

Annual Report 2015-16



Noosa & District
Landcare



Noosa & District Landcare Group Inc

Conservation, Education, Participation

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Contents

60 attendees
to two aquatic
workshops

4,368
volunteer hours
representing
\$131,040 back to the
community

400 attendees
across
10 monthly
workshops

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Front page photo: Biankah, Cooroy State School planting, July 2015

1,800 visits to
Retail Nursery/Resource Centre

500 visits to
Rural Futures Centre

1,750 phone enquiries

Our Aims

To **PROMOTE** the value, protection and rehabilitation of the Noosa Biosphere and Sunshine Coast Region

To **ENCOURAGE** the adoption of best management practices and sustainable land uses

To **ASSIST** in the preservation of water quality and ecosystem health in the region

To **CREATE** productive and biodiverse landscapes capable of supporting future generations

To **EDUCATE** and raise awareness through community programs, workshops and traineeships

Chairman's Report



Luke Barrowcliffe

925 Facebook Likes

700 Twitter Followers

The last twelve months have flown by and it is now time to take stock of what has been achieved during that time. It is with great pride that I acknowledge the proactive members of the Management Committee and Senior Management Team who have guided the strengthening and growth of the Group far beyond where we were only a few years ago.

I have recently had the privilege to document (for my day job) the success of Indigenous corporations around the country. This has brought me the opportunity to compare the dynamics of our own operation: its governance; organisational capacity; structure; potential; and viability. It was enlightening to see how other groups manage their patch and there is definitely not a 'one size fits all' approach to running an organisation. At the end of the day however, it was obvious to see that it all comes down to having passionate people with a shared vision working in collaboration to effectively manage the needs of staff, members, clients, partners and government agencies.

With the recent creation of the Business Development Manager and Projects Manager roles, the capacity within the middle management of the organisation has markedly increased. These two roles have greatly enhanced not only our human capital, but our overall capacity to manage large projects and the ability to deliver more outcomes on the ground. We have started to see the fruits of this labour for our environment also, with our field crews engaged in large-scale tree plantings on several sites, and new strategic weed control activities occurring also.

As the saying goes, "If you keep doing what you have always done, you will keep getting what you have always got". The 2015/6 financial year saw a deliberate departure of 'old ways' within the organisation and the introduction of several innovative new approaches to doing our business. In our plant nurseries, staff commenced the use of a flash new stock management system which will help us track more concisely our stock levels of any given species at any given time. This improves the efficiency and effectiveness of the nursery side of the business in so many ways, but most particularly with the planning and propagation of new stock. Our field crews can now also be seen out in the field with computer 'tablets', to replace the copious amount of workplace, health and safety and reporting paperwork now required of us. In the office, our membership database has now migrated to a cloud

-based system with automated components, which has helped cut down administrative tasks.

Workplace training continues to provide good outcomes for the organisation and our local environment. Over the 2015/16 year, 15 people have received training through the *Green Army* six-month program and another nine people through the *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* six-month program. Both groups of trainees have enhanced the environmental sustainability of our region and we have very much valued their individual contributions. Workplace training initiatives are not only great for our organisation and environment, but they also provide valuable career pathways through skills development and hands-on experience for the participants.

Kim Maddison (Administration Manager) has successfully negotiated the transfer of ownership of the Resource Centre building (opposite the Pub) and a long term lease of the site, including the adjacent Station Place. This was a long and arduous process, but we have been fortunate to attain these assets and our public presence in Pomona for a relatively moderate cost. The acquisitions will now permit us to look towards the future for this facility. Consequently, renovation designs are currently in development. So watch this space ... literally.

I congratulate the staff of the organisation, led by Phil Moran, and our many valued volunteers for another successful year. I'd also like to thank our members, funders and partners for their ongoing support. And last but not least, I'd like to thank my fellow committee members for their valued contributions and donation of time to the group.

All in all it has been quite a remarkable year and the future is looking bright. I look forward to the 2016/17 year with positivity and the promise that our valuable work continues to grow and benefit us, our local environment and community.



