

ANNUAL REPORT



Hinterland Bush Links

2023



connecting



restoring



Photo: Christine Bull

protecting

THE 2022-2023 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President:	Liz Saunders
Secretary:	Fergus FitzGerald
Treasurer:	Rachael Stacy
Committee Members:	Elaine McKean Apostolis Hadoulis Damian Hooper Janet Carew

HINTERLAND BUSH LINKS STAFF

Manager:	Aleisha Keating
Project Officer:	Louise Court

TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the Hinterland Bush Links region, the Kabi Kabi, Jinibara and Wakka Wakka People. We pay respect to elders past, present and emerging.

HINTERLAND BUSH LINKS INC.

ABN 12314200850
www.hinterlandbushlinks.org





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PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

Liz Saunders
President



It is my pleasure to present the President's report for July 2022 to June 2023.

Well, this has been an exciting year for Hinterland Bush Links with many positive outcomes.

We have had to say goodbye to our past Manager Tammy and allowed our wonderful Sue Brieschke to retire last Christmas but have been so fortunate to find Aleisha and Louise to fill their shoes this year. Not only do they bring expertise and knowledge, but also youthful energy! Between them they have set up our strategic plans and activities for the future and ensured our grant commitments and projects are on track.

As you may be aware before Tammy left, her application for a federal grant for the Koala Community Grants, was awarded to us and we have

two years of planting and weeding in core Koala habitat covered. So we thank her for a super effort. We had an interesting event with the local Senator Anthony Chisholm and others on site to receive the good news in February. It was also good to connect with the other two recipient groups ECollaboration and Australian Wildlife Conservancy.

Whilst this grant is specifically to enhance and create Koala Habitat in South East Queensland, it will also create habitats and corridors for all flora and fauna, so it is a double win. The sites selected fall within mapped Koala habitat areas and this also aligns with our plan for the creation and continuation of wildlife corridors. Many of our former Roving Restorers sites are within this mapping.

As part of this project, we ran a Koala Education and Awareness Event with an informative talk by leading koala conservationist Vanda Grabowski of Koala Action Inc. This gave us new insights into the lives and needs of koalas and their status.

We were also fortunate to be able to run our Subtropical Forests Ecology Course last August / September in Bellthorpe. It was spread over four weekends which proved to be a successful format. We had good attendance and some great tutors in Fergus Fitzgerald, Steve Burgess, Spencer Shaw, Marc Russell and of course Susie Duncan. The course is supported by the Moreton Bay Council and we thank them for their

ongoing involvement. We hope to run the course every two years, so 2024 is scheduled for the next one. We also would like to thank the Bellthorpe Progress Association for use of their hall, wonderful support and great food! Together with local landholders and in particular, Dave Clark from Bellthorpe Stays, who was more than generous in offering his wonderful property for site visits and study.

Our partnerships have continued with Barung Landcare, Sunshine Coast Council, the Great Eastern Ranges and many other local and regional organisations. These connections remain very important to Hinterland Bush Links as they allow the sharing of knowledge, resources, co-ordination of activities and ensure our long-term conservation strategies. In particular, we intend to maintain and strengthen our ties with Barung Landcare to better streamline our activities and events for our local communities.

We would like to particularly thank the Sunshine Coast Council for their continuing funding support to run Hinterland Bush Links programs; together with funding from the Environment Levy Partnership we can carry on with the many activities outlined in our Strategic Plan.

Our Upper Mary Valley Weed Vine Project has continued throughout the year with the support of Burnett Mary River Regional Group, the Mary River Catchment Coordinating



Committee, Department of Transport and Main Roads and Sunshine Coast Council tackling Weeds of National Significance, Cat's Claw Creeper, Madeira Vine and Dutchman's Pipe. Continued ongoing treatments are ensuring the sustainability of the riparian zones along the Mary River, carried out by the Barung Natural Areas Services crew, advised by Matt Bateman and ably co-ordinated by Louise and Aleisha.

