

NPAQ 4  
ANNUAL 2014  
REPORT 2





## ABOUT NPAQ

The National Parks Association of Queensland (NPAQ) promotes the preservation, expansion and appropriate management of national parks and the wider protected area estate in Queensland. As a non-government, non-party political, membership-based organisation, NPAQ campaigns for more national parks across the State by liaising with Government, relevant departments and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

NPAQ plays a key role in lobbying for the preservation of existing national parks in their natural condition and also for the reservation of new areas identified as worthy of national park status. NPAQ has been pursuing this agenda since its inception in 1930, and has taken a leading role in the establishment of the majority of the Queensland national park estate.

National parks and other protected areas are the foundation of our natural environment, now and for future generations. National parks are for our children, our grandchildren, and for their grandchildren.

Cover photo - heath on the Apsey property, one of 12 awaiting gazettal as national park in Queensland (Paul Donatiu).

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# REPORTS

## PRESIDENT



2013-14 has been a time of laying the groundwork for a strong future for NPAQ, based on the foundations of the past. An essential element was the development of the Strategic Plan 2014-2019, and its implementation. The plan identifies four Core Focus Areas:

Advocacy, Activities, Education and Research; supported by the elements of: Organisation, Communication and Collaboration. The format of the Annual Report reflects the alignment and collaborative effort already provided to ensure the achievement of the Strategic Plan.

The Plan proactively addresses two key challenges facing NPAQ - declining membership and insufficient revenue to fund our advocacy program and service our members appropriately. Whilst operating at a deficit again this year, we managed to reduce the projected deficit substantially. However, any benefit gained was lost, due to the necessity of writing off some previous investments.

Good governance is integral to building a sustainable future for NPAQ. Throughout the year, we continued to improve how the organisation operates and our business processes. Alongside these efforts, NPAQ continued to advocate for national parks and other protected areas, provide activities for members, and educate members, supporters and the public on national park matters.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Councillors, who through their hard work and dedication, are working towards a sustainable and exciting future; to the many NPAQ volunteers who offer their time, energy and skills so generously; to the members and supporters who provide valuable financial support; and to our dedicated and capable staff who work with passion and enthusiasm towards the fulfilment of NPAQ's goals.

Michelle Prior

## EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR



This past year has seen the continued dismantling of many legal, institutional and management frameworks previously erected to uphold the conservation role of national parks and other protected areas. In this regard, part of NPAQ's first founding object - to preserve intact in their natural condition, to the greatest possible extent the existing national parks of Queensland - has been directly threatened.

At the forefront of this change has been modification of the Nature Conservation Act to include the commercial use of national parks. This and subsequent changes to protected area categories has resulted in further erosion of the cardinal principle (which boldly suggests that national parks should be managed for nature first), an expansion of Government capacity to endorse actions on park that are perceived to have management benefit (such as grazing to control exotic grasses), and the legitimization of inappropriate and destructive activities on park such as zip-lines, resorts, horse riding and quad biking.

NPAQ has responded by initiating a field-based approach to its advocacy efforts that highlighted the visual and ecological impact of activities such as grazing, sought to re-establish the nature conservation role of national parks by highlighting their wildlife protection function and by undertaking targeted rare flora and fauna survey effort, and directly engaging with many of the Queenslanders who care for national parks through an animation highlighting the threats to our parks.

In addition to maintaining services to current members, future prosperity is sought through active engagement with individuals and groups that share NPAQ's enjoyment of natural areas.

Paul Donatui





in the last  
12 months  
NPAQ



- WAS REPORTED **106** TIMES IN THE MEDIA
- MADE **12** PRESENTATIONS TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS
- MADE **2** SUBMISSIONS TO PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

