



The sky at Main Range (NPAQ LIbrary)

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## **Our mission**

Promote the preservation, expansion and good management of national parks - and other protected areas - in Queensland.



**COVER IMAGE: Daintree National Park.** Photography: Ana Rousseaud

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# **ABOUT NPAQ**

The National Parks Association of Queensland (NPAQ) promotes the preservation, expansion and appropriate management of national parks and the wider protected area estate in Queensland.

As a non-government, non-party political, membership-based organisation, NPAQ campaigns for more national parks across the state by liaising with Government, relevant departments and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

NPAQ plays a key role in lobbying for the preservation of existing national parks in their natural condition and also for the reservation of new areas identified as worthy of national park status.

NPAQ has been pursuing this agenda since its inception in 1930, and has taken a leading role in the establishment of the majority of the Queensland national park estate.

National parks and other protected areas are the foundation of our natural environment, now and for future generations. National parks are for our children, our grandchildren, and for their grandchildren.

## **Committees Convenors**

Activities Committee

Frank Freeman

Advocacy Committee

Neil Williams

Laura Hahn Financial Sustainability Committee

Yvonne Parsons **Governance Committee** David Ball

Marketing, Communications

& Engagement Committee



# **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**



This year objectives were set around increasing our profile, progressing the balancing of our budget and achieving on ground conservation outcomes.

Your Association has been actively progressing these objectives. Detail is provided in the following pages,

however, it is worth stating that thanks to the enthusiasm of Councillors, staff and volunteers a foundation has been established for a successful 2018-2019. We have a number of opportunities to progress gains in the protected area estate and its management, to further the association's reach and support base and to balance its finances.

People are at the core of the Association. Your the state's population having surpassed five million. In council has been both collegiate and constructive. contrast, enthusiasm for ecotourism infrastructure in David Ball, Suzanne Cooper, Julie Hainsworth, Debra national parks appears high. Marwedel, Jacqueline Rose'Meyer, Yvonne Parsons, The state's biodiversity is not secure and to rectify this and Neil Williams have consistently given of their we need to be effective over the next twelve months. time and focused on the Association's purpose and There is reason to be quietly optimistic about our objectives. The contributions of Councillors and staff ability to collaborate with other groups in strengthening who needed to move on, Daniel Kelly, Denis McMullen, government commitment to and funding for national Geoff Miller, Alexsis Wilson and Fred McKie, are much parks. Also our voice will continue to be heard in the appreciated. Our staff, Laura Hahn, Jeannie Rice, debate around ecotourism. Reece Pianta, and Marika Strand have successfully contributed to raising our profile, contributing to cost reductions and driving our message to decision Graeme Bartrim makers.

Thank you to all volunteers who in a quiet and earnest way have contributed much to the Association.

# Council

President: Graeme Bartrim Asst. Hon. Secretary: Vice President:

**Yvonne Parsons** 

Vice President: Geoff Miller (former)

Hon. Treasurer: Neil Williams

Hon. Secretary: Debra Marwedel Jacqueline Rose'Meyer

#### Councillors:

David Ball Susanne Cooper Julie Hainsworth Daniel Kelly (former) Denis McMullen (former) Alexsis Wilson

We believe that our progress has been shared in Neck of the Woods and regular member meetings. Feedback regarding the Association's magazine, Protected has been positive.

A challenge for all of us is to focus on what we determine can be achieved and not to spread our limited resources too thinly.

Our Association is working in interesting times. We are one of numerous conservation groups, all with a related but different focus. The state government has succeeded in ending the availability of single use plastic bags and the proposed Land Restoration Fund offers great opportunities, however, there is presently little decision maker appetite for further expenditure on protected areas. This is not commensurate with

President National Parks Association of Queensland (NPAQ)

### Staff

Business Development Officer: Marika Strand Conservation Officer: Laura Hahn **Communications Officer: Reece Pianta** Communications Officer: Fred McKie (former) Finance Officer: Glenys Wilkinson Project & Office Administrator: Jeannie Rice



# in the last 12 months **NPAO**

Protected Lindeman Islands National Park

Joined with eNGO's to campaign for new national parks Made **6** submissions in defence of our protected areas

Water and the shall and a stand the state of the state of



**Day Walks** 5 walks 40 attendees

Vegetation Management 8 working bees 50 participants

# **ADVOCACY**

### **Submissions**

July 2017 - Qld Government Nature Conservation (Special Wildlife Reserves) Bill

September 2017 - Coordinator General - Lindeman Resort Expansion

September 2017 - Commonwealth Government - Coral Sea Marine Reserves

October 2017 - Commonwealth **EPBC Referral Gainsdale (Scenic Rim** Trail proposal)

November 2017 Qld Government EHP Daintree Management Plan

December 2017 - Coordinator General - Lindeman Resort Expansion resubmission

This year NPAQ has engaged with governments and numerous eNGOs to move from a defence of existing national parks to a push for strategic growth of protected areas.

