

ANNUAL REPORT

2025-2026



Hinterland Bush Links

THE 2025-2026 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

President:	Fergus FitzGerald
Secretary:	Donna McCarthy
Treasurer:	Kym Jervois
Committee Members:	Elaine McKean Apostolis Hadoulis Liz Saunders

HINTERLAND BUSH LINKS STAFF

Manager:	Natalie Frost
Project Officer:	Louise Court



TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land in which we work in, the Kabi Kabi, Jinibara and Wakka Wakka People. We pay respect to elders past, present.

HINTERLAND BUSH LINKS INC.

ABN 12314200850
www.hinterlandbushlinks.org





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PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

Fergus FitzGerald
President



Change is natural. Change in the natural world is something we are witnessing – some is normal and some driven by human actions. Change in our organisations and institutions is normal over time as well. Change is an opportunity to evolve, become more adaptable and resilient. And so it is with Hinterland Bush Links.

A year ago, I reported on the successful roll-out of the Koala Habitat Project and the wrap-up and devolution of the Upper Mary Valley Weed Vine Project to the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee. I also spoke of the impressive work of our Manager, Aleisha Keating for her professional leadership in managing risks, strengthening relationships and partnerships and seeking funding. I also spoke of the important role that Louise Court, our Project Officer played in running our very successful Roving Restorers program and in preparing the

quality monthly e-bulletin. And I also highlighted the on-going challenge of securing sustainable long-term funding.

A year later, there have been significant changes, while the mission remains the same. Aleisha announced she was leaving HBL at the end of last year to take up a position with ECOllaboration. We interviewed a short-list of strong applicants and were able to recruit Natalie Frost as our new Manager, starting with us in early March this year.

Natalie comes highly credentialed. She has extensive experience in environmental policy, community engagement, conservation partnerships and on-ground restoration projects in the not-for-profit sector in Queensland and overseas. Most recently, she was the Nature Campaigner at the Queensland Conservation Council coordinating the state-wide campaign to end deforestation in the state, the state that clears more land than the rest of the country combined. Prior to that, Natalie was Coordinator at the Sunshine Coast Environment Council where she led operations, including

species protection and climate action campaigns, environmental advocacy and the iconic World Environment Day program.

Natalie hit the ground running and within just a couple of months had identified and applied for numerous relevant and high value grants, winning a major grant from the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI) that will underpin our Roving Restorers program for 2027. She has already made her mark on the organisation, helping us evolve and grow in new ways.

The change also presented a 'key growth' opportunity for Louise Court, our Project Officer. She stepped up strongly, during the gap between Managers, to effectively manage our programs and community engagement, building a strong Roving Restorers' program of weeding, community tree planting days, educational talks, walks and workshops. Louise also produces the monthly Bulletin, a high quality on-line publication that so beautifully illustrates how we are "connecting, restoring and protecting" the hinterland environment.



A primary focus of activity during the year has been on our iconic but threatened koalas. It's not just because they are cute and cuddly, but they attract a lot of interest from funding bodies at local to national level. We are blessed to have one of the best koala populations in Queensland in the heart of our area at Reesville. As the Koala Habitat Project concluded at the end of 2025, we secured a major grant from WIRES (Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Service), Australia's largest wildlife rescue organisation. This has funded the extensive Roving Restorers program since the start of 2026, known as the "Koala CARER" (Community Action for Restoration and Education in Reesville) program.

We have also continued our focus on creating a longer-term sustainable income stream through establishing a community business enterprise in partnership with the corporate sector.

The 10,000 Trees marketing campaign, which was launched in July, is a step in this direction.

I would like to conclude this statement by thanking Aleisha for her very important contribution to HBL over almost three years, particularly in effectively managing the business, delivering the Koala Habitat Project and raising the profile of the organisation across the broader community.

I would like to thank our many donors, particularly those major donors who have continued to support HBL for many years. I want to acknowledge the important contribution from my fellow Management Committee members who have continued to add real value during the year with great commitment and skill: Donna McCarthy, Secretary; Kym Jervois, Treasurer; and committee members Liz Saunders, Elaine McKean and Toli Hadoulis.

I also want to thank all those wonderful people who support HBL in so many ways. Together we have continued to keep HBL on mission, even as we have evolved through the changing times.