# 1 CORE FOCUS AREA

## ADVOCACY



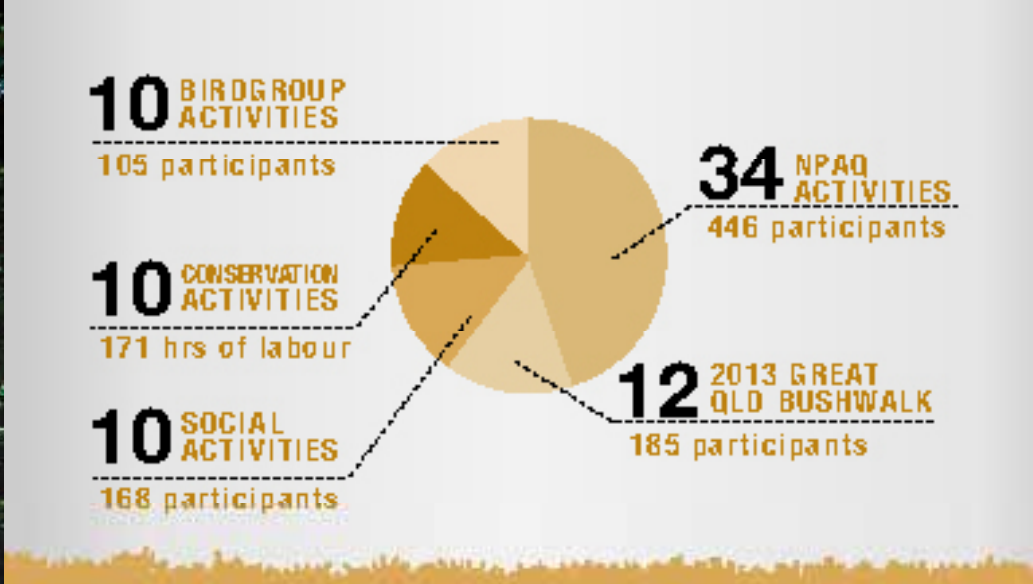
NPAQ's advocacy efforts are dedicated towards achieving the preservation, expansion and appropriate management of national parks and the wider protected area estate in Queensland (NPAQ Advocacy Charter).

NPAQ delivered a \$17.2m commitment to national park expansion, which is being guided by a Government acquisition strategy that purchases properties that show the greatest resilience to the impacts of climate change. Three properties (180,000 ha) were purchased in the last 12mths, while another seven are under negotiation. Nature refuges have been expanded by almost one million hectares in the same time period (now 470 covenants covering 3.6m hectares), with the ongoing rollout of Nature Assist - another election commitment delivered by NPAQ - playing a key role in supporting new nature refuge landholders. These lands remain exposed to resource extraction and development, and the delivery of a tenure tool to offer nature refuges the same level of protection as a national park remains a priority.

While NPAQ awaits the results of the State Government initiated Protected Area Review - covering all gazettals since 2002 or 1.2 million hectares of mostly national park land (including 12 properties or 400,000 ha of land purchased as national park through the National Reserve System) - the organisation continues to work to resolve the tenure hurdles that prevent declaration of new parks such as mining exploration permits.

As a result of its field-based efforts, grazing ceased on five National Parks on 31st December 2013 and on eight National Reserve System properties on 30th June 2014. Of 47 initial expressions of interest for commercial activity in national park, 32 are proceeding including a zip-line in Kondalilla National Park and the redevelopment of the Green Mountains campground at Lamington. The animation highlighting the threats to Queensland national parks, hosting advocacy-related seminars and continued use of the media have proved to be effective tools to convey concerns about park management.





## 2 CORE FOCUS AREA ACTIVITIES



The 2013-2014 period has been a successful one for NPAQ Activities, with a range of activities taking place in national parks and other wilderness areas. From Day Walks to Extended Trips, Recreational Activities provided members with exciting adventures, totalling 34 activities with 446 participants.

The Bird Group continued to offer unique bird-watching opportunities, visiting a number of different landscapes from the Tinchi Tamba Wetlands to the Kumbartcho Environment Centre, and encountering a number of rare species. Over 2013-14, there were 10 activities and 105 participants.

NPAQ Conservation Activities facilitate both rewarding and enjoyable experiences. Throughout 2013-14, the Vegetation Management Group Boombana and Jolly's Lookout Revegetation Project recorded 47 participants and contributed 171 hours of labour over 10 activities.

Social Activities continued to provide members with interesting and educational events, totalling 10 activities and 168 participants. The 2013 Great Queensland Bushwalk saw 12 activities with 185 participants.

In addition, the Activities Procedures and Leaders Manual was reviewed and updated, and the Activities Program and Handbook was revised and revitalised. A sincere thanks to all of the Leaders who have kindly donated their time and effort; and also to those who supported the activities program over this period.







## 3 CORE FOCUS AREA

# EDUCATION



A key aspect of NPAQ's work is educating members, supporters and the public about the value of National Parks, and informing and involving them in matters affecting national parks.