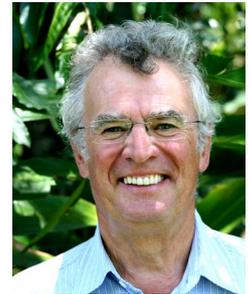
Beach Alectryon (Alectryon coriaceus)

Treasurer's Report



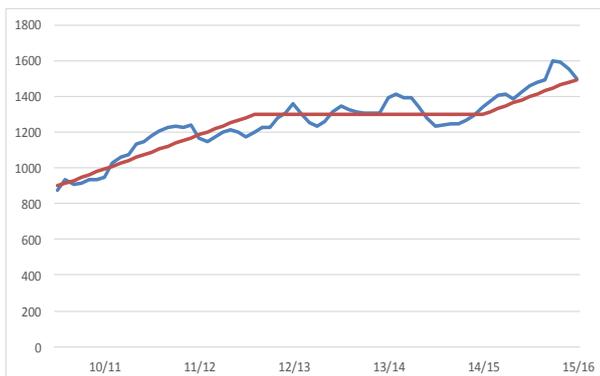
Syzygium wilsonii
(Powderpuff Lilly Pilly)

283 Members
80 Stakeholders



Dick Barnes

During the tough times of 2014/15, you may remember that the Management Committee chose to maintain our infrastructure and invest for the future. We kept our staffing and, in fact, invested in a Business Development Manager. This has paid off handsomely as the following chart shows. In blue is the moving annual total of income on a monthly basis. The red shows an approximate trend line through this data. This illustrates that we held our own in 2013/14 and 2014/15 and started growing again in 2015/16. A very creditable performance given the tough climate.

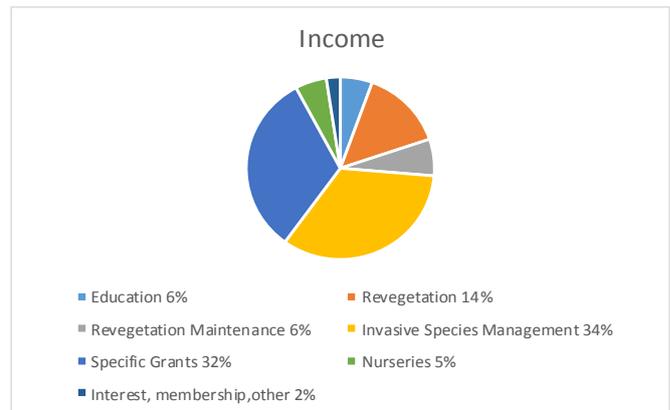


At the same time, we managed to reduce our investment levels and finished the year with a loss of \$54,700 compared to a loss of \$98,600 in 2014/15. It should be noted that in normal circumstances we aim to operate close to break-even in any year, investing any income we make into community activities. The overall audited financial summary in \$'000 appears in the table below.

The fall in net equity directly reflects the net loss. At \$853,700 this net equity provides a very adequate 'reserve' against future difficulties and a suitable fund for any investments the Management Committee deems necessary.

We are pleased to say that our accounts have, once again, been given a clean bill of health by our auditor. I congratulate the Administration team for keeping things under control through difficult times.

Although contracts provide a large part of our income, it is important to recognise that, within this, most of the work is undertaking many conservation projects. To help explain better what we do, we have started to analyse our accounts by project type. We provide, below, a 'pie chart' showing how our income broke down in 2015/16. We will continue to refine this approach in 2016/17.



You will see that, at 34%, the biggest slice is for managing invasive species such as Cats Claw Creeper, Lantana and Singapore Daisy. This is followed closely by Specific Grants which are aimed at a wide variety of individually identified projects. Revegetation could perhaps be combined with Revegetation Management to show as a significant 20%. Education and Nursery Sales are both areas we aim at growing significantly in the future. Watch this space!

| FINANCIAL SUMMARY (\$'000) | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Item | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | 2014/15 | 2015/16 |
| Income | 1396.5 | 1397.5 | 1342.9 | 1502.0 |
| Expenses | 1398.6 | 1408.5 | 1441.5 | 1556.7 |
| Net Loss | -2.1 | -10.9 | -98.6 | -54.7 |
| Net Equity | 1017.9 | 1006.9 | 908.4 | 853.7 |

Management Committee



Left to right: Geoff Black, Dick Barnes, Luke Barrowcliffe, Melanie Hassall, Kim Barnes, Phillip Moran
Absent: Paul Steels

Chairman

Luke Barrowcliffe

BComms
Butchulla man (Traditional custodians of Fraser Island & adjacent mainland)
Owns Goorie Vision (indigenous media company)

Secretary

Geoff Black

BE (Civil), GradDipDVST, DipCLM
Extensive background in land and community development and natural resource management

Treasurer

Richard Barnes

MA Engineering & Business Studies
Extensive corporate financial experience
Sustainable beef farmer in Noosa region

