

Wildlife Queensland

Annual Report 2022-2023



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Wildlife Queensland

MISSION

Our mission is to be the leading non-government organisation advocating protection and conservation of Queensland's native terrestrial and marine plants, animals and landscapes by educating and engaging communities, influencing decision-making, advancing solutions and connecting people with wildlife.

VISION

People value, respect and support the conservation of Queensland's native wildlife*.

*Wildlife embraces plants, animals, and their habitat.

OBJECTIVES

Preserve the flora and fauna of Australia by lawful means

Educate the community in an understanding of the principles of conservation and preservation of the natural environment

Discourage, by all legal means, the possible destruction, exploitation and unnecessary development of any part of the natural environment

Encourage rational land use and proper land planning of existing and future development, and the use of the natural environment and its management.

President's Report

Peter Ogilvie, President, Wildlife Queensland

In relation to nature conservation, it has been a disappointingly unproductive year. This can be best summed up by stating the obvious, namely animals and plants don't vote. In times of community stress – be it Covid, inflation, rising interest rates – the first sacrificial lamb is our wildlife, along with the protected area systems designed to support their continued existence.



We have been very vocal in our condemnation of the State Government for not honouring its election commitment to restore the primacy of the cardinal principle for the management of national parks, following the disastrous amendments to the Nature Conservation Act by the Newman Government. Unfortunately, the present Government is using the Newman amendments to authorise the development of privately owned tourist resorts deep inside national parks. This has already happened inside Main Range National Park and is in the process of happening in the Cooloola section of Great Sandy National Park and in national parks through which the Wangetti Trail will pass. More than 120 years of accepted national park management (the first national park was declared in 1900) in mainland Queensland has been trashed for what reason? To collect a few paltry dollars for a lease; to give certain components of the tourist industry exclusive access to attractive features; or to blindly mimic what was done in other States at a time when those States did not have any overriding jurisdiction-wide national park administration.

Unfortunately, some political decision-makers are, more and more, inclined to regard national parks as merely under-utilised recreation areas. There is little, if any, realisation that our protected areas, national parks in particular, are set aside to conserve our native wildlife (plants, animals, and the landscapes they define).

The term 'protected area' can be misleading and deceptive. It is used in the Act to embrace a range of classes from least protected (eg nature refuges) to most protected (national parks). Sweeping statements can be made for protected areas in general, even though they may not be relevant to all of the classes encompassed by the term. One class of protected area – national park – provides the appropriate level of protection and the ultimate haven for our dwindling wildlife. This is why our national parks need to be shielded from development which weakens their capacity to cope with, or adjust to, a range of threats, particularly those induced by climate change.

The Government has committed to 17% of the State being dedicated as protected area by 2030. The present figure (at 24 August 2023) is 8.38% (of which 5.5% is national park). The chances of achieving a 50% expansion of area in the next seven years is fanciful. Even achieving it by 2050 is remote, based on the rate of expansion over the last decade or so. One worrying aspect is that an attempt may be made to achieve the 17% by adding areas of low protection and minimal conservation value.

Now a brief look at how we have travelled during the year.

The **Policies and Campaigns Manager** is Des Boyland. This year saw two of our long-running campaigns come to fruition with the Palaszczuk Government placing bans on (a) the release of helium balloons and (b) the issuance of permits to cull flying-foxes as a means of crop protection. The latter is to be phased in over a three-year period. Another concern was the Great Sandy Marine Park Zoning Plan. After some seven years of review, the Plan was finally released. It was holding up a badly needed review of the Moreton Bay Marine Park Zoning Plan.

Our efforts to obtain a ban on opera house yabby traps, however, have not been successful, despite appropriate bans in other States. These traps are deadly for air-breathing animals such as platypuses, water rats and water dragons. Another failure was convincing the government to honour its election commitment and to restore the primacy of the cardinal principle for national parks management and remove the capacity for a tourist resort to be built inside a national park even though it didn't comply with the cardinal principle for national park management.

We have continued to take on university students for industry placement. Of the three from Qld University, two were from the School of Environment and Earth Sciences and one from the School of Political Science and International Relations.

Figures for protected areas at the end of the financial year have been released and are provided elsewhere in the report. They show an almost imperceptible increase in total areas since the end of the previous year. Total area for all protected areas in Queensland has moved from 8.21% of the State to 8.38%. In the case of one class of protected area, national park, the movement is from 5.44% to 5.49%.

The **Projects Manager** is Matt Cecil along with an expanded team of Project Officers – Paul Revie, Hannah Thomas and Tamielle Brunt. This expansion has been made possible by these officers being able to successfully attract ongoing project funding.

This component of our organisation is the one that sets us apart from most conservation groups in that we are not only striving to lobby, advocate and educate about nature conservation, we are also involved in protecting our native plants and animals by on-ground activities. And this is being recognised by organisations, particularly local governments.

A number of networks have been established, targeting particular species where on-ground activities can achieve recognisable conservation outcomes. Each of the networks has an interesting story to tell. Some of those stories are explained elsewhere in this annual report. The key networks are: PlatypusWatch Network (includes the eDNA collection program), Queensland Glider Network (habitat verification, and nest box establishment and monitoring), Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby Conservation Network (surveys and monitoring of wallaby populations, weed and pest animal management), Richmond Birdwing Conservation Network (establishing and distributing birdwing butterfly vines; educational activities at schools), and Quoll Seekers Network (undertaking surveys for quoll detection, utilising quoll detection dogs where appropriate).

We still produce a world-class **Wildlife Australia magazine** and that has happened continuously since 1963, the year after WPSQ was established by our four founders – Judith Wright, Kathleen McArthur, David Fleay and Brian Clouston. The editor is Mike Sullivan and designer is Deidre Lynch, both of whom forego a significant part of their payment in order to assist and ensure the magazine's continued production. Michael Lusic, WPSQ vice-president, chairs the Wildlife Australia Magazine Committee.

The magazine continues to operate at a significant loss. However, we feel it is still an important educational tool and Council has agreed to continue its production whilst exploring options for attempting to at least break even.

Two part-time officers are charged with attending to our various **communication** activities – Wenda Shurety (Communications Officer) and Amanda Little (Digital Communications Officer). Karin Cox filled the comms officer role until December 2022 when she left to work for *Australian Geographic*. We wish her well in her new role.

In May 2023, Amanda played the major role in revising the communications strategy for WPSQ. We are now active on five social media platforms – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube. Our website has also been upgraded.

In addition to the social media platforms, this area plays an important role in a wide range of organisational matters. These include *Talking Wildlife* (eBulletin), press releases, event advertising (eg Batty Boat Cruises, PlatypusWatch and other network events), funding appeals (Christmas Appeal 2022 and EOFY Appeal 2023), webinars (glider recovery webinar, August 2022), publications (Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby Conservation Network Landholder's Guide), website articles, and direct electronic mail articles (eg Wayne Lawler Nature Conservation Photography Grant, Froggy photo competition, Mother's Day, Batty Boat Cruises and shop merchandise).

Doreen Payne has ably filled the part-time role of **Members and Branches Support Officer**. Doreen has recently retired from her staff position but will still provide support as a volunteer.

The number of Branches has fallen from 14 in 2021-22 to 13. Some branches continue to have difficulty filling the required positions needed for incorporation status. Council is looking at options for having unincorporated branches. This, of course, would severely restrict the independence of the branch, in that any activities, media releases or publications that could result in legal action or insurance claims would have to be authorised by head office in advance.