During the course of the year, this has involved:

### 12 Presentations:

- Biodiversity in Crisis Conference - Threats to Queensland National Parks
- Royal Geographical Society of Qld - Threats to Queensland National Parks
- The Hut Environment Community Association Forum - Challenges to resilience in our National Parks
- Griffith University Forum - Challenges to resilience in our National Parks
- Parliamentary Health and Community Services Committee - NPAQ comments on Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill
- Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee - NPAQ comments on North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Another Act Amendment Bill
- Montville Seminar - Impact of zip-line proposed for Obi Obi Gorge, Kondalilla National Park
- Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand - Debate on threatened species
- Environment Roundtable - Queensland National Parks: Current status and threats
- World Environment Day event organized by The Wilderness Society - Queensland National Parks: Current status and threats
- Lamington Natural History Association - Threats to Queensland National Parks and The role of Queensland National Parks in the conservation of biodiversity

### 11 Members Meetings, which included topics such as:

- Fight for the Reef Campaign (Australian Marine Conservation Society)
- Recent changes in protected area categories (Peter Ogilvie)
- Research on the Eastern Bristlebird (Birds Queensland)

**3 Public Seminars**, involving 8 speakers, 150 participants (over 100 members of the public); including our first seminar held outside Brisbane - in Montville.

- Using Rare Species to Promote Conservation
- Zip-Line Proposal for Obi Obi Gorge in Kondalilla National Park
- Do Species Surveys Make a Difference

**1 National Park Day** weekend held at the Apsey-Badgery National Reserve System properties - two of the 12 properties awaiting gazettal by the State Government as national park.





# 40/321 RESERVES ASSESSED FOR PROJECT

## 4 CORE FOCUS AREA

## RESEARCH



NPAQ had previously contributed \$30,000 to the Reserve Management Costs project being undertaken by James Cook University. The aim of the project, due to finish December 2014, is to produce an understanding of the costs and drivers of managing conservation reserves in Queensland.

To date, the project has examined reserve-specific financial data from 40 reserves, including places such as Lamington and Springbrook) and compiled data on:

- Managers' estimates of the money and staff time allocated to 20 different management activities within each reserve over the previous years.
- Managers' estimates of the current outcome standards being achieved for each of those activities, with respect to the management objectives of the reserve.
- Managers' estimates of the resources required to achieve good outcomes for each management activity in each reserve.

Initial conclusions indicate that:

- Most reserves are performing poorly or fairly on biodiversity related functions e.g. weed and pest management and monitoring of natural values.
- Most reserves are performing well on the functions related to visitor facilities and management.
- As budgets shrink, managers are forced to choose between management activities. As they cannot decrease visitor related activities due to safety issues and complaints from the public, management of natural values declines sharply.
- Visitor numbers are one of the main drivers of the costs of park management. As managing visitors is expensive compared to caring for biodiversity, current policies to increase park visitation will disproportionately increase pressure on existing budgets.

Communication is fundamental to NPAQ's work. During the year, we continued to review and improve our communications with members, supporters, affiliates, stakeholders, partners, government and the public.

**38,137**

WEBSITE VISITS

**14,190**

E-COMMUNICATIONS TO MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS

**1,100**

FACEBOOK LIKES

**1,044**

NON-MEMBER FACEBOOK LIKES

**11**

EDITIONS OF NPA NEWS

**1**

ACTIVITIES HANDBOOK

**1**

MEMBER CONSULTATION - STRATEGIC PLAN

COMMUNICATION COLLABORATION

During the last 12 months, NPAQ chaired the Protect the Bush Alliance - an amalgam of 30 groups with a combined membership in excess of 10,000. Alliance members provided direct support to the gathering of visual evidence of the impact of cattle grazing in national parks and enabled information to be collected on the conservation value of several future protected areas with a total of 15 surveys completed, delivering 3000 survey hours, and resulting in the discovery of 12 new populations of threatened species.

NPAQ also works with senior conservation groups to expand and protect national parks, notably Wildlife Queensland (grazing impacts and conservation of threatened species), Australian Marine Conservation Society (protection of green zones in Moreton Bay), WWF-Australia (funding mechanisms for national park acquisitions and impact of Protected Area Review), Queensland Conservation Council (establishing election commitments for protected areas), and the Sunshine Coast Environment Council (proposed zip-line for Kondalilla National Park and motocross facility in Beerwah State Forest).