In late 2017 NPAQ was a part of a coalition that successfully prevented the revocation of more than 36 hectares of national park land on Lindeman Island. NPAQ slowed the headlong pursuit of commercial exploitation of protected areas on the island and secured a more thorough assessment and planning process. While impacts from the derelict resort should be rectified, there are ongoing concerns that the redevelopment will result in loss of threatened vegetation with an insufficient buffer from critically endangered coastal vegetation.

NPAQ has also actively campaigned at both a federal and state government level for a more detailed assessment and planning of the proposed Scenic Rim Trail and commercial cabin proposal.

Following NPAO field studies at several state forests in the Sandstone Belt, NPAQ raised concerns about cattle trampling of mound springs. As such, protective fencing will be installed at a state forest.

While the protection and maintenance of national parks is an important part of our mission, the expansion of protected areas is also essential. Over 2017/18 NPAQ raised the profile of numerous properties that have conservation potential for national park status with senior departmental staff and have taken the case directly to the Minister for Environment, Leeanne Enoch.

On a disappointing note, it appears that there is no significant budget for national park acquisition or conservation improvements in this vears Queensland budget. The focus instead moving to visitor management, ecotourism exploration and cyclone restoration.

A further disappointment was the loss in March 2018 of protection over part of Coral Sea - the Federal opposition has called it "the largest removal of area under conservation for any government anywhere in the world".

Protected areas face serious challenges over the coming years and the work of NPAQ has never been more important.



During the 2017-18 financial year 31 activities were planned and three cancelled due to extreme weather conditions. Of the 323 attendances, 87% were members, 10% were non-members and 3% were children.

**Day Walks** - Of the five day walks held with a total of 40 attendances all were in national parks. Hopefully, more day walks will be held during the coming twelve months as leaders become available and new leaders become active.

**Bird Watching** - The bird group has continued to be a very active with a total of 129 attendances across ten day activities and one extended outing to the Armidale area. The details of all sightings are submitted regularly to eBird Australia in keeping with the citizen-science objectives of this group.

Social Activities - Only four social activities were held in the last financial year with a total of 57 attendances. The Twilight Walk was the most popular with over 40 people attending.

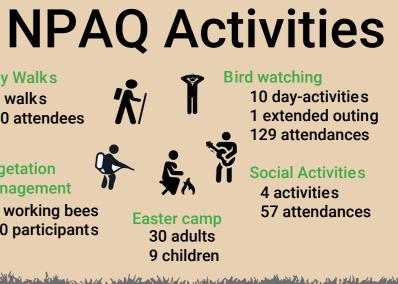
Easter Camp - The Easter Camp was one of the most popular activities with 30 adults and 9 children attending. It was held at Cullendore High Country, a working cattle station that adjoins Maryland National Park. Participants enjoyed activities both on the property and local attractions.

Vegetation Management Group - monthly working bees to manage weeds and promote natural revegetation in the Jolly's Lookout and Boombana areas in D'Aguilar National Park remain a mainstay of NPAQ. Over 50 participants attended the eight working bees.