Finally, I would like to note the passing of Mary Meadows earlier this year. Mary contributed in many ways to HBL since the beginning. Her financial and accounting expertise was invaluable, as was her wisdom on many other matters. The memory that remains strongest for me is of her wonderful warmth and generosity on all those days out there directly caring for our natural environment. She follows the cycle of life, as in nature, leaving a rich legacy to help the next generation grow and thrive.



MANAGER'S STATEMENT

Natalie Frost
Manager



Hinterland Bush Links has had another incredible year! I stepped into the Manager role in March 2026, and I want to begin by acknowledging Aleisha Keating, who led our organisation with dedication until December 2025.

Aleisha's contribution to Hinterland Bush Links laid strong foundations for the work we continue today, and I'm grateful for the community, partnerships and programs she has helped build. Since taking on the role, it has been a privilege to continue leading such a committed community of volunteers, landholders and members, and I have cherished working with so many people and organisations who share our vision of improving wildlife corridors to enhance biodiversity across the Sunshine Coast Hinterland.

Whilst starting in a new role has its challenges, it has been incredible to come into an organisation that has such a strong foundation, and I am proud to be continuing its legacy alongside Louise and the Management Committee. My focus has been ensuring financial stability for the organisation and seeking funding to deliver on our long-term vision of landscape scale connectivity in biodiversity corridors. I was delighted to secure a grant from the Queensland Government to do just that with \$74,487 awarded to us to expand on our Koala CARER project to deliver our Koala CARE program starting in 2027. I've also been working on diversifying our income streams and developing multi-year fundraising campaigns to secure more regular donors.

Launching our Koala CARER project, funded by WIRES, was a highlight this year. Through this project we have been busy planting trees and restoring koala habitat in Reesville, further strengthening the corridors that support koala populations across the region. The project's success is in the collaborations with our partners, Queensland Koala Crusaders, Brush Turkey Enterprises and UniSC. The project also includes a Reesville Community Koala forum to be held in August 2026 and engaged Queensland Koala Crusaders to set up bioacoustics monitors on our project site to detect koala presence. The project will continue for the remainder of 2026 and I look forward to sharing the updates with you in the next annual report. It has been wonderful to meet the landholders who are dedicated to community led conservation and build on the relationships Hinterland Bush Links has developed over recent years. I'm grateful to WIRES for their support and for recognising the value of on-ground, community-based restoration in giving koalas a fighting chance.

Our core hinterland Roving Restorers program has continued to thrive this year, under the

leadership of our Project Officer, Louise Court. It has been uplifting to keep revisiting properties where we've planted trees over the past few years, and to see that growth continuing alongside the new work we're doing through the Koala CARER project. Thank you to all the Roving Restorers volunteers, regular and new, who provide essential support to landholders assisting with weeding and tree planting.

The Noosa Roving Restorers program continues to be a mainstay of Noosa and District Landcare's contribution to local landholders and habitat restoration in the Noosa region. Due to a change in Noosa Council's timeframe in developing their new environment strategy, we are fortunate to receive an extra year of funding for the program so are now funded until mid-2027.

Our educational bush walking tours with our founder Susie Duncan have now become a regular feature of our community education program. These walks are a fantastic way to learn about our local ecosystem in a fun and interactive way and seem to draw new people into our community as well.

Louise Court, our Project Officer, has been instrumental in the successful delivery of these projects and programs this year. Not only in the thriving Roving Restorers program, but also in getting the Koala CARER project up and running to such a high standard and for running the organisation in between hiring of a new Manager. Her organisational skills behind the scenes are exemplary and her leadership at events commendable.

A big thank you to all our funders and donors during the year. I am particularly grateful to Unitywater, Sunshine Coast Council, Noosa Council, Queensland Government, 15 Trees, Queensland Trust for Nature, Duncon Homes and the Maleny Gardens Club for supporting our work. Thank you also to our delivery partners, especially Barung Landcare and Noosa and District Landcare.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Hinterland Bush Links Management Committee (MC) is a committed and cohesive team. Meeting every 2 months and often volunteering at our events, their leadership and guidance are invaluable. We are deeply grateful for their contributions of time, energy and enthusiasm. They are also supported by the Gift Fund Committee (GFC), who oversee the spending of the fund.



