



NQCC



NORTH QUEENSLAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL

Annual Report

2018-2019



About NQCC	4
President's Report	6
Campaign Manager's Report	7
Community Campaigner's Report	8
Management Committee	9
Volunteers & Partnerships	10
Advocacy	11
National Parks Campaign	12
Outreach and Education	13
Our Resources	16
Fundraising	17



About NQCC

Our mission: to be a strong voice for the environment, influencing, educating and inspiring our North Queensland community to achieve an ecologically sustainable society.

Our vision: a caring and well-informed society living sustainably in a healthy and well protected environment, where ecological sustainability is everybody's responsibility.

North Queensland Conservation Council (NQCC) is a peak organisation in the statewide environmental movement, with an office in Townsville. It represents the area roughly bounded by Bowen in the South, Cardwell in the North, the Coral Sea in the East and the Northern Territory border in the West, advocating on regional conservation issues.

NQCC works to support small, often single-issue and hands-on local organisations in statewide forums and liaises with other peak

bodies, especially Cairns and Far North Environment Centre (CAFNEC) to the North and Mackay Conservation Group (MCG) to the South.

NQCC was established in 1974 as a not-for-profit incorporated association with a broad mandate to "protect the land, waters and atmosphere of the region" and since then has worked continuously on a range of environmental issues of significance to North Queensland and beyond.



Our values

- **A healthy natural environment is the foundation of a healthy society.** We believe that societal transformation is required for North Queensland communities to operate within the biophysical limits of the natural environment and that a healthy, thriving North Queensland community is inextricably dependent on a healthy environment.
- **Passionate people are the hope for the future.** We believe people power brings about change for current and future generations.
- **Real change is achieved by empowering local communities.** We are committed to supporting North Queensland citizens, our members, staff, volunteers and supporters to be strong advocates for the environment.
- **Partnerships and collaboration are vital.** We recognise that significant and systemic changes will be achieved by working with others in our local community, the North Queensland region, Queensland and the world.
- **We are independent and ethical.** We represent the natural environment free from the influence of corporations, political parties and governments and we ensure our activities align with our mission and values.

President's report

The past year began on a sombre note with the passing of Margaret Thorsborne, one of the great champions of the Australian Conservation movement and a life member of NQCC. We were fortunate to have such a passionate and dedicated guardian for the environment in our region.



Climate Change has been a major focus of our work during the year with a Climate Concert in June, attendance at rallies and collaboration with the Australian Youth Climate Coalition. Another very important campaign has been our "Hands off Hinchinbrook" campaign opposing private development in Hinchinbrook Island National Park, part of the State Government's push for up-market tourism by leasing out parts of our National Parks. NQCC is taking the lead in this campaign as Hinchinbrook Island is in our part of the world.

We have made submissions to raise environmental concerns on a number of local issues. These include proposals to develop a



Peter Hanley

Resort and Equestrian Centre at Toolakea Beach and plans by the Ronmar Company to develop Cattle Holding yards at Oak Valley as part of a feedlot project. The Management Committee has developed a Draft Strategic Plan for NQCC for the next three years. As part of this process we have refined and articulated the Vision, Mission and Values of NQCC and these are included in this report. NQCC is vital to the protection of our region with threats to habitat loss through mining and other development, and the Great Barrier Reef and surrounding waters under threat from deforestation, farm water runoff and coral bleaching.

It is in recognition of the key role that we play that we receive State Government funding to be North Queensland's regional conservation advocate. I will take this opportunity to acknowledge the dedication and professionalism of our staff and volunteers and also thank the Management Committee for their support throughout the year.

Campaign Manager's report



Tarquin Moon

NQCC is a fantastic organisation nurtured by so many people over its 45-year history. In the last 12 months we have spoken out in the media against the Adani mine, private leasing of National Parks and the relocation of flying fox roosts. We also launched our National Parks campaign outside Qld Parliament House and continue to oppose private leases within National Park boundaries. NQCC has been kept busy organising numerous other events as we engage with our supporters and seek to involve new audiences who share our concern for the environment. These events included the screening of *Blue the Film*, Ecofiesta's Education Hub, the Australia Institute's presentation of Townsville HeatWatch, the Townsville Climate Concert and our Postcard Art Exhibition.