We now have a **Bequests Program** and a Bequests Coordinator, Adriana Boron. Our Will Guide was launched in September 2022. Amongst other matters, it explains how a bequest can be set up in a will. We also have a partnership with Gathered Here, a free online will service. That gives us an access page on their website and a unique link which can be made available to our supporters wishing to utilise the free will-generating service. Sixteen new bequests were generated through Gathered Here during 2022-23.

The **Operations** Division is the arm of the Society that ultimately holds the whole organisation together. It is very competently overseen by the Operations Manager, Janelle Devery. The job involves a wide range of matters, including (but certainly not limited to) the following: volunteers, staff/contractors, gift fund, appeals, adoptions, Wildlife Protector Program, Batty Boat Cruises, banking, technical support (including IT systems), and grant applications for certain administrative matters. An example of the latter is the intention to seek funds to develop a new Customer Relations Management System.

The **Management Team** consists of Des Boyland, Janelle Devery and Matt Cecil. They have focussed particularly on strategic planning over the year with emphasis on strategies for communications, revenue and governance. Each member of the Team has been appointed to one of two subcommittees relating to (a) finances and (b) operations and governance. These are charged with reporting to Council on strategies to advance those crucial areas of Society function and survival.

Future Directions

- Lobbying for the rapid and appropriately selected expansion of the protected area estate.
- Presenting a case for the State to become more involved in the establishment and resourcing of recovery teams/groups and recovery plans for endangered species. This will most likely involve amendments to the Nature Conservation Act.
- Producing a framework for protecting old hollow-limb trees which are essential for shelter and breeding sites for a range of mammal, bird and reptile species (eg threatened glider species).
- Continuing to present the case for Nature Conservation Act amendments to restore the primacy of the cardinal principle for national park management, part of which involves removing the provision that allows private tourist resorts to be built inside national parks without being subject to the cardinal principle.
- Continuing to advocate for the expansion of marine parks along the Queensland coastline.
- Exploring options, including potential constitutional amendments, to establish and manage (a) non-incorporated branches and (b) networks.
- Establishing a new Cliff Conservation Alliance Network designed to protect cliff environments from inappropriate and illegal rock climbing.
- Presenting relevant WPSQ members for representation on Government advisory committees so our voice can be heard and make a difference.
- Exploring funding opportunities (including corporate sponsorship, bequests, regular giving, magazine advertising, appeals and community grants for vital administrative functions).

And finally, my sincere thanks for the effort and dedication of our staff members (who have been identified above in relation to their specific areas of responsibility) and our many volunteers. Amongst those volunteers are the members of Council – Michael Lusi (vice president), Des Boyland (Secretary), Richard Murphy (Treasurer), Andrew Dinwoodie, Paul Sutton, David Wright, Marc Hockings, Gordon Guymer and myself. Susan Vernon was Treasurer until February 2023, when she resigned. That role was filled in a temporary capacity by Des Boyland until Richard Murphy, a qualified accountant, took on the role in April. The Council now contains a quite dynamic range of expertise encompassing wildlife conservation (locally and globally), wildlife management education, organisational function and structure, and financial management.

That leaves the ultimate thank you for our loyal members. I hope you are confident that your organisation is true to its Mission and Goals and is a significant contributor to conserving and protecting our native plants, animals, and landscapes.

Best wishes

Peter Ogilvie

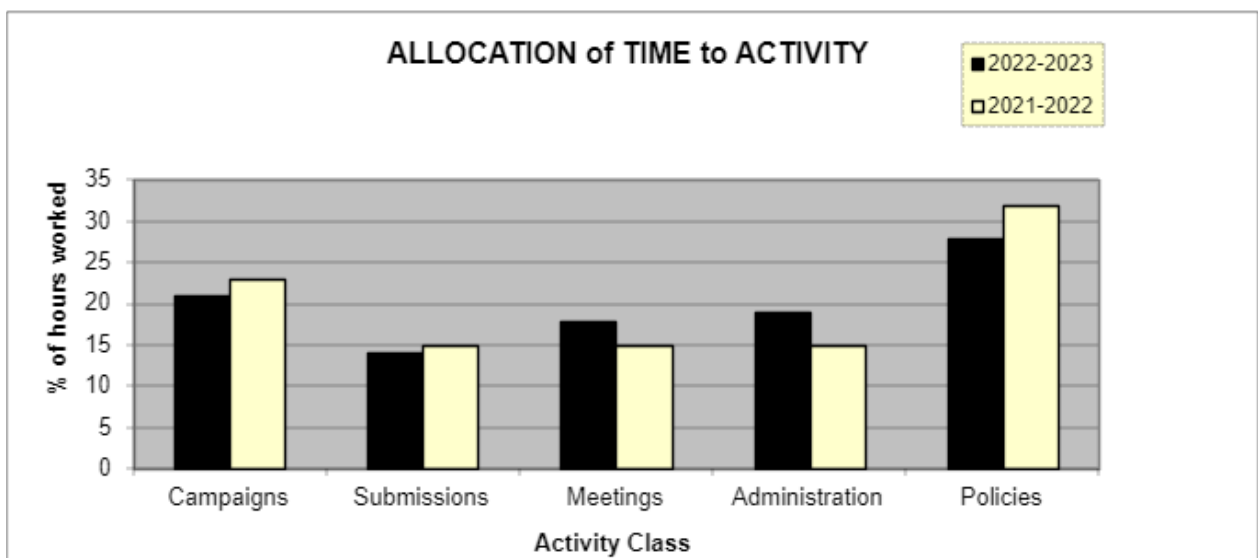
Policies and Campaigns

Des Boyland, Policies and Campaigns Manager

The 2022-2023 financial year yet again has been a frustrating year but towards the end of the year saw decisions by the Palaszczuk Government bring closure to two long running campaigns- the ban on the release of helium filled balloons and the issuance of permits to cull flying-foxes as a means of crop protection. The optimism about a ban on opera house yabby traps has not been realised. There has been no joy on the reinstatement of the cardinal principle of management of national parks, but efforts have not stopped, and it appears our President has convinced others to take up the cause. The Great Sandy Marine Park Zoning Plan has been released and while it is a significant improvement it could have been better. However, there are several actions that must occur until it is the law. One good thing that arose from the Great Sandy Marine Park Zoning Plan, 7 years in the making, is that an adaptive management approach is to be adopted and change may occur when justified not simply waiting for a review every 10 years. The Government continued its war against plastic waste and funding the protection the Great Barrier Reef. As we move into a preelection year, it will be difficult to achieve change unless there is no objection from any community sector but it provides an opportunity to at least try to obtain commitments from the various political parties.

Activities within the Division

With fewer students available than in 2021-2022 total working hours available decreased from about 2550 to approximately 2050. It was still a productive year within the policy component of the Division. There were 3 industry placement students from the University of Queensland, 2 from the School of Environment and Earth Sciences, and one from the School of Political Science and International Relations. The graph below provides the percentage of total hours committed to the major activities within the Division for the financial year.



The decrease in the policy area reflects fewer hours being contributed from industry placement students. The increased time in meetings arises from meetings regarding imported red fire ants and an increase in meetings with other conservation organisations. The increase in time attributed to administration is time committed to reviewing the constitution and other issues related to anticipated organisational change, the Wayne Lawler Nature Photography grant and Council matters. While commitment to influencing decision making for positive outcomes for the environment and its wildlife has not diminished, Government response can only be described as disappointing. Successes are few and far between. Time committed to submissions was similar to the previous year.