Committee Member

Dr Melanie Hassall

BVSc, GradDipEd
Background in beef management, biosecurity
Business owner, resource sector asset management

Committee Member

Dr Kim Barnes

PhD
Teacher and academic background in the school and university education systems
Extensive experience in sustainability and environmental education

Committee Member

Paul Steels

BEnvSc
Founding Member of Noosa & District Landcare
Extensive experience in community-based conservation

Committee Member

Phillip Moran

DipCLM
Extensive natural resource management background
Representation on industry boards
Community support
Owns Burrawingee Nature Refuge

Organisational Chart



| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| Management Committee Luke Barrowcliffe (Chair), Dick Barnes (Treasurer), Geoff Black (Secretary), Kim Barnes, Melanie Hassall Paul Steels, Phil Moran (Operational) | | | |
| General Manager: Phillip Moran | | | |
| Business Development Manager Rachel Lyons | Operations Manager Paul Sprecher | Administration Manager Kim Maddison | Projects Manager Steve Husband |
| Waterwatch/ Project Support Officer Rae O'Flynn & up to 40 volunteers | Nurseries Manager Ered Fox Nursery Manager's Assistant Dawn Worthington Nursery Assistants Linda Curson, Courtney Cicchero | | Administration Officer Trish Bignall Administration Assistant Margie Cosgrave |
| Field Supervisors: Darrin Barden, Charlie Sparks, Geoff Haack, Jonathan Smith (Skilling Queenslanders for Work), Lucas Reid (Green Army) | | | |
| Field Crew: Pascal Lopez, Dean Juleliuvas, Russell Ping, Jesse Telford, Nikkita Schonknecht, Heather North, Neil Scherer, Kyle Sanderson, Dylan Sparks, Tom Delfatti, Rohan Fisher, Ben Hoekstra, Owen Snowden | | | |
| Other employees from the 2015-16 financial year: Aaron Brunton, Lyn Harm, Darrel Hinson, Anita Russell, Shawn Palise, Kate Moorfield | | | |

How Do We Do It?

What is often not known about Noosa & District Landcare Group is that, unlike many traditional landcare groups, our business model has evolved so that we can provide a range of professional, fee-for-service work and project delivery that supports our community engagement and investment. Which means, you can be sure that your dollar is not only getting the vital work done, but is also educating a new generation of landcarers at the same time.

Native plants of Noosa region

Our wholesale and retail nurseries cater for small gardens and large-scale revegetation projects

150,000 tubestock per year
Over 130 species
Endemic seed collection
Volunteering

Contract Services

Our commercial conservation services arm undertakes services consistent with the Landcare ethic and operates on a fee-for-service basis

Weed control and management
Bushland & riparian revegetation
Carbon and offsets
Maintenance and monitoring
Native forest establishment and consultancy

Consultancy

Our native vegetation specialists offer advice on property management and compliance with government regulations

Fauna and flora surveys
Site visits
Property management plans
Ecological restoration plans
Pest management plans
Compliance and waterway condition reporting

Education & Training

We offer both accredited and non-accredited courses and traineeships; we support schools, pre-schools and universities with learning

Terrestrial & aquatic plant identification courses
Technical & vocational training
Community workshops
School visits & field days

Project Co-ordination

Our staff are experienced and qualified in proposal preparation, stakeholder consultation and project administration

Applied research
Community liaison
Grant applications and tenders
Multi-stakeholder projects
Large-scale bids

Water quality testing

Noosa and District Landcare's Waterwatch program supports volunteers with resources, training and equipment.

Physical, chemical and biological indicators
Ecosystem health assessments
Aquatic macroinvertebrate surveys
Interpretation and data collection
School visits and field excursions
Volunteering

Our land and water 'care' services are supported by a phenomenal assortment of experience, talent and qualifications across 30 employees and at least 20 volunteers, totalling over 200 years in this sector.

Our services are available to almost anyone - international and national corporations, local councils, landholders, members, businesses, regional bodies, and state and federal governments.



Partnerships

What is a partnership?

To us it is a person, group or other business that shares our common interests and long-term environmental perspectives and who wants to work co-operatively by combining skillsets for a stronger and more professional delivery of those aspirations.

This year we have forged partnerships and alliances with a growing list of significant groups who have made a commitment as environmental investors.