NPAQ is an integral part of the National Parks Australia Council, which continues to work towards establishing a national funding program for national park acquisitions. NPAQ is also an active member of the Australian chapter of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

**Affiliates**

- Birds Queensland
- Bribie Island Environmental Protection Association Inc
- Bunya Mountains Natural History Association Inc
- Fraser Island Defenders Organisation Ltd
- Friends of Stradbroke Island Inc
- Green Mountains Natural History Association Inc
- Lake Broadwater Natural History Association Inc
- Lamington Natural History Association Inc
- Moreton Island Protection Committee
- Noosa Parks Association
- Queensland Frog Society Inc
- Stradbroke Island Management Organisation Inc
- Tamborine Bush Volunteers
- Tamborine Mountain Natural History Assoc. Inc
- Trail Running Association of Queensland



# ORGANISATION

## GOVERNANCE

Over the 84 years of the Association's existence, a framework for good governance has been developed. Council carries out its duties as required by the Rules, the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 (Qld) and other relevant legislation.

Tools used to set direction, monitor performance and achievement of the Association's mission include:

- 5 year strategic plan 2014-2019
- Annual governance calendar
- Councillor induction document
- Reported mthly council meetings
- Policy documents
- System of internal controls
- Annual review of Council and staff performance.

In March 2014 Council approved the

process for reviewing the governance procedures of the Association. Since that time, the Governance Working Group has been identifying what governance processes are in place and considering actions that will improve governance in accordance with principles of good governance for not-for-profit organisations supported by the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD).

The Council supports the AICD characteristics of good not-for-profit governance: meeting member and stakeholder expectations through accountability, transparency and disclosure; defined internal control policies articulating individual authorities, responsibilities and accountabilities; defined relationships and communication with staff.

## MEMBERSHIP

Members are the cornerstone of NPAQ. In June 2014, NPAQ had:

- 780 Members
- 75 New Members
- 70 Conservation Partners
- 65 Supporters

At the Annual General Meeting in 2013, NPAQ recognised 72 long standing members (50 years or more of membership), through the Inaugural Romeo Lahey Recognition Award.

NPAQ also continues to recognise the exceptional service provided by Honorary Life Members: Wendy Bell, John Bristow, Brian Egan, Rob Hitchcock, Ruth Read, Col Rees, Ailsa Rutherford and Norm Traves.

As NPAQ membership declines, the Strategic Plan 2014-2019 has embraced the challenge of increasing our member and supporter base, by actively engaging with people who share NPAQ's enjoyment of national parks and/or who wish to preserve our unique natural areas.

## VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to all our volunteers!

Volunteers are a vital part of the NPAQ team. They bring their skills, energy, time, and experience to all aspects of NPAQs work.

This year, more than 5,610 voluntary hours were contributed by over 100 volunteers to a range of tasks including monthly revegetation work, mail out of newsletters and advocacy campaign letters, assisting at events such as members meetings and public seminars, organising and leading bushwalking activities and other activities, and being involved in a Committee or standing as a member of the NPAQ Council.

## STAFF

### EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR

Paul Donatiu

### MEMBERSHIP OFFICER

Anna Tran

### OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Lauren Buckley and Jeannie Rice

### ACTIVITIES ADMINISTRATOR

Margot Morley and Lauren Buckley

## COUNCIL

Michelle Prior  
PRESIDENT

Athol Lester  
VICE PRESIDENT

Tony O'Brien  
VICE PRESIDENT

Deb Marwedel  
HON SECRETARY

Yvonne Parsons  
HON ASS SECRETARY

Graham Riddell  
TREASURER

John Bristow (retired Sept 2013)

Rob Hitchcock (retired Sept 2013)

Peter Ogilvie

Ian Plowman (retired April 2013)

Stephen Potts

Richard Proudfoot

Jim Stebbins (retired Sept 2013)

Desmond Whybird

Mike Wilke

## COMMITTEES

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE  
Athol Lester (Chair)

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE  
Mike Wilke (Chair)

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
Deb Marwedel (Chair)

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE  
Graham Riddell (Chair)

