological monitoring, biodiversity audits, corporate volunteering, creation of educational resources, weed control, and the reintroduction of fire management. The land management has supported the health of the island's ecosystems, including the 16 hectares of the critically endangered Littoral Rainforest and Coastal Vine Thickets of Eastern Australia ecological community.



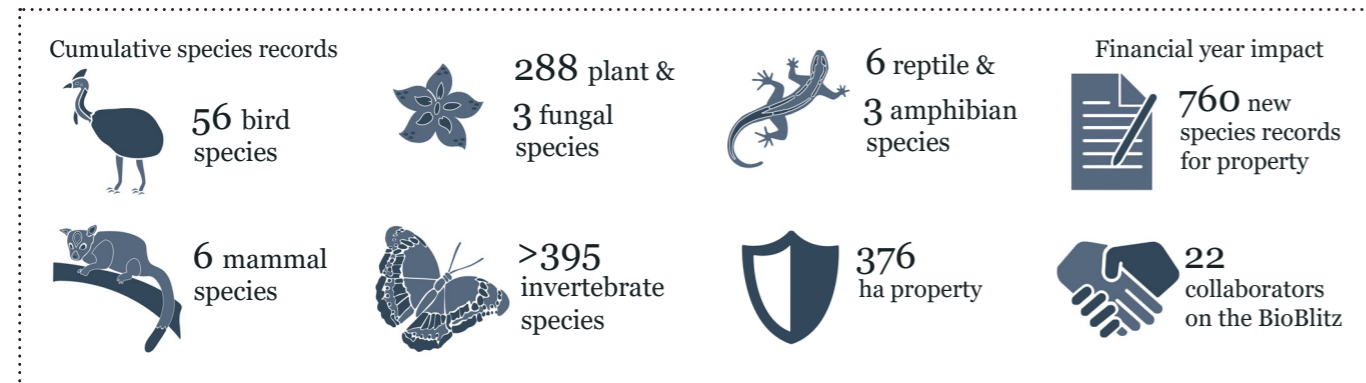
Flatback turtle on the island. By Georgie Braun / QTFN

“Together, we can create a future where Queensland's landscapes, people, and communities thrive.”

Your support can bring people together to care for Country

Walking together in the Daintree

Learning more about property biodiversity



Lot 83, nestled in the lower Daintree rainforest in the Wet Tropics, is home to extraordinary biodiversity. This year, we set out to update and expand its ecological records, revealing even more about the breadth of species the property supports.

In May, QTFN proudly delivered a valuable event on Eastern Kuku Yalanji Country: a two-day BioBlitz. We worked with local ecology experts and Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation rangers to survey biodiversity at Lot 83 in the Daintree. Funded by an Engaging Science Grant from the Office of the Queensland Chief Scientist, we were able to bring together 22 people to record flora and fauna occurring in parts of the 376-hectare property.

The outcomes extended far beyond data. New partnerships were forged and existing partnerships strengthened: the BioBlitz experts are now valued collaborators and QTFN's relationship with Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation has deepened.

The experts all strongly agreed it was an enjoyable and valuable experience, despite the persistent Wet Tropics rain.

The initiative sparked interdisciplinary learning, connected people passionate about the environment, and reinforced the importance of protecting Queensland's unique natural environment.

Importantly, it provided QTFN with deeper ecological insights to inform the future planning for Lot 83. Delivering this project was a powerful demonstration of what is possible through collaborative action, First Nations engagement, and knowledge sharing.

New species records for the property

Over the two days, the team logged 760 new species' records for the property. Thanks to Matthew Connors and Caitlin Henderson, two passionate and dedicated local experts, more than half of these new records were invertebrates—an often under-reported group of fauna despite representing well over 90% of all described animal species on Earth. They also found an undescribed Pheidole (big headed ant) species and a new species of pseudoscorpion from the family Scolopendrellidae. This is potentially only the third time that this family of invertebrates has been recorded in Queensland. Our expert team of volunteers used observational surveys, camera traps, acoustic recorders, spotlighting, Elliott traps, a harp trap, and a thermal drone during the BioBlitz. We also trialed the groundbreaking airborne environmental DNA (eDNA) technique thanks to our partners at the University of Queensland led by Dr Celine Frere. There were many endemic and threatened species detected, including the endangered southern cassowary (*Casuarus casuarus johnsonii*), the vulnerable ant plant (*Myrmecodia beccarii*), and the spiny rainforest katydid (*Phricta spinosa*). We continue to add observations to iNaturalist and eBird, and the creation of an iNaturalist project for the private property enables future citizen science data collection.