40 Partners

Growing number
of landholders

60

Industry meetings
Representations
Community

Artslink Qld
Birdlife Australia
DG Posi Track Mulching
Noosa Biosphere Reserve Foundation
University of the Sunshine Coast
Burnett Mary Regional Group
Campbell Page

The Neilson Group
Gympie Regional Council
The University of Georgia (USA)
Pomona & District Community House
The University of Queensland
Kin Kin Community Group
HQ Plantations

CO2 Australia
Country Noosa
Cooroy State School
Federal Department of the Environment
State Department of Environment
& Heritage Protection
Seqwater



Noosa & District
Landcare

SEQ Catchments
Qld Parks & Wildlife
Pacific Environmental
Sunshine Coast Environment Council
Qld Water & Land Carers
Qld Koala Crusaders Inc
Sunshine Coast Council
Thomas Foundation

Kin Kin State School
Gympie Regional Council
Cooroy Outdoor Power Equipment
Department of Education & Training
Mary River Catchment Coordinating
Committee
Gympie & District Landcare

Native Foresters
Noosa Shire Council
Knappick Foundation
Noosa Integrated Catchment Association
Peregian Beach Community Association
Qld Fire & Emergency Services
Noosa Parks Association

General Manager's Report



Phillip Moran

**40
property
consultations**

**4
radio
interviews**

*Cordyline rubra
(Red-fruited Palm Lily)*



2015/2016 financial year has been one of adapting to the ever changing economic environment. The previous financial year saw Noosa & District Landcare Group (NDLG) invest in capital improvements, personnel, new IT hardware, a new vehicle, donation of plants to schools and improvements to our Nurseries. The focus of the management team and the committee has been to position the group to be able to deliver quality works for the years to come. The Treasurer's Report shows the results of our collective efforts.

The successful Federal Government 20 Million Trees Programme projects (four in total) will further consolidate our position in coming years, as they are multiyear projects. The two projects at Elanda Plains will further strengthen our working relationship with Qld Parks & Wildlife Service; we look forward to this partnership. The Business Development Manager's (BDM) Report gives more details of these projects. I would like to acknowledge the sterling efforts of the BDM, Rachel Lyons, whilst also attending to new motherhood duties. Rachel has considerable capacity, and we look forward to her return to NDLG full time when she can.

We are also working closely with Seqwater through our Memorandum of Understanding, working strategically around Lake Macdonald. NDLG is part of the Seqwater Lake Macdonald Dam Improvement Program Community Reference Group, which is involved in the proposed improvements to Lake Macdonald. More on this soon. This year NDLG delivered aquatic plant training to our local councils, funded by the Qld Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

There is no "I" in team. This is the result of the many facets of our group. Administration is vital and we are well served by adroit administration. The Conservation Services team deliver quality on ground work, without which we could not operate at the sustained level that we do. Thanks to Paul Sprecher, Rae O'Flynn and recently Steve Husband for guiding our on-ground works. The two 'bookends', Darrin Barden and Geoff Haack, are the fulcrum around which all of our on-ground crews turn. Thank you both.

In order to deliver the plants (total 382,720) required for 20 Million Trees Programme and our other projects our nursery operations have to ramp up considerably. We are fortunate that Ered Fox (Nursery Manager) has a dedicated team of volunteers to assist him! We are also fortunate to have the services of Dawn Worthington, Linda Curson and Courtney

Cicchelero who are assisting in propagation, cataloguing seeds and seed sources and developing a new software program to streamline our ordering system.

The Retail Nursery in town will soon have a facelift, with input from many people including Kim Maddison (Administration Manager), Rachel Lyons, long-time Landcare volunteer and advisor, Shaun Walsh, and Matt Knoffke. Stay tuned as the nursery and the botanical beauty that is Station Place develops in the coming months.

NDLG has hosted federally-funded Green Army teams and Queensland State Government-funded Skilling Queenslanders for Work programs in the financial year. I would like to thank Geoff Haack, Jessie Telford, Lucas Reid and Jon Smith for their mentoring roles as Supervisors to these participants. Working with Noosa Council, we have been able to provide these people with work skills. They have all been outstanding individuals – my regret is that we could not employ more of these people directly.

Our other partnerships, such as the Burnett Mary Regional Group and South East Queensland Catchments, are strong, as is our close relationship with Noosa Council. Assistance has been received to continue our very popular workshop series, with most events booked out. This is a great way to connect with our members and landholders. Individual property visits continue strongly and interest in environmental issues is high.