Policies

The **Conservation of Threatened Species** policy was revised and updated. The policy goals highlight the need for legislation that is fit for purpose, accurate listing of conservation status of species, support for research, encourage the conservation of threatened species and educate the broader community on the need to conserve species. A directional paper on **Fire Management in National Parks** was prepared and current practices outlined. The need to ensure conservation and preservation of natural and cultural values was emphasised. The use of cultural burning practices was highlighted and cooperation with neighbours and other agencies emphasised. A directional paper on **Other Effective Area-based Conservation** measures was prepared. This is a new approach to expand the conservation estate along with protected areas being investigated by both Queensland and Commonwealth Governments.

Campaigns

Waste and Plastics Campaign

While much has been achieved, there is still work to be done. Plastic waste in the marine environment remains a major challenge and the Commonwealth Government is the key to success.

Wildlife Management

Efforts to have opera house traps banned to save air-breathing fauna from drowning, particularly the platypus, continues to fall on deaf ears. The positive rumours of 12 months ago have not been delivered. Our correspondence and that of supporters have been acknowledged by Minister Furner's office with the advice there have been no deaths in compliant traps since the change to trap entrance size was introduced.

State Marine Parks

Liaison with the Department of Environment and Science (DES) has continued for the release of the new zoning plan for the Great Sandy Marine Park. The new zoning plan is a significant improvement with green zones and the conservation zones exceeding 28%. However, there are still steps to be taken prior to it being law. Inquiries have commenced about the Moreton Bay Marine Park Zoning Plan. DES has commenced work but calls for public input are still sometime in the future.

Expansion of the Protected Area Estate

Type of Protected Area	Number		Area (ha)		% of QLD	
	30/6/2023	30/6/2022	30/6/2023	30/6/2022	30/6/2023	30/6/2022
National Park Type						
National Park (scientific)	9	9	53,191	53,189		
National Park	274	275	6,725,576	7,027,417		
National Park (CYPAL)	34	32	2,651,261	2,331,960		
National Park (Aboriginal land)	1	1	79,707			
Total national park	318	317	9,509,735	9,412,566	5.49	5.44
Tenured Protected Areas						
Conservation Parks	238	236	88,568	88,380		
Resources Reserves	44	46	223,846	231,029		
Total tenured protected areas	282	282	9,718,233	9,731,974		5.62
Non-tenured Protected Areas						
Nature Refuges	561	553	4,626,387	4,416,030		
Special wildlife Reserve	1	1	56,392	56,392		
Coordinated Conservation Areas	2	2	2,121	2,121		
Total non-tenured protected areas	564	556	4,476,991	4,474,543		2.59
Total Protected Areas in QLD	1164	1135	14,507,048	14,206,517	8.38	8.21

This is an area of particular interest for Wildlife Queensland. While the Protected Area Estate (PAE) is increasing, However, at the current rate of 0.17% it will take at least 50 years to reach the committed 17%. At least the 2022 budget allocated significant increase in funds for the increase and management of the PAE,

Submissions

Submissions prepared by Wildlife Queensland totaled 10. The Commonwealth Government, the Queensland Government Brisbane City Council were recipients of the various submissions. Topics included but were not limited to plastic waste, Great Sandy Marine Park Marine Zoning Plan, Review of Flying-fox management, Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill1994, Queensland Container Refund Scheme and National Feral Deer Action Plan and development proposals.

Meetings and Representations

- Wildlife Queensland serves on a number of government working groups including QDOG, Stock Routes Network and stakeholder groups for macropods.
- Our President has attended Ministerial Environmental Round Table (MERT) meetings.
- Representatives of Wildlife Queensland participated in various meetings with other conservation groups.
- Various issues have been discussed with Minister Scanlon's staff.
- Meetings held with senior bureaucrats of Department of Environment and Science to discuss Protected Area Estate issues, marine park issues, fire management and management of threatened species.
- Liaison with University of Queensland staff concerning placement positions for students continues.

Future Directions

- Striving for the expansion of the Protected Area Estate and enhanced management of national parks while opposing certain commercial resort developments within the parks remain key issues moving forward.
- State Marine Parks will continue to surface when comments on Moreton Bay Marine Park Zoning Plan are invited.
- Endangered species management will be on the agenda.
- Submission writing and meeting attendance will continue as it is essential that Wildlife Queensland's voice is heard.
- Commitments from all political parties will be sought as election looms in October 2024

Projects

Matt Cecil, Projects Manager

The Wildlife Queensland Projects Team have continued to drive a range of conservation projects for threatened animals in Southeast Queensland and beyond. The 2022 – 2023 financial year was the Team’s busiest to date. Our team capacity is slowly increasing; we operated for much of this reporting period with a team of four: Matt Cecil (Projects Manager) and Project Officers Paul Revie, Hannah Thomas and Tamielle Brunt. Our project officers are responsible for securing ongoing project funding through several successful competitive grants.

Our efforts have been greatly assisted through volunteer help, Wildlife Queensland donor contributions and Local, State and Federal government project funding.

PlatypusWatch Network

Thanks to a generous Christmas appeal, the projects team was able to welcome Tamielle Brunt as a part time project officer to focus on growing the PlatypusWatch Network. Tamielle’s commitment and passion for platypus conservation has seen this network grow in terms of community engagement, project investment and output. The major projects underway or completed for this network include:

- Awarded a Brisbane Lord Mayor’s Community Sustainability and Environmental Grant: Wolston Catchment PlatypusWatch Community Event project to undertake platypus and macro invertebrate surveys with community assistance.
- Brisbane Airport Community Grant: Promoting platypus conservation in the community. Expert led ‘walk & talks’ where the community engagement occurs at the waters edge.
- Brisbane City Council consultation agreement and development of an occupancy model. Wildlife Queensland’s platypus ecologist Tamielle Brunt provides advice for the Brisbane city Council on platypus conservation and modelling (funded contract).
- Expansion of eDNA (300+ sites) in Southeast Queensland including new sites in Scenic Rim, Gold Coast and Ipswich regions.
- Logan City Council Envirogrant: Riparian restoration Windaroo Ck for platypus conservation.
- Completion of the two-year Upper Dawson Platypus eDNA Citizen Science project
- Completion and acquittal of the Bushfire recovery project ‘Monitoring platypus recovery post fire in Southeast Queensland’.
- Collaboration with Australian Conservation Foundation on the ‘Platy-Project’ – a national citizen science platypus observation event.



Queensland Glider Network

Our Glider Network has again contributed to the conservation of gliders in Queensland. The team has continued to work on community engagement and awareness as a priority, along with population identification and habitat surveying. Greater and yellow-bellied gliders were the main focal species. The major projects underway or completed for this network include:

- Completion and acquittal of Bushfire Recovery grant project (Improve community involvement and knowledge of Greater gliders and Yellow-bellied glider conservation in Southeastern Queensland).
- Completion of greater glider habitat verification project with Healthy Land & Water (Habitat assessment and spotlight surveys targeting greater glider population in Southeast Queensland).
- Nest box monitoring for Logan City Council, Greenbank Training Area and Springfield Lakes Nature Care Inc. (contracted projects, 300+ boxes surveyed).
- Installation of 4G Infra-red cameras and nest boxes for Land for Wildlife Scenic Rim.
- Continuation of acoustic monitoring for yellow-bellied gliders across the Greenbank and White Rock/Spring Mountain and Tamborine region (Yellow-Bellied Glider Network)
- Target spotlight surveys for greater and yellow-bellied gliders.