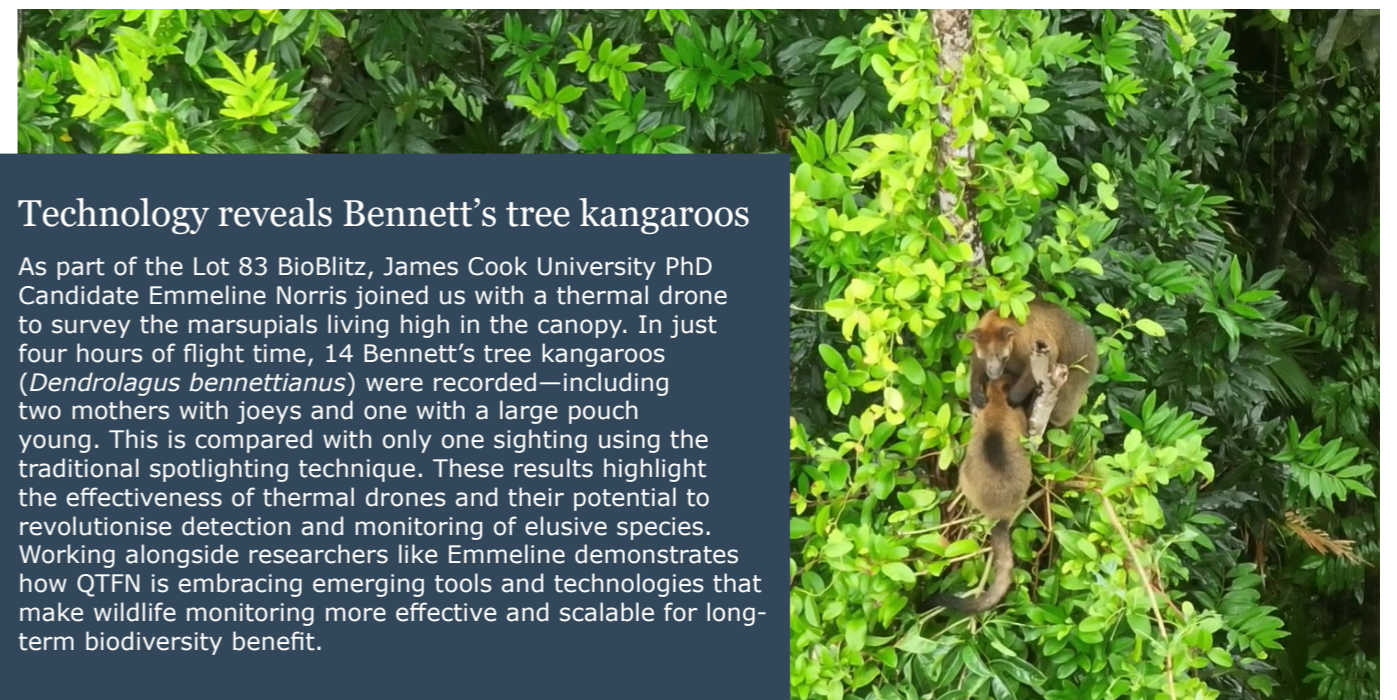


The people behind the BioBlitz

The success of the Lot 83 BioBlitz was shaped by the generosity and diversity of people who came together to share their skills, knowledge, and passion. Local ecologists brought their deep expertise in plants, invertebrates, birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and aquatic fauna—providing invaluable insights into the region's biodiversity. Thank you to Matthew Connors, Alan Gillanders, Caitlin Henderson, Murray Hunt, Jannico Kelk, Emmeline Norris, Torfinn Radcliffe, Allen Sheather, and Carl Shuetrim. We were also fortunate to work alongside Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation rangers, whose knowledge, skills, and perspectives enriched the experience. QTFN's Nicola Grobler coordinated the event, with support from Senior Ecologist Chagi Weerasena and 'Friend of QTFN' volunteer Dr John Rochecouste. This ensured a collaborative and well-managed survey. These connections and shared learnings will continue to inspire and strengthen efforts to protect special places like Lot 83.