Another issue I would like to highlight is the number of enquiries NDLG receives, not only from members, but from members of the general public each year. People drop into the Resource Centre in town on a regular basis with a plethora of enquiries. The majority would be plant/weed identification, which I am pleased to say is mostly handled by our Administration staff as their collective plant knowledge has increased steadily over the years. Also erosion, identification of pests and diseases, plants for special areas, koala food trees etc. I still receive emails, phone calls or direct enquiries, in addition to the ones via our office in town. In the month of May, I received 46 separate enquiries, many via text message or email. This works out to be over 500 enquiries per year, just to me! This is a service that NDLG offers for free to everyone.

My sincere thanks to our volunteer Management Committee for their guidance through interesting times. I appreciate the collective knowledge and support. To all our members, volunteers and staff, I thank you for all your efforts.

Administration Manager's Report



Kim Maddison

The Resource Centre and Retail Nursery has been a whirlwind of activity in the 2015-16 financial year. This is also home to the Administration Department of Noosa & District Landcare (NDLG).

Among all the numbers, spreadsheets, payrolls, invoices, payments, paper and file shuffling that goes on within our section, we have also sold around 30,000 trees, provided information and advice to approximately 2,500 visitors and answered probably 1,500 calls for plants and environmental information alone.

What a flexible, multi-talented team we are!

Station Place is looking wonderful. This is mostly due to the ongoing monthly maintenance by Shaun Walsh and Michael Kelly. They have also extended plantings to other adjoining areas, to beautify and unite the buildings and walkways at this end of Pomona.

Courtney is doing a great job of Saturday mornings in the Retail Nursery and is fast acquiring a Saturday fan base.

Thanks to our little Admin team of Trish Bignall, Margie Cosgrave and Kim Maddison for great efforts and to the extended Noosa Landcare team for making work a good place to be.



This year has seen a focus on:

- Setting up a new membership database
- Supporting the implementation of the new nursery stock control system
- Refinement of our filing and archiving systems
- Preparing and updating policies
- Generally trying to improve processes and adjusting to the increased demands that new systems can initially present

We compile data and reports which are forwarded to senior personnel as well as the Management Committee on a monthly basis, and oversee the statutory and mandatory reporting requirements for the Group.

We are looking forward over the coming year to seeing our membership database and nursery stock control systems go online and investigating further online possibilities with the arrival of NBN in December 2016.

**8 E-news:
over 710 subscribers**

**4 Members' newsletters:
330 subscribers**



Cassia brewsteri (Brewster's cassia)

Business Development Manager's Report



Rachel Lyons

9 Trainees
Skilling Queenslanders for Work

15 Trainees
Green Army

Fungi, Noosa Botanic Gardens



The 2015/16 year started to see returns on investment made in business development for NDLG.

Several larger tenders and grant projects were successful, most of which are multi-year and will keep us busy up until 2018. These included, but are by no means limited to: four 20 Million Tree projects, which will result in approximately 380,000 trees being planted in the Noosa Biosphere area; and, two bushland and environmental weeds tenders within Noosa Shire works schedules.

On the tender and grant submission front, the following statistics relate:

- Total Bids Submitted: 34
- Total Bids Successful: 24
- Pending Applications: 1
- Success Rate: 71%
- Total Funds Approved 15/16: \$2,064,005

We were also quite busy coordinating two Green Army teams and one Skilling Queenslanders for Work team – making a total of 24 trainees and employment of three full-time Noosa Landcare supervisors during the team operations. The three teams did some fantastic work at dozens of locations including Elanda Plains, Girraween Reserve and several sites in Kin Kin. We have also been successful in our applications to operate back-to-back Green Army teams through to May 2018, which will equate to a further 27 trainees joining our ranks over the next two years.

The external funds we were able to attract, along with the trainee teams we manage, value-adds greatly to the investment made by Council and ratepayers in reserve management and community projects (eg, the Bushlandcare Program) throughout the shire.

A number of business efficiency activities also commenced during 2015/16 which will streamline delivery of services for the Group. This included a significant overhaul to our nursery plant management and ordering system, and a new group membership management system. Both systems now operate in cloud-based technology and pave the way for future upgrades and linkages to our website and financial systems.

2016/17 is shaping up to be a very exciting year for Noosa Landcare with a number of activities planned and some great

projects committed in stone. This will allow us to continue to be on the front foot in advancing the aims for the Group, bringing funds into the region for natural resource management projects and creating meaningful local employment.