Top left-right: Natalie Frost (Manager), Fergus FitzGerald (President), Kym Jervois (treasurer), Donna McCarthy (Secretary). Bottom left-right: Elaine McKean, Liz Saunders, Louise Court (Project Officer). Missing: Apostolis Hadoulis, Marilyn Fisher (Gift Fund Committee).

STAFF

This year we employed two paid part-time managers who have successfully delivered our projects and programs. Aleisha Keating (Manager) resigned in December 2025.



Natalie Frost

MANAGER

BSc Science (Ecology and Conservation Biology)

Aleisha and Natalie managed the organisation, reporting directly to the Management Committee, as well as overseeing all our projects, programs and grant applications and acquittals.

Louise Court

PROJECT OFFICER

BSc Environment & Sustainability and Plant Agricultural Science, Diploma in Project Management

Louise led the Hinterland Roving Restorers program, oversaw the Noosa Roving Restorers program and contributed to delivering other projects, including the monthly e-bulletin.

Left-right: Louise Court (Project Officer), Natalie Frost (Manager).

HIGHLIGHTS 2025-2026

ROVING RESTORERS

Roving Restorers continued to deliver practical, community-led restoration across the Noosa and Sunshine Coast Hinterland regions, bringing volunteers together to support landholders and improve local habitat. Over the year, the program delivered **40 volunteer events** across 38 private properties and one (1) public site, with volunteers contributing an impressive **1,437 hours of on-ground conservation work**. This volunteer effort represents an estimated **\$75,140.76 in community value**, based on the Volunteering Queensland calculator.

Together, volunteers helped **remove weeds across 18.49 hectares** and **planted 3,801 native trees**, strengthening habitat connectivity and supporting the long-term health of the region's ecosystems. These achievements demonstrate the significant contribution Roving Restorers makes to environmental restoration and community participation across the region, with volunteers playing a vital role in caring for and improving the Noosa and Hinterland landscape.

Unitywater provided funding to support six months of Hinterland Roving Restorers activities, enabling Hinterland Bush Links to deliver a targeted program of **six weeding events, three community planting events and two educational workshops** across the Sunshine Coast Hinterland. Educational events included a Weedlings & Seedlings plant identification workshop with Rusty Linnane and a Burning for Ecological Benefits workshop delivered by Land for Wildlife.

Through this support, **volunteers planted 1,501 native trees**, undertook **restoration works across 3.3 hectares**, and contributed an **impressive 3,633 hours of volunteer labour** to conservation efforts across the region. Unitywater's support has helped strengthen local restoration efforts while providing meaningful opportunities for the community to actively contribute to the protection and restoration of the Hinterland's natural environment.



COMMUNITY & LANDHOLDER EDUCATION

Hinterland Bush Links continued to **support community and landholder knowledge-sharing** through a range of practical and educational events throughout the year. Chris Johnston shared insights from his PhD research into the success of different revegetation and ecological restoration techniques following sand mining, including tube stock planting, direct seeding and deep-stem planting.

Other educational opportunities included: **the Weedlings & Seedlings plant identification workshop**; a collaborative Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (MRCCC) Rivercare and Roving Restorers events supporting the Upper Mary Weed Vine Project; and a **Burning for Ecological Benefits workshop** delivered by Land for Wildlife. Across all education events, a total of 91 community members and landholders participated, building practical knowledge and skills to support ecological restoration across the region.

We also had **2 Bush Walking tours** led by Ecologist Susie Duncan, with over 90 community members & landholders participating across all events.



KOALA HABITAT PROJECT

In the final months of the 2025–26 financial year, Hinterland Bush Links launched the **Koala CARER Project (Community Action: Restoration & Education in Reesville)**, funded by WIRES. The project aims to restore and expand important koala habitat in Reesville through the **planting of 1,500 koala food and habitat trees**, **removal of invasive weeds from core koala habitat**, and education for local landholders and community members on practical ways to protect and care for koalas in their local area.

The project brings together on-ground habitat restoration and community education to support long-term koala conservation in Reesville and will continue throughout the 2026–27 financial year.



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

2025-26 Achievements	Total	Hinterland	Noosa
Number of volunteer events	40	20	20
Number of properties assisted	38	19	19
Total volunteer hours	1,437	978	459
Value of volunteer hours	\$75,140	\$51,139	\$24,001[FF1.1]
Approximate area of weed removal (ha)	18.49	7.49	11
Number of trees planted	3801	3151	650

Creating strategic wildlife corridors is a top priority for Hinterland Bush Links; it is imperative that our bush regeneration work contributes to improving connectivity across the landscape.