The northern half of Daintree Lot 83



Technology reveals Bennett's tree kangaroos

As part of the Lot 83 BioBlitz, James Cook University PhD Candidate Emmeline Norris joined us with a thermal drone to survey the marsupials living high in the canopy. In just four hours of flight time, 14 Bennett's tree kangaroos (*Dendrolagus bennettianus*) were recorded—including two mothers with joeys and one with a large pouch young. This is compared with only one sighting using the traditional spotlighting technique. These results highlight the effectiveness of thermal drones and their potential to revolutionise detection and monitoring of elusive species. Working alongside researchers like Emmeline demonstrates how QTFN is embracing emerging tools and technologies that make wildlife monitoring more effective and scalable for long-term biodiversity benefit.

Mother and joey at Lot 83. By Emmeline Norris

Connecting with communities

We know that awareness, understanding and appreciation of biodiversity fosters the willingness and inspiration for individuals to change behaviour and act for nature.

With over 14 million visitors to South Bank Brisbane each year, the site has incredible potential to inform, influence and inspire a nature positive future. This year, we partnered with South Bank Corporation to produce a series of educational videos on topics ranging from healthy soils and waterways to spotlighting species like the rakali. These resources help build ecological literacy and encourage more people to connect with the natural world.

Citizen science is a growing force in collecting accessible biodiversity data, contributing more than half of all species records, more than 62 million, in Australia's national biodiversity database—the Atlas of Living Australia. We complement our formal ecological surveys with citizen science platforms like iNaturalist to record biodiversity data on our properties. This enables visitors to record wildlife observations, creating valuable datasets while deepening local stewardship.

We contribute our expertise to community events, field days, and workshops, sharing practical lessons and insights. These forums allow us to exchange knowledge, enhance networks, and inspire new collaborations—helping build capacity well beyond QTFN's own projects. This approach strengthens not only biodiversity outcomes but also the networks of people working together towards a future where people and nature thrive.



Still frame from "Life underground" South Bank video



Still frame from "The Rakali" South Bank video



Still frame from "iNaturalist" South Bank video

Sharing insights in conservation and protection

In November, the Professional Environmental Women's Association hosted a panel on "Environment and Society: Current and Future Trends in Conservation and Protection". QTFN CEO, Dr Liz O'Brien, shared insights alongside Professor Rowena Maguire, Tanya Pritchard, and Mollie O'Connor in a discussion moderated by Dr Elizabeth Williams.

Together, the panel explored pressing environmental challenges and the innovative solutions required to address them, emphasising the value of First Nations knowledge, diverse perspectives, and system-wide reform. The event reinforced that protecting biodiversity is not just a responsibility shared across sectors, but also an opportunity to collaborate for meaningful, measurable, and lasting impact.



Sharing knowledge through the Little Liverpool Range Initiative

Continuing our commitment to knowledge sharing, QTFN's Senior Ecologist, Chagi Weerasena, represented our work in May at the Little Liverpool Range Connecting Corridors Forum in South East Queensland. The local community gathered to discuss collaborative land management efforts across the region.

As a founding organisation of the Little Liverpool Range Initiative (LLRI), QTFN's poster showcased how we have used innovative technologies to detect wildlife at Aroona. The forum also featured University of Queensland's PhD Candidate Natalya Maitz's research on brush-tailed rock-wallabies, where Aroona was proudly one of the study sites.

By working alongside the LLRI community, QTFN is helping to ensure that the Little Liverpool Range will be a landscape where wildlife and communities can thrive long into the future.



Connecting communities with nature in the Daintree

As part of our Engaging Science Grant, we shared findings from the Lot 83 BioBlitz with the community at a citizen science workshop at Mossman Gorge Cultural Centre in May. The day began with a Welcome to Country, followed by QTFN's presentation of survey results from Lot 83 and a hands-on training session in the use of iNaturalist. Participants joined a guided walk through Mossman Gorge with one of our BioBlitz experts, experiencing biodiversity up close and applying their citizen science skills.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive—attendees reported that they learned something new, the experience changed how they thought about citizen science, and they felt more inspired to be in nature. Importantly, most participants indicated they would share their learnings with others, extending the impact of the day beyond the group that could join us.

We see this highlighting the role citizen science can play in building awareness, changing attitudes, and inspiring collective action.