Green Army team in the Nursery assisting with plant propagation



Green Army team assisting with revegetation projects

Operations Manager's Report



Frost

181 visits
to
landholder sites



Paul Sprecher

This financial year saw Noosa & District Landcare Group (NDLG) undertake a number of multi-year rehabilitation projects. These projects are gratifying, as this long-term commitment gives ownership to the projects. They give great insight into what influences the developing ecosystem. The sense of intimacy with the site that is cultivated results in a better long-term outcome for the project.

This is the third year of the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee's (MRCCC) Biodiversity Fund project: "Implementing the Mary River Threatened Aquatic Species Recovery Plan". A site in Gheerulla is a very good example of this. This site has been subject to flooding, frost and has a tough westerly aspect. Managing the site under variable conditions allows for excellent lessons in how different species respond to different influences. The photographs on this page show some of the impacts the site has been subject to, and the growth performance.

We successfully won the Hinterland Noosa Council Bushland Regeneration contract. This is a two-year contract commitment and, as such, allows staff to get familiar with the idiosyncrasies of each site. Working in the natural resource management field requires an adaptive management approach. What works for one site may not for another, and what worked one year may not in the next. Managing natural resources means you must recognise this and adapt to the changing circumstances.

For the last three years we have been very fortunate to have had great support from SEQ Catchments in conducting projects to rehabilitate lowland subtropical rainforest. This effort has been supplemented by two State Government Everyone's Environment Grant projects which have been successfully won by the Kin Kin Community Group and have involved the Kin Kin Primary School.

NDLG has secured further work in Kin Kin through funding from the Noosa Biosphere Reserve Grants Scheme. The "Keeping it in Kin Kin" project will build on the works previously undertaken in the Kin Kin area.

These projects have been greatly supported by the local community and we look forward to continuing to work with the Kin Kin community into the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people that make up the NDLG community - volunteers, well-wishers and the paid staff.

The group we have at the moment is fantastic – our volunteers are a wonderful, capable bunch who always turn up with a smile on their face. Our paid staff are committed to the cause, take pride in what they do and are ready to help each other out when needed.

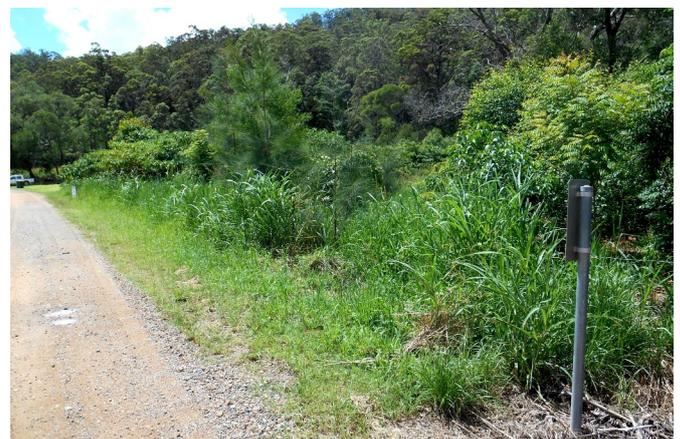
I would like to make special mention of our two permanent supervisors, Darrin Barden and Geoff Haack - they are a real asset to our group. They are great mentors to new staff, they take real pride in their work and are selfless in their support of their teams.

Thank you very much guys, and thanks to all of you who have contributed to our collective effort.



Above: Cedar Creek, August 2015

... and in March 2016



Projects Manager's Report



Steve Husband

Conservation Services crew's Courtney Cicchero and Dylan Sparks planting just one of the 20 Million Trees at Cooroy.

16
projects
completed



Since I started in this role early March 2016 the pace has been pretty frenetic in terms of project coordination, implementation and administration.

There have been terrific efforts from Noosa & District Landcare (NDLG) staff, Conservation Services crews and supervisors, Green Army trainees, and Skilling Queenslanders for Work trainees, in getting plants in the ground and weeds out of the ground. Which is what we're all about. And doing it all safely every time.

All three NDLG 20 Million Trees projects are now well underway. Project MERIT plans have been submitted by NDLG and approved by the Department of Environment.

A propagation planner and nursery quality assurance policy were developed to achieve targets associated with 20 Million Trees projects.

An operations plan/site induction has been created, along with site safety plans. These can be applied to any works undertaken by NDLG staff or contractors and will help improve site safety outcomes.