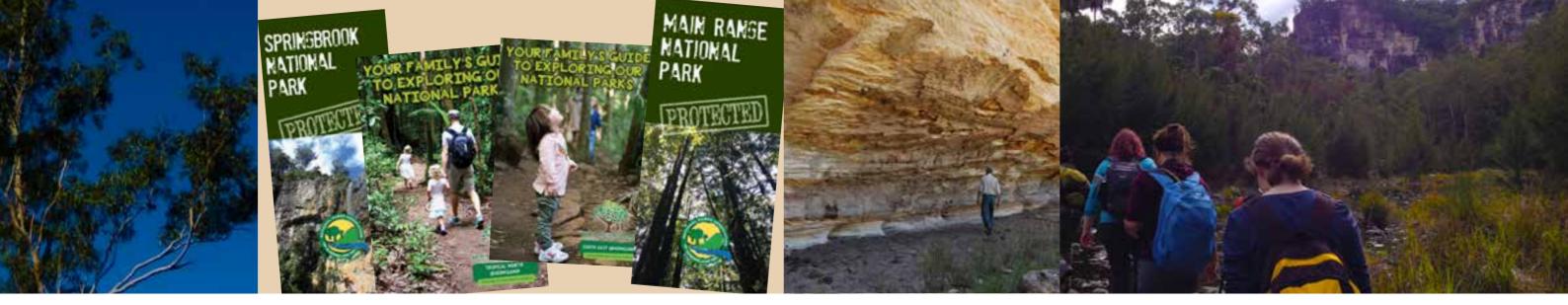
Thank You

NPAQ relies on a dedicated group of experienced volunteers to conduct activities. Their ongoing efforts are highly valued and the willingness to share their unique knowledge is greatly appreciated.

The involvement of participants is acknowledged and appreciated by our leaders. Their cheerful and positive input into the activities is appreciated by leaders.



# **ACTIVITIES**



# **EDUCATION**



A key aspect of NPAQ's work is educating members, supporters and the public about the value of national parks, and informing and involving them in matters affecting national parks.

As part of our continued focus on the next generation, NPAQ published a new Kids in National Parks booklet for the Tropical North Queensland region. The booklet features tips and tricks for walking with kids in the bush, and lists walks in national parks perfect for doing with little ones. We also refreshed and reprinted the Kids in National Parks South East Queensland booklet. These booklets are distributed widely and for free to encourage families to be active and enjoy nature. They are also available online for download.

This year we have continued our work of highlighting featured national parks, in the form of posters and brochures, with the aim of educating the public on the value of national parks. Information includes history, landscape features, flora and fauna, and cultural and social significance of each park. This year Springbrook National Park and Main Range National Park were highlighted in this project. NPAQ played a pivotal role in the gazettal of both these parks.

As always, we continue to publish Protected magazine and send out Neck of the Woods ebulletin to help educate members and supporters on topical issues surrounding protected areas.

Throughout the year, NPAQ conducted educational and promotional stalls at Threatened Species Day, World Environment Day, Green Heart Fair, Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary, Davies Park West End Markets, Springfield Market and Griffith University. These stalls are a valuable method to let the public know about the value of national parks, and a way for NPAQ to gain new supporters.

Member's meetings throughout the year highlighted topics such as the Galilee Basin, issues of tourism and visitation, and the history of NPAQ founder Romeo Lahey.

funding.

In response to the growing pressure of ecotourism on Queensland's national parks, NPAQ conducted evidenced-based research: documenting eight case studies; reviewing numerous academic papers; and consulting specialists with experience in supported multiday walks in protected areas. NPAQ identified 10 leading practices essential to protecting national park values including:

- reinforced along the trail.

NPAQ is sharing leading practices with the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef with the aim to influence Government policy. NPAQ will present findings to the ecotourism industry at the Asia-Pacific Global ecotourism Conference in Townsville in November 2018.

# RESEARCH

#### Cultural heritage values of state forests

NPAQ coordinated desktop and field research on select high conservation value state forests as an additional argument for potential transition to national park. Volunteer hours were valued at more than \$80,000 and a \$15,000 grant from the Foundation of National Parks and Wildlife paid all expenses.

The desktop assessment of nine state forests identified three with important Indigenous values and cultural heritage sites. Field studies of the three forests involved inspecting previously recorded sites documented over three decades ago. Inspections found many sites deteriorating from grazing - trampling and rubbing.

Research showed one state forest in particular could benefit from upgrading protection to national park so NPAQ is preparing a proposal for submission to Government soon. Key barriers to transition are the long-term grazing leases and securing ongoing park management

#### Leading practices of ecotourism in national parks

Infrastructure should be government owned and operated.

- There should be a continual ranger/guide presence along walks.
- Mandatory orientation focused on conservation, cultural values and minimal impact - should occur at trail commencement and be

Communication is fundamental to NPAQ's work.

During the year, we continued to review and improve our communications with members, supporters, affiliates, stakeholders, partners, government and the public.