Enabling new knowledge and research

In 2019, researchers found the 'rainbow battleship caterpillar' at Aroona Station and collected specimens for research on their painful venom. Previously thought to be the larvae of the wattle cup moth, DNA barcoding of these specimens determined they are actually the larvae of Lion's Mane Moth, *Comana albibasis*¹, a slug moth. This project highlights the living laboratory potential of our properties and the role they can play in advancing knowledge.

We are proactively trialling new and evolving technologies aimed at solving environmental questions, monitoring at scale and enhancing land management practices. From collecting airborne environmental DNA (eDNA) to detecting tree kangaroos using thermal drones, we aim to enhance our own operations and contribute valuable practical insights to the broader community about these methods.

Our active participation in industry conferences and research partnerships ensures we stay at the forefront of environmental science developments. The 32nd International Congress for Conservation Biology and the Australian Mammal Society Conference offered valuable insights into current research and created new collaborations. This engagement ensures that we remain updated on the latest advancements and practices in the field, continually refining our practices and working with leading and innovative researchers.

We look forward to seeing the outcomes and implications of the research happening on our properties and building Aroona Station's potential as a research and education site. We remain committed to being involved in research that drives tangible outcomes for our environment. We continue to expand our collaborations and partnerships to share knowledge and learn, whether finding new species, trialling technologies or providing a place in the landscape for education and research.

¹ Cook et al. (2025). DNA barcoding solves the mystery of the rainbow battleship caterpillar (Lepidoptera: Limacodidae) and reveals cryptic diversity in Australian slug moths. *Austral Entomology*, 64(1), e12727.



Setting up eDNA sites in the Daintree at Lot 83



Emmeline Norris with thermal drone used to detect Bennett's tree kangaroos

Contributing to long-term datasets for decision-making

At Aroona, long-term acoustic monitoring stations act as remote sentinels, recording the chorus of birds and wildlife, capturing real-time data that feeds into Australian Long-term Agroecosystem Research (ALTAR) network. As one of a growing number of national sites, Aroona is contributing high-resolution, long-term acoustic data to inform decisions in Australian agriculture. This independent, open-access information—with multiple streams including soil carbon, greenhouse gas fluxes, and biodiversity—strengthens decision-making for land managers, researchers, and policy makers alike. By embedding Aroona in the ALTAR network, QTFN is ensuring our projects are underpinned by rigorous science and contribute to the vision of sustainable, resilient agriculture.



QUT partner with station

Beyond plastic: Co-developing biodegradable tree guards



Developed prototype by QUT

Conventional plastic tree guards are designed to last at least one growing season, but their durability comes at a cost—they can leave behind persistent microplastic waste in our creeks and oceans, especially after weather events. Recognising this need for a better solution, QTFN partnered with the University of Queensland's School of Chemical Engineering to develop a biodegradable, biocompatible tree guard made from polyhydroxyalkanoates ("green polymers") and sawdust. Strong, water-resistant, and fully biodegradable, this innovation protects young trees while eliminating waste—bringing chemical engineering and ecosystem restoration together for lasting impact.

"There's growing industry demand for biodegradable alternatives that actually work in the field, and this prototype is a promising step toward practical, sustainable revegetation."

– Dave Madden, Restoration Project Manager, QTFN

Nature-based citizen science initiatives benefit participant wellbeing

Research consistently highlights that connecting with nature is critical not only for conservation outcomes but also for human wellbeing. A recent study¹ included QTFN's two-day citizen science camps (Citizens for Refuge Ecology (C4RE)) and found statistically significant "enhancements" in mental health and emotions, with participants reporting greater positive emotions and reduced anxiety and stress symptoms. Distinguished by their extended format and strong social interactions, QTFN's C4RE camps demonstrate how citizen science can achieve benefits in addition to collecting valuable biodiversity data. That they can also be part of broader health-promoting initiatives. QTFN is proud to deliver nature-based experiences that deliver measurable benefits for both people and nature.

¹ Oh et al. (2025). Using nature-based citizen science initiatives to enhance nature connection and mental health. *Frontiers in Environmental Science*, 13.



By Jasmine Louise

Wildlife soundscapes



Set up at Lot 83

We are trialling bioacoustics to embed into our biodiversity surveys, with pilots at our Aroona, Koala Crossing, and Lot 83 properties. We have deployed AudioMoth recording devices to capture the soundscapes and are partnering with Queensland University of Technology to train an artificial intelligence platform to review hundreds of hours of recording to identify bird calls and koala bellows. We plan to trial new methods for detecting microbats, frogs and invertebrates. By expanding our use of this approach, we are strengthening our research partnerships and building richer ecological insights.