Brush-Tailed Rock-Wallaby Conservation Network

This is Wildlife Queensland's newest species focused network. The threatened brush-tail rock-wallaby (btrw) is found within isolated and fragmented populations around Southeast Queensland and is need of direct conservation action. The major projects underway or completed for this network include:

- Completion of surveys and reporting on brush-tailed rock-wallaby populations with the Logan LGA for Loagan City Council.
- Attended Ipswich Experience Nature Day event at Harding's Paddock where the team hosted a BTRW themed stall and Hannah Thomas gave a public presentation on the network and BTRW conservation.
- Continuation of the Threatened Species Strategy Action Grant to monitor and provide management actions to important wallaby colonies in Southeast Queensland. Works include:
 - o Detailed infra-red camera surveys of known rock-wallaby colonies (Main Range, Crow's Nest, Flinders Peak region).
 - o Landholder liaison and engagement.
 - o Weed management.
 - o Development of pest animal management plans.
 - o Pest animal control training for key Wildlife Queensland team members.



Richmond Birdwing Conservation Network

We continue to work hard on the conservation of the Richmond birdwing butterfly. Support for this project has remained strong within the Southeast Queensland community. The Richmond Birdwing Conservation Network (RBCN) committee (Christine Adams-Hosking, Phil Moran, Richard Bull, Hunter McCall, Des Boyland & Matt Cecil) met three times during this reporting period. This year the network and associated conservation programs has benefitted greatly through the establishment of a dedicated nursery operation established to grow birdwing butterfly vines for our use. This has provided a cost saving exercise while at the same time provide an ability to generate some revenue through vine sales.

- 1200 vines under production in nursery
- Two primary school presentations (AB Patterson College and Jimboomba State School)
- Completion of Redland Council Community Grant for 200 vines planted on Land for Wildlife properties in Mount Cotton
- Three properties in Mount Cotton receiving weed control for Dutchman's pipe vine (Redland Council Community Grant – Dutchman's pipe Control in Mount Cotton to save the vulnerable Richmond Birdwing Butterfly).
- Collection of 30,000 seeds for RBCN seed bank
- West Village, West End, Brisbane – this a funded partnership where the RBCN provide community engagement to residents of West Village and the local community.
- 295 vines sold or distributed from the RBCN nursery.
- Four presentations on the conservation of the Richmond birdwing provided to the public.
- Successful completion of the Logan City Council Envirogrant for community planting of vines along California Creek in Cornubia (40 vines planted, 20 vines provided to community volunteer).



Quoll Seekers Network

The search for the endangered spotted-tailed quoll remains a focus for the projects team. This year, surveys in the Flinders Peak region continued through funding obtained via a Logan City Council Envirogrant. This project continues into the 2023-2024 financial year. The successful Queensland Government Community Sustainability Action Grant – Spotted-tailed quoll Surveys on the Sunshine Coast will continue into the next financial year also.

- Completed and acquitted Community Sustainability Action Grant – Search for Quolls in the Mary River Catchment.
- Remondis Springmount Joint Venture waste transfer facility northern quoll survey. A contracted project to survey the commercial property outside of Mareeba for the presence of northern quoll.

Work Integrated Learning – Placement Students

Amy Bartkowski

Amy produced a 'Guide to Greater glider populations in the Logan LGA'. This project mapped eight patches of confirmed Greater Glider habitat on land in the local government area of Logan. Information is presented that details the status of the population, habitat quality and threat level. The study aimed to inform relevant and effective management strategies unique to each population. This is particularly important because the Greater Glider was listed to endangered in July 2022 and the Logan local government area is a fast-growing city in south-east Queensland. Placement period 20th July - 28th October 2022.

Claire Lorrette

Claire worked on building a habitat model for Brush-tailed rock-wallaby across the Southeast Queensland region. Issues relating to the complexities of integrating the GIS program (QGIS) and the model (MAXENT). The model was not completed before Claire's placement finished, however, Claire has continue working on it in a voluntary capacity. Placement 20th July - 28th October 2022.

Grant Applications

Successful:

- Logan City Council Envirogrants:
 - o Birdwing butterfly vine planting in the Albert River Catchment Schools.
 - o Greater glider conservation and community engagement in Logan.
 - o Platypus planting day.
- Brisbane Airport Community Grant - help implement community platypus walk and talk events.
- Brisbane Lord Major's Community Sustainability and Environmental Grant - Wolston Catchment PlatypusWatch community event.

Unsuccessful:

- Community Sustainability Action Grant: Greater glider surveys and habitat assessment in the Scenic Rim.
- Queensland Threatened Species Research Grant – Assessing habitat attributes and fire refugia critical to the survival of the endangered greater glider in southern Queensland.
- Engaging Science Grant - Townsville, St Patrick's College eDNA platypus project.

Statutory Obligations

Wildlife Queensland continues to hold Department of Environment and Science Scientific Purpose Permit WA0009377, Animal Ethics Approval (through DAF Animal Ethics) CA

2020/07/1395 and Scientific User Registration
SUR000216.

***Wildlife Australia* magazine**

Michael Lusic, Wildlife Australia Magazine Committee Chair

The *Wildlife Australia* magazine has continued to be published every quarter since June 1963.

The magazine reporting for 2022/2023 reflects positively on those people who contribute to *Wildlife Australia*. Their contribution towards the preservation of native wildlife in Australia is outstanding. The articles by scientists, conservationists, educators, and citizens published within the Winter 2022, Spring 2022, Summer 2023, and Autumn 2023 editions provide important wildlife preservation messages. The magazine committee have made several suggestions to the Editor about articles including Wildlife Queensland projects and branch presentations.

The commitment of the people involved in the publication during 2022/2023 has been amazing. The professional payments to the editor (Mike Sullivan) and designer (Deidre Lynch) are modest by industry standards. Other financial considerations include the cost of publication (ACS Printer Group Pty Ltd), postage (Australia Post) and the indirect payment to Wildlife Queensland operations manager (Janelle Devery). Janelle coordinates the production and distribution of each edition of the magazine. The management committee also raises funds by offering discounts on advertising and items from the gift shop.

The authors whose articles are published receive our genuine thanks for their contribution. The designer also sources images to support the articles. In addition to our editor, our other proof-readers (Jenny Curnow, Glen Fergus, and Saren Starbridge) complete their task for free. The magazine committee (Janelle Devery, Steve Homewood and Jo Towsey) and distribution team are also Wildlife Queensland volunteers.

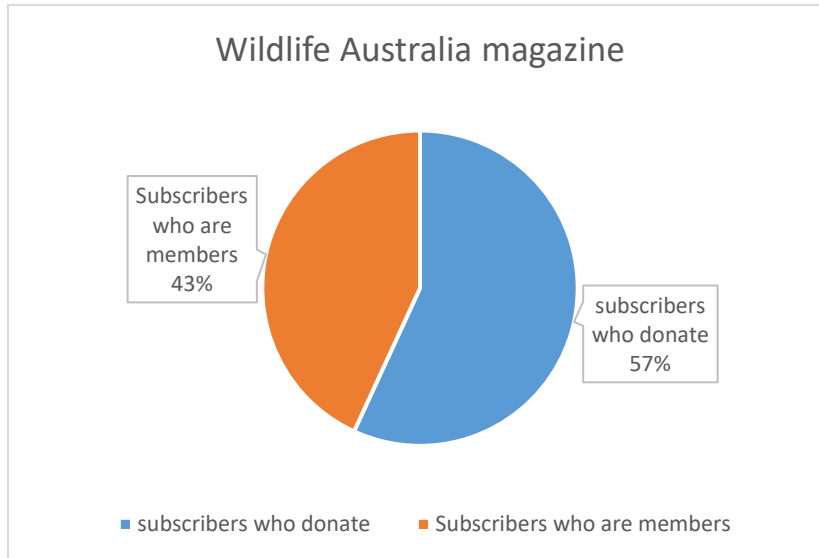
A Business Plan has been prepared for the last four financial years to ensure there is value for money. Business Acumen have been re-appointed as the production company for editions of *Wildlife Australia* until December 2024 (Summer 2024 edition). It is important to note, Business Acumen has returned one-half of the editorial and designer fees during 2023 to Wildlife Queensland (which is equal to \$18000 per annum).