We achieve this by actively restoring habitats through on-the-ground efforts like weeding and tree planting in or adjacent to areas of existing habitat.

Our impact is delivered through two Roving Restorers programs, community tree planting days, and the Koala CARER project, which specifically targets areas where koalas are known to live. Our habitat restoration work links with our other focus areas of community involvement and education, building community capacity to continue restoration work, contributing to boosting biodiversity and creating more resilient landscapes.

Roving Restorers

The Roving Restorers, a formidable group of dedicated volunteers, are a cornerstone of our organisation. Their deep commitment to protecting the region’s landscape is evident in the invaluable time and energy they give to support native flora and fauna in vital habitat corridors, while also providing crucial assistance to landholders with land restoration.

This year, supported by Unitywater, we were able to increase our impact.

To our team of Roving Restorers: thank you for your unwavering commitment, care, and dedication to giving our Hinterland and Noosa District ecosystems a healthier, greener future

We supported 38 landholders with native vegetation restoration across their properties this year. Collaborating directly with landholders fosters a strong sense of pride and stewardship, offering ongoing encouragement to maintain sustainable conservation and land management practices. We are deeply grateful to all landholders who hosted the Roving Restorers, and we admire

their profound commitment to protecting local ecosystems. Weed control remains a significant challenge across the region, and we are proud to assist landholders in tackling this issue while actively expanding critical habitat through native tree planting.

The Noosa Chapter of Roving Restorers was coordinated by Ered Fox from Noosa and District Landcare, providing valuable volunteer bush regeneration services across Land for Wildlife, Nature Refuge, and Voluntary Conservation Agreement properties. We extend our sincere thanks to Ered, Noosa and District Landcare, and all the dedicated volunteers for their contribution of time, energy and knowledge to the region.



Koala Community Action: Restoration & Education in Reesville

The Roving Restorers played an instrumental role in launching our new WIRES-funded Koala CARER Project (Community Action: Restoration & Education in Reesville) in the final months of the 2025–26 financial year. Focusing on Reesville, an important local koala habitat area where recent surveys have recorded more than 50 koalas, the project is working across four properties with dedicated landholders to protect, restore and expand critical koala habitat.

During 2025–26, Roving Restorers began the project by tackling invasive weeds within core koala habitat and undertaking maintenance at historic Hinterland Bush Links koala habitat planting sites. These early works have helped improve the condition and connectivity of existing habitat while laying the groundwork for further restoration.

The project combines community-led volunteer restoration with targeted contractor works, allowing us to address challenging areas that are unsuitable for volunteer groups and ensure that restoration works are thorough and sustainable over the long term. Over the coming months, the project will deliver 12 community volunteering events, plant 1,500 native koala food and habitat trees, and host two community education events. Education activities will include a Reesville Koala Habitat Forum and a practical field day, providing landholders and community members with opportunities to learn more about koala habitat restoration and practical ways to support koalas on their properties.

The project is being delivered in collaboration with local conservation and landcare organisations, strengthening connections between community groups and supporting a coordinated approach to koala habitat restoration across the Reesville landscape.

Although the WIRES-funded project commenced in June 2026 and is scheduled to conclude in December 2026, we are excited to have also been successful in securing funding from the Queensland Government to continue our Koala CARE work through the 2026–27 and 2027–28 financial years. This continued investment will allow us to build on the foundations established through the initial project and support the long-term protection, restoration and expansion of koala habitat in Reesville.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Achievements	Total
Volunteer contribution	1437 hours
Volunteers involved	522 Volunteer Instances
Properties and associated landholders involved	38
Members	431
Social media network	1800

At Hinterland Bush Links, we highly value the input of community members and love creating opportunities for people of all ages to get involved in conservation activities.

Our volunteers are at the heart of our work, contributing their time and energy to achieve lasting environmental outcomes for our local landscapes and communities. Our strong relationships with local landholders are integral; their commitment to restoring ecosystems is the foundation of our projects and programs. Without our community, we wouldn't have the widespread impact we do.