Our Roving Restorers program has continued throughout this last year with new and old sites for both weeding and planting. This is a really important activity for Hinterland Bush Links to continue in order to assist landholders with revegetation projects, creating connectivity through our landscape by both weeding to allow regrowth to occur and clearing the way for new planting. It gives an extra fillip to these landholders and keeps the community connections going on a social level as well as keeping us fit! It encourages knowledge of both plants and weeds and the exchange of methods and ideas. Our group of volunteers has expanded due to our family weekend planting days, which have been a great success. This ensures we have a good cohort of volunteers as some retire. Well done and thank you to all those that volunteer. Most of our volunteers are

also involved with other Bush Care Groups too, and it is incredible the number of hours put in by all these volunteers.

We have received continued funding from Noosa Council to continue to operate our Roving Restorers Noosa group, run by the very able Tamara Kubica and we thank her for all her efforts. Tamara always has a very good turn out of volunteers.

A major strength of the organisation is the commitment, goodwill and generosity shown by all our donors both large and small. The achievements of Hinterland Bush Links are a result of their ongoing generous contributions, and I would especially like to thank our major donors – Libby and Marek Malter, the McMasters and our corporate sponsor, Range of Motion Physiotherapy. In particular, this year Susie Duncan and Dr Barry Traill committed to matching the end of year donations, which was hugely generous. We also congratulate Barry for being awarded Member of the Order of Australia for his conservation work. His efforts benefit us all. Damian and Melinda Hooper have also been a generous donors and particular thanks for the Hinterland Bush Links shirts for staff and key workers. We are very appreciative.

I thank all our wonderful Committee and Gift Fund members for their time, insights and care for this organisation. Many of them are busy earning a living as well as caring for their own properties but are prepared to support and nurture Hinterland Bush Links. I would like to say a particular thanks to Janet Carew who not only has been a great contributor to our committee but to the environment on her previous block and her work with the Glossy Black Cockatoos. She has moved to the coast and will be connecting with local groups as well as continuing her Glossy Black studies. We wish her all the best.

All in all, it has been quite a remarkable year and the future is looking bright. We look forward to the 2023/2024 year with positivity and the promise that our valuable work continues to grow and benefit us, our local environment and community.



MANAGER'S STATEMENT

Aleisha Keating
Manager



It has been a pleasure to join such a passionate and supportive organisation which is doing such important work to transform the Sunshine Coast Hinterland environment and community.

Thank you for welcoming me so warmly into the Hinterland Bush Links community. I have been enjoying meeting all our dedicated volunteers and working alongside our committed Management Committee and Gift Fund Committee. With such rich and diverse ecosystems across the Hinterland, our community of volunteers and landholders are contributing to enhancing biodiversity and wildlife for current and future generations.

This year has seen much change within our organisation, but we have continued to restore habitats and educate our community through our projects, events and workshops. We started the year off strongly with Tammy Kowitz at the helm. Tammy instigated several positive initiatives including obtaining grants for organisational business planning and a Koala Habitat project, both of which have significantly contributed to the growth and expansion of our work this year.

Our Hinterland Koala Habitat project began in February, leveraging off our established Roving Restorers program with regular weeding and planting events on properties located in areas of koala habitat. It has been wonderful to meet many landholders who are new to Hinterland Bush Links. Our landholders are a vital part of our work and it has been fantastic to learn about their broader restoration plans for their properties alongside our work. A big success of this project so far has been our weekend community tree planting

events, where we have welcomed many new volunteers from different age groups and locations throughout South-East Queensland. I have been especially impressed with those who have travelled from Brisbane to attend these planting days and recognise our role in providing opportunities for people to connect with nature while undertaking practical restoration work.

Our two successful Roving Restorers programs continue to underpin our habitat restoration and education mission, providing regular opportunities for us not only to assist landholders, but also to learn new skills, socialise with other like-minded people and enjoy a hard earned cuppa and morning tea! I particularly thank those Roving Restorers who have provided us with extra help at the weekend community tree planting days for our Koala Habitat project. The success of the Roving Restorers program was recognised through obtaining funds from Noosa Council to continue the Noosa Roving Restorers program (run by Noosa and District Landcare) for a further three years.

We sourced funds from four different funding bodies to continue our ongoing work in controlling invasive weed vines in the Upper Mary River Valley. This year we worked on 34 different properties targeting Madeira Vine, Cat's Claw Creeper and Dutchman's Pipe. This long-term project is helping to reduce weed vines in the upper catchment, which is essential for the health of the whole Mary River catchment and inevitably the Great Barrier Reef.