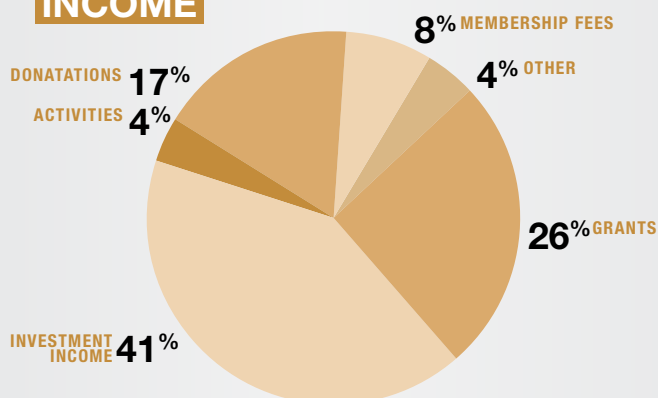
MEMBERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
Michelle Prior (Chair)

POLICY COMMITTEE  
Yvonne Parsons (Chair)

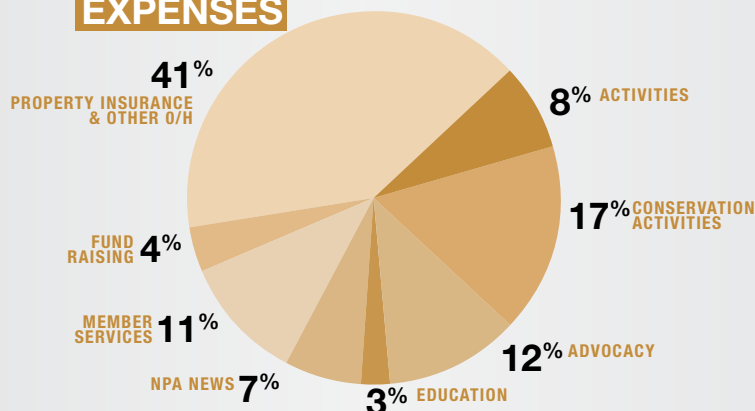


# FINANCES ANNUAL REPORT

## INCOME



## EXPENSES



For the year 2013-14, NPAQ reports an (unaudited) operating deficit of \$222,312, which includes the write off of a major investment (City Pacific of \$144,569). Governance improvements have since been put in place to avoid this situation recurring.

Aside from the once-off write off, the deficit of \$77,743 was substantially less than projected. This was mainly due to the sale and purchase of shares to reposition our portfolio to obtain better returns into the future.

Income received was above projections, due to two successful member appeals and an improvement in Dividend income. Expenditure was in line with the budget. However, additional revenue sources are required in order to continue providing the same level of member services and undertaking advocacy work.

Financial figures are disclosed differently to previous Annual Reports. This is to report a more informative manner that represents a more accurate picture, and report against the core focus areas and key elements in the Strategic Plan.

## INCOME STATEMENT TO 30 JUNE 2014 (unaudited)

GRANTS	\$65,465
INVESTMENT INCOME	\$104,569
ACTIVITIES	\$10,174
DONATIONS	\$43,564
MEMBERSHIP FEES	\$19,195
OTHER	\$10,953
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$253,920</b>
<b>PROFIT (LOSS) ON SALE OF INVEST</b>	<b>\$- 100,569</b>
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>\$153,351</b>

## EXPENSES

ACTIVITIES	\$28,413
CONSERVATION ACTIVITY	\$62,505
ADVOCACY	\$43,203
EDUCATION	\$10,100
NPA NEWS	\$24,276
MEMBER SERVICES	\$40,470
FUND RAISING	\$14,631
PROPERTY, INSURANCE & OTHER O/H	\$152,065
<b>TOTAL COSTS &amp; EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$375,663</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS(LOSS)</b>	<b>-\$222,312</b>

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30TH JUNE 2014

CASH AT BANK	\$108,482
PROPERTY PLANT & EQUIP	\$188,393
INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO	\$1,036,256
TRADE & RECEIVABLES	\$31,127
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,364,258</b>
CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$72,468
NET ASSETS	\$1,291,790

## MEMBERS FUNDS

ACCUMULATED FUNDS	\$1,514,101
NET SURPLUS (LOSS) THIS YEAR	-\$222,312
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS</b>	<b>\$1,291,790</b>

1. Items in the Balance Sheet are at cost or net realisable value, whichever is lower.  
2. The investment portfolio is reported above at cost. The market value at 30 the June 2014 was \$1,256,245.