Our community is committed, generous and inclusive. This year, more than 120 individuals generously contributed their time, skills and knowledge, collectively logging an incredible 1,437 volunteer hours. People of all ages have played an active role in our bush regeneration efforts through the Roving Restorers and Koala Habitat projects. We were delighted to welcome so many new faces, particularly at our popular weekend community planting days, while remaining incredibly grateful for our long-time volunteers who continue to show up week after week. Together, our volunteers are making a meaningful and lasting difference for our local environment.

Behind the scenes, a dedicated team of volunteers have been instrumental in our work, supporting us with various activities which are key to our operations. A special thank you to the following individuals for generously sharing their time and expertise with us over the past year:

- Mary Meadows – for being so much to so many for so long
- Duncan Pinkster – workplace learning student
- Aoi Ishikawa – workplace learning student
- Marilyn Fisher – member of the Environmental Gift Fund Committee



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- Janet Carew – former member of the Environmental Gift Fund Committee
- Bevin Neil – graphic design (including this annual report!)
- Chris Johnston – Educational Speaker
- Rusty Linnane – Educational Speaker
- Michael Reif & Michael Mills – Land for Wildlife Educational Speakers
- Susie Duncan - Educational Bushwalking Tour Host.

In the 2025-26 year, we continued to foster our existing landholder relationships and establish new relationships in the Sunshine Coast and Hinterland regions.

We have worked with 19 Landholders through our Hinterland Roving Restorers program, and 19 landholders through the Noosa Chapter of Roving Restorers. We know that our support for landholders provides them a moral boost as well as builds their capability and confidence to continue important habitat restoration work on their properties. We have enjoyed getting to know them and have been inspired by their passion and dedication.

Collaboration is key to our success and helps us all achieve more for the environment and community. Over the past year, we've teamed up with numerous community organisations and stakeholders to deliver our projects and programs,

and we've also been active participants and supporters at many of our partners' events. Our key partners and stakeholders have included: Great Eastern Ranges, Barung Landcare, RetreeVeg, Koala Action Inc., Queensland Koala Crusaders Inc., Noosa and District Landcare, Queensland Water and Land Carers, Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee, Sunshine Coast Environment Council, Mooloolah River Landcare and Lake Baroon Catchment Care Group. We also worked with and/or received funding from Sunshine Coast Council, Noosa Council, Seqwater, Greening Australia, 15Trees, Unity Water, WIRES and Queensland Government.



COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Achievements	Total
Educational bulletins issued	12
Educational talks, walks & workshops	6
Guests at educational events	91

Community education is at the heart of Hinterland Bush Links. We believe that empowering our community with knowledge, practical skills and confidence enables landholders and volunteers to take an active role in restoring and protecting habitat.

We delivered a diverse range of educational opportunities throughout the year, including expert talks, guided walks, practical workshops and collaborative restoration events.

Expert Talks and Guided Walks

Chris Johnston shared insights from his PhD research into the success of different revegetation and ecological restoration techniques following sand mining, including tube stock planting, direct seeding and deep-stem planting. Other educational opportunities included the Weedlings & Seedlings plant identification workshop, a collaborative Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (MRCCC) Rivercare and Roving Restorers event supporting the Upper Mary Weed Vine Project, and a Burning for Ecological Benefits workshop delivered by Land for Wildlife. We also delivered Two Bushwalking tours with ecologist Susie Duncan, providing an immersive and educational opportunity for participants to learn about the geological history and ecology of the area. The guided walks encouraged participants to deepen their understanding and

appreciation of the local landscape, while also creating space to connect with Country and with one another.

Digital and Community Outreach

Our monthly bulletin keeps our membership base informed about our completed and upcoming project activities, events and opportunities to get involved.

We maintain an active presence across Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn, using these platforms to share environmental knowledge, promote community events and highlight our restoration work.

We also use Humanitix for event registrations, with an established audience of 173 followers on the

platform. This provides another avenue for us to reach and engage people interested in our events and environmental work.

We were featured in 3 media articles highlighting the importance of our work with community and funding partners.