We continued to educate our community and landholders this year, with the highlight being the four-day Subtropical Forests Ecology Course which was run in August/September 2022.

To increase our financial sustainability and resilience, we engaged Ethical Republic to undertake business planning on our organisation. Working with the Management Committee, this work identified

several potential social business initiatives which could provide bolster our revenue in addition to our traditional funding sources of grants and donations. The outcomes of this valuable business planning are currently being used to inform and shape the future of our organisation.

I thank our funders, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Sunshine Coast Council, Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training, Moreton Bay Regional Council, Qld Community Benefit Fund, Burnett Mary Regional Group, Seqwater (through Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee) and Department of Transport and Main Roads. I also thank everyone who has donated to Hinterland Bush Links as well as our partners, particularly Barung Landcare, Noosa and District Landcare and Bellthorpe Progress Association.

I would also like to acknowledge Louise Court and Sue Brieschke, Project Officers during the year. We have been sad to lose Sue's wealth of knowledge and experience but enjoy seeing her regularly at Roving Restorers and other events. Louise has been invaluable in taking over Sue's reins, especially sharing her extensive flora and fauna knowledge.



HIGHLIGHTS 22/23



Roving Restorers

- **669** Hinterland volunteer hours
- **8.25ha** of land weeded on the hinterland
- **1850** trees planted across the Hinterland and Noosa & District region.
- Noosa Chapter Roving Restorers funding secured for **3 years**.
- **19** Noosa Chapter working bees over **17** properties in the Noosa Shire.
- Over **60** Noosa volunteers providing **447** hours of labour.
- Over **\$50,000** of labour provided by our Roving Restorers volunteers.



Community & Landholder Education

- Subtropical Rainforest Ecology Course
- Koala Education and Awareness talk with Vanda Grabowski
- Monthly Bulletins
- Increased social media presence & educational content.

Upper Mary Valley Weed Vine Project

- Weeds treated across **34** properties
- Worked with **22** landholders
- Chemical treatment of **14.3ha**
- Weed control in **five** sub-catchments of the Mary River



Photos: Christine Bull

Koala Habitat Project

- **940** Koala food and habitat trees planted across private property.
- **>160** Volunteer Hours.
- Koala Education Event.



STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2027



Vision

Landscape-scale conservation to connect, restore and protect native vegetation.



Mission

To empower and support local landholders to protect, connect and restore native vegetation, ultimately improving landscape-scale wildlife corridors and helping secure biodiversity for all of nature for longevity.



Focus Areas

The core areas of focus for Hinterland Bush Links, as outlined in our Strategic Plan are:

- Habitat restoration**
- Community involvement**
- Community education**
- Organisational sustainability**



HABITAT RESTORATION

Restoring habitats through creating strategic wildlife corridors is a key priority for Hinterland Bush Links.

We do this by undertaking on-ground weeding and tree planting work through our two Roving Restorers programs and the Hinterland Koala Habitat project, which targets areas of known koala habitat. We also continue to target weeds of national significance in several sub-catchments in the Upper Mary River Valley.



Hinterland Koala Habitat Project

This year we were awarded a grant from the Australian Government's Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (now the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water) as part of their Koala Community Grants to run a two year

Hinterland Koala Habitat project. This project aims to expand and restore native vegetation in areas of koala habitat and known koala populations across the Sunshine Coast Hinterland.

Over two years (to be completed by December 2024), we will:

- Plant 5,000 food and habitat trees for koalas across 16 private properties and on Tuan Environment Reserve
- Work with Kabi Kabi, First Nation people through Bunya Bunya Aboriginal Corporation to undertake tree planting at Tuan Environment Reserve
- Run 10 community volunteer tree planting events
- Run 6 community volunteer weeding events

- Remove lantana on private properties in koala habitat areas
- Develop educational resources for landholders on protecting and restoring koala habitat
- Run educational events on koalas and restoring koala habitat

We began the project at the beginning of 2023 and have been very busy meeting landholders and undertaking site visits for the project.