In August 2022, the State Council endorsed two requests from the magazine committee; these were to:

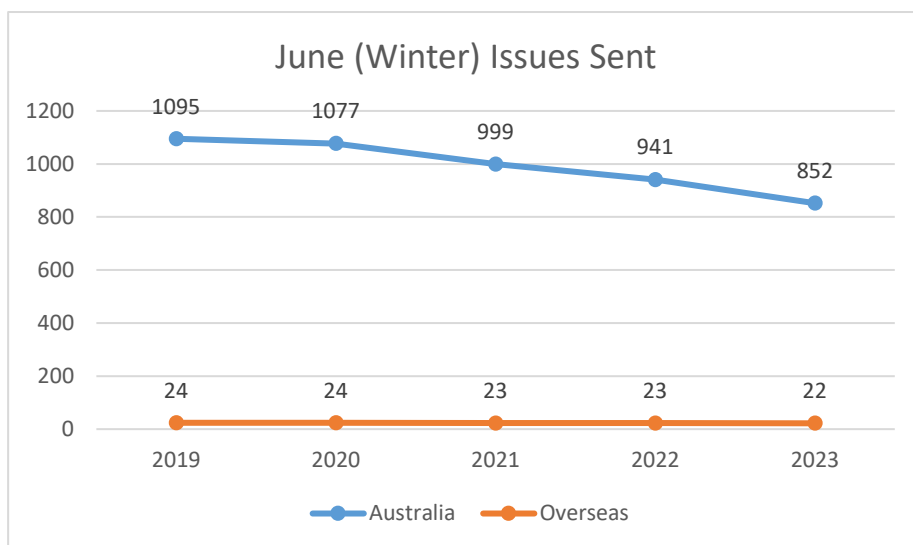
- (a) allow any deficit that may incur over the three years to 2023/2024 to be covered; and
- (b) increase the cost of annual subscriptions in Australia - the increase of \$2 from \$47 to \$49, the first increase in annual subscription fees for eight years.

In May 2023, the State Council of Wildlife Queensland suggested a one-off fee of \$75 for the magazine and membership, which converts to \$49 for the annual fee and \$26 for the membership. A meeting was organized between two members of the magazine committee and Mark Cushing, a partner with BDO, and Kerrie Baldwin (also with BDO). Mark advised his organisation would seek to find new ways to reduce deficit any incurred by Wildlife Queensland publication of *Wildlife Australia*. BDOs would charge \$5000 for the exercise – a reduction of \$5000 for professional services.

There are presently more subscribers to the magazine than members of Wildlife Queensland; however, some of our members are subscribers, and they also contribute to wildlife appeals – their contributions should be applauded. While we may seek more members to be subscribers, we also need more subscribers to become members. Importantly, we need the subscribers, members and community’s continued support for Wildlife Queensland in the preservation of wildlife. One of our communication mediums is the production and publication of *Wildlife Australia* magazine. The magazine is one of the legacies left by the founders of the organization which was established in 1962.



Subscribers who are members: 248
 (Note total membership is currently 613)
 Subscribers who donate: 327



Winter Issue	Australia	Overseas	Total
2019	1095	24	1119
2020	1077	24	1101
2021	999	23	1022
2022	941	23	964
2023	852	22	874

Communications

Wenda Shurety (Communications Officer) and Amanda Little (Digital Communications Officer)

The Communications report highlights the key developments and achievements in our external communications.

Karin Cox, the Communications Officer until December 2022, embarked on a new journey with Australian Geographic. Following her departure, Wenda Shurety assumed the role in January 2023.



In February 2023, a volunteer graphic designer, Gigi Lapid, came on board. She became an invaluable team member, helping to design logos, appeal graphics and online book layouts. Collaborating with her colleague, Alex Graham, Gigi created an engaging online animation for the EOFY appeal.

Moreover, in May 2023, Amanda Little played a vital role in revamping the communications strategy. This strategic update is pivotal in aligning our communication goals with the broader organisational objectives to connect with our audience and further our core mission proactively.

Social Media

We are active on five social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube). We aim to keep our followers up to date with important actions of the Society and its branches. Our social networks have grown considerably and consistently each month, with significant increases in engagement, visits, and following on our two most active platforms, Facebook and Instagram, as shown in the table below. We thank our followers for their continued support.

Social Media Growth: Facebook and Instagram (22/23 FY vs. 21/22 FY)

Metric	 Facebook @WildlifeQueensland	 Instagram @wildlifequeensland
Followers	18,183 up 19%	3,928 up 20%
Page/profile visits	32,735 up 687%	4,451 up 26%
Reach	6,438,131 up 2%	72,868 up 175%

Website

We received positive feedback on the website upgrade completed in July 2022. Changes to the structure and layout will be an ongoing process as we continue with updates to make it more user-friendly. Some technical issues delayed the launch of Recurring Giving. This is now scheduled for late 2023.

Froggy February Photo competition (February 2023)

The competition was well-received with 138 submissions and strong audience engagement on social media, resulting in 41 new email list subscribers. Thank you to Michael Snedic for judging the competition. The winning entries were: Winner: Jai Randhawa; Runners-up: Niall Bradley and Bridgette Gower.



WINNER: Jai Randhawa / Graceful tree frog (*Litoria gracilentata*).

Wayne Lawler Nature Conservation Photography Grant

The grant was launched on 15 June 2023. It offers up to \$2,000 in funding for eligible Australian amateur photographers wanting to support community-led nature conservation projects. The deadline for applications is 30 September 2023. Wildlife Queensland operates and administers the grant, which is funded by a trust established by the late Wayne Lawler.

The **eBulletin** (monthly electronic newsletter) was renamed *Talking Wildlife*. The name will also be used across platforms such as webinars and the members' newsletter.

- The total number of subscribers is now 6426, down 4.5 % from the last financial year.
- The average open rate increased to **33%** (up from 31.8%) compared to the previous financial year, with the average click rate decreasing slightly to **5.5%** (from 6.5%).
- The open rate of 33% is above the benchmark for the non-profit industry (25.2%), and our average click rate of 5.5% is almost double the benchmark for the industry, which currently sits at just 2.8%.
- Throughout the 2022 -2023 financial year, ten eBulletins were sent to Wildlife Queensland supporters.

Fundraising Appeals

CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2022: What's weird but wonderful and needs your help this Christmas?



- ~ 1000 letters and donation forms distributed via post
- ~ One launch and four update emails sent to recipients
- ~ Design: in-house; Printing: Greenridge Press
- ~ **121 donations**

EOFY APPEAL 2023: Keep Our WILD Alive

- ~ 1000 letters and donation forms distributed via post
- ~ One pre-launch, one launch and four update emails sent
- ~ Design: in-house Gigi Lapid; Printing: Greenridge Press
- ~ **162 donations**

The communications teams provide support across all divisions (and branches when requested) through writing news articles, social media posts and media releases. We also provide graphics and designs for events and promotions. Following is a brief list of some of those areas.

Events

PlatypusWatch – 4 events (128 tickets total)

Richmond Birdwing Conservation Network – 4 events (approx. 80 attendees total)

Batty Boat Cruises – 4 events (approx. 190 tickets total)

Miscellaneous – 4 events (165 attendees total)

Talking Wildlife Webinar Series

Threatened Glider Recovery Webinar (18 August 2022) - 192 sign-ups

Publications

We created nine publications, including the [Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby Conservation Network Landholder's Guide](#).