# CONSERVATION PARTNERS

Michael and Dora Aitken	William Goebel	Ken and Lesley Sampson
David and Ineke Ball	Kris and Nanette Hansen	Clare Savory
Ken Barlow and Melissa Smith	Robert Kilvert	Rae Sheridan
Doug and Dorelle Bennett	Athol and Maria Lester	Lysbeth Shield
Graham and Monique Bond	Peter Main	Marilyn Shrapnel and George Winter
Sarah Bradley	Don Marshall	Kenneth and Susan Sketcher
John and Suzanne Brownsworth	Tracy Martin	Anthony Smith and Dr Louise Colthorpe
Glenis Buckton	Ann Marumaru	Julianne Urquhart
Don and Wilma Carlson	Philip and Debra Marwedel	Jankees Van Der Have and Barbara Williams
Peter and Janelle Cuffe	Warren McComas and Catherine Brown	David Vial and Michelle Prior
Andy De Francis	Heatherbell Mellor	Ross Webster
Karen Doolan	Tony and Penny O'Brien	Mike Wilke
Colleen Enchelmaier	Tomi Petr	Joan Williams
Perry Finn	Jeanette Porter	Michael and June Wynne
Ian and Caroline Frazer	Richard Rawlings and Patricia Ferrier	
Bruce Gall	Graham Riddell	

# DONORS

Colleen Adamson	Jeanette Covacevich	Russell Gardner	Robin Hyde	Heatherbell Mellor	John and Judy Sexton
Christopher Allen	James Croker	Sheena Gillman	Nola Jefferys	Leon and Jan Misfeld	Dorelle Shapcott
Ann Apolloni	Peter and Janelle Cuffe	Lorraine Glynn	David Jones	Clyde and Lynn Mitchell	Rae Sheridan
Margaret Aston	John and Lyn Daly	G Glytsos	Carla Kaboth	Ann Neale	Marilyn Shrapnel
A Baker	Allan and Judith Dalzell	Geoff Goadby and Merle Gynther	Richard and Anne Kellaway	Richard and Barbara Nielsen	Natalie Smith
Christine and David Ball	Noel and Ann Dawson	William Goebel	Bill Kemp	Kerry O'Carroll	James Peter Stanton
Robert Ball	Raynor Dawson	Green Mountains Natural History Association	Lloyd King	Stuart Olver	Thomas Stewart
Wendy Bell	John de Horne	Thomas and Nancy Green	Deborah and Andrew Knott	Marie Oxlade	Stradbroke Island Management Organisation
Rob Best	Alan Don	Tony Groom	Richard Koerner	Hugh Pechey	John Thannhauser
Birds Queensland	Brian and Maureen Egan	Lloyd Hamilton	Nell Land	Tomi and Mary Petr	The Curavis Fund
Graham and Monique Bond	Karen Elmes	Alice Harris	Peter and Julie Lello	Michael and Kathryn Philipson	Trail Running Association of QLD
J Bridle	Colleen Enchelmaier	Arthur Hartwig	Louise Leonard	John and Jillian Randle	Norm and Shirley Traves
John and Ruth Bristow	English Family Foundation	Syd Head	Allan Lisle	Ruth Read	Jankees and Barbara Van der Have
Allan Brown	Errol Frew Family Trust	Bill and Ray Heath	Ruth Lockhart	Vivienne Reddy	Ted Van Riel
Catherine Brown	Family Bushwalkers Club	Bevan Heilbronn	Bruce Lucas	Michael Richards	John Walker
John Brownsworth	Cecily Fearnley	Catherine Herriott	Helen Lucas	Graham Riddell	Peter and Lynelle Watson
Leon and Geraldine Buchanan	John and Helen Findlay	Doug and Valerie Hoare	Beth Macintosh	Trevor Robertson	Ian Webb
Bunya Mountains Natural History Association	Perry Finn	Rodney and Elizabeth Hobson	Mackay Bushwalkers Club	Leona Romaniuk	Wildlife Tourism Australia
Glenn Burns	Jeffrey Foreman	Diana Holley	Peter Main	John Roos	Wendy Wilesmith
David Cassells	John and Lillian Forster	Phillip and Suellen Hopkins	Andrea McCaskill	Ailsa Rutherford	Dana Zhang
Robert and Lynette Chataway	Graeme and Pam Frankham	Claudia Howard	Peter and Geraldine McEwen	Mary Anne Ryan	
Alan Clarke	Len and Nola Fraser	Helene Hughes	Kay McIntosh	Kenneth and Val Sandercoe	
Robert Clemens	John Frois		Maureen McLellan	Elwyn Schumann	