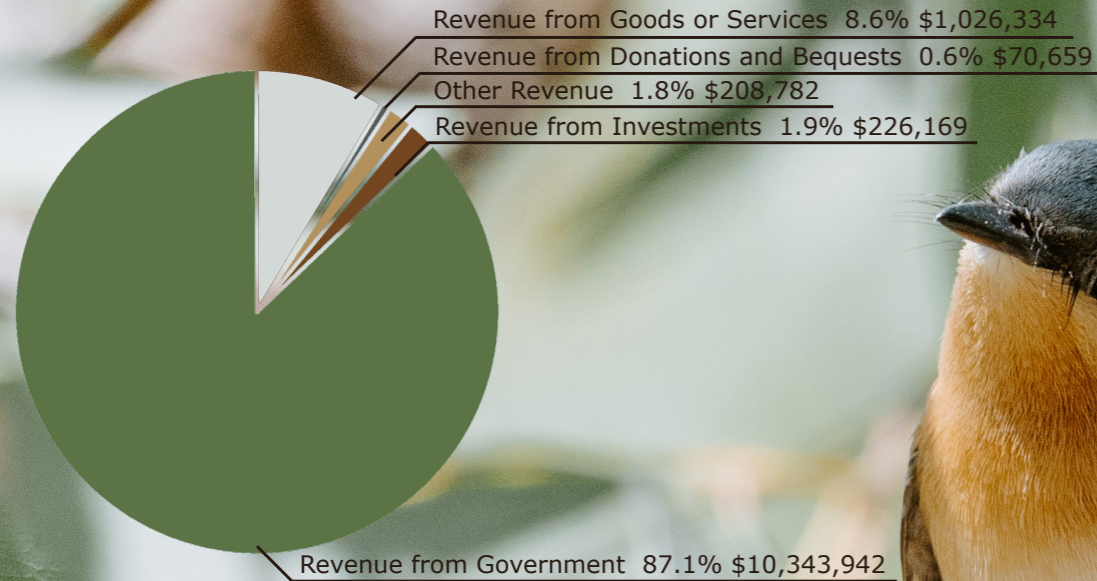


Rainbow battleship caterpillar (*Comana albibasis*) found at Aroona
By Dr Andrew Maynard and Dr Jessa Thurman

Financial overview

Queensland Trust for Nature is a Registered Charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). To see the full charity reporting, visit the ACNC website.

Total Revenue



Total Expenses



By Jasmine Louise on Avoid Island

How to support us

We are all dependent on nature and everyone can play a role in reversing the decline in biodiversity.

Consider creating a living legacy through a range of options including:

Gift in Will

Leaving a gift in your will creates a living legacy that safeguards nature in Queensland for generations to come. Your generosity will enable QTFN to secure critical wildlife corridors and restore habitat for biodiversity where it's needed most.

Donate your property

Donating your property to Queensland Trust for Nature's Revolving Fund is a powerful way to create a lasting legacy for conservation. The proceeds of sale are reinvested to protect even more land, multiplying the impact of your generosity.

Corporate Giving

Corporate giving with QTFN drives measurable conservation impact while contributing to your organisation's ESG commitments. Partnering with us will support the delivery of tangible on-ground outcomes—restoring habitats, protecting species, and demonstrating leadership in sustainability.

Ongoing supporters

Regular giving provides QTFN with reliable support to plan and deliver long-term conservation projects. This consistent funding means we can protect more habitat, enhance more of the natural environment, support more species and encourage everyone to understand, value and act for nature.

Partner with us

Partnership with QTFN offers the opportunity to co-deliver high-impact environmental outcomes. Together, we can restore landscapes, safeguard biodiversity, and achieve ESG goals—turning shared vision into measurable environmental progress where nature and people thrive.

Skilled volunteers

QTFN welcomes skilled volunteers who contribute expertise or research in ecology, land management, communications, and beyond. We value a wide range of skills including environmental science, spatial mapping, conservation planning, legal and policy analysis, business development, marketing, fundraising, education, and digital storytelling. By sharing your professional skills, you amplify our capacity to deliver on-ground outcomes, strengthen our partnerships, and inspire wider community action for nature.



We are grateful for your generosity and support. Thanks to you, we can continue working across Queensland to protect and restore the landscape, and connect people to nature, now and into the future.



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