38,137

WEBSITE VISITS

3,718 SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS

2,131

**SUBSCRIBERS** 

31 **ELECTRONIC MAIL CAMPAIGNS** 

**EDITIONS OF NECK OF THE WOODS** 

6 **EDITIONS OF PROTECTED** 

WEBSITE REDEVELOPMENT COMMENCED

### Partners

Australian Conservation Foundation Australian Marine Conservation Society Australian Panel of Experts on Environmental Law Bush Heritage Cairns and Far North Queensland Environment Centre **Capricorn Conservation Council** Dr Jan Aldenhoven Environmental Defenders Office QLD Fraser Island Defenders Organisation Fraser Island Natural Integrity Alliance Gecko Environment Council Griffith University HOPE Inc (Australia) James Cook University Mackay Conservation Council **Invasive Species Council** Nature Play Queensland Pew Charitable Trusts Places You Love Protect the Bush Alliance Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation **Queensland Conservation Council** Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation Sunshine Coast Environment Council The Wilderness Society University of Queensland Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland WWF – Australia Affiliates Birds Queensland

Bribie Island Environmental Protection Association

Bunya Mountains Natural History Association Inc Fraser Island Defenders Organisation Ltd Friends of Stradbroke Island Inc Friends of Tamborine National Park Green Mountains Natural History Association Inc Lamington Natural History Association Inc Moreton Is Protection Committee Noosa Parks Association **Queensland Frog Society Inc** Stradbroke Island Management Organisation Inc Tamborine Mountain Natural History Association Inc Trail Running Association of Qld NPAQ is a member of the Australian chapter of the

International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

# ORGANISATION

# **GOVERNANCE**

The work of the Governance Committee has continued to strengthen the oversight of the organisation, complementing the continued implementation of the Governance Review 2014 recommendations.

A number of important policies were developed for the organisation: Ethics Policy and Code of Conduct (final), General Financial Reserves Policy (draft), Risk Management Policy (final) and Privacy Policy (draft). Substantial

## STRATEGIC PLAN

This was the fourth year of implementing the NPAQ Strategic Plan 2014-2019. Achieving our purpose through advocacy, research, education, communication and collaboration continued on from previous years,

risk.

2)

3)

4)

- Conservation goals 1)
  - ecotourism
  - A balanced budget
  - Improved profile
- **MEMBERSHIP**

NPAQ has a member and supporter base of 6,804 - an increase of 23%. The continuing growth of our supporter base indicates that efforts to increase our public profile new members was higher than the are effective.

Members are the traditional cornerstone of NPAQ and our membership stands at 749 members, an 8% increase. During the year we held a 2-month membership drive that offered membership at a reduced join fee, with the goal of increasing our membership base. This promotion added 90 new members to NPAQ, bringing the total number of new members for the year to 127. This meant that this year our number of number of resignations (74).

NPAQ received financial support from 34 non-members. 46 members elected to be Conservation Partners, offering an annual donation with their membership subscription, while a total of 186 members contributed financially to NPAQ during the year.

# **VOLUNTEERS**

Members and other volunteers undertake a significant proportion of NPAQ's work. 53 volunteers contributed in areas such as: activity leading, conservation work, provision of professional or technical support, promotions, mailouts, assistance with our publications, social media or website management, database support, library, archives, governance or strategic support. advocacy, fundraising assistance at events including staffing promotional and educational stalls, office support, committee roles, and Council roles. See page Gunn. 109 members have now 11 for a full list of volunteers.

LIFE MEMBERS NPAQ is grateful for the exceptional service provided by our Honorary Life Members: Wendy Bell, John Bristow, Brian Egan, Rob Hitchcock, Ruth Read, Ailsa Rutherford, Jim Stebbins and Norm Traves.

# **ROMEO LAHEY AWARD**

Members who have maintained 50 years NPAQ membership are presented with the annual Romeo Lahey Award. In 2017 four members were honoured: Gwen Draisey, Don Draisev. Alan Gunn and Lorraine received this award.



work has also been completed on development of a Risk Register to help with identifying and managing

A significant area of focus this year has been on reviewing the Rules of the Association to ensure that they are up-to-date and comply with both legal and community expectations. The revised Rules will be presented to the members for approval at a Special General Meeting of members following the Annual General Meeting.

with the focus this year on:



### Promotion

Throughout the year, NPAQ conducted promotional and educational stalls at Threatened Species Day, World Environment Day, Green Heart Fair, Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary, Davies Park West End Markets, Springfield Market and Griffith University. Enhanced promotional material, Kids in National Parks booklets, and merchandise such as the Kids in National Parks Colouring Book and fluffy toys are continuing to expand our public appeal. A special thank you to the volunteers who staff and manage these events.