Useful working relationships have been built up with QPWS field staff and managers, Noosa Regional Council, Sunshine Coast Regional Council, Burnett Mary Regional Group MRCCC and CO₂ Australia, as well as participating project landowners.

| Noosa & District Landcare 20 Million Tree Projects | Project Hectares | Project Planting Targets FY16/FY17/FY18 | Planted FY16 |
|--|------------------|---|--------------|
| Elanda Plains Wetland Revegetation | 4 | 40,000 | 17,029 |
| Subtropical Lowland Rainforest Revegetation – Kin Kin | 4.22 | 16,880 | 6,876 |
| Re-establishing Subtropical Lowland Rainforest Habitat in the Noosa Hinterland | 3.5 | 13,900 | 3,500 |

Table – FY 2015-16 20 Million Trees Projects

Substantial effort went into negotiating the CO₂ Australia 20 Million Trees Programme contract, signed 7 July 2016. This project, delivered for CO₂ Australia by NDLG, will plant 300,000 trees on 30 hectares at Elanda Plains on Qld Parks & Wildlife Services (QPWS) land.

Other ongoing projects include the "Keeping it in Kin Kin" Riparian, Gully and Hill-slope Restoration Demonstration Project at the Glasby property in Kin Kin; SEQ Catchments Kin Kin Rainforest Recovery Project on lower Kin Kin Creek; and Mary River Catchment Co-ordinating Committee Bio-fund projects in the Mary Valley.

GIS maps have been improved with custom shapefiles providing geodatabase information management capabilities. Training in tablet use has begun, covering Collector and PDF Maps apps, allowing us to collect spatially-accurate information in the field.



20 Million Trees plantings at Elanda Plains, April 2016

Waterwatch Co-ordinator's Report



Cooran State School

12
school talks
and visits

8
community
plantings

Rae O'Flynn



The 2015/2016 financial year has seen many changes in the Waterwatch program. When Anita Russell handed over the reins to me, some volunteers chose that time to leave the program, but other new members joined the team. We now have 32 volunteers who, using the three Horiba 52 machines on a rotating calendar - one each for the Hinterland, coastal and Cooroibah/Boreen/Pomona - monitor 62 sites within the Noosa and Mary River Catchments.

The Waterwatch program 2015/2016 of Noosa & District Landcare (NDLG) has managed to stay afloat despite severe cutbacks in financial support. The hardy band of volunteers prevail and collect data that contributes to the health and resilience of the Noosa River and Mary River Catchments. The information collected includes the parameters of pH, electrical conductivity, salinity, turbidity, dissolved oxygen and temperature. By measuring these elements of water quality we are able to gain an indication of the 'health' of the water. If these indicators regularly become beyond normal, then there is cause to investigate further to locate a cause.

My extra valuable volunteer Paul Ryan has put together a series of reports on the different creek systems that we monitor, such as Six Mile Creek, Kin Kin Creek and Noosa River. If you are in need of a bit of light reading, and are interested, these reports are available to you by contacting me via my email or phone.

This financial year has seen SEQ Catchments investigate a new database system to replace the outdated Unidap program, which hopefully will come into being before we get going again in February 2017. This new user-friendly system will see the data made accessible to community members and will have the ability to interpret data with graphs and charts that are readily created and easy to read.

Education is and always will be a strong motivation for what I do in the Waterwatch program. School visits and interactive days are a fabulous way to pass on knowledge of how to keep our vital waterways clean and healthy. They can include investigating the macro invertebrates of the local creeks as well as using the Horiba and Quanta machines to measure the water quality.

This year saw visits with:

- Kin Kin Primary School: interactive activities including planting at Leggot's Loop, craft activities and macro-invertebrate activities

- Noosa & District High School Year 12 Biology students
- Pomona Early Childhood Development Centre

Also held were:

- National Tree Day activities at Sunshine Beach High
- A collaborative calibration training day with other Waterwatch groups including Noosa Integrated Catchment Association, Night Eyes Water and Landcare (based at Bribie Island), Mooloolah River Waterwatch and Landcare, Maroochy Waterwatch and Cooloola Coast Care.
- Successful NDLG and Waterwatch displays were held at the Noosa Country Show and Noosa Festival of Water.
- Frog spotting night survey has been introduced and this will become a regular occurrence during breeding season.



Waterwatch volunteers: equipment calibration, August 2015



Noosa Christian College, August 2015

Nursery Manager's Report



Ered Fox

102,461
plants to
projects
and sales



Like a seed growing out roots and shoots, the Noosa & District Landcare (NDLG) Nursery is responding to its environment. In the last year it has come a long way.