In 2022-23, with the help of volunteers and Barung Landcare's assistance at events, we have run weeding and planting events across 8 private properties including:

- Planting 940 trees for koala habitat and food on 4 properties
- 4 community weeding events

We also ran a Koala Education and Awareness Event where we learnt from leading koala conservationist Vanda Grabowski of Koala Action Inc.



Roving Restorers

The Roving Restorers are a long-standing team of dedicated volunteers who are passionate and committed to the protection of the hinterland landscape, contributing their time and labour for the betterment of our native fauna and flora. This year the Roving Restorers have been instrumental in helping us with our Hinterland Koala Habitat Project, contributing to the weeding and tree planting events as well as providing additional support with set up on weekend community tree planting days. The Roving Restorers volunteers are instrumental in Hinterland Bush Links' restoration work, which helps to inspire landholders to continue conservation management practices beyond our visits to their properties.

In the 2022-23 year, there were 38 Roving Restorers events hosted across the Sunshine Coast Hinterland and Noosa and District regions, providing \$53,572 of labour to restoring local ecosystems. On average, 13 people attended each Roving Restorers event.

This is an incredible effort from our volunteers and has created a positive impact by promoting natural regeneration through weed control across 15.5ha of land and planting of 1850 trees.

This has contributed to the restoration of koala habitat and the connectivity of fauna habitat, benefiting native fauna in travelling across landscapes for food and mates.

This long-term program has this year enabled 33 landholders to access land management services to assist in the restoration and/or maintenance of their properties. This work provides a sense of pride and stewardship amongst landholders to continue conservation and land management practices.

Hinterland Roving Restorers

In the Hinterland region, we held Roving Restorers 19 events and planted 790 trees.

Some of this was done in conjunction with our new Koala Habitat project, expanding and enhancing habitat in areas of known koala habitat. We also continued to focus our work in strengthening connective corridors to support both flora and fauna.

Noosa Roving Restorers

The Noosa Chapter of Roving Restorers is coordinated by Tamara Kubica and Noosa and District Landcare, providing volunteer bush regeneration services to Land for Wildlife, Nature Refuge, and Voluntary Conservation Agreement properties.

The Noosa Roving Restorers visited 17 properties and held 19 events. This group contributed 447 labour hours to benefit the environment and planted over 1,000 trees. Thank you to Tamara, Noosa and District Landcare, and our amazing community of volunteers.

Achievements	Total	Hinterland	Noosa
Number of volunteer events	38	19	19
Number of properties assisted	33	16	17
Total volunteer hours	1,116	669	447
Value of volunteer hours ¹	\$53,572	\$32,112	\$21,460
Approximate area of weed removal (ha)	15.5	8.25	7.25
Number of trees planted	1,850	790	1,060

¹Based on a rate of \$48/hour



Upper Mary Valley Weed Vine Project

The Mary River catchment is valued for its biodiversity, water supply and connection to the Great Barrier Reef. It is a biodiversity hotspot, supporting the Lowland Rainforest of Subtropical Australia which is listed as Critically Endangered.

The region is home to an abundance of animals, including endangered and vulnerable species under the Australian Government *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*, such as the Giant Barred Frog, Mary River Turtle, white-throated snapping turtle, Mary River Cod and Australian Lungfish. The catchment provides a significant source of fine sediment to the Great Barrier Reef, meeting the coast at the Coral Sea west of K'Gari.

Weed vines are a major threat to native vegetation and adversely affect riparian zones and waterway health in the Mary River catchment. Cat's Claw Creeper and Madeira Vine smother, kill and collapse native vegetation, causing stream bank erosion, dumping sediment into waterways.

This can result habitat loss for both land and aquatic wildlife. Dutchman's Pipe is toxic to the larvae of the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly which is listed as vulnerable in Queensland. The seeds and tubers of these weed vines can remain viable in the soil for over 10 years and spread readily through wind and water movement.

The Upper Mary Valley Weed Vine Project, which Hinterland Bush Links has been leading for over 9 years, aims to eradicate these three highly invasive species of weed-vines. Without this work, these weeds would spread throughout the region, progressively taking over native vegetation and invading forests. Working in the upper catchment of the Mary River, we aim to strategically prevent the spread of weeds further downstream, protecting water quality and enhancing habitat for wildlife and aquatic species.