### Engagement

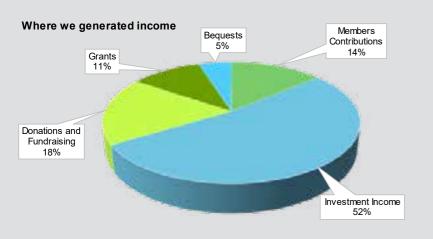
The majority of our growth continues to occur with people who desire to engage in ways different to that of traditional membership associations. This has resulted in a need for a multi-pronged approach to engagement and communication with members and supporters.

Four member meetings were held during the year - September, November, February and May – along with a member's afternoon tea, and a new member's night after the membership drive.

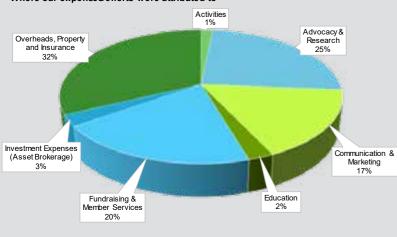
## Staff

In line with strategic and financial goals, our staffing structure ensures that all resources expended achieve the greatest possible outcome, and are maximised in priority areas. One staff member's hours have been reduced by a quarter. During the year NPAQ welcomed Reece Pianta in the part-time Communications Officer role.

# **FINANCES**



Where our expenses/efforts were attributed to



Overall NPAO recorded a net loss for FY18 of \$87.915 compared to a net profit in FY17 of \$56,070. On a direct comparative operating basis (removing one off asset sales and bequests), the result was a net loss of \$127,730 in FY18 vs a net operating loss in FY17 of \$107,860.

NPAQ FY18 budget was set with an operating loss of \$134,912. On a direct operating basis (removal of one off asset sales) NPAQ performed \$7,182 better than budget.

Revenue raising for the organisation is challenging as evident with total income/revenue for FY18 \$39,361 lower than budget, largely driven by donations, fundraising and grant income (collectively \$28,621 lower than budget). Dividend income was also \$9,824 lower than budget due to asset sales required to fund operations over the course of FY18.

Council reacted to the revenue shortfall and acted responsibly throughout the year and found \$46,543 in savings from expenses to offset the decrease in revenue.

Moving forward into FY19 the same revenue challenges remain and Council is working tirelessly with the staff and members to address the operating deficit. Without significant uplift in revenue generating activities further actions from Council will be required.

### **INCOME STATEMENT 30 JUNE 2018**

INCOME STATEMENT	
REVENUE	\$
MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS	19,622
INVESTMENT INCOME	74,527
DONATIONS & FUNDRAISING	25,816
GRANTS	15,000
BEQUESTS	7,000
SUB-TOTAL	141,965
PROFIT ON SALE OF INVESTMENTS	47,045
TOTAL REVENUE	189,010
EXPENSES	
MEMBERS EXPENSES	3,933
CORE FOCUS	22,339
ADMINISTRATION	43,075
FUNDRAISING	9,491
DEPRECIATION	5,370
EMPLOYMENT	174,697
PROPERTY	18,020
TOTAL EXPENSES	276,925
NET PROFIT (LOSS)	(87,915)

BALANCE SHEET 30 JUNE 20	18
ASSETS	\$
CURRENT ASSETS	
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	48,558
TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES	17,328
INVENTORIES	1,877
PREPAYMENTS	2,020
OTHER ASSETS	50
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	69,833
NON-CURRENT ASSETS	
FINANCIAL ASSETS	862,068
PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	170,532
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	1,032,600
TOTAL ASSETS	1,102,433
LIABILITIES	
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES	13,879
DEFERRED INCOME	21,500
PROVISIONS	15,970
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	51,349
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	
PROVISIONS	1,592
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	1,592
TOTAL LIABILITIES	52,941
NET ASSETS	1,049,492

# **THANK YOU** We are so grateful to all our volunteers and donors. Without you, NPAQ could achieve little!

#### Volunteers

Megan Adams Davida Allen Jennie Bacon David Ball Graeme Bartrim Sarah Bartrim Wendy Bell Geraldine Buchanan Fiona Campbell Susanne Cooper Paul Delemarre Jocelyn Dixon Brian Egan Frank Freeman Tony Groom Julie Hainsworth Lucy Hollingsworth Jenna Huckenswager Lesley Joyce Dan Kellv Athol Lester Samille Loch-Wilkinson Geoff Lowes Laurelle & Len Lowry Debra Marwedel Angus McElnea Fiona McGill Neville McManimm Denis McMullen Geoff Miller Tony O'Brien Peter Ogilvie Dr Mike Olsen Ron Owen Jennifer Parker **Tony Parsons Yvonne Parsons** Ian Peacock Michelle Prior **Richard Proudfoot** Graham Riddell Jacqueline Rose'Meyer Ana Rousseaud Mary Anne Ryan Margaret Scott Patricia Sheehan Michael Shera Greg Siepen Ian Stehbens Oscar Vollmerhause Don Vollmerhause Demi Rose Walter Edsel Ward Lorna & Neil Williams Alexis Wilson