At any one time there are numerous environmental problems in our region, from climate change and the protection of biodiversity, to opposing inappropriate developments and having input into government public consultation processes. We also aim to work on the root causes of these issues by building NQCC's capacity over time. Working in partnerships has been very rewarding, for example collaborating with the film makers of *Blue the Film* and The Australia Institute, just to name a few.

Our staff, Management Committee and volunteers have made significant contributions this year and I thank them for their passion for the environment. I look forward to the year ahead, as we seek future opportunities to keep growing NQCC!

Community Campaigner's report



Crystal Falknau

Since taking on the role of Community Campaigner in October 2018, I have gained so many valuable insights and learned lessons about the movement in which we operate. The most important thing I've learned from carrying out my work with NQCC is that community is everything.

As individuals, it is easy to experience frustration, isolation and despair, and it is difficult sometimes to see the fruits of our labour or sacrifice. With community support, however, it is possible to see further ahead and to regain our motivation when times are hard. I believe that when communities come together, great things can happen. This is why I'm determined to harness the power of North Queensland communities to achieve common goals for the future of our environment.

In the last twelve months, I have been humbled and inspired by the actions of everyday people contributing to our cause. To the volunteers, artists, donors, performers, businesses and community groups who have made everything in this report (and more) possible – thank you.

I truly can't wait to see what the future brings for NQCC, and what we can achieve for the environment when we work collaboratively. We should all be honoured and excited to be involved in the conservation movement, particularly in a time when our voices are needed most. I believe that together we can bring about real change and build the foundations for the future that we want. Be courageous, make change and know that you have a conservation community behind you that is both loyal and strong.

Management committee



Peter Hanley

President

Rebecca Ryan

Vice President



Cam Leitch

Treasurer

Priscilla Peto

Secretary



Alastair Birtles

Linda Davis



Special thanks to Lindy Collins for her contribution to NQCC.

Volunteers

Megan Armstrong • Lauren Bass • Tully Bowtell-Young • Sabine Carter
Liz Downes • Simon Foale • Marion Gaemers • Phil Gorbett • Ashleigh Guy
Lily Hayes • George Hirst • Tessa Hodge • Damon Johnstone • David Kault
Bill Kennedy • Taryn Laporte • Jodi Phillip • David McMillan
Carolyn Mewing • John Mewing • Margaret Moorhouse • Jenny Sebba
Mackenzie Severn • Dave Sewell • Penelope Sheridan • Jaala Smith
Malcolm Tattersall • Louise Theodore • Mary Vance • Amy Wilson
Julie Woodlock • Ian Yesberg • Natasha Zraikat

Partnerships

Alliance to Save Hinchinbrook (ASH)	Lock the Gate Alliance
Australian Environment Grantmakers Network	Mackay Conservation Group
Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS)	National Parks Association Queensland
Australian Youth Climate Coalition (AYCC)	New Economy Network Australia (NENA)
Black Throated Finch Recovery Team	Northern Studios
Boomerang Bags Townsville	Queensland Conservation Council (QCC)
Cairns and Far North Environment Centre (CAFNEC)	Solar Citizens
Capricorn Conservation Council	Stop Adani Magnetic Island
Cassowary Keystone Conservation Group	Stop Adani Townsville
Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA)	Tangaroa Blue
Climate Media Centre	The Australia Institute
Environmental Defenders Office North Queensland (EDO NQ)	The Morris Foundation
Environmental Defenders Office Queensland (EDO Qld)	The Wilderness Society
Gladstone Conservation Council (GCC)	Townsville Against Live Export (TALE)
JCU Creative Arts	Townsville City Council (TCC)
	Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts
	Volunteering North Queensland (VNQ)
	Wildlife Queensland (Townsville Branch)
	W/WF - Brisbane



Advocacy

Environment Minister's Roundtables

Campaigns Manager Tarquin Moon attended two Ministerial Roundtables (November 2018 and June 2019) to meet with LEEANNE ENOCH - the State Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef. At these meetings, Tarquin outlined our concerns regarding the Expression of Interest (EOI) process that offers tourism leases within National Parks.