With funding from Burnett Mary Regional Group, Seqwater (via the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee), Sunshine Coast Council

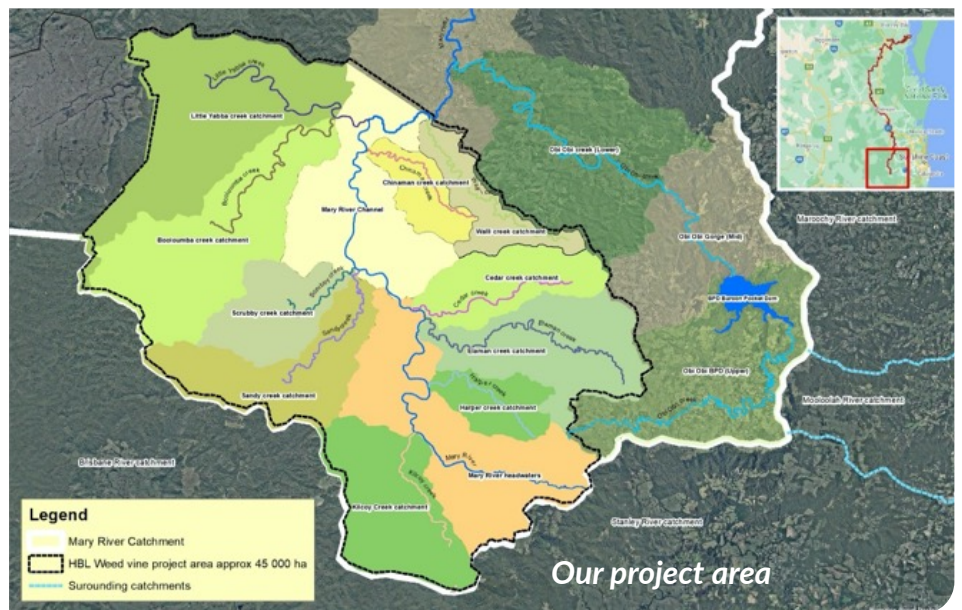
and the Department of Transport and Main Roads, this year we continued to work across four sub-catchments in the Upper Mary Valley catchment - Little Yabba, Cedar, Elaman and Harper Creeks, as well as around the main Mary River channel. We engaged Barung Landcare's Natural Areas Services team to carry out the on-ground works on our behalf.

We treated weeds on 34 properties, working with 20 different landholders. Weeds were treated with a combination of herbicide and other methods such as hand digging of tubers.

Through on-going treatment and visits to properties over a number of years, we have noticed improvements in weed infestations in some areas, whereas in other locations infestations have increased. In particular, flooding in 2022 transported sediment, seeds and vines downstream which has changed the nature and distribution of some infestations.



Achievements	Total
Number of contractor hours	1,132
Cash investment in on-ground works	\$75,194
Number of landholders assisted	20
Approximate area of weed removal (ha)	34
Benefits	Protection and restoration of stream banks and riparian areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent erosion • Reduce sediment inputs to river and Great Barrier Reef • Improve water quality • Regeneration of native vegetation
Creek systems where work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Yabba Creek • Harper Creek • Cedar Creek • Elaman Creek • Mary River



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Achievements	Total
Volunteer contribution	1,625 hours
Volunteers involved	170 individuals
Properties and associated landholders involved	53
Members	383
Social media network	791 Followers social media followers, 1,083 Facebook group members,
Collaborations	15+

We bring people together to create a committed, generous, skilled and passionate community of volunteers who contribute to our Management and Gift Fund Committees, bush regeneration and administration. This year volunteers contributed 1,625 hours of volunteer labour with over 170 individuals of all ages volunteering. We build strong relationships with private and public landholders and encourage and support them to carry out conservation work on their land.

Collaboration is central to everything we do.

We collaborate with many partners and stakeholders to bring our programs and projects into fruition. These include: Sunshine Coast Council, QLD Community Benefit Fund, Burnett Mary Regional Group, Seqwater and the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee), Department of Transport and Main Roads, Great Eastern Ranges, Barung Landcare, Bunya Bunya Aboriginal Corporation, Koala Action Inc., Koala Crusaders Inc., Noosa and District Landcare, Bellthorpe Progress Association, Moreton Bay Regional Council and Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group.