Website News Articles

Fifty (50) news articles published on our webpage.

Direct Mail Campaigns

Fourteen eDMs (electronic direct mail) campaigns were sent during the 2022 – 2023 financial year for appeals and promotions eg Wayne Lawler grant, Froggy photo comp, Mother's Day, Batty boat cruises, shop, include a charity.

Media/Publicity

Seven (7) press releases distributed, and we were contacted for comment three times. Two of our stories were published in newspapers and one story was shared on four forums.

Members, Branches and Administration

Doreen Payne, Member Support Officer

This year has proven to be easier for branches as they were able to fully resume a lot of their activities that had been restricted in the years before due to Covid.

2022 Annual General Meeting & Southern Branches Get Together

The Southern Branches Get-together (September 2022) commenced with President, Peter Ogilvie, formally welcoming members, and guests and thanking staff for organising the event. He presented his report on the Society’s activities and projects for the 2021-2022 year and outlined future plans. Reports were distributed followed by the election of councillors.

Your Voice for Your Wildlife annual awards for the year June 2022

The Margaret Thorsborne Award named in honour of our late Patron, Margaret Thorsborne –acknowledges members who have made an outstanding contribution to Wildlife Queensland, conservation and the community.

There were two recipients of the award: Ann Hobson of Upper Dawson branch and Jude Crighton of the Sunshine Coast & Hinterland branch.

There were no nominations for **the Community Engagement and/or Education award**.

Membership and Branches

Matters relating to members and branches are many and varied. Events are seen as a good opportunity to advertise the Society and its aims, and to attract members and encourage subscriptions to *Wildlife Australia*.

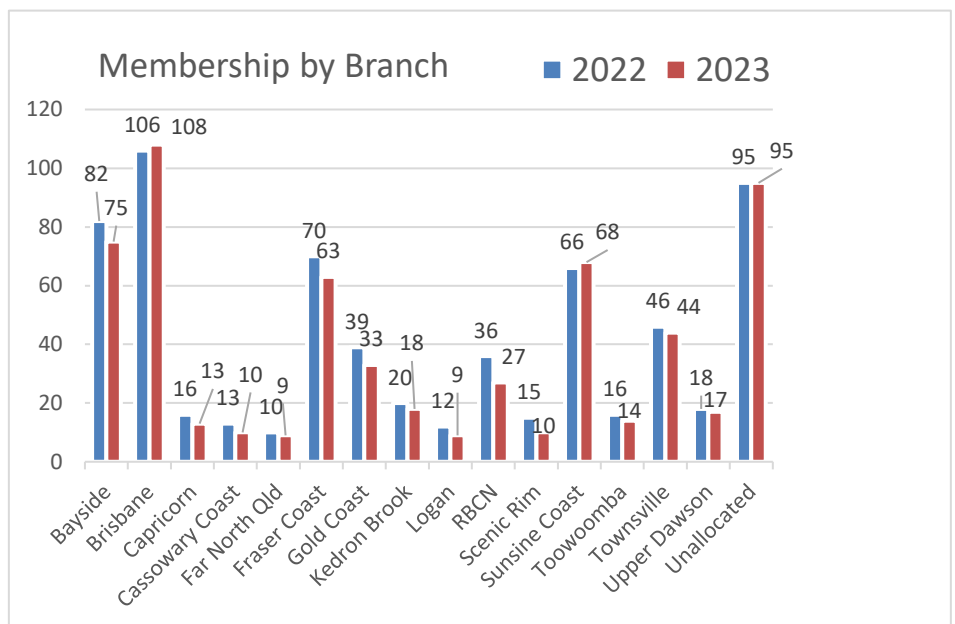
Statistics:

Membership June 2022: 660

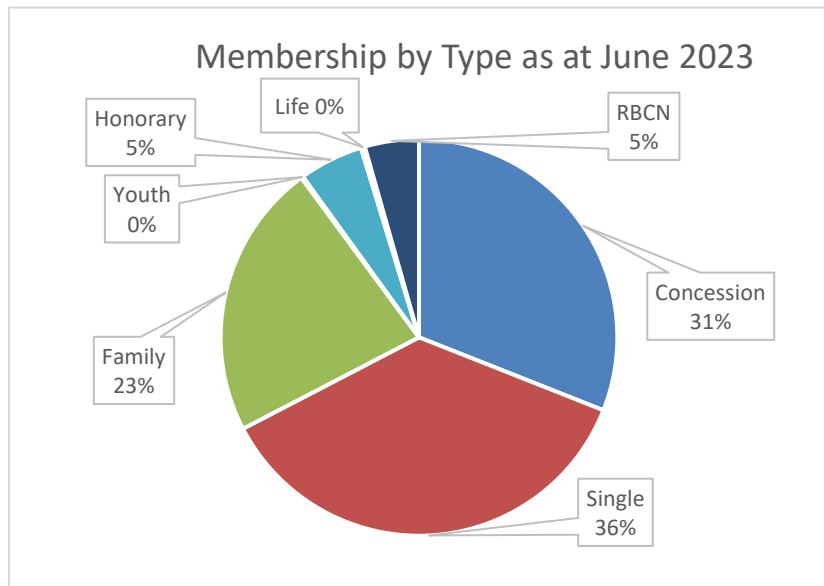
Membership June 2023: 613

Branches June 2022: 14

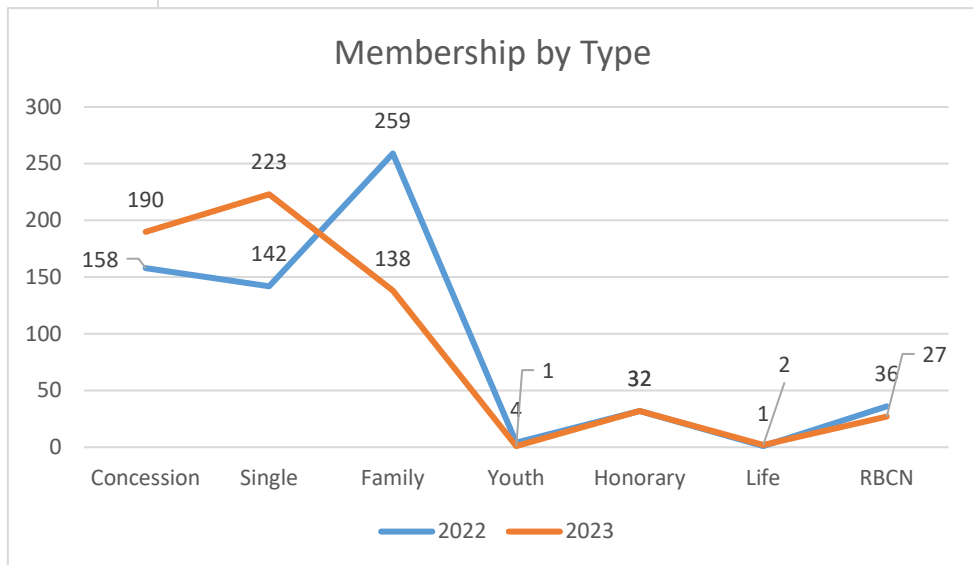
Branches June 2023: 13
(Logan no longer operating)



Membership by Type:



Trend:



The society’s member newsletter has had a name change (Talking Wildlife) to keep in line with other publications and events. It is produced in both electronic and print formats twice yearly. Copies are included in new member packs and distributed at events.