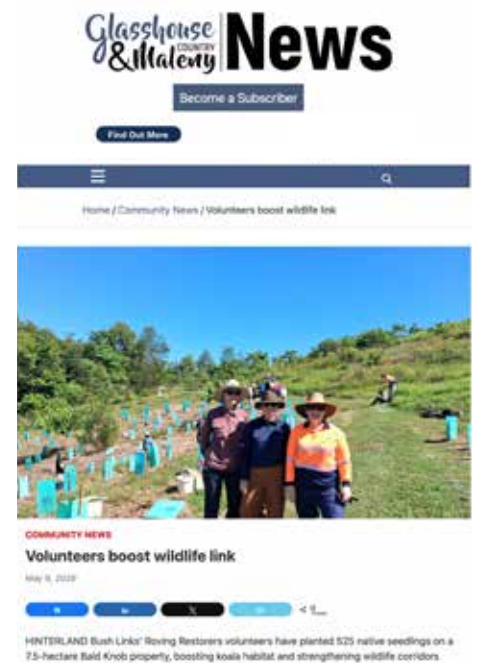
Online Blog

Our online blog provides longer-form information and insights on topics relevant to restoring, protecting and connecting the Sunshine Coast Hinterland. The blog is used to share project updates, practical environmental information and educational content, helping to build community understanding of local conservation issues and restoration approaches.





In the News



ORGANISATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

Highlights
Active and committed volunteer Management and Environmental Gift Fund Committees
New partnerships with University of Sunshine Coast and Greening Australia
Invested in marketing and promotional items

This year we continued to build on our organisational excellence, underpinned by strong leadership and good governance.

The Environmental Gift Fund Committee provides oversight on the use of our donated funds. Our Management committee met every two months with Environmental Gift Fund Committee members also in attendance throughout the year, and it's been great to see so many committee members also turning up to our volunteer and education events in person. Together, these committees keep Hinterland Bush Links true to its core mission while ensuring we operate sustainably.

Our operations continue to be underpinned by a three-year grant from Sunshine Coast Council's Environment Levy Partnership, which helps cover wages and essential running costs. We're also enormously grateful to our generous supporters, many of whom have backed us for years whose ongoing funding for our projects and programs is vital for the running of our organisation. A grant from the Queensland Government allowed us to update our tool supplies and invest in updated marketing material, all of which have strengthened our community-based work. We're continuing to focus on diversifying our income streams to build long-term financial stability.

Our partnership with the University of the Sunshine Coast through their Student Work Placement program, which gave environmental science students industry experience as a mandatory part of their degree. We were lucky to have two brilliant students, Aoi Ishikawa and Duncan Pinkster, join our team this year. They pitched in at many of our volunteer and education events, provided vital administrative support behind the scenes, and brought fresh ideas and solutions to the way we work. Thank you, Aoi and Duncan—we wish you both the very best for your future careers.

Our partnerships with Queensland Trust for Nature (QTFN) and 15Trees have been integral to our habitat restoration work through the



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Roving Restorers program and our community tree planting days. These partnerships supported our work by providing funding to cover the cost of trees and planting supplies, allowing us to continue running these popular community events.

We continued to distribute our supporter signs which are now proudly displayed on gates and homes right across the Hinterland. We have developed a new multi-year fundraising campaign to build awareness of our organisation and diversify our income streams.

Finally, we're grateful to the local businesses who support our organisational sustainability through professional services.

A special thank you to:

- BJN Design – website and graphic design by Bevin Neil
- Suncoast Web Solutions – website hosting and IT support led by Neil McNulty
- Darcy Bookkeeping and Business Services – bookkeeping services
- Elisa Monagle, Story Consulting – marketing strategy

We truly value your expertise, which helps us streamline our processes and maintain a professional image.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Kym Jervois
Treasurer

This year our total income was \$215,924 and expenses were \$223,408 delivering a loss of \$7,484. Note that unexpended grant funds of \$124,802 are carried forward into the 2026-27 financial year.

These unexpended grant funds are nearly twice as much as the previous year and relate to funding received from the following: Queensland Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (\$77,536); and Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Services [WIRES] (\$31,972) for Koala Habitat Restoration; and Noosa Council (\$4,754) for Roving Restorers programme; and Queensland Gambling Community Benefit Fund (\$10,540) for purchase of equipment, training and marketing.

Approximately 71% of our income was derived from grants, with the majority of these funds targeting our Koala CARE project centred on Reesville. Donations made up 24% of our income this year.