We engaged with other local community groups to share information and resources, particularly Barung Landcare and with the Sunshine Coast Council's Land for Wildlife team for advice on species/planting areas for tree planting. The Koala Habitat Restoration Project has piqued the interest of many volunteers and grown our community, with many families and students travelling from Brisbane to attend our Koala Habitat Plantings and community education events.

Our work has benefited landholders, volunteers and community members throughout the Sunshine Coast Hinterland. However, the main benefit is to the ecosystem of the Sunshine Coast Hinterland, the habitats that we have helped to restore, the native vegetation we have protected and the biodiversity that has been enhanced as a result of our projects.





COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Achievements	Total
Educational Bulletins issued	11
Volunteer weeding events (Hinterland Roving Restorers)	29
Volunteer tree planting events	11
Educational Talks & Workshops	1
Guests at Educational events	55

Through a diversity of education approaches we aim to increase knowledge of conservation in our community, especially for our landholders and volunteers. We provide a monthly Bulletin, active social media education campaign and facilitate a Subtropical Forests Ecology Course for landholders and those working in the field. We also share knowledge of bush restoration and plant identification during Roving Restorer events. A key tenet of our Koala Habitat Project is education; through volunteer events and workshops for landholders we are raising awareness of koalas and how to help protect them through sustainable land management.

Our monthly Bulletin keeps our members informed of our current work and projects, in addition to promoting opportunities to volunteer or attend educational workshops, walks, and talks. Our social media offers the opportunity to reach our members and followers and the broader community, providing educational posts, volunteer opportunities, and increase awareness. We have a strong following of 391 members, 790 informally on social media, and 1083 social media group members.

We had 30 guests attend our four-day Subtropical Forests Ecology course in August and September 2022, many of whom are landholders in the region. The course provided a practical and interactive opportunity for landholders and community members to develop a plan to increase habitat, connectivity and



biodiversity on their properties. Through this course, we have supported landholders to increase their skills and knowledge of habitat restoration and weed management, which they are using to continue to restore ecosystems on their properties. This will have flow on effects in the local ecosystem once landholders start to implement their plans.

Through our Roving Restorers and Koala Habitat projects, we have engaged with 27 landholders during the 2022-23 financial year. We built landholder capacity by working closely with landholders and educating them on habitat restoration and bush regeneration. We helped volunteers to increase their bush regeneration and tree planting skills and knowledge, through the training we provided them during events.

Our community events are fun and provide an opportunity for people to meet other like-minded people, connect with nature and

do something practical to support ecosystem restoration. People enjoy the positive impacts to their physical and mental well-being through involvement in Roving Restorers and the Koala Habitat project. Two of our Koala Habitat project planting events were held on the weekend and attracted 40-50 volunteers from a range of age groups including families and young people. We have been incorporating education into each event, teaching community members and landholders about planting and weeding practices, as well as best practice habitat restoration.

Landholders attended our Koala Education and Awareness talk, part of our Koala Habitat Project, led by koala specialist Vanda Grabowski, where guests learnt how to identify if koalas are on their property, the threats to koalas due to urbanisation and habitat destruction, pest animals, and disease, and the ways in which landholders can contribute to promoting koala health on their properties.

ORGANISATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

Achievements

Active and committed volunteer Management Committee

Business Planning for financial sustainability

New website launched

Mailchimp database established

Information systems updated

Account management partnership with Barung

Hinterland Bush Links strives for organisational excellence, with strong governance, leadership and business performance enabling effective delivery of our programs and projects.

Hinterland Bush Links is governed by a Management Committee and a Gift Fund Committee, with two staff members - a Manager and Project Officer. This year has been a year of change, with a new Manager and Project Officer as well as several new Management Committee members. The new staff and committee members have provided fresh perspectives and different skills and knowledge to the organisation. However, the transition has also been time consuming as new people become settled in these roles.