A thank you lunch for volunteers was held in December. This annual celebration is a way of expressing our thanks to the volunteers for their valuable work during the year.

Media

It is very difficult to get coverage in newspapers etc. for environmental matters, though some branches do. Media coverage last year remained constant and radio interviews helped immensely; overall coverage is still nowhere near where it used to be. Matt Cecil and Tamielle Brunt have contributed the most to this with interviews and reports on projects. Of course, we now have very good coverage on social media.

Bequest Program

Adriana Boron, Bequests Co-ordinator

Over the last 12-18 months, Wildlife Queensland has been implementing a new and proactive Bequest Program, focused on recruiting new bequestors, discovering which supporters are already bequestors, and maintaining an active ongoing relationship with current known bequestors (people who have included a gift to Wildlife Queensland in their Will). This has been an area that was quite reactive, however initiatives are now being set up to highlight to our supporter base just how important bequests are to the ongoing success of Wildlife Queensland, and how being aware of existing bequests can assist in planning for the future of the organisation.

Following are some of the bequest highlights and initiatives from the last financial year:

Will for Wildlife

A Will Guide was launched in September 2022 to coincide with Include a Charity Week. This guide highlights the evolution of Wildlife Queensland, why bequests are so vital to the organisation, and how a bequest can be set up in a Will. This guide is available in hard copy or via our website.



Partnership with Gathered Here

Gathered Here is a free online Will service, allowing legal Wills to be set-up in less than 10 minutes. Wildlife Queensland's partnership with Gathered Here has given us a landing page on Gathered Here's website, and a unique link that can be shared with supporters.

New bequests received through Gathered Here in 2022/2023: 16

Supporter Surveys

In September 2022, our first online Supporter Survey was sent to 321 active supporters. The focus was to gain feedback about our work and projects, and to find out if current supporters had left gifts in their Wills or wanted information about doing so. Two subsequent surveys were sent out after the success of the first. Our aim is to send this survey to all active supporters by the end of the 2023/2024 financial year.

Bequest contacts received from 3 Supporter Surveys in 2022/2023: 4 new confirmed bequestors, 9 bequest intenders and considerers

Include a Charity Week

Held in September each year, Include a Charity Week is a social change initiative which promotes legacy giving and encourages Australians to pledge a gift in their Will. As this is an Australia-wide initiative, it allows for an easier conversation to be had with supporters about including a gift in their Will. For the last two Include a Charity Weeks, Wildlife Queensland has emailed all active supporters during this time to highlight the week and its importance, and advising how they can go about supporting Wildlife Queensland through leaving a gift in their Wills.

Operations

Janelle Devery, Operations Manager

The role of Operations Manager entails overseeing the day-to-day administration of the Society, as well as contributing to the strategic decision-making of the Management Team (MT). The role covers: operations, reports (internal & external), human resources, financial management, information technology, and general administration including admin support to projects, networks, and Wildlife Land Fund.

Volunteers: The Society could not run efficiently or effectively without our dedicated, reliable, and regular office volunteers: Warren, MaryAnn, Steve and Jenny and Doreen who is both volunteer and staff, and to those who help at the mail-out of magazines. We appreciate your help.

Staff/Contractors: Doreen Payne has retired from her position as Members & Branches Support Officer.

Gift Fund: The following table shows funds received as donations for the financial year.

Requested Purpose	Amount	Notes
2022 Annual Appeal	\$4780.00	Received after 30/06/ 2022
2023 EOFY	\$30947.27	
Adopt a Brushie	\$320.00	
Adopt a Butterfly	\$520.00	
Adopt a Glider	\$1490.00	
Adopt a Platypus	\$5233.85	
Adopt a Quoll	\$680.00	
Brush-tailed Rock-Wallaby	\$60.00	Received after end of 2022fy appeal
General	\$9514.83	Ad hoc – added to online purchases
In memory of Greg Miller	\$675.00	
Mahogany glider	\$500.00	One-off specific request
Membership	\$28.00	Added to membership renewal payment
Other - Not for transfer	\$3239.60	Not tax deductible – ie not for Gift Fund
Platypus Xmas 2022	\$65980.55	
Richmond Birdwing Conservation Network	\$210.00	
Thorsborne Trust	\$820.00	To be transferred to the trust
Yellow-bellied glider	\$1000.00	
Total	\$125,999.10	

Note: odd amounts are result of deduction of credit card or merchant processing fees. Post appeals we request a transfer of 70% of funds donated back to the project or operations.

Appeals: Two appeals for the 2022-2023 financial year. Both were successful with above average donations received.

Adoptions: While income from donations is down a fraction from last year, they still provide good if irregular income.

Wildlife Protector Program: Will re-launch in September with a new logo and offer Wildlife Protectors the convenience of signing themselves up for regular giving via the website using either credit card and direct debit payment options and be self-managed by the donor.

Batty Boat Cruises are still popular – particularly Halloween and Valentines Day cruises.

Technical Support: We have contracted WinBasic for IT support and MVLA for web-related technical support. Digital Communications Officer (Amanda Little) manages everyday changes, updates etc on website.

Future plans

- Find grant funding for a new Customer Relationship Management system (CRM). Current database is limited in functions to support growth – integrated mailing systems, reporting, customer management (contact information, communications journey etc)
- Transition to Sharepoint to allow remote access to files for staff providing a work-from-home solution as well as access for officers in the field.
- Work with *Wildlife Australia* committee and consultant (Business Acumen) to increase revenue, find partnerships, advertising and marketing opportunities
- Actively seek out marketing opportunities and develop partnerships for both the society and the magazine
- Liaise with consultants as required for strategic planning, fundraising and events

Management Team

Matt Cecil, Des Boyland and Janelle Devery

Focus this year has been on strategic planning.

1. A planning day with Council and staff in March looked at strategies for communications, revenue, and governance (branches, membership, networks).
2. two sub-committees to refine and develop strategies and approaches on financial viability (revenue, fundraising, sponsorship, partnerships) and governance and operations (membership, organisational structure, branches and governance). Both sub-commitments are meeting regularly with positive outcomes to date.
3. Increasing our marketing/promotional reach via collection of emails. We need to build our email marketing list to increase engagement, and in turn increase revenue through financial support (donations, regular giving, bequests, sponsorship)
4. Increasing the involvement of branches into discussions and decisions around organisational structure.
5. Developing a Sponsorship Strategy to engage corporations in sponsorship of the society. This would include (but not limited to):
 - a. Financial support of *Wildlife Australia* magazine – advertising/advertorials; printing
 - b. Promoting our projects team to corporations to deliver community engagement days/programs in return for financial support. We already do some of this on a small scale . A good example is the current partnership with West End Village to promote the Richmond birdwing butterfly. We receive funds to deliver community workshops on the RBB and vines.
 - c. The effort to find corporate partnerships that is really just starting. All suggestions welcome.
6. Bequest: The engagement of a Bequest Co-Ordinator and development of a focused bequest program provides us with some assurances of future funding. Of course, this funding cannot be guaranteed, nor can we anticipate when we will receive those funds. (see bequests report for more information). We are dependent on bequests for our long-term survival as donations only cover about 30% of our costs.
7. Future plans include working with State Council on a review of the Constitution including looking at our objectives and if they are relevant for our work today.



THE WILDLIFE LAND FUND

Wildlife Land Fund Limited

Chair, Stacey McLean

Chair's Report on activities of the Company for 2022-2023

The Wildlife Land Fund Ltd (WLFL) has again this past year advanced our *Vision* for an ecologically sustainable future for people and wildlife by conserving Queensland's natural environment. WLFL continues to actively invest in the repair and management of these lands based using best practice methods and allocating available resources carefully to secure optimum outcomes.