We were able to send a very clear message that National Parks need the highest standard of protection and that the conservation sector was not consulted on the EOIs earmarked for Hinchinbrook Island, Great Sandy and Whitsunday Island National Parks. The roundtables also facilitated the coordination of campaigns with other conservation groups throughout Queensland.

Oak Valley Cattle Holding Facility Submissions

NQCC joined with Oak Valley residents and numerous local organisations to publicly oppose the development of a cattle holding facility in Black-throated Finch habitat in Oak Valley. An article published in the Townsville Bulletin the same afternoon revealed that the project was refused on the grounds that it was inconsistent with the City Plan.

This was an inspiring display of a community coming together and speaking out against the development. NQCC helped to spread the word about this development last year fielding numerous calls from concerned residents and helping them to understand more about their rights under the local planning scheme. Together with the community and other organisations like TALE (Townsville Against Live Export), we were able to ensure this development would not be granted Council approval. Thanks to all who spread the message, made submissions and stood up for this precious Black-throated Finch habitat.



Save our National Parks

Hands Off Hinchinbrook rally at Ecotourism Conference

NQCC was joined by members, supporters and other concerned citizens in November last year, where we greeted local and international guests attending an International Ecotourism Conference in Townsville. Our message to them was clear: Queensland National Parks should not be privatised, and the Queensland Government should not offer long-term leases on public, protected land within our National Parks. This demonstration gained the attention of the local news media, which helped us to spread the word about the EOI process with the wider community.

Tarquin's visit to Cardwell

In February this year, Tarquin travelled to Cardwell to meet with residents concerned about protecting Hinchinbrook Island National Park from development. Meeting with concerned residents and Traditional Owners was highly informative and helped to build important relationships and build the capacity of everyone involved on this issue.

Two months later, volunteers from Cardwell ran a stall at the local Easter Market, sharing the campaign to save our National Parks with community members. This market stall gained 40 new signatures on our petition and started many meaningful conversations with Cardwell residents about the issue. Thanks to Carolyn and John Mewing for their dedication to this, to their volunteers Ken and Vito, and to Thea, Jenny and Jan who helped make it possible.

#SaveOurNationalParks Brisbane action

To launch our campaign more publicly, Tarquin took the message to Brisbane, where she demonstrated and spoke to the media outside Queensland Parliament House about our campaign to keep private development leases OUTSIDE of our National Parks. This is an issue that has really hit home with so many individuals, because we all love our National Parks and what they stand for: a legacy of environmental conservation. Thank you to everyone who chipped in to help cover costs associated with getting this campaign off the ground!

Outreach and Education

A New Economy for North Queensland Symposium

The New Economy Network Australia (NENA) is a network of individuals and organisations working to transform Australia's economic system so that achieving ecological health and social justice are the foundational principles and primary objectives of the economic system.

On the weekend of 14-15 July 2018 NENA and NQCC co-hosted a two-day symposium: A New Economy for North Queensland, on Magnetic Island and brought together 52 delegates keen to explore what a sustainable economy might look like. NQCC acknowledges and thanks the enormous contribution made by Wendy Tubman to the success of the event.



Three of the keynote presentations set the scene for the symposium– Kate Rayworth “Doughnut Economics”, Richard Denniss “Curing affluenza and other ills” and Michelle Maloney “Building a new economy for North Queensland”. The presentations and

workshops over the weekend were grouped into themes that included Sustainable Communities, Cooperatives and Social Enterprises, Rethinking Food Systems and Energy and Waste Systems. The final session for the symposium was a discussion about what we can do together that we cannot do on our own and encouraged the participants to “Don't panic – Organise”.