We continue to have significant volunteer input, particularly with bush regeneration activities, administration and event management. We are very grateful for all the valuable support we receive from volunteers, many of whom have been involved with Hinterland Bush Links for many years. Our passionate, skilled and knowledgeable volunteers have allowed us to sustain operations for 12 years. We aim to continue to ensure that volunteering with us is a positive experience, promoting our values of inclusivity, collaborative, accessible and supportive.

Our volunteer Management Committee and Gift Fund Committee have done a fantastic job to support the realisation of Hinterland Bush Links' vision and mission. Their oversight of our programs and projects have allowed us to continue our important on-ground and educational initiatives to protect and restore the Sunshine Coast Hinterland environment, benefiting not only nature but also the broader community.

This year, a key area for the Management Committee has been to enhance the financial sustainability and resilience of the organisation. We were grateful to receive a grant from the Department of Small Business and Training to undertake business planning. We engaged Ethical Republic, who worked with the Management Committee and staff members to analyse the organisation's current revenue streams and explore possibilities for diversifying funding sources. There were a number of different social business initiatives identified as having potential to generate revenue outside of grants and donations, which we have historically been reliant upon. The Management Committee and staff are currently considering which initiatives will be taken forward in 2023-24.

We are grateful to Sunshine Coast Council's Environment Levy Partnership three-year grant, which covers a portion of wages and essential operational costs. We acknowledge donations from all our donors, many of whom have been supporting Hinterland Bush Links for many years. We envisage grants and donations continuing to be vital to supporting our work, alongside any additional revenue generated through the implementation of social business initiatives.

We continue to work closely with one of our key partners Barung Landcare. On top of supporting us to deliver many of our projects, they have also agreed to assist us with the management of our accounts. We are very appreciative of this support and hope to continue our close alliance into the future.

This year, one of our major organisational projects was updating our website. Thank you to Bevin Neil of BJN Graphic Design, who within input from staff, developed a professional, engaging website with refreshed content and images. We love our new website as it helps us to effectively connect with our community. It is part of our suite of tools we use to promote our work and educate our community. We also continue to use Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn to build and interact with community members and expand our network and reach.

We also updated some of our information technology systems including implementing file sharing and storage systems for documents and photos and creating a membership database with Mailchimp. Our Mailchimp subscription helps us to communicate more effectively and efficiently with our members as well as linking to our website to manage our membership database.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Rachael Stacy
Treasurer



This year our total income was \$252,297 and expenses were \$235,707, with a surplus of \$16,590. Note that unexpended grant funds of \$124,569 have been accounted for in the 2023-24 financial year rather than as income in 2022-23. The majority of the unexpended grant funds are from funding received from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for our Koala Habitat project; these funds are expected to be spent over the coming financial year.

Just under two thirds of our income was derived from grants, with the largest proportion funding the Upper Mary Valley Weed Vine project (four grants).

We received an initial payment of \$99,570.00 as part of the two-year Koala Habitat project from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. Further payments will be received as part of this grant over the 2023-24 and 2024-25 financial years.

Our Upper Mary Valley Weed Vine project was supported through funding from Burnett Mary Regional Group for weed control works in the Cedar and Elaman Creek catchments to a total of \$27,800. Seqwater via the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee funded works in the Little Yabba catchment with a grant of \$15,000. Sunshine Coast Council again provided funding of \$25,000 for on ground weed control work in the Harper Creek and Mary River area near Conondale. We also received a small amount of funding from Department of Transport and Main Roads to control invasive weeds road reserves.

Sunshine Coast Council's Environment Levy Partnership grant continues to provide core funding to cover part of our wages and operational costs with a 3-year grant of \$39,000 per year. This year was the second of these three years.

These funds support the running of our Roving Restorers program and projects and educational work not directly covered by grants.

We were successful in obtaining several other grants to fund our key projects and business improvements.

We were awarded a Social Enterprise Development grant from the Department of Youth Justice, Employment, Small Business and Training which funded our business planning and new branding and promotional material, as well as supplies for planting events.

A Community and Environment Alliance grant of \$20,000 from Noosa Council funded the Noosa Roving Restorers program. Many thanks to Noosa and District Landcare and particularly to Tamara Kubica who manages this program.