Witta Nature Refuge

Funding from the Sunshine Coast Council through their voluntary conservation agreement (VCA) program continued, enabling us to engage Natural Bushland Ecology to undertake targeted weed removal and follow-up management. Good recruitment and regeneration is occurring through the weed management works being delivered.

Neil Holloway Reesville Nature Refuge

As with Witta, we were again successful in continuing a VCA with Sunshine Coast Council, allowing us to re-engage Brush Turkey Enterprises to continue with targeted weed management and management. As with Witta, good recruitment and regeneration is being reported. Works to control Broad-leaf Privet, funded through a Queensland Government Nature Refuge Landholder Grant Agreement were delivered. The Fund continues to work closely with the Council on broader issues, including providing access to enable camera monitoring for deer activity.

Bukkulla Conservation Park

Stock grazing continued again this year, undertaken by the Bowman Cattle Co. to graze a maximum of 80 head of cattle on the Park, conditions permitting. The Board continues to work the Bowman family to plan each year's agistment arrangements. The Board has also continued to liaise with the Queensland Department of Environment requirements regarding a review of the Statement of Management Intent for Bukkulla. The

Board will provide members with updates on this work throughout the coming year.

Weranga Scarps Nature Reserve

On-ground inspections for detailed management plan preparations have been delayed. This is a priority activity for the Board in the coming year. The focus will be establishing the current condition of the various habitats following good summer rains and identify priority management actions.

Wildlife Land Fund Limited Board

The Board of Directors met formally three times during the 2022-23 financial year: August and December 2022, and again in April 2023. I thank fellow Board members for their commitment to advancing the Fund's activities and objectives. Regrettably, Lynn Ogden had to step down for personal reasons as a Director. Lynn's contributions as a Board member are greatly appreciated.

At the end of June 2022 our land and cash on hand assets approaches \$900,000, providing a very sound base on which to build in our 22st year. WLFL traded in surplus for the year. Both donations and membership decreased compared to the 2021-2022 financial year. However WLFL is financially viable and able to pay our debts as and when they become due. Our membership now stands at 67. Trustees of the Wildlife Nature Reserve Fund – our public fund – carried out all necessary functions, as expected.

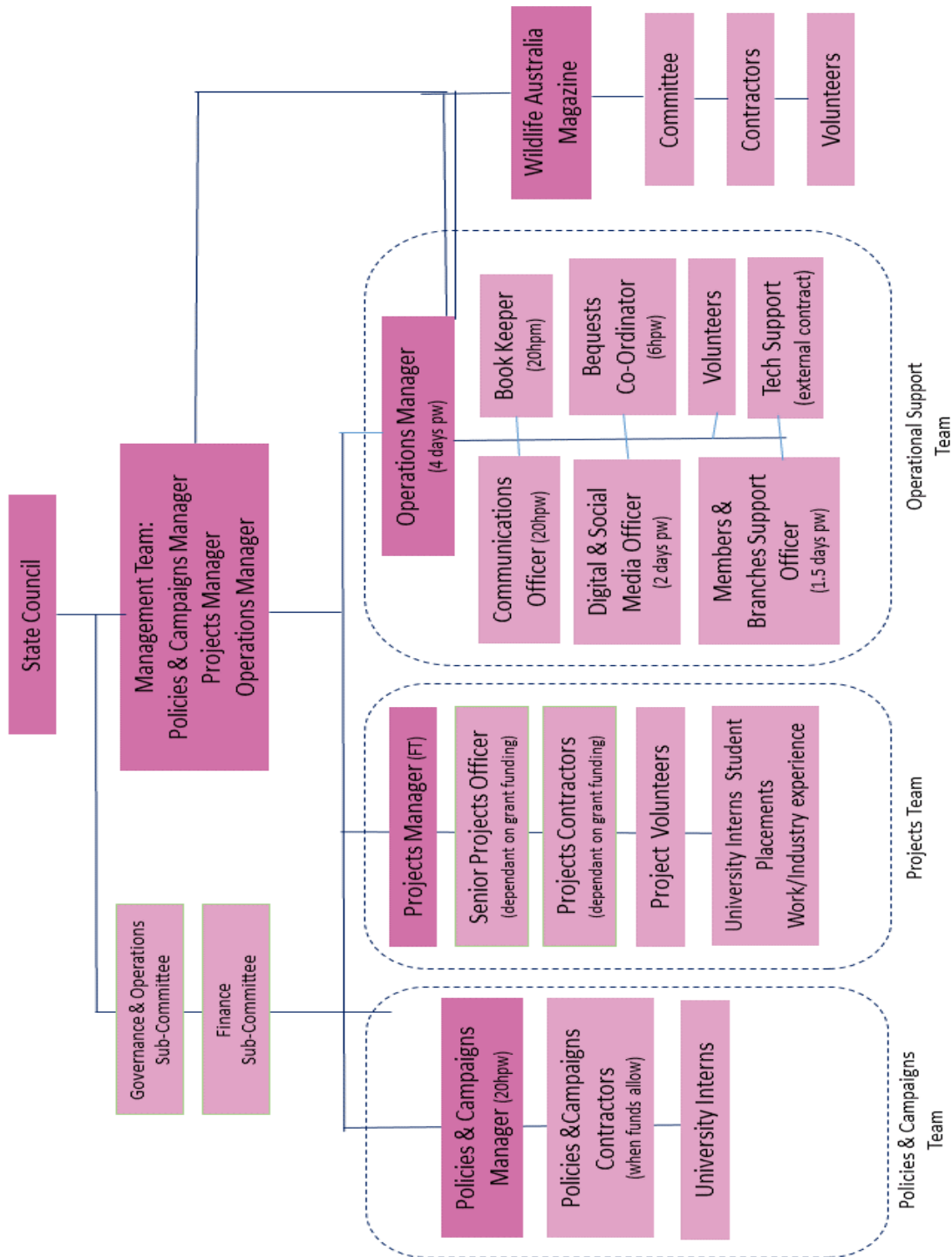
Future Directions

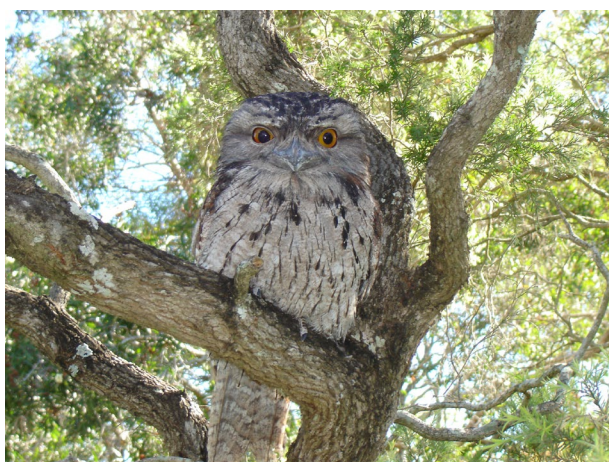
A landholder in the Darling Downs region has approach WLFL with the offer of a land donation. Discussions with the Toowoomba City Council have commenced but there is still a long way to go and although WLFL is hopeful, there is no guarantee. Two successful applications to the Council are required, one to create a new lot and another for a material change of use for that new lot. The significant challenges for the Board are to grow the membership and increase our income.

Acknowledgements

The Board of Directors would like to thank Peter Hallahan for his on-going assistance in financial operations. The on-going support and assistance from the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland is very much appreciated and acknowledged.

About Wildlife Queensland....





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