Expenses were significantly reduced from 2025 owing to the completion of the Koala Habitat Project and finalisation of the Upper Mary Valley Weed Vine Project (UMVWVP), as forecast in last year's Annual Report. The coordination of this latter project was transferred to the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (MRCCC), with \$24,500 being transferred from HBL to MRCCC to undertake on-ground works for 2025-26. Next financial year, expenses will increase as we deliver the Koala CARE and Koala CARER+ projects with funding from multiple grants. Further information of these planned activities is provided in the Habitat Restoration section.

The absence of a Manager for 2.5 months, as well as reduced hours lowered our total employee bill by 19%.

Sunshine Coast Council's Environment Levy Partnership grant has continued with 2026 being the second year of a 3-year agreement. This grant is \$40,170 per year.

The funds are vital in providing support for running our Roving Restorers program and other projects and educational work not covered by grants.

Noosa Council have continued their fantastic support of the Noosa Roving Restorers Program; we have now completed year three of a Four Year Environment Collaboration Grant of \$24,682 per year to continue to fund the important work undertaken in the Noosa region by the Noosa Roving Restorers Group.

Greening Australia has provided valuable support of our tree planting activities, contributing \$3,960 this year. This has enabled us to continue planting trees with the Roving Restorers and Community Tree Planting events.

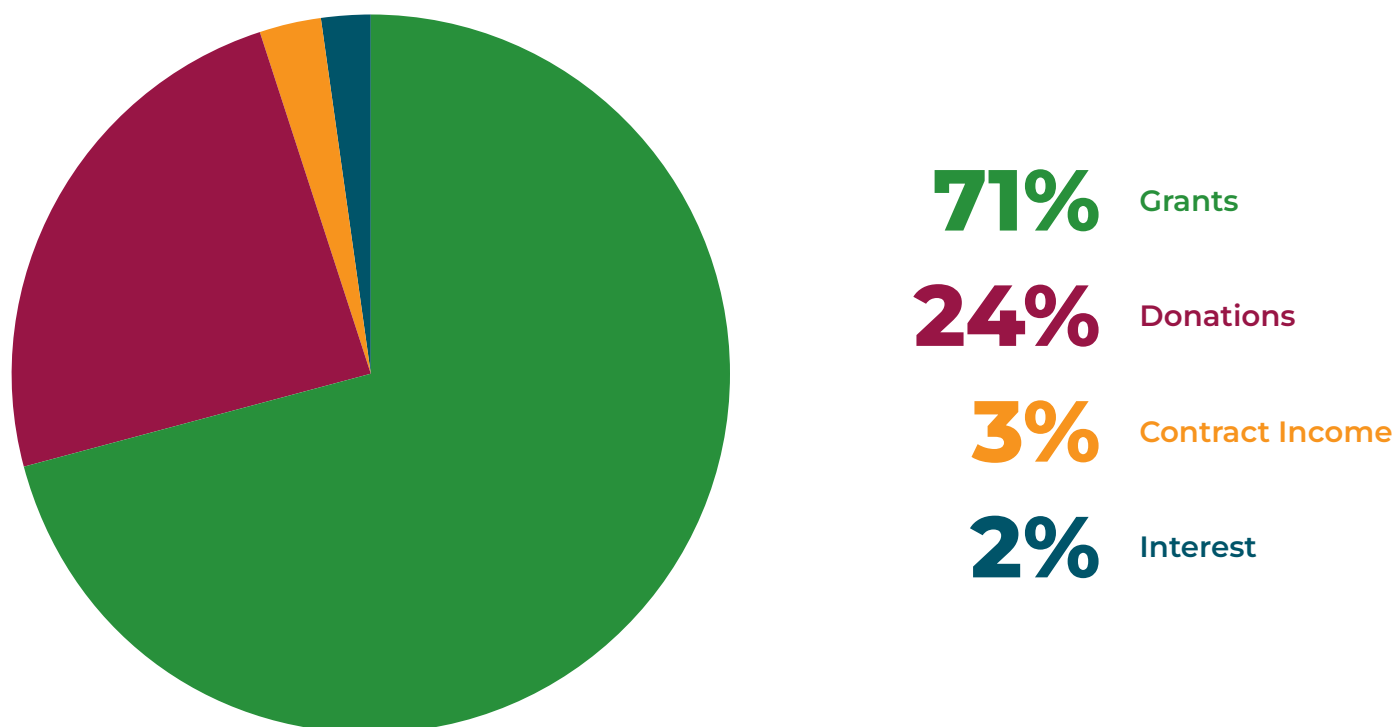
Donation income was \$52,649 this financial year. HBL is planning to use the 10,000 trees campaign as a means to pursue a further mode of funding. Donation income continues largely due to the fantastic ongoing support of our many long-term donors. In addition, a small portion of donations are derived from event attendance and "containers for change". These funds 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 2025-26 financial year, our volunteers provided a huge 1,437 hours of free labour at a value of \$52.29/hr (from Volunteering Queensland). That equates to an incredible \$75,141 worth of labour to support landholders and the environment across the Sunshine Coast Hinterland.