Blue the Film screening

The Townsville screening event of Blue the Film on Thursday 27th September 2018 demonstrated the value of partnerships to engage new audiences in new ways. Together with Northern Pictures film producer Sarah Beard, the Morris Family Foundation and NQCC, this event attracted 225 attendees with a fantastic panel of speakers. Valerie Taylor as one of the speakers, was an amazing drawcard for the diving community in Townsville. The film focused on relevant issues for NQCC such as illegal fishing, marine debris and shark culling.



EcoFiesta - Education Hub

NQCC teamed up with Townsville City Council's Events team to maximise the opportunities presented by Ecofiesta – one of Townsville's most popular annual events. NQCC coordinated the Education Hub, where individuals working within a variety of environmental fields were invited to deliver short, informative presentations to a wide and receptive audience. NQCC would like to thank the Townsville City Council Events team for facilitating this, and all of the speakers who contributed to the program - it was such a fantastic day! Meeting Craig Reucassel from ABC's War on Waste was a bit of a bonus too!



Green Drinks

'Green Drinks' is an international initiative, described as 'an organic, self-organising network' of people working in environmental fields. NQCC has been facilitating this event on a monthly basis for Townsville locals to network with others with a shared passion for environmental conservation. These events have featured guest speakers and presentations from local advocates and experts. It has provided wonderful opportunities for networking, community-building and knowledge-sharing, and we can't wait to see it grow and transform in the future.

Climate Concert

In 2019, the Queensland Government chose to shake up their World Environment Day celebrations by celebrating Climate Week (2 - 8 June), with the aim to bring communities together to showcase the State's transition to a low-carbon economy and for leaders to discuss ideas on how to address and adapt to climate change.

NQCC was successful in securing a grant to host a Climate Week event, and we chose to bring people together with live entertainment, along with experts and advocates in an outdoor Climate Concert. Our concert was one of 30+ events that took place throughout Queensland, bringing communities together and ramping up the discussion about our collective futures. Due to our action-packed events calendar for June, our event took place a little later in the month (on Sunday the 16th) and drew a sizeable crowd.



HeatWatch Townsville

Mark Ogge, Principal Advisor for the Australia Institute, came to town to present the latest HeatWatch report for Townsville in March of this year. The report outlined some grim outcomes for our region under the business-as-usual modelling, but also provided hope, should immediate action be taken to mitigate climate change.

We also heard from Dr Scott Heron from JCU, who provided some further context to the temperature forecasts, including the impacts of consecutive heatwaves on coral reefs around the world. Des Bolton also contributed to the presentations. As a Burdekin famer passionate about sustainable agriculture, he provided insights into the impacts of climate change in his area and industry.

Each of our presenters left us with the same final message: speak up for the environment, don't downplay the impacts of climate change, and keep having these important conversations with everyone you meet.

Palm Creek Folk Festival

For the first time in a few years, NQCC featured a stall at Palm Creek Folk Festival here in NQ - and it certainly got some attention! With our rainbow couch, polaroid camera and props, we were able to raise some funds to #SaveOurNationalParks, while spreading the word about this campaign to hundreds of festival-goers.

Our stint at the annual festival was also a priceless opportunity to network with people from throughout North Queensland who are heading their own campaigns for environmental conservation.

We engaged with festival-goers of all ages and had meaningful conversations about all manner of environmental concerns and possible solutions. Keep a weather eye out for us next year if you attend - we shall be hard to miss!