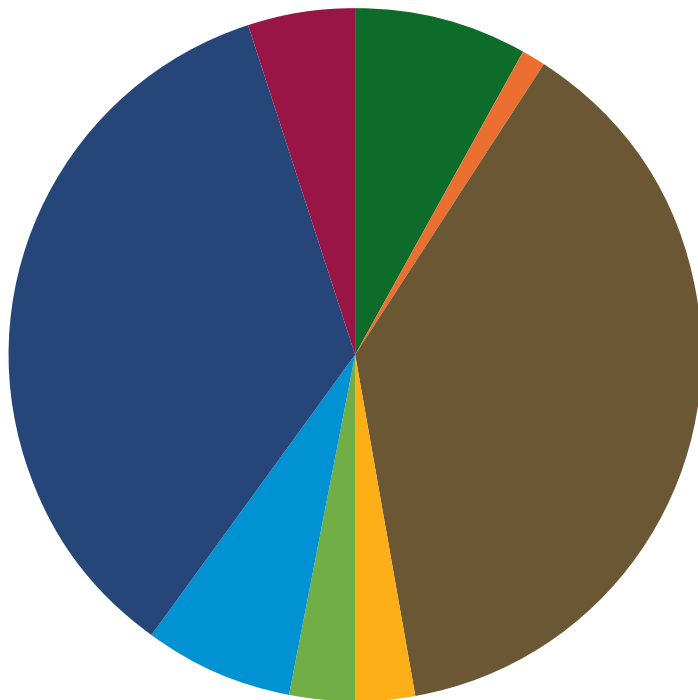
We obtained a Community Benefit Fund grant which funded first aid training for committee members and staff, our new website, equipment for Roving Restorers and a Hinterland Bush Links banner.

Donation income of \$68,293 this financial year was significantly greater than previous years. This provides us with funds to support our on-ground works and running our projects. Thank you to all our donors both large and small. Every donation helps us to pay our wages and keep our projects running successfully.

Thank you once again to Queensland Water and Land Carers for providing our insurances for the year, which is essential for running our organisation and on-ground work.

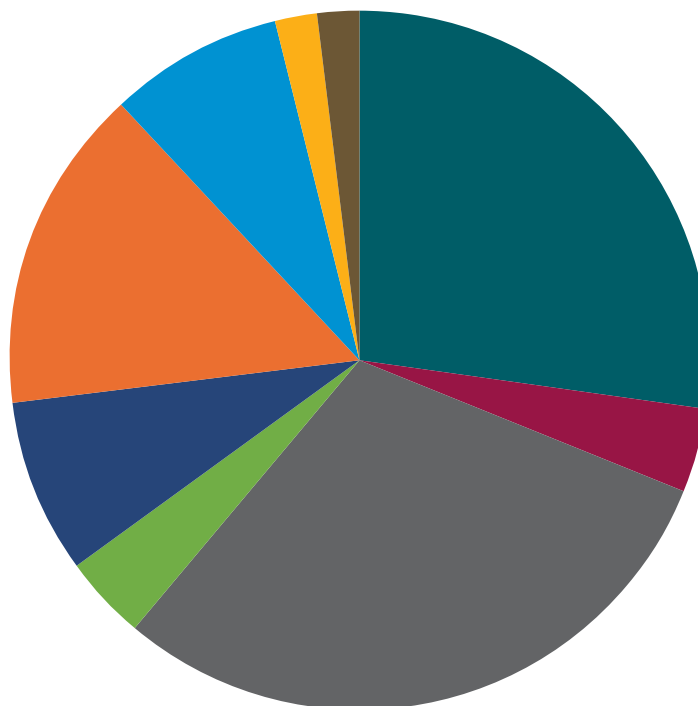
Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers. In the 2022-23 financial year, our volunteers provided a huge 1,625 hours of free labour at a value of \$48/hr. That equates to an incredible \$78,000 worth of labour to support landholders and the environment across the Sunshine Coast Hinterland.

Expenses 2022-23 – \$235,707



Income 2022-23 – \$252,297*

*Excludes unexpended grant funds of \$124,569



SPONSORS AND IN-KIND SUPPORTERS 2022-23



WORKING FOR OUR FUTURE



Australian Government



Queensland Government



BELLTHORPE
PROGRESS
ASSOCIATION



HINTERLAND BUSH LINKS INC.

ABN 12314200850
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