#### Bequests

Estate of Flora Jessamine Elliott

#### Donors **Christine & David Ball** John Barkla & Alison Street Nancy Bartrim Wendy Bell Dorelle & Doug Bennett Graham & Monique Bond Anne Marie Boyle & Lorraine McGregor Sarah Bradley Anna Bridle & John Owens John & Ruth Bristow Athol & Beverley Brown Sally Brown John Brownsworth Glenis Buckton Bunya Mountains Natural History Association Inc. Glenn Burns Alan Clarke Dianne Clifford Dennis Cooper & Carla Kaboth Christine & Keith Cordwell Yvette Cramond James Peter Croker Allan & Judith Dalzell Ann & Noel Dawson Brad Dines Jocelyn Dixon Alice Djernov & David Gould Alan Don Margaret Donald Don Draisey Mark Dwyer Keith Dyson Ron Farmer Cecily Fearnley Perry Finn Len Fraser John Frois Russell Gardner Anne Gilmore & Peter Spearritt Di Glynn George Glytsos Geoff Goadby & Merle Gynther Green Mountains Natural History Association Inc. Angela Griffiths Grill'd Pty Ltd Dr Lloyd Hamilton Noel Hart

Arthur Hartwig

Bill & Ray Heath

**Olaf Heeremans** 

Bevan Heilbronn

Marie Hayes

Cathy & Ian Herbert Catherine Herriott Diana Holley Gerard Howard **Clint & Heather Howitt** Roland Howlett Helene Hughes Debra Huntlev Ann & Barry Ingham Nola Jefferys Anne & Richard Kellaway Fay Kerrison Michael Kirkham & Lorna van Ingen Andrew & Deborah Knott Andrew Lahey Laidley Bushwalkers Club Nell Land Julie & Peter Lello Elizabeth Lovett Bruce & Mavis Lucas Hugh Luckhurst-Smith Ross Macleod Macquarie Group Foundation Tracy Martin Ann Marumaru Debra & Phillip Marwedel Maureen McLellan Heatherbell Mellor John Merritt Jan & Leon Misfeld Clyde & Lynn Mitchell Jill & Ray Mogg Dianne & Eberhard Moll Harold Muller Janet Murray Ann Neale Joyce & Robert Newell Penny & Tony O'Brien Nadia O'Carroll Marie Oxlade Jacqueline Park Sandra Pearce Hugh Pechey Mr & Mrs Price Queensland Frog Society Inc Terry Rayner Michael Richards Trevor Robertson John Roos Ailsa Rutherford Kenneth & Val Sandercoe Elwyn Schumann John & Judy Sexton Marilyn Shrapnel Melanie Simmons Kenneth & Susan Sketcher

Ian Stehbens Jenny Stewart Barbara Stuart Clarissa & lan Tedder Janette Thurley Nam Tran Uplift Tours and Travel Jankees van der Have & Dr B Williams Ian Webb R.W. Williams **Richard Wilson** Julie & Phillip Windle Helen Wolf Frances Wregg Bruce Zimmer

#### **Conservation Partners**

Davida Allen & Michael Shera Wendy Auton Ken Barlow & Melissa Smith Wim Blom Graham & Monigue Bond **Glenis Buckton** Don & Wilma Carlson Perry Finn Shaun Fowler Lorraine Glynn Donald & Mary Hogarth Tanya Kliese Athol & Maria Lester Don Marshall Tracy Martin Ann Marumaru Debra & Philip Marwedel Tony O'Brien Tomi Petr Jeanette Porter Michelle Prior & David Vial Graham Riddell **Richard Riles** Ken & Lesley Sampson Lysbeth Shield Marilyn Shrapnel Kenneth & Susan Sketcher Ross Webster Joan Williams

### **National Park Protectors**

Graham & Monique Bond Alison & Wim Van Zijl

### Auditor

Pilot Partners Chartered Accountants



From the tree to the sea. (NPAQ LIbrary)

## National Parks Association of Queensland Inc

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