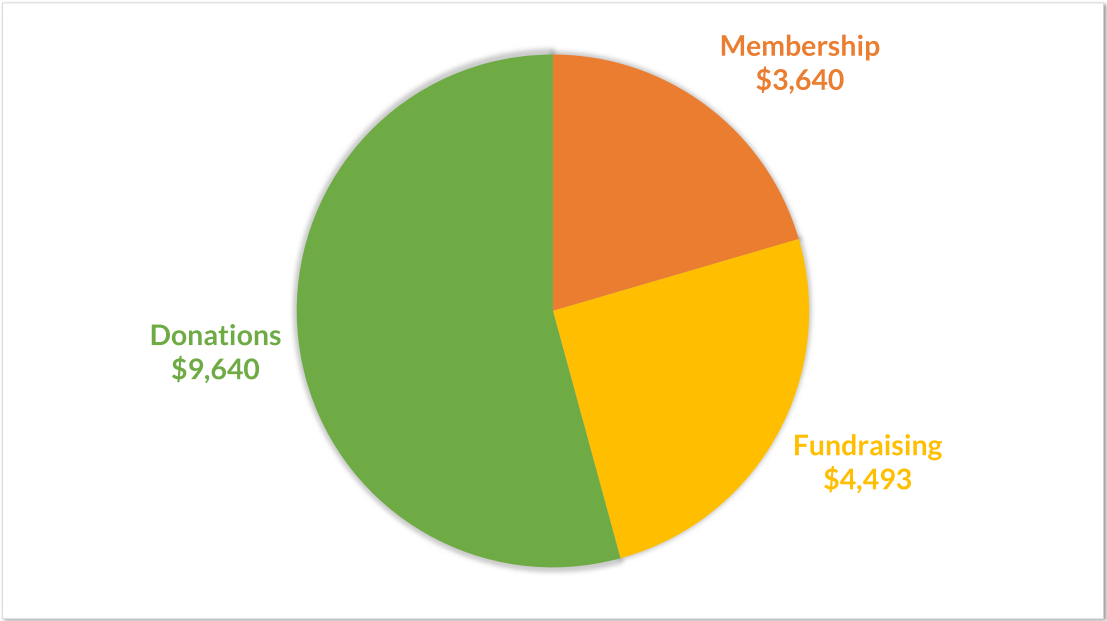
Market Stalls: JCU Market Days, SCAPES Science Fair, Strand Night Market

Appearing at various events and markets over the past twelve months has assisted us in spreading our name and purpose throughout our community, as well as raising awareness around our major campaigns and allowing us to interact with a diverse range of people throughout our region.





Our Resources



In 2018/19, NQCC received financial support from our members, donors and fundraising activities (see pg. 17). More detail can be found in our Annual Financial Report.

Strategic Planning Workshops

To better manage both our financial and human resources, our Management Committee engaged in Strategic Planning workshops in March and April 2019, facilitated by Shane Harris of Volunteering North Queensland. We finalised our new Vision and Mission Statement and reviewed NQCC’s values. We also made a strong start on our goals and action plans for the next three years, which we recommend our new Management Committee finalise this year.

Fundraising

Trivia Night 2018

In the crazy tropical heat of November, members, supporters and guests enjoyed an extraordinary night of eating, drinking, thinking, cheating, laughing and bribing at our famous Trivia Night! Some highlights included delicious homemade food, a raffle with some nifty prizes (and some dubious ones too!) and just the general cheekiness and chaos that occurs when people get together for a dishonest night of Trivia. Thanks for helping us to put the FUN into fundraising!



Art Auction 2019

This popular biennial event was a long time coming, but at long last we gathered a crowd for a classy night out to auction off postcard-sized, environment-themed artworks to raise important funds. Our Treasurer proudly reports that our profits for the night totalled well over \$2,000. It was a great event and a vibrant crowd, and the artworks all found loving new homes. We are so thankful to each and every artist who contributed to our exhibition - your works have brought delight to so many people and have helped bring the art

community and the environment community together!



Container Deposit Scheme

Late in 2018, the Queensland Government introduced the Container Deposit Scheme, which boasts the benefits of reducing pollution in our waterways, improving recycling rates and providing not-for-profit organisations like us to raise some extra funds. We've been collecting eligible bottles and cans at our office and have managed to raise \$1,431 this financial year from the scheme! Supporters can also use our ID number – **C100 283 66** – to donate their refund to us at their closest collection point.





North Queensland Conservation Council

114 Boundary St

Railway Estate Qld 4810

07 4700 4978 / 0428 987 535

nqcc.org.au

ABN: 55 903 033 286