Tradegecko: Late last year we introduced Tradegecko, an online, 'real time' plant inventory and stock management tool, to organise our plant inventory and sales. This is a powerful tool! Using it to our best potential is a work in progress. It is only as accurate as the information that is put in; Tradegecko is 'Hungry Hippo' for information. This has made us focus on our logging data.

Logging Information: We have implemented a logging system for each nursery, in which we capture provenance of a plant and assign it with a unique identifier code and a variant. The assigned code stays with the 'batch' of plants through the entire journey of the Nursery, from seed in the fridge to plant in the ground. We have divided the plants into different variants: Rural Futures Centre Nursery, Riparian Nursery Advanced Plants and Elanda Plains. Each stage of development is documented: seed, sowing, potting, full sun, sales and culls.

Water management: This has been a major focus as the water rates rise. With help from our volunteers and trainees, we have managed to repair leaks, reduce sprinkler flow rates, optimise sprinkler patterns and reduce station run times. This has substantially reduced our water costs. We have drawn up diagrams of where the irrigation lines, solenoids and risers are positioned, and hopefully fixed the water diversion system, to catch rainwater from the Rural Futures Centre to use in the Nursery.



20 Million Trees Programme: Now that is a formidable name. The Nursery is getting in gear for a huge year ahead. Currently we are sowing 28 seedling trays per week to meet the Elanda Plains project component. We are looking at ways to increase space by finding new areas for benches as well as changing tray sizes and spacing configuration. We are organising propagation schedules to supply 90 different species for the Retail Nursery, as well as plants for other NDLG projects. We have to spread the output evenly over the year, factoring in variables such as seed availability, viability and seasonal changes. And then there are the surprise orders that are hard to plan for.

As part of the 20 Million Trees we are required to do quality assessments on our plant stock at different times during its life in the Nursery, through to its life in the ground.

Construction:

- New shade benches and a new shade tunnel
- New pot-washing facilities at Rural Futures Centre Nursery
- Chemical box upgrade
- Rat cages to protect seeds and seedlings

Calculated sun-hardening bay holding capacity:

At full capacity we can hold approximately 162,750 plants in tubestock. This does not take into account double spacing of plants. So we have needed to focus on fast-growing species to increase the turnover of bench space, and plant arrangements on benches.

A big thank you to:

- Courtney for doing a great job with stock control, interpreting Tradegecko and being a great organiser
- Linda for her expertise in production and mentoring the trainees and volunteers
- Dawn for putting orders together in a professional manner and being a great advisor
- Volunteers for their donation of time, skills and materials that were lacking in the Nursery to help increase capability
- The trainees for doing the dirty jobs at times and bringing a fresh perspective into the Nursery
- Qld Parks & Wildlife Services, in particular Richard Winter who often goes above and beyond

Donations: Seeds, BBQ, seed fridge, worm farm, seed oven



Field Crew

Operations Manager

Paul Sprecher

Projects Manager

Steve Husband

Field Supervisors:

Darrin Barden
 Charlie Sparks
 Geoff Haack
 Jonathan Smith
 (Skilling Queenslanders for Work)
 Lucas Reid
 (Green Army)

Field Crew:

| | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Heather North | Pascal Lopez |
| Neil Scherer | Dean Juleliuuas |
| Kyle Sanderson | Nikkita Schonknecht |
| Dylan Sparks | Ben Hoekstra |
| Rohan Fisher | Jesse Telford |
| Tom Delfatti | Russell Ping |
| Owen Snowden | Darren Hinson |
| Shawn Palise | Kate Moorfield |



*Charlie, 20 Million Trees
 Mary River Project planting*



The Crew



*Field Crew at work,
 Maher's Dairy Project, Pinbarren*



Geoff, Six Mile Creek, Cooran



Kate, Cats Claw Creeper project, Tinana

2015-16: a Snapshot



Mandy & Chloe, Pomona Early Childhood



Phil, Ered & Mark, Propagation & Seed Collection workshop, March 2016



Steve, long-time nursery volunteer



*Jeanette, Bruce & Colin Glasby (Noosa Landcare Members) on their Kin Kin property in front of a stand of giant ironwood (*Backhousia subargentea*)*



Queensland Water and Land Carers Queensland Community Native Nurseries Forum, April 2016



Noosa District State High School waterwatching Lake Macdonald, July 2015



Botanical Drawing workshop, March 2016



Noosa & District
Landcare



*Green Army, April-October 2016
From left: Shayde, Demi, Kiarakay, Christina, Adrielle, Troy, Jordan, Matt*



Annual Report compiled by Margie Cosgrave