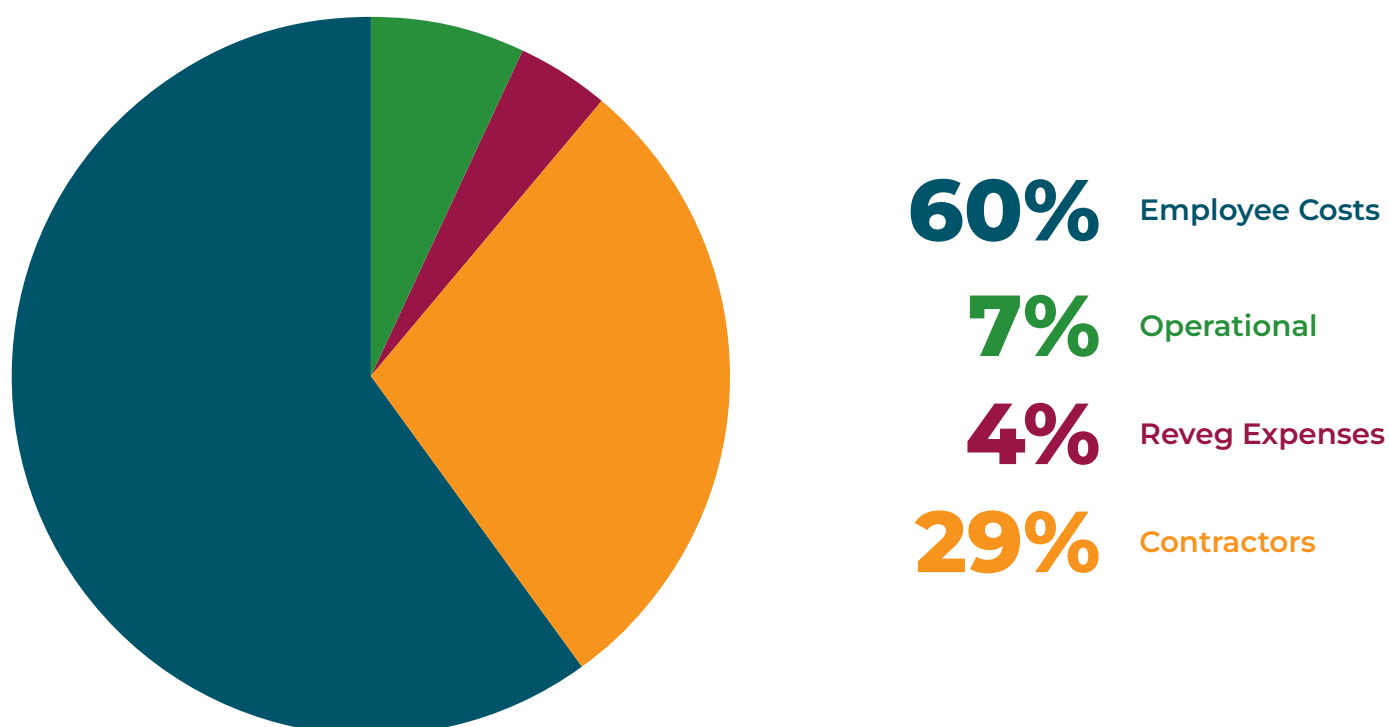


Income 2025-26



Expenses 2025-26

Note: Employee costs include wages, superannuation, travel expenses and workcover.







A healthy environment is a gift
to every generation

SPONSORS AND IN-KIND SUPPORTERS 2025-26



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